



California
DRIP Collaborative

**2025 Workgroup: Reducing Ecosystem Impacts
of Drought**

Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners (DRIP) Collaborative

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

2:30-4:00PM PT

Remote Participation (via Zoom)

Facilitated by Workgroup Point of Contact: Zoe Kanavas (Zoe.Kanavas@water.ca.gov)

California Department of Water Resources - Water Justice Office

Meeting Information

1. This meeting is being recorded.
2. This meeting must adhere to the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act rules. The workgroup quorum is required (4 out of the 7 on the workgroup). If we don't meet quorum, we will offer this time and this space for an informal discussion about ecosystem impacts of drought.
3. DRIP Collaborative workgroup members must keep their cameras on during the meeting. You must notify the group if you turn off your camera and state why.
4. Members of the public and other DRIP Collaborative members are welcome to listen. A public comment session is included later in the meeting.
5. Please practice electronics courtesy and mute when not speaking.

Meeting Purpose and Agenda

Objectives: Advance recommendation ideas proposed at the May 16th 2025 DRIP Collaborative meeting related to in-stream flow requirements and granting & contracting streamlining. Discuss other recommendation ideas raised during the meeting to decide how to address/incorporate them.

Meeting Agenda

- 2:30pm Welcome, Roll Call
- 2:35pm Refresher & Proposed Pathways
- 2:40pm In-Stream Flow Requirements: Prioritization & Incentives
- 3:10pm Streamline Granting & Contracting for Habitat Restoration Projects
- 3:40pm Other Recommendation Ideas: How to Incorporate?
- 3:55pm Public Comment
- 4:00pm Adjourn

Roll Call

WORKGROUP PARTICIPANTS

(Quorum = 4 DRIP members)

1. **Redgie Collins**, CalTrout
2. **Anna Schiller**, Environmental Defense Fund
3. **Sierra Ryan**, Santa Cruz County
4. **Brent Hastey**, Plumas Self Storage (Public Member)
5. **Matessa Martin**, Buena Vista Ranchera of the Me-Wuk Indians
6. **Laura Ramos**, California Water Institute at Fresno State
7. **Alvar Escriva-Bou**, UC Davis

REFRESHER & PROPOSED NEW PATHWAYS

(5 MINUTES)

2025 Proposed DRIP Collaborative Timeline



Pathways: Level of Engagement

- **Inform:** Learn about and raise awareness of existing efforts.

- **Compliment:** Enhance coordination by contributing to ongoing efforts and addressing specific gaps where DRIP can add value.

- **Lead:** Take initiative (coordinate new efforts, drive solutions, etc.) on issues lacking adequate attention.

INFORM EXAMPLE: Promote an agency drought outreach campaign.

COMPLIMENT EXAMPLE: Review campaign and provide feedback to strengthen messaging and expand reach.

LEAD EXAMPLE: Develop a statewide drought outreach initiative tailored to underserved regions.

Consider:

How could the recommendation ideas change if DRIP were to Inform, Compliment, or Lead?



Refresher & Pathways

May 16th DRIP Collaborative Meeting – Status

Three ideas agreed on to pursue with leads:

- 1. Prioritize in-stream flow requirements** for streams of **high ecological function** and pick a pilot project (Redgie Collins)
- 2. Create incentives** for setting in-stream flows through **landowner cooperative agreements** (Redgie Collins)
- 3. Streamline granting and contracting** processes for habitat restoration projects (Redgie Collins and Samantha Arthur)



Refresher & Pathways

May 16th DRIP Collaborative Meeting – Status

Ideas Drafted:

- 1. Prioritize in-stream flow requirements** for streams of **high ecological function** and pick a pilot project (Redgie Collins)
- 2. Create incentives** for setting in-stream flows through **landowner cooperative agreements** (Redgie Collins)
- 3. Streamline granting and contracting** processes for habitat restoration projects (Redgie Collins and Samantha Arthur)

Proposed Pathways:

Combine into one recommendation

Learn from subject matter expert and **advance** development



New Pathway from Land Use Planning WG

Recommendation Idea:

1. **Integrated Water Planning:** Assess how plans interact.

This idea is similar to the ongoing **General Plan Guidance Update** happening at the CA Gov's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.



Proposed Pathway:

Join forces to **COMPLEMENT** ongoing effort



Rather than develop a separate recommendation, a DRIP Collaborative workgroup will **follow this process** and **offer real-time feedback**.

Consider:
Are there ongoing efforts relevant to your recommendation ideas that the DRIP Collaborative could contribute to?



Discussion Questions:

- What defines high ecological function?
- What outcomes will the pilot target?
- How will standards be enforced?
- How could landowner cooperative agreements be scaled and funded?

IN-STREAM FLOW REQUIREMENTS: PRIORITIZATION AND INCENTIVES

(30 MINUTES)



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In-Stream Flow Requirements: Prioritization

Recommendation Lead: Redgie Collins



- **Prioritize** in-stream flow requirements for streams with **high ecological function**.
- Identify a **pilot project** to test approaches and build momentum.
- Links to environmental flows **standards & enforcement**, water rights modernization, and expanded monitoring.



What defines high ecological function?
Can we use tools like the California Stream Condition Index to define it?



What outcomes will the pilot target?
Are we testing feasibility? Will it connect to incentive strategies?



How will standards be enforced?
Will monitoring or water rights tools be used to ensure compliance?



In-Stream Flow Requirements: Incentives

Recommendation Lead: Redgie Collins

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- Create **incentives** for setting in-stream flows
 - **Landowner cooperative agreements**
 - Modeled on approaches used in the **Shasta and Scott River regulations**.
- Encourage **voluntary participation** while aligning with ecological goals.

Forbearance agreements and in-stream flow leases



Scott River Canyon

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/scott_shasta_rivers/

Discussion:

How could landowner cooperative agreements be scaled and funded?



Discussion Questions:

- Do we have a clear process map of the current grant and contracting workflow?
- Is there a past project that can serve as a reference for granting or contracting?

STREAMLINE GRANTING & CONTRACTING PROCESSES

(30 MINUTES)

Streamline Granting & Contracting

Recommendation Lead: Redgie Collins & Samantha Arthur



- Streamline **granting and contracting processes** to reduce costs and administrative burdens.
- Adopt **Cutting the Green Tape** principles.
- Improve **indirect cost recovery**.
- Allocate Prop 4 funding to **planning, monitoring, and O&M costs**.



What is the current grant and contracting workflow?

Can we outline a status quo and ideal process?



How can we apply lessons from Cutting the Green Tape?

What progress has been made so far, and what gaps remain?

...more on this from **Matt Wells**, Watershed Restoration Grants Branch, CDFW

Discussion:

Is there a past project that can serve as a reference for granting or contracting?



Consider:

- How could the recommendation ideas change if DRIP were to Inform, Compliment, or Lead?

OTHER RECOMMENDATION IDEAS: HOW TO INCORPORATE?

(15 MINUTES)

Other recommendation ideas discussed...

How can we address these ideas?

- Develop watershed-scale ecosystem management planning framework
- Elevate Tribal partnerships and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Support workforce transition by connecting restoration projects to local job opportunities
- Incorporate soil health, headwaters protection, and groundwater-surface water interactions as key components of drought-resilient restoration strategies.

→ **COMPLEMENT** ongoing General Plan Guidance efforts?

Consider:

How could the recommendation ideas change if DRIP were to Inform, Compliment, or Lead?



PUBLIC COMMENT

(5 MINUTES)



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NEXT STEPS

(5 MINUTES)



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What's Next

JUNE: Workgroup virtual meetings to learn more and continue advancing through recommendation ideas.

- **Other DRIP Collaborative Workgroups:**

- **June 18th** – Infrastructure Workgroup Meeting
- **June 27th** – Learning Session: Land Use Repurposing
- Other DRIP Collaborative members, as well as members of the public, may join these workgroup meetings

JULY 18: DRIP Collaborative meeting (in-person)

- Continue process for new recommendations



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Adjourn

Recording will be posted to <https://water.ca.gov/DRIP>

Thank you!