



Butte County Drought Resilience Plan

Vina Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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Background: Butte County's Drought Planning History



- **2004 Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan**
- **Established a County Drought Task Force to evaluate conditions and coordinate response during drought**
- **The Task Force provides regular updates to the Board of Supervisors**
- **Per new State requirements the County is now updating and expanding the 2004 Plan into a Drought Resilience Plan (DRP)**

Background: Senate Bill 552



SB 552 (2021) required counties to formally plan for drought and water shortage risk specific to domestic wells and state small water systems (SSWSs)

- **Counties must establish a Drought Task Force and**
- **Prepare a Drought Resilience Plan that considers:**
 - **Consolidations for existing water systems and domestic wells**
 - **Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs**
 - **Provisions of emergency and interim drinking water solutions**
 - **Plan implementation and analysis of funding sources**
- **Follows the Department of Water Resources County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook**

Background: How the County DRP Is Organized



Butte County's Drought Resilience Plan (DRP) responds to Senate Bill 552 requirements for addressing domestic well and state small water system (SSWS) vulnerabilities.

- **Chapter 1 (Introduction) – provides an overview of the DRP; characteristics of Butte County; water supply, uses and providers; water management efforts and actions; applicable County ordinances and agreements; and other plans and resources.**
- **Chapter 2 (Drought and Water Shortage Task Force) – discusses the Drought Task Force and Subcommittee, Interagency Coordination Group, and Specialized Working Groups.**
 - **Different groups engage in drought response depending on Drought Phases/Severity**

Background: How the County DRP Is Organized



- **Chapter 3 (Risk Assessment) identifies County areas served by domestic wells and SSWs that are most susceptible to drought and water shortage**
- **Chapter 4 (Short-Term Response Actions) addresses immediate health and safety needs for events lasting up to 30 days**
- **Chapter 5 (Long-Term Mitigation Strategies) aims to reduce the vulnerability of domestic wells and SSWs so that short-term actions are needed less often**
 - **Chapters 4 & 5 were developed by the Drought Task Force Subcommittee through an iterative process, building on activities already underway by County, GSAs, and other partner entities**

Why This Matters to the Vina GSA



- **Guidebook encourages coordination with GSAs:**
 - **Understand how drinking water users are considered in GSPs**
 - **How GSAs plan to monitor and manage groundwater levels**
 - **Collaborate the sharing of data regarding domestic wells**
 - **Coordination of domestic well mitigation program**
- **Chapter 4 (Short-Term Response Actions) and Chapter 5 (Long-Term Mitigation Strategies) identify where Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are key partners**
- **The Vina GSA plays a direct role in some short- and long-term actions supporting domestic well and SSWS communities within the Vina Subbasin**

Short-Term Response Actions: Voluntary Water Conservation (STRA 03)



- **County, in coordination with SSWs, NGOs, and GSAs, maintains communication and engagement and encourages voluntary water conservation during water shortage events**
 - **Lead: Department of Water and Resource Conservation (DWRC)**
 - **Partners: Butte County Environmental Health (BCEH), NGOs, and the GSAs for the Vina, Wyandotte Creek, and Butte Subbasins**
- **The Vina GSA may operate voluntary conservation measures to promote sustainable groundwater management that directly support this action**

Long-Term Mitigation Strategies: Where GSAs Partner



- **Eight Long-Term Mitigation Strategies (LTMSs) in Chapter 5 name GSAs as a partner entity:**
 - **LTMS 04 – Regional Groundwater Level Monitoring and Communication**
 - **LTMS 06 – Increased Recharge**
 - **LTMS 07 – Enhanced SSWS and Domestic Well Vulnerabilities Assessment**
 - **LTMS 10 – Domestic Well Monitoring**
 - **LTMS 13 – Well Destruction**
 - **LTMS 21 – Improve Domestic Well Inventory**
 - **LTMS 22 – High-Risk Groundwater Contamination Regional Identification**

Drinking Water Well Mitigation & the Vina Subbasin GSP



SB 552 well mitigation programs: four core elements

- **Identify impacted wells; develop mitigation options; implement community-supported solutions; coordinate ongoing well monitoring**
- **The Vina GSA is responsible for ensuring its groundwater management actions do not cause undesirable results for domestic well users**
- **DWR's determination letter for the Vina Subbasin GSP requires clarification of the impacts of lowering groundwater levels on shallow domestic well users, and how those impacts might be mitigated**
- **The County will collaborate with the Vina GSA on any well mitigation program that may be developed**

Regional Planning Integration & the Vina Subbasin GSP Timeline



- **Vina Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP): adopted 2022; next periodic evaluation in 2027**
- **Intersects with the County DRP on:**
 - **Well inventory and drinking water well mitigation programs, where applicable**
 - **Groundwater level trends and voluntary water conservation**
- **The County reviews the status of relevant planning efforts at annual Drought Task Force meetings to identify opportunities for integration and assign coordination responsibilities**

Partnering with the Vina GSA: Next Steps



How the County looks to continue working with the Vina GSA

- **Continue sharing groundwater level and domestic well monitoring data through GSP Annual Report coordination**
- **Collaborate on the development of a domestic well mitigation program**
- **Support implementation of the Recharge Action Plan within the Vina Subbasin**
- **Maintain coordination through annual Drought Task Force meetings**