

MEETING SUMMARY

County of Monterey Drought Advisory Group

Kickoff Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2024; 8:30 AM – 10:45 AM

In-Person: 1270 Natividad Road, Whitney Room B & C, Salinas, CA 93906

On-line: Zoom

Participants

Name	Drought Advisory Group Membership	Organization
In-Person Participation		
Valerie Brown-Klingelhoefner	Member	Arroyo Seco Citizens Association
Ricardo Encarnacion	Member	County of Monterey, Environmental Health Bureau
Marni Flagg	Member	County of Monterey, Environmental Health Bureau
Norm Groot	Member	Monterey County Farm Bureau
Piret Harmon	Member	Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Russ Hatch	Member	Water System Consultant
Mayra Hernandez	Member	Community Water Center
Monica Martinez	Member	MPWMD
Casey Meusel	Member	Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency,
Kelsey Scanlon	Member	County of Monterey, Department of Emergency Management
Judy Vazquez-Varela	Member	Pajaro/ Sunny Mesa Community Service District
Curtis Weeks	Member	Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Isabela Amezcuita	Attendee	San Jerardo Cooperative
Rosa Carrillo	Attendee	San Jerardo Cooperative
Horacio Amezcuita	Attendee	San Jerardo Cooperative
Cheryl Sandoval	Planning Team	County of Monterey, Environmental Health Bureau
Roger VanHorn	Planning Team	County of Monterey, Environmental Health Bureau
Isaiah Tuazon	Planning Team	County of Monterey, Environmental Health Bureau
Wendy Strimling	Planning Team	County of Monterey Counsel
Tanya Martinez	Planning Team	County of Monterey, Environmental Health Bureau
Rina Buck-Macleod	Planning Team	Stantec
Dawn Carlton	Planning Team	Stantec
Online Participation		
Sarah Ko	DWR	California Department of Water Resources
Marla Anderson	Member	State small water system
Chad Fischer	Member	State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

Paula Getzelman	Member	Southern Monterey County Rural Coalition Lockwood
Maureen Hamilton	Member	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Brian Lockwood	Member	Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
Kjia Rivers	Member	Community Water Center
Albert Sanchez	Member	California Water Service, Salinas Valley Region
Craig Spencer	Member	County of Monterey, Housing and Community Development Department
Michael Weaver	Member	local small water system
Amy Woodrow	Member	Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Brenda Granillo	Member	California Water Service, Salinas Valley Region

Meeting Objectives

Convene the County of Monterey Drought Advisory Group for Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells (Drought Advisory Group) to inform the development of the County of Monterey Drought Resilience Plan. During the meeting, participants will learn about the development process for the Drought Resilience Plan, the role of the Drought Advisory Group, and introduce the Risk Assessment process.

DRAFT Summary

- Welcome and Introductions – County of Monterey Environmental Health Bureau Director (Ric Encarnacion) welcomed the group and meeting participants introduced themselves, both in-person and online (Zoom).
- The County of Monterey Drought Advisory Group Overview – County of Monterey Environmental Health Bureau Supervisor (Cheryl Sandoval) presented an overview of Senate Bill 552 requirements and the Drought Advisory Group responsibilities and current membership.
- Drought Resilience Plan Development and the California Department of Water Resources Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Tool and Preliminary Results – Stantec staff (Rina Buck-Macleod) provided a presentation on the development of the Drought Resilience Plan and the associated Risk Assessment. The group reviewed the vulnerabilities and risk assessment methodology and the preliminary risk assessment results. Comments, suggestions, and questions raised are summarized below, grouped by theme and corresponding presentation slide:
 - County of Monterey Drought Resilience Plan (Slide 3) – A member inquired about the coordination between the Drought Resilience Plan and the Monterey County Community Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CCAAP), noting there may be opportunities for alignment and coordination between these two County plans. This is an area to explore during the development of the Drought Resilience Plan.
 - DWR Risk Assessment Tool Physical Vulnerability Score Methodology (Slide 13)
 - Tool Development and Weighting – The group discussed the use of the existing DWR Risk Assessment tool for application in the County of Monterey Drought Resilience Plan. The Planning Team noted that the tool is a starting point for the analysis and that additional data and data sources can be integrated into the Drought Resilience Plan, as the Drought Advisory Group deems appropriate. The tools were developed by the state and the Drought Resilience Plan will customize the risk assessment for the County of Monterey.
 - Climate Change Conditions – Participants discussed the importance and weighing of climate change projections into the risk assessment. Members discussed considering weighing the future climate change conditions and drought more heavily within the tool. While the tool weights will not be adjusted for the

Drought Resilience Plan, the risk assessment discussion within the Drought Resilience Plan can consider possible climate change scenarios. A member provided that there are climate change precipitation projections for some portions of the County that can be considered for inclusion in the risk assessment.

- Additional Considerations – A member noted that flood and accessibility to water during flood periods may be considered as a factor in the risk assessment supporting the Drought Resilience Plan.
- Physical Vulnerability Total Score – Preliminary Results (Slide 17) – Members noted that the preliminary results do not reflect vulnerability in the seawater intrusion area. The group discussed that this may be due to the lack of domestic wells and small water systems and the use of recycled water in this area; this may be a topic to explore further within the risk assessment process supporting the Drought Resilience Plan development.
- Identified State Small Water Systems & Domestic Wells in County of Monterey (Slide 18) – Participants discussed potential data gaps in the identified small water systems and domestic wells (State Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Water Resource data, respectively), noting that there may be some private wells that have not been identified for the Arroyo Seco area. A member noted that the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, State Water Resources Control Board, and California Department of Water Resources are undergoing a well registration (active and inactive) effort within their jurisdiction. The results will be reflected in the state database and could potentially be incorporated into the risk assessment. There may be opportunities for a similar effort that could be expanded for the entire county (note: this could potentially be identified as an action in the Drought Resilience Plan).
- Regions with Water Shortage Vulnerability (Slide 21) – Participants discussed refinements to the identified preliminary regions, with the Planning Team noting that these are high-level first pass groupings that will be refined as the process moves forward and with the assistance of GIS and member input.
 - Updates to Groupings – Participants discussed using the existing groundwater subbasins to help form the regional groupings. Within the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Basin (Region B in preliminary groupings), the following groupings were discussed:
 - Separate – Langley/Granite Ridge area
 - Combine Upper Salinas Valley – Combine the 180/400-Foot and Eastside Aquifer Subbasins
 - Combine Lower Salinas Valley – Combine the Forebay and Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasins
 - Definition and Application of Regions – The group discussed that these groupings will help identify the types of actions and strategies in the Drought Resilience Plan and will not be restricted to existing groundwater subbasins. The groupings are not intended to preclude specific wells/areas from consideration, decisions will be made based on site-specific analysis.
- Indicator Details: Consecutive Dry Years (2018-2022) (Slide 22) and Recent Dry Water Year (2022) (Slide 23) – A member raised questions regarding the methodology for these slides, questioning what years went into the “average” precipitation¹. The Planning Team noted that these slides are indicative of dry year precipitation patterns within the County and that the [methodology for the risk assessment tool](#) is available for reference into the tool methodology.

¹ Note: Per the [Technical Methods for the Drought and Water Shortage Vulnerability Assessment Update 2023: California's Domestic Wells and State Small Water Systems](#) the tool uses original PRISM data for the months of interest (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022, <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/recent/>) and divided by the average precipitation (referred to as “30-year normal” on the website) between 1981 and 2010 (provided by PRISM website, <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/normals/>).

- Indicator Details: Water Quality Aquifer Risk (Slide 26) – A member noted that as part of an existing Groundwater Sustainability Plan there is a current desktop assessment of groundwater quality issues in the Forebay Aquifer Subbasin region, and that this could be a resource in developing the Drought Resilience Plan.
- Indicator Details: Fractured Rock Areas (Slide 27) – Participants noted that the fractured rock area map may have data gaps, including a lack of representation in the fractured rock areas in the Granite Ridge area.
- Discussion of the County of Monterey Drought Resilience Plan (Slide 3) – The group discussed considerations for the Drought Resilience Plan content, including:
 - Considerations – The plan could consider wells that have gone dry and water quality considerations.
 - Short-Term Actions and Long-Term Strategies – Potential considerations for Short-Term Actions and Long-Term Strategies for consideration in the Drought Resilience Plan including:
 - Align actions and strategies with actions in projects identified in existing Groundwater Sustainability Plans in the area.
 - Identify projects and opportunities for smaller systems and projects that may not have been funded previously.
 - Potential consideration of consolidation, mitigation, provision of emergency drinking water, recharge (to be discussed in Drought Advisory Group Meeting 3).
 - Analysis of Funding Sources – The Drought Resilience Plan must consider funding strategies.
- Proposed Drought Advisory Group Meeting and Review Schedule (Slide 5) – The group discussed the upcoming meetings, and a member expressed a desire for narrative notes aligned with the PowerPoint. The Planning Team noted that this could be a consideration for future meetings.
 - Drought Advisory Group Meeting 1 (Kickoff) – Following this kickoff meeting, the Planning Team is requesting Drought Advisory Group member feedback on the content presented in the meeting/the Preliminary Risk Assessment Feedback via email to swsdroughtadvisorygroup@countyofmonterey.gov by the end of the day on Friday, August 30, 2024.
 - Drought Advisory Group Meeting 2 (Introduce Short-Term Actions and Long-Term Strategies) – The second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The meeting will be a follow-up on the Baseline Risk Assessment and discuss the Criteria to Evaluate Short-Term Actions and Long-Term Strategies.
 - Meeting 3 (Short-Term Actions and Long-Term Strategies), Meeting 4 (Draft Drought Resilience Plan), and Potential Meeting 5 (Drought Resilience Plan) – Subsequent meetings are yet to be scheduled.
- Additional Resources – The following resources were discussed and/or identified during the meeting for support of and/or consideration in the Drought Resilience Plan process:
 - County of Monterey Drought Advisory Group Website: [Drought Advisory Group for Small Water Systems | County of Monterey, CA](#)
 - DWR Risk Assessment Tool: [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#)
 - Methodology/data: [Water Shortage Vulnerability Technical Methods - Dataset - California Natural Resources Agency Open Data](#)
 - DWR DRP Guidebook: [DWR County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook](#)
 - DWR SGMA Groundwater Basin Maps: [SGMA Data Viewer \(ca.gov\)](#)

- Salinas Valley Basin well registration data (noted by Piret Harmon, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency)
- Climate change precipitation projections for the region (noted by P. Harmon, Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency)
- Carmel Valley Watershed Drought Pilot Program (noted by N. Groot, Monterey County Farm Bureau)
- Desktop assessment of groundwater quality issues in the Forebay Aquifer Subbasin region (noted by C. Weeks, Arroyo Seco Groundwater Sustainability Agency)

Action Items

- Drought Advisory Group members to provide feedback on the content presented in the meeting/the Preliminary Risk Assessment Feedback via email to swsdroughtadvisorygroup@countyofmonterey.gov by the end of the day on Wednesday September 4, 2024