



This is a message from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Hello, Community Water Systems with less than 3000 service connections, Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems, and Interested Parties:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released a draft report with recommendations and guidance to help small water suppliers and rural communities plan for the next drought, wildfire, or other natural disasters that may cause water shortages.

This report, entitled *Small Water Suppliers and Rural Communities At Risk of Drought and Water Shortage Vulnerability and Recommendations and Guidance to Address the Planning Needs of these Communities*, was required by law ([California Water Code Section 10609.42](#)). Starting in October 2018, DWR collaborated closely with the Water Board, other state agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders through a stakeholder process to provide input for this report.

Included in the draft report is the methodology for developing relative risk assessment scores that show where small water systems rank on an index of drought and water shortage vulnerability and recommendations on drought and water shortage vulnerability for small water systems. It is important to note that the primary benefit of this scoring exercise is to offer local and regionally-specific information to assist with drought and water shortage planning. You can find your water system's drought and water shortage risk score, along with 4,100 other small water systems that DWR analyzed, in the attached excel file "SWS_RiskScores_030520". The scores are updated after corrections were made to the calculations, so they are different from the scores that were originally shared with you back in January. Please note that for this project, small water systems are defined as those supplying drinking water to less than 3,000 service connections.

Along with the draft report which includes the methodology on how vulnerabilities were assessed, DWR has released the beta version of a web-tool that is intended to help water systems better understand the data that informed their ranking for potential vulnerability to drought and water shortage. This tool will help inform small water systems on steps they can take to prepare for future drought and water shortage conditions.

To develop the tool, DWR used statewide datasets to estimate risk of drought and water shortage for small water suppliers and rural communities. DWR was only able to calculate relative risk scores for small water systems that had a digital service area boundary, with data available from the Water Board. DWR is working with the Water Board to create a process to obtain service areas boundaries for the remaining small

water systems. It is important for small water systems to provide data to the state to assess risk for drought and water shortage and to develop regional partnerships.

Comments on the draft report, the risk scoring tool, and the risk scores can be submitted by using the web form at <http://bit.ly/dwrrisktool> or by email to: droughtrisk@water.ca.gov. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2020. DWR staff will discuss the draft report and the risk scoring tool with the CDAG and stakeholders during two stakeholder webinars to be scheduled during the public comment period. Information for the webinars will be announced soon.

The Drought and Water Shortage Risk Scoring Tool can be accessed [here](#).

More information and links to the Draft Report and the Online Risk Scoring Tool can be found on DWR website: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Making-Conservation-a-California-Way-of-Life/County-Drought-Planning>