



BUTTE COUNTY

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Drought Emergency Update

August 2, 2022 – Report #1

County Proclamation – Resolution # 21-085. Ratified by BOS on July 20, 2021

State Proclamation – May 10, 2021



INCIDENT SUMMARY

Continued dry weather throughout California has led to Extreme Drought conditions in Butte County and the North State. Butte County OEM, in response to the drought proclamation has activated the EOC to level 3 (Monitor Status) in support of both long and short term actions addressing drought in the community.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS INTENT

To provide the community with resources and tools enabling them to seek relief from drought conditions while encouraging municipalities within the Butte County Operational Area to be proactive in conservation measures and drought assistance programs. It is also the intent of the BOS that the County will leverage to the greatest extent possible, all State and Federal drought relief programs to support county residents in maintaining access to clean and reliable water.

BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT DROUGHT REPORTS

Butte County Public Health, Environmental Health Division, Drought Tracking Efforts

There is not a significant data trend that exists from the previous 5 years pertaining to total number of well permits being issued, well destructions or well repairs.

- For the 2021 Water Year, 121 small diameter well permits and 24 large diameter well permits were issued.
- Data does indicate that majority of the dry wells are occurring in Chico with an average dry well depth of 110 feet.
- Majority of wells subject to the [N-7-22 Executive Order](#) appear to be within the Butte Sub-basin.

Cumulative Number of Wells Under Executive Order N-7-22			
Sub-Basin	Small Diameter	Large Diameter	Totals
Butte	0	11	11
Vina	1	2	3
Wyandotte	0	4	4
			18
GSA			
Biggs-West Gridley Water District	0	3	3
Butte County	0	2	2
Butte Water District	0	3	3
Richvale Irrigation District	0	1	1
Rock Creek Reclamation District	0	1	1
Vina	1	2	3
Western Canal	0	1	1
Wyandotte Creek	0	4	4
			18

Environmental Health is currently working with two small public water systems for drought related well issues: Spring Valley School at Pentz Road and Highway 70 and Almond Grove Mobile Home Park in Chico.

- Spring Valley School is outside of any subbasin and has three wells; “North Well” is 740 feet deep with low to no water; “Pump House Well” is 760 feet deep producing 5 gallons per minute; “South Well” is 650 feet deep producing 5 gallons per minute.
- Almond Grove Well is currently being investigated for cause of no water; possibility of electrical issues and not actual drought related issue. Well depth is unknown but pump is at 80 feet.

Current Reported DWR Dry Well Reports

In 2021, which was the second year of the current drought, the Department of Water Resources received 44 reports of dry wells in Butte County through the DWR Dry Well Reporting System available at: <https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report/>. As of July 21, 2022, there were 28 reports

received in the 2022 calendar year for a total of 72 reports for both years. This is a voluntary report for residents, and does not represent all households in the County experiencing dry household wells. These numbers also include a few reports for wells used for non-domestic uses and some were reported for the same house in both years.

Of the 55 reporters who did answer the question on the reports about the depth of their well over both years, 47 reports indicated wells impacted that are 270' deep or less. There were reports of five wells with intermediate depths between 320' and 520' deep, four of those being located in Oroville and one in Bangor. There were three reports related to deep wells, one 850' deep in Butte Valley reported twice (once in each year) and one school in Golden Feather Union Elementary School District in Oroville with a well 700' deep. The number of reports by community and year are indicated in the figure below.

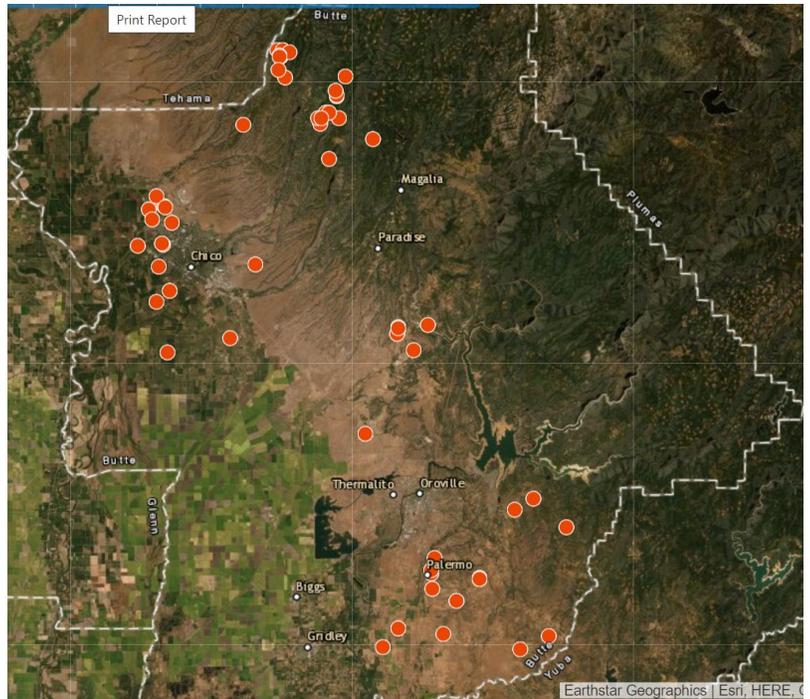
Number and Location of DWR Dry Well Reporting System Reports from 1/1/21 to 7/21/22

Number of Reports			
	2021	2022 – June 21	Total
Not Listed	1	0	1
Berry Creek	1	0	1
Bangor	1	1	2
Durham	0	2	2
Magalia	2	0	2
Butte Valley	1	1	2
Palermo	1	2	3
Cohasset	7	1	8
Forest Ranch	9	3	12
Chico	12	7	19
Oroville	9	11	20
Total	44	28	72

The adjacent map shows the locations of the dry wells reported to the DWR Dry Well Reporting System in Butte County from the beginning of 2021 to July 21, 2022.

The Water Resource and Conservation Department staff have contacted each person who filled out the DWR reports to let them know about the OEM programs and also other resources available to them as found throughout a number of updated Butte County websites such as:

- The Water Resource and Conservation Department's drought information page



<https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/buttecountydroughtinformation>

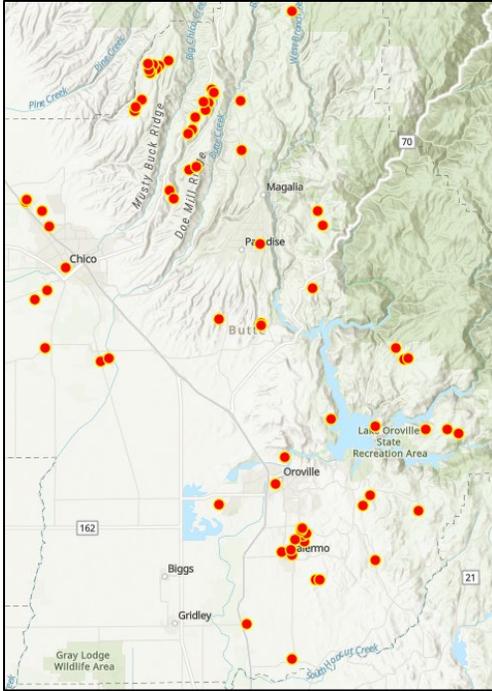
- Butte County's Drought information page: <http://www.buttecounty.net/drought>

Water Resource and Conservation Department staff are also tracking the crossover between those who have applied to the Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) Drought Assistance Program and those who had submitted Dry Well reports. Approximately 30 applicants to the Drought Assistance Program have filled out Dry Well reports as of July 21, 2022. Both Departments are working cooperatively to encourage residents impacted by the drought to fill out OEM applications and DWR Dry Well reports. Filling out these reports will help inform local and state agencies on water shortage impacts to households served by wells, and will help identify the need for local, state, or federal assistance.

Butte County Office of Emergency Management

Short Term

OEM was awarded a \$1.16 million dollar grant from DWR through the Small Community Drought Relief Program. OEM is utilizing the funds to provide potable water to county residents through a 2 phase program. Phase one is providing hauled water for residents with storage tanks. As of Aug 3, 128 people have submitted applications to the program. (Figure1) Water delivery began on July 13. Phase 2 of the program is currently in design and will furnish 2,500 gallon storage tanks for residents who don't have water storage capacity. OEM is working with Development Services to create a scope of Work and ensure all required permits and inspections will be properly executed.



Long Term

1. Department of Water & Resource Conservation has submitted 4 grant applications under the DWR Small Community Drought Program:
 - a. Feather Ridge Estates Water Systems Improvement Project – Awarded \$1,191,485, currently coordinating the grant agreement
 - b. Palermo Clean Water Consolidation Project – submitted
 - c. Foothill Solar Community Project – submitted
 - d. Berry Creek School Project – submitted
2. Drought Impact Analysis Study: Completed in May 2022 and a public webinar presentation on June 1, 2022. Recommendations from the Drought Task Force and Water Commission will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on July 26, 2022.

Figure 1 – Current applications to the Emergency Water Hauling

Public Affairs – Website Updates

The Drought Task Force and Drought Response Initiative Planning Team are working on a number of efforts with the Butte PIO to provide consistent relevant information to the public.

1. The Butte County Drought Website (www.buttecounty.net/drought) has been updated to show information on the Water Hauling program and a link to the Department of Water & Resource Conservation’s Drought Information page for resources on water conditions, water conservation and other resources for private well owners.
2. The Drought Information page(www.buttecounty.net/drought) includes information pertaining to:
 - a. Current Drought Assistance Programs through OEM
 - b. Current water level conditions
 - c. List of agencies tracking the drought
 - d. Drought Impact Analysis Study information
 - e. Financial Resources to Assist Residents
 - f. Butte County Drought Response/Drought Task Force information including members, meetings, and agendas
3. The team will continue to create PSAs and ensure the Website reflects the most current information.