

ABOUT DROUGHTS

Why are we facing shortages?

California is experiencing water shortages for several reasons. Drought conditions, environmental problems, and growing pressure on the state's water storage and delivery system are some key factors.

Our population continues to grow, adding more demand on our resources.

Climate change already is affecting our water resources, and could reduce our mountain snowpack – a key source of water for California – by at least 25% by 2050.

Droughts are Natural Disasters

Droughts and floods are part of our natural environmental cycle. What we don't know is when it will happen and how long it will last. Surviving any natural disaster, including a drought, requires planning and preparation. Households that rely on well water can face problems from a drought. Being prepared can reduce the chance of well problems and shorten the time it takes to restore water. As a rule, you should be mindful of your well's health and functionality on an ongoing basis, but most especially during a drought period.



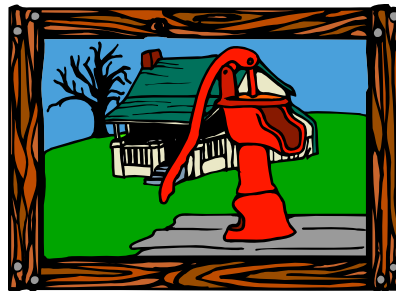
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Living in a Drought

What Can I Do?



**Butte County
Department of
Water and Resource
Conservation**

PREVENTING PROBLEMS AND BEING PREPARED

There are several simple things that you can do:

Maintenance

Follow simple well maintenance tips to keep your well operating in top condition.

Obtain Your Well Completion Report

The steps to obtain your well completion report are outlined on the Department website.

How vulnerable is your well?

No one can predict who will have a drought related well problem. But we know that some areas are at higher risk, such as the Durham/Dayton and Foothill/Ridge areas. Keep in mind that wells throughout the region could face problems. The Department website has maps and information that may help you assess your situation.

For More Information

Visit “**Drought Information**” at www.buttecounty.net

Water Pressure Problems?

Poorly operating domestic wells and pumps can deliver water inefficiently and waste money. Iron bacteria and sediment can clog wells and restrict water flow. If you have pressure or flow problems, you should consult with a local licensed well driller or pump company to determine the cause of the problem.

The performance of your irrigation system can be assessed by contacting the **Butte County Resource Conservation District** (530-534-0112x122)

Your pump can be tested through

Things are running smoothly.

Great! But remember:

- Have a well maintenance check done including a bacterial test.
- Learn how to monitor groundwater levels in your well.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair.
- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizers, pesticides and motor oil far away from your well.
- Keep your well records in a safe place.

STAYING WATER WISE

Reducing your water use both indoors and outdoors can reduce overall impacts during a drought. For more water saving tips and well resources please visit:



The *SAVE OUR WATER* program can help you in your water conservation efforts.

www.saveourh2o.org

The *WATERIGHT* program can assist you in your seasonal irrigation schedule.

www.wateright.org

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