

Drought Task Force: Drought Planning and Response

May 18, 2021



Drought Task Force



Introduction

- Overview of the Butte County Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan
- Summary of past drought impacts and response
- Preparation for 2021 Drought Response



Drought Task Force



Drought Overview

- 2021 Water Year is expected to be critically dry
- Initial drought impacts are beginning to occur
- What is a Drought?

A drought is defined as a prolonged or chronic shortage or lack of water expected or desired to meet demands. In other words, the demands for water exceed the available supply.

- *More discussion later...*

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Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan (2005)

- Part of the Butte County Integrated Water Resource Plan (2005)
- Drought Task Force
 - Survey data
 - Assess impacts
 - Interagency Collaborative & Public Involvement
 - Report to Water Commission and Board of Supervisors



Drought Task Force



Drought Task Force

Members:

- Water and Resource Conservation (chair)
- Office of Emergency Services (vice chair)
- County Administration
- Environmental Health
- Agricultural Commissioner
- Public Works
- Fire
- UC Cooperative Extension/Farm Advisor
- Chair, Water Commission
- Resource Conservation District
- Natural Resource Conservation Service



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Previous Drought Impacts (2007-9 and 2013-16)

- Lower groundwater levels (historic lows)
 - Increased groundwater demand
 - Decrease in recharge
- Decreased creek and stream flows
- Dewatering of shallow domestic wells
- Water transfers
- Curtailment of surface water deliveries
- Increased fire risk
- Agricultural economic impacts



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Previous County Drought Responses

- Increased groundwater monitoring
- Increased public outreach
- Emergency water fill – CalWater
- Seeking state/federal drought resources
- Coordination and communication with local/state/federal agencies

Drought Plan



Next Steps

- Report of the Drought Task Force to Water Commission on June 2, 2021
- Drought Task Force report to the Board at the June 22, 2021
- Staff may bring drought items to the Board prior to June 22nd if necessary
- Let's begin reviewing drought conditions...

Drought Plan



THANK YOU



Drought Task Force: Water Supply Conditions

May 18, 2021



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Water Supply Conditions

- State Water Project – 5%
 - Butte County Local Contracts – 100%

- Central Valley Project (West of Sacramento River)
 - Settlement Contracts – 75%
 - Contracts – 0%
 - Transfers

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Water Supply Conditions

- Feather River Districts
 - 50% Cutback
 - 4th cutback since Oroville Dam
 - Last time was 2015
 - Less rice acreage
 - Groundwater will supplement surface water (landowner wells)
 - No following transfers

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Water Supply Conditions

- Local Water Supplies
 - Initial reports of dewatered Community Service District wells
 - Reports of dry domestic water supplies
 - <https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/>