

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO | DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN
WATER SHORTAGE TASK FORCE MEETING #2 NOTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Meeting Information

Date and Time: November 19, 2025, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Meeting Attendees

Local Government Representatives:

- Bharat Singh, County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department
- Camille Leung, County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department
- Neli Avramova, County Public Works
- Sara Bachman, Town of Hillsborough Public Works Department
- Summer Bundy, OneShoreline
- Julie Casagrande, County Public Works
- David Cosgrave, County Department of Emergency Management
- Heather Eastwood, County Health
- Carly Bock, County Health (covering for Heather Eastwood)
- Matthew Goldberg, Sustainability Department
- Melissa Ross-Perkins, Sustainability Department
- Isabel Perez Ramos, Sustainability Department
- Stephanie Lau, OneShoreline
- Len Materman, OneShoreline
- Jarrad Fisher, Resource Conservation District
- Joe Issel, Resource Conservation District
- Justin Watkins, Public Health, Policy, and Planning
- Kellyx Nelson, Resource Conservation District
- Patrick J. Griffin, San Mateo County Fire and Coastsde
- Ryan Reynolds, County Department of Emergency Management

Community Members:

- Ryan Augustine, Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council
- Irma Rodriguez Mitton, Arriba South Coast

State and Regional Partners:

- Reid Bogert, C/CAG and Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program
- Sarah Ko, CA Dept of Water Resources Division of Regional Assistance

Water System Representatives:

- Cathleen Brennan, Coastsde County Water District
- Tanya Yurovsky, Montara Water and Sanitary District
- Niambi K.V. Lincoln, Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company
- Mary Rogren, Coastsde County Water District

Consultant to County of San Mateo:

- Jacqueline Protsman Rohr, PlaceWorks
- Eli Krispi, PlaceWorks
- Autumn Paynton, PlaceWorks

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Meeting Notes

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Overview of the Drought Risk Assessment

- Question about County Service Area 7 and County Service Area 11 locations. PlaceWorks clarified that they are Coastside, not Bayside and will make that change in the Drought Risk Assessment.
- Discussion about whether San Francisco International Airport needs to be addressed. PlaceWorks clarified that this project focuses on State Small Water Systems, small water providers, and domestic well owners, and that the San Francisco International Airport does not fall within that category.
- Private well proliferation on Bayside noted, however, the group noted high concentration on Midcoast as well.
 - Coastside County Water District noted that Miramar area has many private domestic wells that fail during water shortage conditions - they conducted a private study and may be able to share data. The project team will confirm the availability of this study with Coastside County Water District.
 - Arriba South Coast noted a couple properties that are spring fed on the South Coast.
- Additional questions:
 - Where did the number of individual wells come from in the report?
 - This is an estimate from the Department of Water Resource's Water Shortage Vulnerability Analysis dataset, which uses modified PLSS sections pulled from the Well Completion Report PLSS Section Summaries.
 - What was the process for outreach to individual well owners?
 - The project team sent out questionnaires to small water system operators, however, due to the scope, number of well owners, and lack of data and contact information, we were unable to directly contact individual well owners and, instead, relied on the data previously mentioned.
 - How many wells are active and useful versus drilled, and proximity of wells to creeks (actual groundwater to surface water)?
 - Resource Conservation District has completed assessments and can provide this info for the adaptive capacity and action side of the Drought Resilience Plan.
 - The Department of Water Resources noted the State's well completion database has some discrepancies regarding actual well locations - all wells shown were built after 1977.
 - Encouraged counties to highlight existing actions already being taken.
 - Think of actions and strategies as 'wish list' items.

3. Facilitated Discussion on Drought Risk Assessment

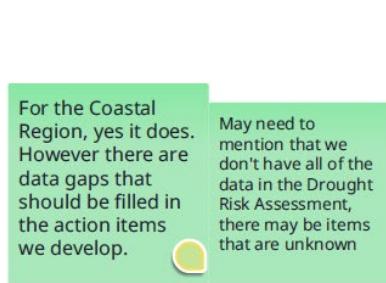
[See screenshots of interactive whiteboard discussion responses below]

Question 1: Do these findings align with your understanding of drought risks in the county?

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- Struggling with developing resiliency actions along the coast where there is not a good enough understanding of interactions between ground and surface water in wells.
 - Resource Conservation District tried to get funding in certain watersheds to study this.
 - Request that the Risk Assessment include a disclaimer for assessment portion stating that we do not have all the info! (estimates, not entirely accurate. Identify unknowns in report.)
- Coastal area findings (South Coast) generally align with Resource Conservation District's understanding and are well represented.
- City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) of San Mateo County staff asked about other drought risks across county in other water systems that do not fit under purview of this specific process.
 - Answer: This assessment and larger Drought Resilience Plan are focused on smaller systems, larger systems have individual urban water reports, even though they may also have issues during drought.
- Midcoast area impacts not fully quantified because there are a number of domestic wells in the area that lack data.
- A risk assessment for smaller systems is helpful for accessing funding with supporting documentation, so generally grateful that this process is happening and challenges are documented.

Do these findings align with your understanding of drought risks in the county?



Sticky note



Question 2: Any water systems missing from key findings?

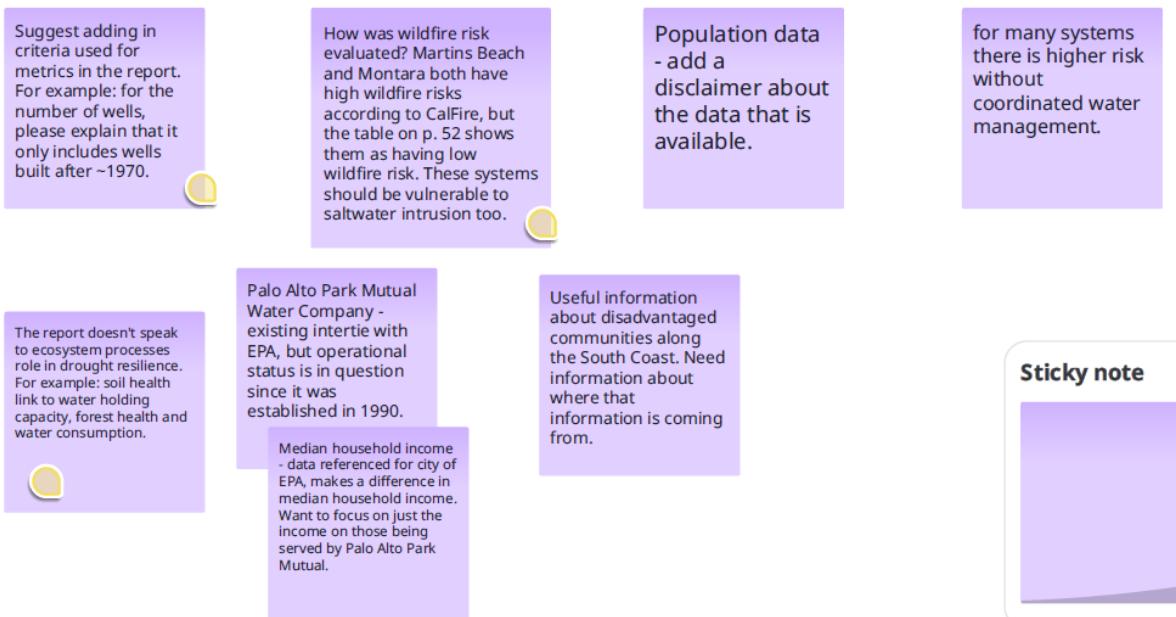
- [Noted in agenda item 2 above]
- Whiteboard note: "more emphasis".

Question 3: Additional feedback on the Risk Assessment?

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- Helpful to reader to identify sources of data and what is included and what information we may not have.
- Report doesn't speak to ecosystem processes role in drought resilience.
 - Resource Conservation District staff can put the project team in touch with soil people to help craft language.
- Emphasize coordinated water management.
- Median household income looks higher than reality - service population different from East Palo Alto.
 - Palo Alto Park Mutual - look at specific service population to accurately characterize. Completed a study in 2018 that can be provided for additional "ground-truth" context.

Do you have any additional feedback on the Drought Risk Assessment?



4. Drought Resilience Plan Actions

[See screenshots of interactive whiteboard discussion responses below]

Question 1: What are your ideas for short-term actions?

Key Ideas:

- Directory or 'Phone tree' to exchange communication between water diverters.
- Fund stream gauges which will help calculate trends and inform drought preparation.
- CIMIS: California Irrigation Management and Irrigation System (run by California Department of Water Resources) helps growers understand daily evapotranspiration to reduce over irrigation.
- List where we want to do the work to identify actual domestic well counts and conditions.
- Have some management guidance tools and need to be guided by more information.
- See additional ideas for short-term actions in the screenshot below.

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What are your ideas for short-term actions?

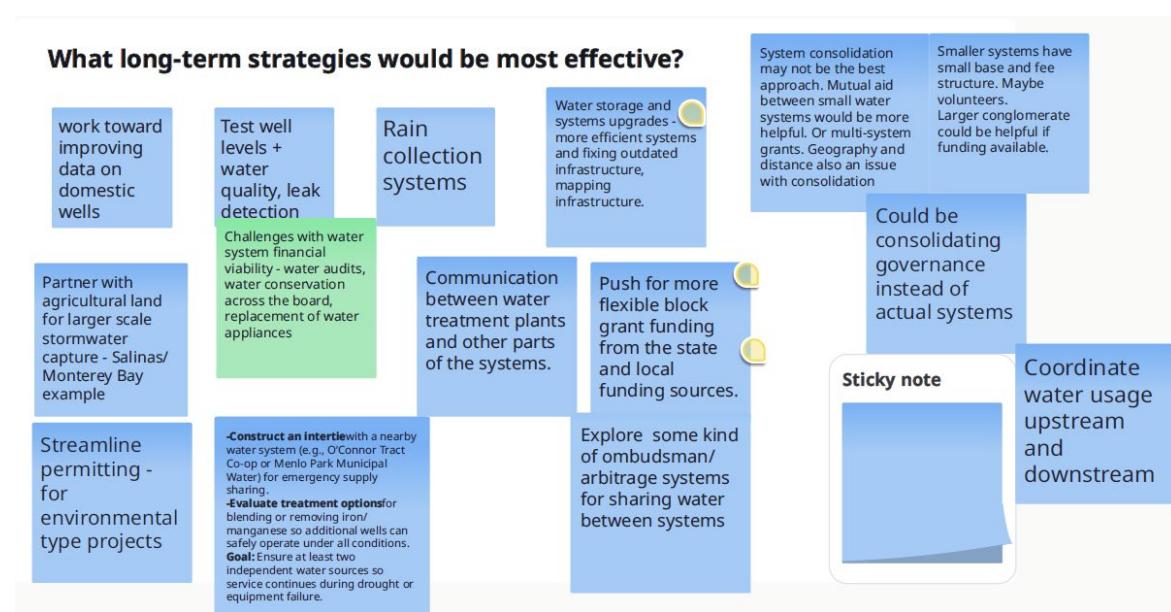


Question 2: What long-term strategies would be most effective?

Key Ideas:

- The word 'consolidation' might not be widely well received but revising it to be some sort of 'mutual aid' and collaboration approach rather than physical consolidation could help.
 - For example, water systems could group together to apply for grant funding.
 - Some systems are so unique in their geography, operation, or capacity that consolidation may not be realistic or desirable.
 - Or, certain systems could form agreements to share storage/land and truck water between.
 - One way to look at consolidation is the governance over the system rather than physically linking systems together.
- Geography and distance may make consolidation unrealistic physically/logistically.
- Fee base is small for small systems - many staff running systems tend to be volunteers.
- Providing funding for larger conglomerate to answer common questions and create info document to provide would be helpful.
- See additional ideas for long-term actions in the screenshot below.

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Question 3: What barriers might be faced in implementing actions?

Key Barriers Identified:

- Lack of communication between upstream and downstream users
- Financial barriers
- Geography and distance challenges
- Limited capacity at smaller systems due to volunteer-run operations
- Lack of information on local groundwater conditions
- Permitting challenges needed to take water from local creeks due to mandate to protect wildlife
- See additional barriers in the screenshot below.

What barriers might be faced in implementing actions?

