

Monterey County Drought Response Short-Term Actions and Long-Term Mitigation Strategies (Draft 12/19/24)

Short-Term Actions

- (Line Item #29) The County will maintain a web portal containing a list of licensed water haulers and bulk water delivery for private wells, local small water systems, and state small water systems during short-term emergencies.
- (#30) The County will work to establish a program, as funding becomes available, to provide temporary, mobile bulk water storage tanks for private wells, local small water systems, and state small water systems that have an emergency due to lack of water quantity.
- (#31) The County will help identify and facilitate possible temporary interties between, local, state, and public water systems that may have available capacity in the event of an emergency water shortage.
- (#35) The County will coordinate with non-profit organizations to support water conservation measures among private well, local small water system, and state small water system users in the event of a water shortage.
- (#37) The County will prioritize the well permitting process for replacement wells that serve private well, local small water system, and state small water system users in the event of a water shortage emergency.

Long-Term Mitigation Strategies

- (Line Item #3) The County will continue to implement a water quality sampling program that provides local small water system and state small water system users water quality information and data of their supply consistent with the California State Drinking Water Act.
- (#4) The County will increase awareness about water quality among domestic well owners and operators for private wells, local small water systems and state small water systems through communication and engagement of county-maintained data under Health and Safety Code Section 116772.
- (#7) The County will coordinate with the applicable Groundwater Sustainable Agencies and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) to communicate regional groundwater level information from private, local small water system and state small water system wells, when available.
- (#8) The County will require additional resources to assist private well, local small water system and state small water system operators to size and install bulk water storage tanks at existing wells. Potential funding is required, and a grant administrator would be needed to apply for grants on behalf of private wells, local small water systems and state small water systems.

- (#11) The County will coordinate with DWR and other entities to track dry wells for private, local small water system and state small water system wells and improve the accuracy of dry well reporting. An additional field in the county database will be added to identify replacement wells for private, local small, and state small systems and the reason for well replacement.
- (#15) The County will require additional resources to create a database to collect water level readings from private, local small water system and state small water system wells. The County will help identify Federal and State funding sources to facilitate private well, local small water system and state small water system users being able to take periodic static water level readings. Potential funding sources are required, and a grant administrator would be needed to apply for grants on behalf of private wells, local small water systems and state small water systems.
- (#16) The County will continue to maintain a list of licensed well drillers and certified laboratories. The County will create a list of entities to assist well operators evaluate well condition, rehabilitation and replacement needs.
- (#17, #42) The County will provide assistance, as resources allow, to private well, local small water system, and state small water system well owners and operators to identify and apply for Federal, State, local and other funding sources that assist in replacement or remediation of existing wells and aging infrastructure. Additional resources would be required to implement, and a grant administrator would be needed to apply for grants on behalf of private wells, local small water systems and state small water systems.
- (#18, #19, #20, #14) As resources allow, the County will expand staff capacity to identify and assist private, local small water system, and state small water systems with managerial and/or physical consolidation projects among small water systems and/or public water systems. Assistance would include helping to identify funding sources, and additional resources would be required to implement.
- (#22) The County will continue to maintain a webpage on conservation practices to reduce water use to provide low and minimal cost enhancement strategies that increase supply reliability for private wells, local small water systems and state small water systems. Conservation practices include an education program of low flow fixture units, drip irrigation and landscaping.
- (#23) For groundwater basins subject to SGMA or adjudication, the County will continue to collaborate with overlying regulators by focusing on factors that contribute to water shortages within the regulated region and water conservation actions and by providing information as appropriate.
- (#27) The County will continue to maintain a web portal containing County information, permits and forms to ensure accessible navigation of the webpage and to remove available barriers. Links to the State webpage will also be added to the County Environmental Health web portal.
- (#43) The County will continue to provide general information regarding potential water treatment systems for private wells, local small water systems, and state small water systems.

- (#44) The County will continue to maintain existing maps and add new maps, as appropriate, identifying Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) exceedances of primary contaminants of concern in the County.

More details needed on how to implement the following and who will be the lead:

Line Item #:

- 5 (Assess the potential risk for landslide(s) due to vegetation loss caused by drought or wildfire)
- 6 (Coordination and collaboration with power utilities, to establish a system to notify groundwater users of preemptive power interruptions that impact operation of groundwater wells)
- 26 (Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan/Emergency Operations Plan update to confirm interagency roles, responsibilities and actions associated with implementation of the Drought Resilience Plan)
- 33 (Mutual aid agreements to provide for short-term response actions called for in the DRP including water filling stations, bottled water distribution/storage, bulk water distribution)
- 34 (Mutual aid and system investment agreements with entities commonly relied upon by communities in the event of a disaster such as schools, county fairgrounds, etc. to focus on installation of emergency potable water supply actions called for in the plan such as bottled water, bottled water storage, water filling stations and bulk water distribution)
- 36 (Identify and establish a program to acquire packaged or bottled water in the event of an emergency)
- 38 (Identify and establish a network of emergency potable water supply stations/suppliers in the event of a water shortage emergency)