

DRAFT Summary

County of Ventura Drought and Water Shortage Task Force Draft Drought Resilience Plan Meeting 2

Tuesday, March 10, 2026; 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Zoom

County Project Coordination Team (PCT) and Consultant Support

Name	Affiliation
County PCT	
Anastasia Seims	Ventura County, Public Works Agency
Shawna Schlageter	Ventura County, County Executive Office
Kim Dellacort	Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services
John Gauthier	Watershed Protection Group
Ashley Kennedy	Ventura County, Environmental Health
Timothy Krone	Ventura County, Environmental Health
Shelley Sussman	Planning Division
Task Force	
Jennifer Lancaster	Calleguas Municipal Water District
Ramona Mejia	City of Simi Valley
Chris Obrender	City of Simi Valley Public Works Department
Tina Rasnow	Domestic Well Owner
Bram Sercu	United Water Conservation District
Participants	
Sarah Ko	California Department of Water Resources
Supervisor Kelly Long	Ventura County Board of Supervisors, District 3
Brian Miller	Ventura County Board of Supervisors, District 3
Consultant Support	
Rina Buck-Macleod	Stantec
Emily Huang	Stantec

County of Ventura Drought Resilience Plan Scope

- The County Drought Resilience Plan applies exclusively to domestic wells and state small water systems within the County of Ventura (County).

Meeting Objectives

- Solicit Drought and Water Shortage Task Force (Task Force) Draft Drought Resilience Plan feedback. Discuss Task Force next steps.

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- Drought Resilience Plan Welcome and Introductions** – The County Project Coordination Team (PCT) initiated the meeting by welcoming the Task Force and providing an overview of the purpose and scope of the County Drought Resilience Plan, noting the plan applies exclusively to domestic wells and state small water systems within the County. The County PCT also provided directions on how to register for the Task Force through the Ventura County Task Force website: <https://publicworks.venturacounty.gov/es/wells-drought-and-water-shortage-task-force/>
- Recap of Drought Resilience Plan Process and Progress to Date** – The Stantec Team provided an overview of the County Drought Resilience Plan development process/schedule and the alignment with the Task Force engagement, including Task Force outreach and engagement.

A Task Force member noted that they recently received their domestic well postcard. The Stantec Team then provided a brief overview of the Drought Resilience Plan, noting the required plan elements and minimum considerations.

- **Draft Drought Resilience Plan Feedback Discussion** – The Draft Drought Resilience Plan, which has been posted on the Ventura County Task Force website, was provided for Task Force review from February 24 through March 4, 2026. A Task Force member requested an extension of the review period which was granted through the end of the day on Thursday, March 12, 2026. The Stantec Team presented the content of the Draft Drought Resilience Plan, specific questions and feedback are summarized below:
 - Integration of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) – A meeting participant asked if GSPs were considered in the development of the County Drought Resilience Plan. The Stantec Team noted that GSPs in the County are discussed in Chapter 1, Introduction, and Chapter 6, Implementation Considerations.
 - Chapter 3, Drought and Water Shortage Risk Assessment: Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer (WSVE) Tool
 - Multiple Dry Years – A Task Force participant had a question about the weighting of the “multiple dry years” physical vulnerability indicator used in the WSVE Tool. A representative from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided background on the development of the WSVE Tool; noting that the WSVE Tool was developed by DWR in collaboration with the County Drought Advisory Group (CDAG) at a State-wide level. There could be an opportunity for the County to adjust the weighting within the tool for future analyses.
 - Saltwater Intrusion – A Task Force member noted that there may be additional local data related to saltwater intrusion. DWR noted that a state-wide model was used to model saltwater intrusion into the County’s groundwater. This is a data gap that could be noted in the County Drought Resilience Plan.
 - **Action Item:** Stantec Team to update the data gap discussion in Chapter 3 in response to the meeting discussion.
 - Chapter 4, Short-Term Response Actions – A Task Force member requested clarification on the applicability of STRA-03, Expediting Well Permitting, to domestic wells, noting that the County has been very responsive with domestic well permitting during previous wildfire events. County staff clarified that STRA-03 applies to both domestic wells and state small water systems.
 - **Action Item:** Stantec Team to update text in Table 4-1, Ventura County Drought Resilience Plan Short-Term Response Actions, to reflect that the short-term response action applies to both domestic wells and state small water systems.
 - Chapter 5, Long-Term Mitigation Strategies and Actions
 - Groundwater Recharge – A Task Force member questioned if any of the long-term mitigation strategies and actions include catchment basis for groundwater recharge. County staff provided that groundwater recharge is managed at a State-level and that a County stormwater contact can be provided to the Task Force member.
 - **Action Item:** County staff to provide stormwater contact information.
 - Consolidation – A meeting participant noted that there may be opportunities for consolidation of systems in the Nyeland Acres, El Rio, and Strickland areas (Oxnard), however there have been limitations due to the expense of infrastructure and that some of these areas are have disadvantaged communities. County noted that Nyeland Acres Mutual Water Company may be

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a resource. A Task Force member noted that United Water is in this area and noted potential resources. The Stantec Team noted that LTMSA-07 considers potential system consolidation, and that including consolidation projects in the County Drought Resilience Plan may make these projects more eligible for funding opportunities in the future.

- **Action Item:** County staff to provide system consolidation contact information.
- Inclusion of Projects in the County Drought Resilience Plan – DWR provided that the State anticipates using the County Drought Resilience Plans to identify future projects and opportunities for funding. However, there is not a clear distinction if inclusion of projects in the County Drought Resilience Plan versus other County planning documents is preferred/more likely to make a project eligible for funding.
- **Next Steps** – The Stantec Team provided an overview of next steps, including continued Task Force engagement.
- **Closing** – County staff provided closing words and the meeting was held open until noon to allow for additional comment (no additional comments were provided).

Meeting Materials/Resources

- Ventura County SB552 Website: [Small Water System and Domestic Wells Drought and Water Shortage Task Force - Ventura County Public Works Agency](#)
- Ventura County Task Force Review Draft Drought Resilience Plan: [Ventura-County-DRAFT-Task-Force-Drought-Resilience-Plan-26_0224.pdf](#)
- DWR Risk Assessment Tool and Methodology: [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#)
- DWR Guidebook: [DWR County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook](#)
- Questions or Concerns: SB552DroughtResiliencyPlan@venturacounty.gov