

Public Webinar: Draft Groundwater Management and Drinking Water Well Principles and Strategies

ACTION #11 IN THE APRIL 21, 2021 EXECUTIVE DROUGHT
PROCLAMATION



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AGENDA

- I. Opening Remarks10 minutes
- II. Draft Drinking Water Well Principles and Strategies Overview.....35 minutes
 - o Clarifying questions and comments throughout
- III. Formal Public Comment.....40 minutes
- IV. Closing.....5 minutes

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Audio Options

1. To Use Your Computer's Audio:
When the webinar begins, you will be connected to audio using your computer's microphone and speakers (i.e., Voice Over Internet Protocol or VoIP). A headset is recommended.

--OR--

2. To Use your Telephone:
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This Meeting is Being
Recorded



A recording of the webinar and copies of the webinar materials
will be made publicly available.

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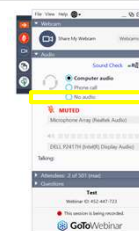
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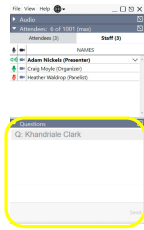
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How to Make a Public Comment



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Conference Call-Only Participants:

- Send your comment to the following address: semps@water.ca.gov
- We will read your question out loud and respond.

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April 21, 2021 Executive Drought Proclamation



Action 11. To ensure the potential impacts of drought on communities are anticipated and proactively addressed, the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the Water Board, shall develop groundwater management principles and strategies to monitor, analyze, and minimize impacts to drinking water wells.

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Goals

GOAL 1:

Present clear principles and vision from the state on how to anticipate and address potential drought impacts to communities who rely on drinking water wells

GOAL 2:

Develop strategies for the state, in coordination with local entities and community leaders, to use for drought management decision-making

FINAL PRODUCT:

A shared policy document capturing both principles and strategies



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Public Engagement Process

Outcomes:

1. Create a public process that is:

- Robust
- Inclusive
- Transparent
- Accessible

2. Final product is:

- Foundational
- Vetted
- Applicable
- Realistic



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From Input to Draft Document

Listening Session Public Comments

- Who is Involved
- Drought Impacts
- Identified Barriers
- Challenges & Solutions



DRAFT GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES & STRATEGIES TO MONITOR, ANALYZE & MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO DRINKING WATER WELLS

A Response to the Request for Information
Support Drought Resilient Communities

PRINCIPLE

Groundwater is a critical resource for drinking water and other uses. It is a finite resource that is vulnerable to overuse and contamination. Groundwater management principles and strategies are needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources and to protect the health and safety of the public. This document provides a framework for developing and implementing groundwater management principles and strategies that are consistent with the state's policy on groundwater and the public's right to clean, safe drinking water.

STRATEGIES

- Develop and implement a groundwater management plan that includes monitoring, analysis, and mitigation measures to protect drinking water wells.
- Establish a groundwater management committee to oversee the implementation of the plan and to coordinate with other agencies and stakeholders.
- Conduct regular monitoring and assessment of groundwater resources to identify potential problems and to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures.
- Implement measures to reduce groundwater withdrawals and to increase recharge to replenish depleted aquifers.
- Protect groundwater resources from contamination by enforcing existing laws and regulations and by implementing new measures to prevent contamination.
- Engage the public in the development and implementation of groundwater management principles and strategies to ensure transparency and accountability.

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Draft Principles & Strategies

Achieve	Drinking Water Resilience		6 strategies
Integrate	Equity		9 strategies
Address	Underlying Challenges		8 strategies
Lead	With Best Available Data		7 strategies
Build	Trusted Relationships		6 strategies
Implement	Lasting Solutions		9 strategies

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Achieve Drinking Water Resilience

Principle:

Implement ongoing drought planning and responses and other groundwater management programs to effectuate necessary changes with the goal to achieve drought resilience for drinking water well users.

Strategies:

- Inter-agency drinking water well work team
- Emergency funding and assistance
- Engage with locals on drought contingency plans
- Spotlight successful drought management efforts
- Continue long-term SGMA groundwater management efforts
- Continue drinking water & water quality efforts, including SAFER, CVSALTS, ILRP

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Integrate Equity

Principle:

Recognize equity needs to be integrated in drought-related planning processes to inform outcomes; Ensure there is equitable access to available drought assistance where barriers may exist for drinking water well users.

Strategies:

- Educational materials on drinking water wells
- Programs to protect reliability of drinking water wells
- Safeguards within basins for groundwater trading
- Avoid red tagging based on dry wells & water contamination
- Guidance on community engagement
- Conduct open and transparent public meetings
- Continue providing translation services
- Apply the polluters pay principle, where appropriate, for solutions
- Align state funding and local fee authorities for solutions

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Address Underlying Challenges

Principle:

Deliver targeted drought assistance by addressing the underlying challenges drinking water well users face to provide near-term relief, resolve fundamental issues, and anticipate and mitigate future drought impacts.

Strategies:



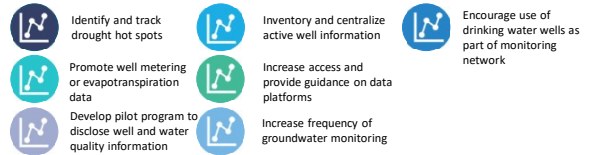
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Lead with Best Available Data

Principle:

Prioritize the alignment, centralization, and accessibility of available well data and information to clearly identify emerging and existing groundwater and drinking water issues for improved drought management.

Strategies:



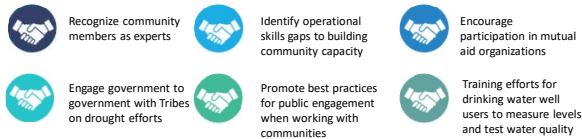
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Build Trusted Relationships

Principle:

Emphasize that prioritizing and building trusted relationships with drinking water well users create opportunities for effective coordination, communication, and decision-making.

Strategies:



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Implement Lasting Solutions

Principle:

Recognize that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions to address drinking water well challenges and that solutions need to be specific, effective, and lasting with clear commitments to engage, empower, and support drinking water well users.

Strategies:



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Next Steps & Implementation

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- 30-day public comment period through **October 7, 2021 by 5PM**
- Submit written comments to: SGMPS@water.ca.gov

FINALIZATION

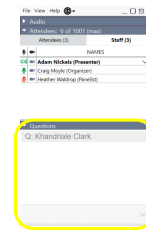
- Public comments will inform the Final Principles and Strategies
- Target to Release: **November 2021**

IMPLEMENTATION

- Implementation Plan for the Final Principles and Strategies will be outlined in an appendix

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Questions for Audience

- What principles do you agree or disagree with and why?
- What strategies or actions do you want to see the draft document?
- Are there specific strategies or actions that you would like to see prioritized in implementation?

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Thank You

REMINDER: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Public comment period through **October 7, 2021 by 5PM**
- Submit written comments to: SGMPS@water.ca.gov
- More information can be found at:
 - <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Drinking-Water-Principles>

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