Workshop Agenda

1. Background
2. County's Consolidation Feasibility GIS Analysis
3. LAFCO roles/steps for physical connection
4. Survey Results
5. Discussion

Overarching questions:

1) What assistance is needed/where should we focus our work?
2) What should we be communicating to the State?

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Background

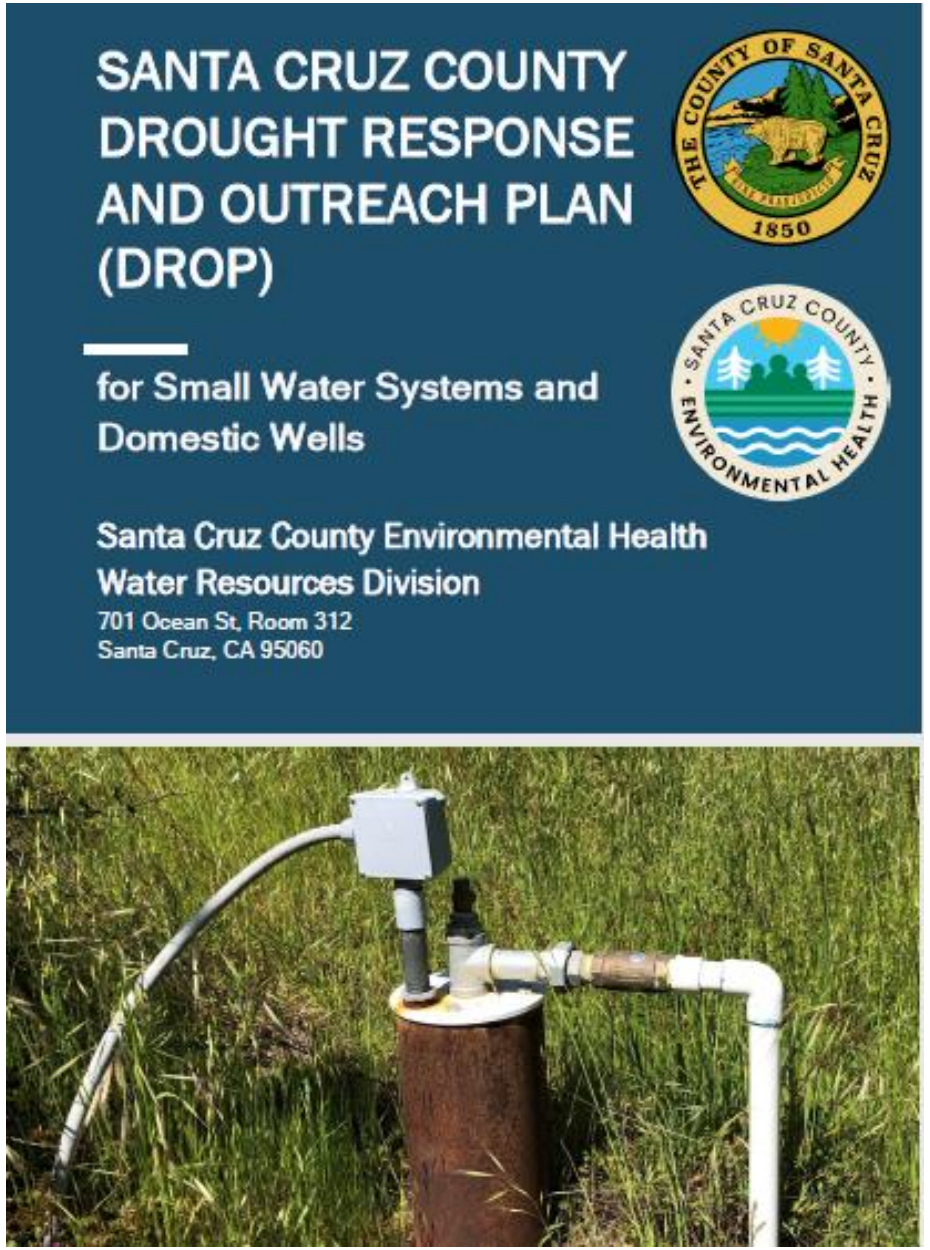
Santa Cruz County Water System Consolidation Workshop

What is SB 552?

- Drought Planning for Small Water Suppliers, State Small Water Systems, and Domestic Well Communities
- On September 23, 2021, SB 552 was signed into law adding a new section to the Water code.
- Drought considerations and planning for water systems between 1-1000 connections
- New responsibilities for Counties and Public Water Systems

Responsibilities of Counties

- A county shall establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force …”
- The task force is required to produce a plan that includes, at minimum, all of the following:
  - (1) Consolidations for existing water systems and domestic wells.
  - (2) Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs.
  - (3) Provision of emergency and interim drinking water solutions.
  - (4) An analysis of the steps necessary to implement the plan.
  - (5) An analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources available to implement the plan.



Identified Recommendations

Improve well database GIS layer

- Actively add new wells,
- Go back through historic well logs
- Include information from well completion reports (depth of seal and screening), e-logs where available.

Develop tools to support decision-making about consolidations, and to support consolidation process itself when that is the preferred option for all parties, including:

- Reviewing options available
- Consolidation cost-benefit analysis tool
- Use meaningful phrasing of “consolidation”; it can be an opportunity in some cases

PHASED APPROACH TO SB552 COMPLIANCE

1. Prioritization and early planning

Identify gaps & needs

Identify priorities for grant funding

Identify actionable next steps

2. Continued planning & early design

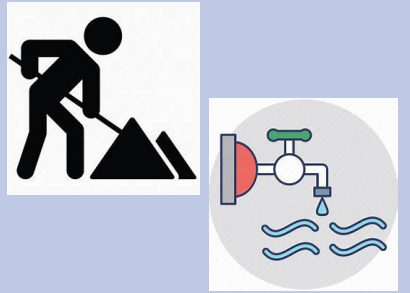
Grant-writing

Feasibility/cost studies

Technical studies

Conceptual designs

3. Implementation of projects and management actions



DWR Grant

Task 2: GIS Database Update

Subtask 2.1: Well Database Update

- One data gap identified during by the CDTF is a comprehensive GIS well layer that provides key data and links to documentation for wells within the County.

Subtask 2.2: Water system intertie and consolidation feasibility

- One gap identified in the DROP is information on the systems for which interconnection is not an option.

Task 3: Consolidation Process Flow Clarification

This task will develop a comprehensive brochure outlining the consolidation process for interested well owners and water systems.

Total Budget: $125,000

Water System Responsibilities Under SB 552

1. Incorporate drought planning elements (including, but not limited to, drought-planning contacts and standard water shortage levels) into their Emergency Notification Plan (ENP) or Emergency Response Plan (ERP).
2. Have electrical backup power by 2024
3. Have more than one source of water by 2027
4. Meter every service connection by 2032
5. Have the system capacity to meet fire flow requirements by 2032

Water System Responsibilities Under SB 1188

116600. (a) The state board shall develop and adopt minimum standards related to the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of community water systems serving fewer than 10,000 people or K–12 schools. The standards … may include:
(1) Source water adequacy, related to both supply and quality.
(2) Infrastructure adequacy, including source, treatment, distribution, and storage.
(3) Adequacy of organizational staffing levels and staff technical knowledge, including internal management of outside contractors.
(4) Adequate staffing and organization governance structures enabling transparent and informed decisions.
(5) Effectiveness of external contracts, contractors, or other agreements.
(6) Revenue sufficiency, including adequate financial reserves to plan, operate, maintain, and restore or replace the system's water infrastructure as it reaches the end of its useful life.
(7) Credit worthiness.
(8) Fiscal management and controls.
(9) Adequate management and technical staffing.
(10) Governance and public processes.