

Meeting Summary

Plumas County Drought Resilience Plan

Public Meeting #1: Overview of Plumas County Drought Resilience Plan and Baseline Risk Assessment

Date/Time: July 24, 2024 / 6:00-7:30 pm
Place: Quincy Branch Library
445 Jackson St. Quincy, CA 95971

Zoom Meeting

Meeting Purpose: Provide an overview of the Plumas County Drought Task Force, Plumas County Drought Resilience Plan (DRP), and share the initial results of the DERP baseline Risk Assessment.

Public Outreach Conducted

The County conducted the following outreach prior to this public meeting:

- Created a DERP webpage on the County's website and posted public meeting notice information
- Sent public notices through the County News Flash System - News and Public Notice listserv
- Posted notices in the Plumas County Courthouse lobby bulletin board
- Posted notices in public library bulletin boards in Chester, Quincy and Portola
- Shared the public notice in the Plumas Sun local newspaper
- Posted on the County Emergency Services Facebook Page

Notes: The following are notes and comments obtained during the meeting:

Overview of Plumas County Drought Resilience Plan & the County Drought Task Force

- The County's DERP and Drought Task Force follow Senate Bill 552 legislation
 - The County is responsible for establishing a Drought Task Force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems (SSWS) and domestic wells within the country's jurisdiction
 - The County will develop a DERP which includes potential drought and water shortage risks and proposed short-term actions and long-term strategies to help the County respond to future water shortages.
- The Plumas County Drought Task Force members include:
 - Rob Thorman, Drought Task Force Facilitator, Acting Director, Department of Public Works
 - Rob Robinette, Interim Director, Department of Environmental Health
 - Lori Pini, Manager, Office of Environmental Services
- The Risk Assessment helps the County identify key vulnerability drivers of drought. Future public meetings will focus on how to align actions and strategies to respond to drought and water shortages.

Evaluating Water Shortage Risks: The Baseline Risk Assessment

Baseline Risk Assessment results were presented. Most of the public meeting participants self-identified as individuals who own or are reliant on domestic wells.

The following recommendations were made by meeting participants.

Physical Vulnerability Assessment

- Participants agreed that all the physical vulnerability factors presented are important to County but emphasized that wildfire risk is a large concern.
- Some participants requested more information about the Water Quality Aquifer risk map and wanted to understand how water quality data for domestic wells is monitored and reported.
- Some participants expressed that the domestic well data used in the figures may be outdated and suggested that an effort be made to update domestic well data.

Social Vulnerability Assessment:

- Some participants wanted to know if Social Vulnerability Index figures could exclude areas where people do not reside year-round (i.e., Dixie Valley has no year-round residents). It was noted that Social Vulnerability Index data may be skewed by state and national park land.
- Several domestic well owners noted that they monitor their wells voluntarily and would be willing to share well data.
- Some participants suggested connecting with the Quincy Fire Safe Council for more information on the County's disabled population.
- It was also noted that the Social Vulnerability Index does not consider homelessness and there are seasonal homeless communities around the Quincy area.

Baseline Risk Assessment Summary Table

Participants were presented with the following summary table and made the following recommendations below:

- Adjust "Dixie Valley" region vulnerability list to also include "seasonal population."
- Adjust "Bucks Lake/La Porte" region to include Meadow Valley, which also experiences seasonal dry wells.
- Adjust "Feather River Canyon from including Greenville to Quincy" region to include Tobin.
- Add mention of unhoused population around Quincy area.
- A community member expressed a desire to add Cromberg/Sloat area to the list of priority areas
 - Rob R noted that this is a lower priority area due to less instances of drought and water shortage and lower risk for wildfire.

Regions with Water Shortage Vulnerability and Domestic Wells/SSWSs	Vulnerability Drivers	Social Vulnerability
Lake Davis and Southwest of Portola (Iron Horse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality and water supply issues Dry well susceptibility in fractured rock area Wildfire hazard 	Medium/High
Warner Valley and East of Lake Almanor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfire hazard Fractured rock area Multiple dry years 	Low/Medium
Dixie Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply – no surface water supply Wildfire risk Dry well susceptibility in fractured rock areas Lacking key infrastructure (e.g., electricity/power) 	Medium
Bucks Lake/La Porte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry well susceptibility in fractured rock area Seasonal population (small population in the winter, larger population in the summer) 	Low/Medium
Feather River Canyon from Greenville to Quincy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfire hazard Fractured rock area Multiple dry years Water quality and water supply issues 	Medium/High

Next Steps & How to Get Involved

- [Join the email listserv](#) to receive email updates on the Plumas County DRP!
- Attend an upcoming public meeting
 - **Meeting 2 – Fall 2024:** Next meeting will focus on the County's draft short-term response actions in the event of critical drought and water shortages
 - **Meeting 3 – Winter 2024/25:** The third meeting will review the County's draft long-term mitigation strategies to help reduce the risk of impacts from future droughts or water shortages
 - **Meeting 4 – Winter/Spring 2025:** The final meeting will include a presentation of the Draft Plumas County DRP including plan implementation considerations

Future Outreach: The facilitator asked for input on how to expand outreach to communities of interest, including communities served by domestic wells and SSWS.

All participants shared that they heard about the public meeting through an email from the County.

- Participants recommended the following for future DRP outreach:
 - Present at Dixie Fire Collaborative meetings
 - Cross-sector collaboration with government agencies, churches, NGOs (e.g., Sierra Institute for Community and Environment), and drilling companies

July 24, 2024

Plumas County Drought Resilience Plan

Page 4 of 4

- Engage students, such as Feather River College students
- Work with AmeriCorps and Plumas Corp
- Distribute flyers at the County Public Works booth at the County Fair
- Connect with informed community members and those who provide maintenance to local wells