

The background of the slide features a close-up, high-angle view of water. In the center, a large, prominent ripple from a recent drop is visible, with concentric circles radiating outwards. The water's surface is covered in smaller, intricate ripples and droplets, some of which are in sharp focus while others are blurred. The color palette is a range of blues, from deep, dark tones to bright, light blues where the light reflects off the water's surface. The overall effect is one of dynamic movement and natural beauty.

SENATE BILL 552

WHAT IT IS AND PLANS FOR
COMPLIANCE

WHAT IS SB 552?

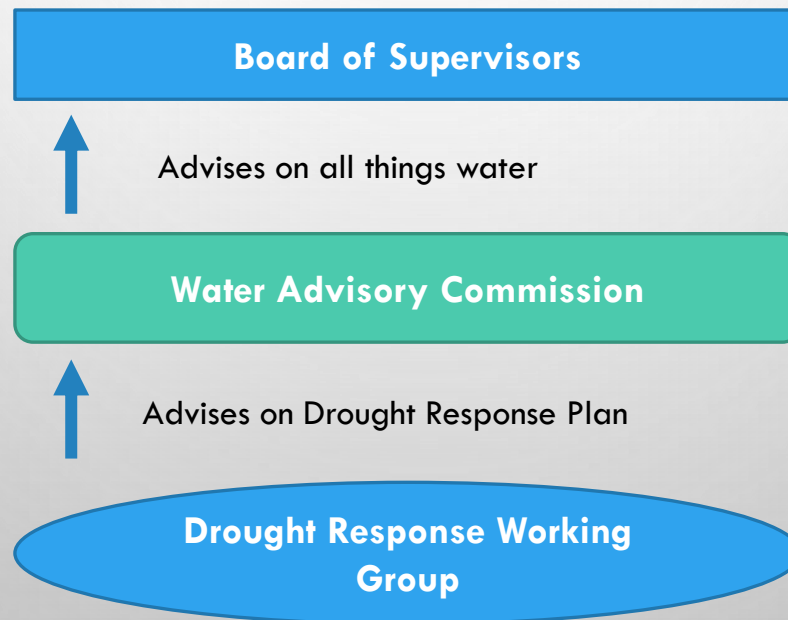
- DROUGHT PLANNING FOR SMALL WATER SUPPLIERS, STATE SMALL WATER SYSTEMS, AND DOMESTIC WELL COMMUNITIES
- ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2021, SB 552 WAS SIGNED INTO LAW ADDING A NEW SECTION TO THE WATER CODE.
- DROUGHT CONSIDERATIONS AND PLANNING FOR WATER SYSTEMS BETWEEN 1-1000 CONNECTIONS
- REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS
 - MONITORING GROUNDWATER LEVELS
 - METERING
 - MEMBERSHIP IN MUTUAL AIDE ORG
 - ENSURE CONTINUOUS SUPPLY DURING POWER FAILURE
 - ONE BACKUP SOURCE OF WATER BY 2027
 - MEET FIRE FLOW REQUIREMENTS

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNTIES

- A COUNTY SHALL ESTABLISH A STANDING COUNTY DROUGHT AND WATER SHORTAGE TASK FORCE TO FACILITATE DROUGHT AND WATER SHORTAGE PREPAREDNESS FOR STATE SMALL WATER SYSTEMS AND DOMESTIC WELLS WITHIN THE COUNTY’S JURISDICTION...”
- THE LANGUAGE DOES ALLOW FOR AN ALTERNATIVE PROCESS THE TASK FORCE MUST BE ESTABLISHED BY JANUARY 1, 2022 AND SHOULD EXIST IN PERPETUITY.
- THE TASK FORCE OR ALTERNATIVE PROCESS 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.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY APPROACH

- THE EXISTING COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION WILL TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A STANDING BODY TO IMPLEMENT SB 552
- OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVES ARE INCLUDED THROUGH THE DROUGHT RESPONSE WORKING GROUP, A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION



PHASED APPROACH TO SB552 COMPLIANCE

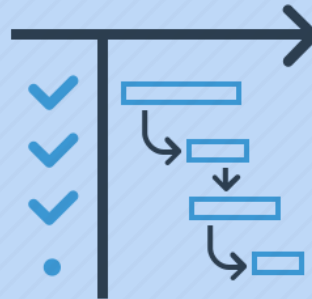
1. Prioritization and early planning

Identify gaps & needs
Identify priorities for grant funding
Identify actionable next steps

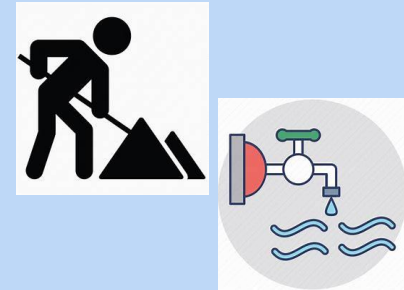


2. Continued planning & early design

Grant-writing
Feasibility/cost studies
Technical studies
Conceptual designs



3. Begin implementation of plans and strategies



GOALS

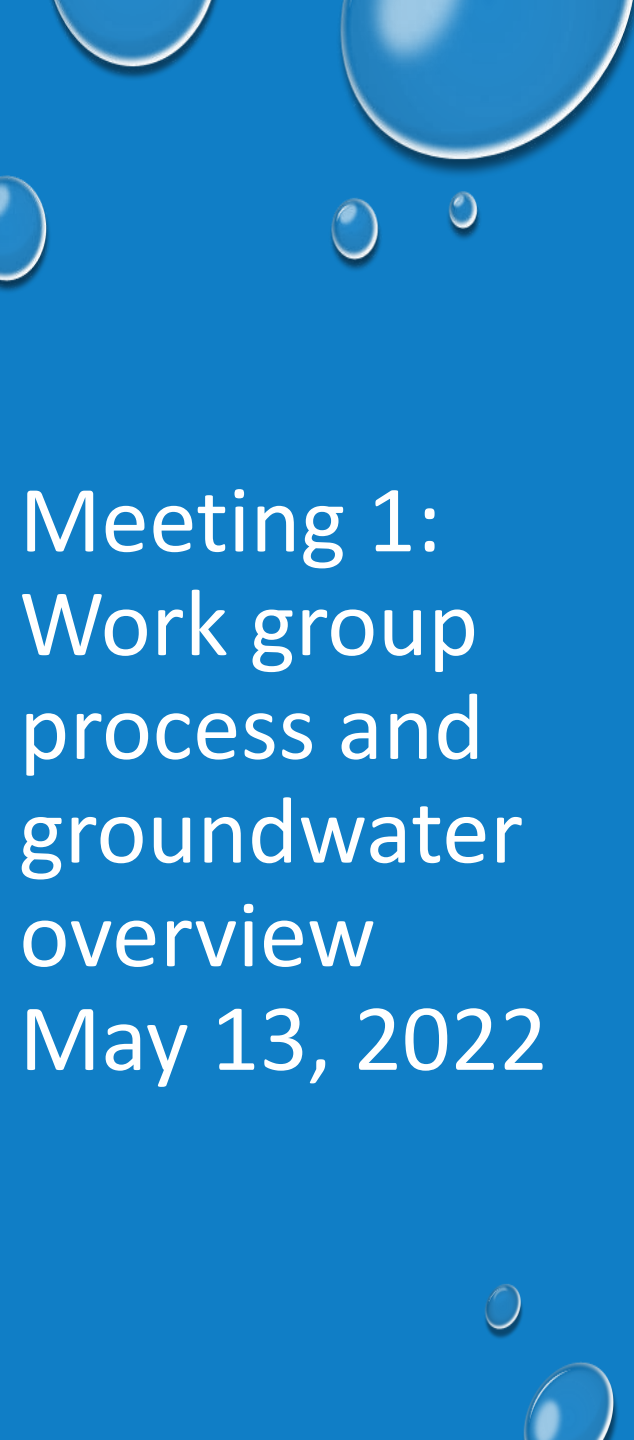
1. Compile existing data and identify actions to optimize the County data collection system in order to inform recommendation-making for County, State or individual well systems.

- Assess existing data and identify gaps
- Develop a set of resources
- Identify strategies to increase voluntary participation in monitoring programs
- Identify strategies to increase accessibility of data to raise awareness

2. Provide guidance for directing County resources for specific feasibility/planning efforts, changes to County Code, and agreements/MOUs

3. Inform Climate Action and Adaptation Strategy

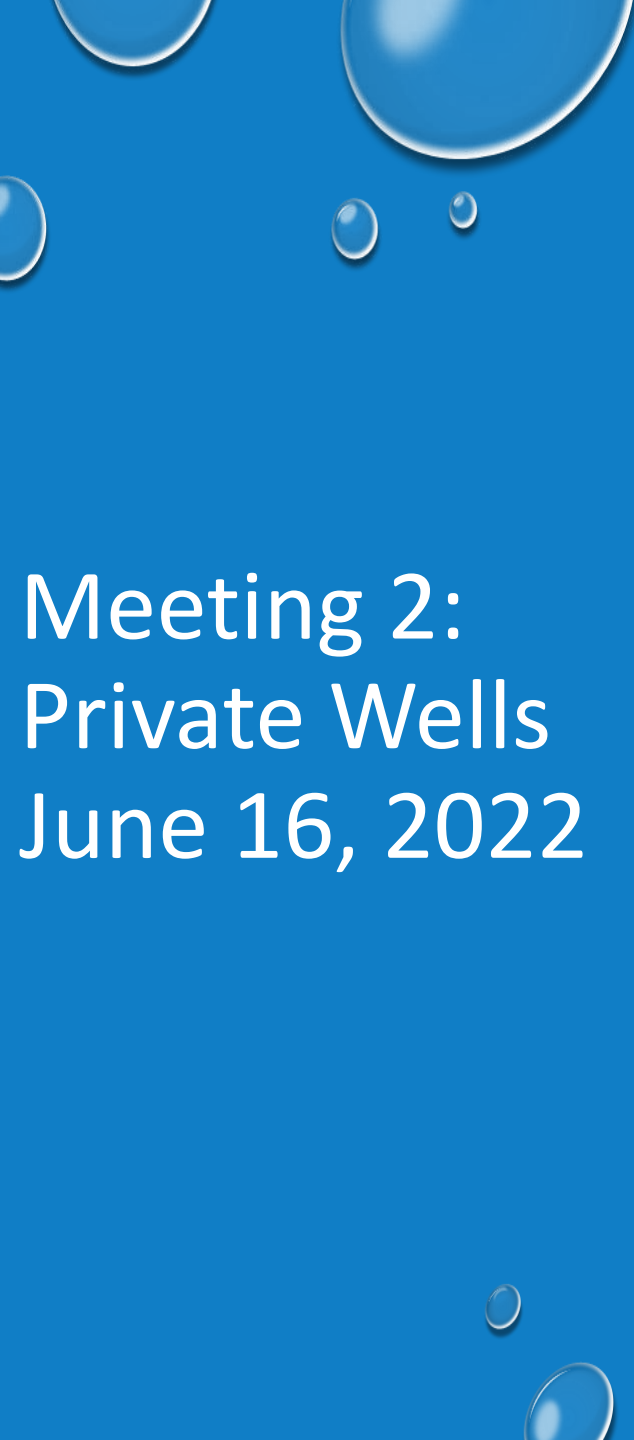
- Leverage existing resources
- Identify priorities
- Define role of County



Meeting 1: Work group process and groundwater overview

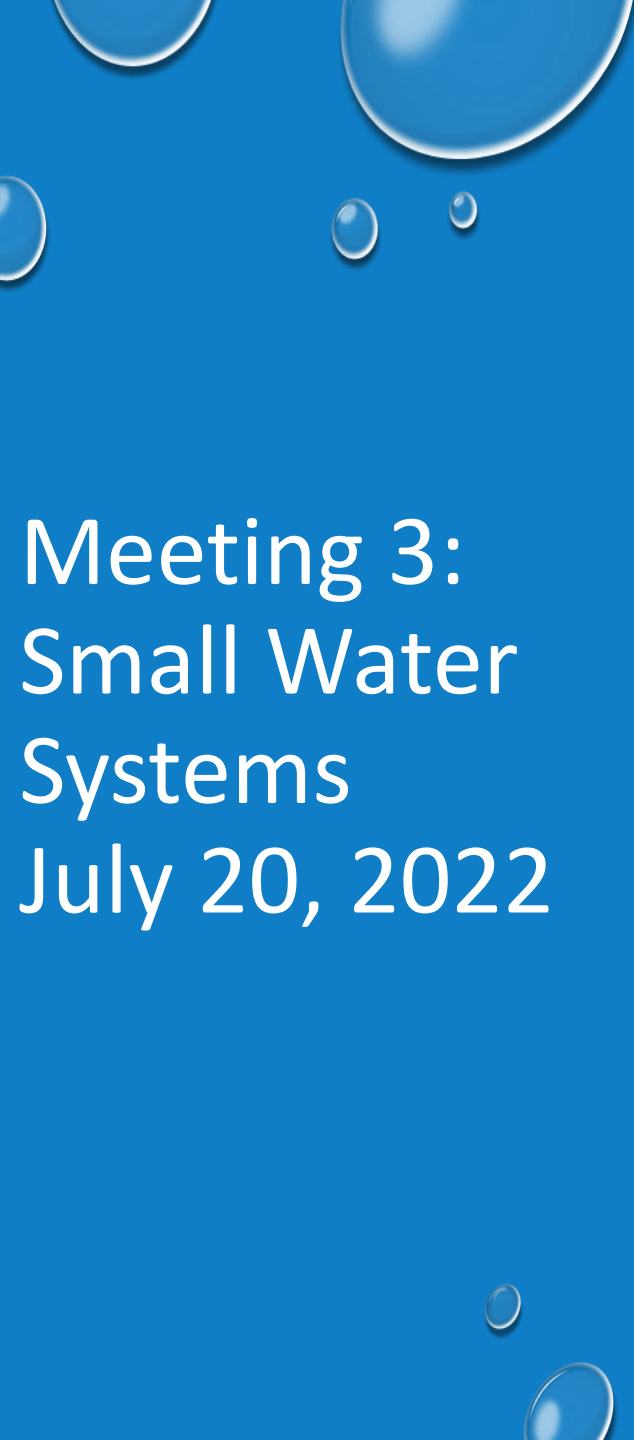
May 13, 2022

- Introductions, background information, schedule and goals
- Summary of water resources in the County
 - Wells, small water systems, GSAs, and areas with known groundwater supply problems
 - County data collection (well permits, groundwater levels, water quality)
- CAAP: Climate change and mitigations
- Legal framework: current and upcoming requirements
- Action items and next steps



Meeting 2: Private Wells June 16, 2022

- Private well permits and data currently available
- Priorities for existing grant funds
- Components of a well mitigation strategy
- Emergency supply
 - What is best role for the County?
- Current water quality problems
 - POE/POU treatment
 - Connections to larger systems
- Long-term solutions
 - Direction for planning/feasibility grant proposals
- Action items and next steps



Meeting 3: Small Water Systems July 20, 2022

- Vulnerability assessment
- Upcoming requirements
 - Which systems will not be able to meet them?
- Encouraging dedicated maintenance funds
- Identify above ground distribution systems
- Prioritize locations for interties and consolidation feasibility studies
- Action items and next steps



Meeting 4: Next Steps August 16, 2022

- Policies, laws, ordinances
- Barriers
- Planning grant needs
- Emergency response
 - MOUs for water trucks, LAFCO
- Funding (CSAs, small water systems)
- Potential funding sources (Hazard Mitigation Grants, SAFER, others)
- Action items and next steps

MILESTONE DATES

- August 2022: Recommendations of the Drought Working Group submitted to Water Advisory Commission
 - County Water Resources staff will align priorities and grant-writing with the recommendations
- December 2022: Climate Action and Adaptation Plan presented to Board of Supervisors to consider adoption