



California
DRIP Collaborative

**2025 Workgroup: Land Use Planning for
Drought Resilience**

Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners (DRIP) Collaborative

Monday, March 10, 2025

3:30-5PM PT

Remote Participation (via Zoom)

Facilitated by Workgroup Point of Contact: Julie Ekstrom (Julia.Ekstrom@water.ca.gov)

California Department of Water Resources - Water Justice Office

Meeting Information

1. This meeting is being recorded.
2. This meeting must adhere to the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act rules. The workgroup quorum is required (8 out of the 14 on the workgroup). If we don't meet quorum, we will offer this time and this space for an informal discussion about land use planning related to drought resilience.
3. DRIP Collaborative workgroup members must keep their cameras on during the meeting. You must notify the group if you turn off your camera and state why.
4. Members of the public and other DRIP Collaborative members are welcome to listen. A public comment session is included later in the meeting.
5. Please practice electronics courtesy and mute when not speaking.

Meeting Purpose and Agenda

Objective: Finalize the focus area problem statement and begin brainstorming recommendations to present at the Spring 2025 DRIP Collaborative meeting.

Meeting Agenda

- 3:30pm Welcome, Roll Call, and Vision Setting
- 3:40pm Process Review
- 3:45pm Problem Statement
- 4:15pm Recommendation Brainstorming
- 4:50pm Next Steps
- 4:55pm Public Comment
- 5:00pm Adjourn

WORKGROUP PARTICIPANTS

(Quorum= 8 DRIP members)

1. **Sierra Ryan**, Santa Cruz County
2. **Virginia Jameson**, CA Department of Food & Agriculture
3. **Natalie Kuffel**, CA Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
4. **Kyle Jones**, Community Water Center
5. **Emily Rooney**, Agricultural Council of California
6. **Brent Haste**, Plumas Self Storage (Public Member)
7. **Jason Colombini**, Jay Colombini Farms
8. **Anna Schiller**, Environmental Defense Fund
9. **Catherine Freeman**, California State Association of Counties
10. **Katie Ruby**, California Urban Water Agencies
11. **Tami McVay**, Self Help Enterprise
12. **Suzanne Pecci**, South American Sub-Basin GSA (Public Member)
13. **Andrew Altevogt**, State Water Resource Control Board
14. **Carolina Hernandez**, Los Angeles County

VISION SETTING

In five or 10 years from now, **land use planning now supports drought resilience**. What is one thing that was accomplished to get us there?

Other Workgroup Members: Please share your thoughts in the chat.

PROCESS OVERVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Focus Areas, Problem Statements, Recommendations

Focus Area

Focus Areas are **ideas, opportunities, and aspirations** that DRIP Members have identified as **important to improved California drought resiliency**. These were captured on the Reference List and are sequenced and prioritized based on feedback during in-person and virtual meetings.

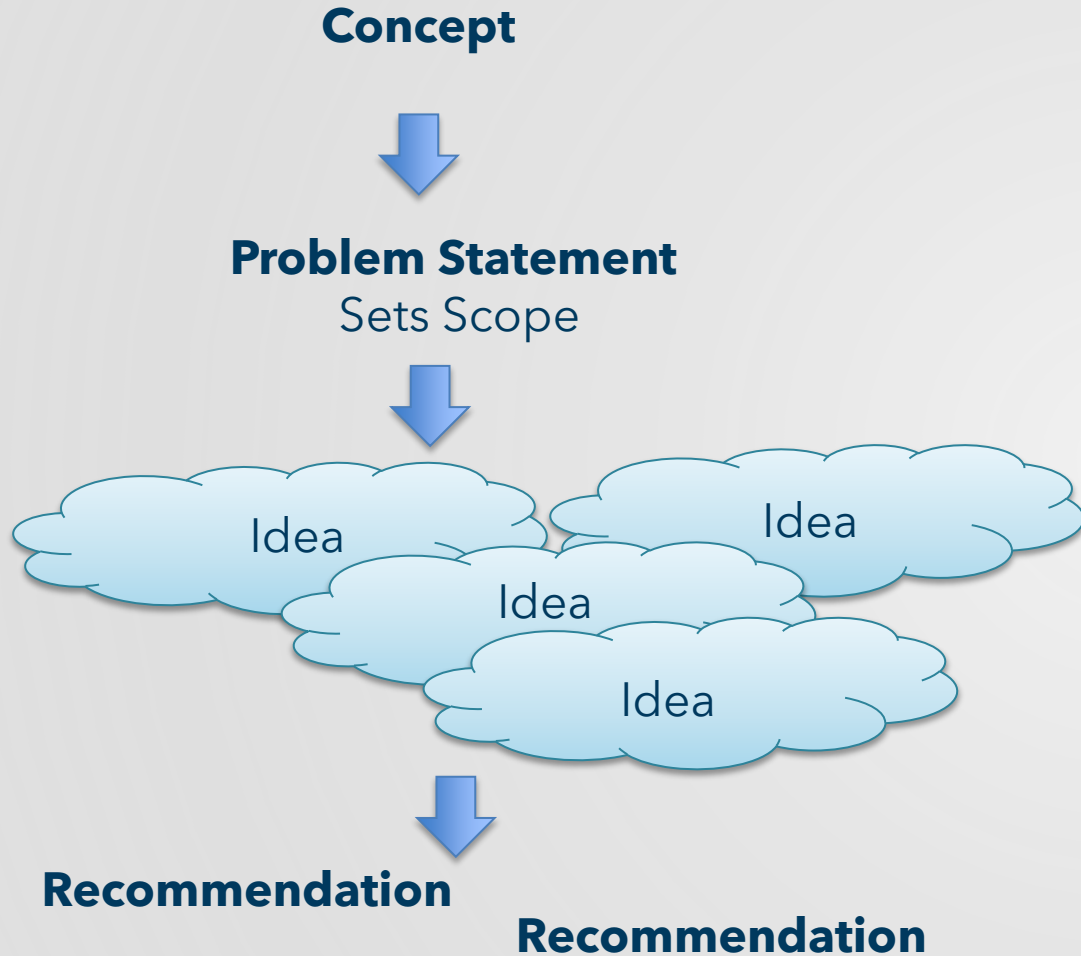
Problem Statement

A Problem Statement is a **concise description of the issue or challenge faced by a Focus Area**. Developed by DRIP Members, Problem Statements seek to **capture the essential problems** within each Focus Area, including identification of key sub-topics within each focus area.

Recommendation

A DRIP Recommendation is a **thoughtful, formal suggestion** that addresses the issue or challenge described in a Problem Statement, providing solutions that are **specific and actionable** related to the preparation of, responding to, and recovering from periods of extreme water shortages and drought.

Recommendation Process



Mar - Apr Virtual Meetings: Refine 2025 Focus Area problem statement

Meeting #1 (May): Ideate on potential 2025 recommendations

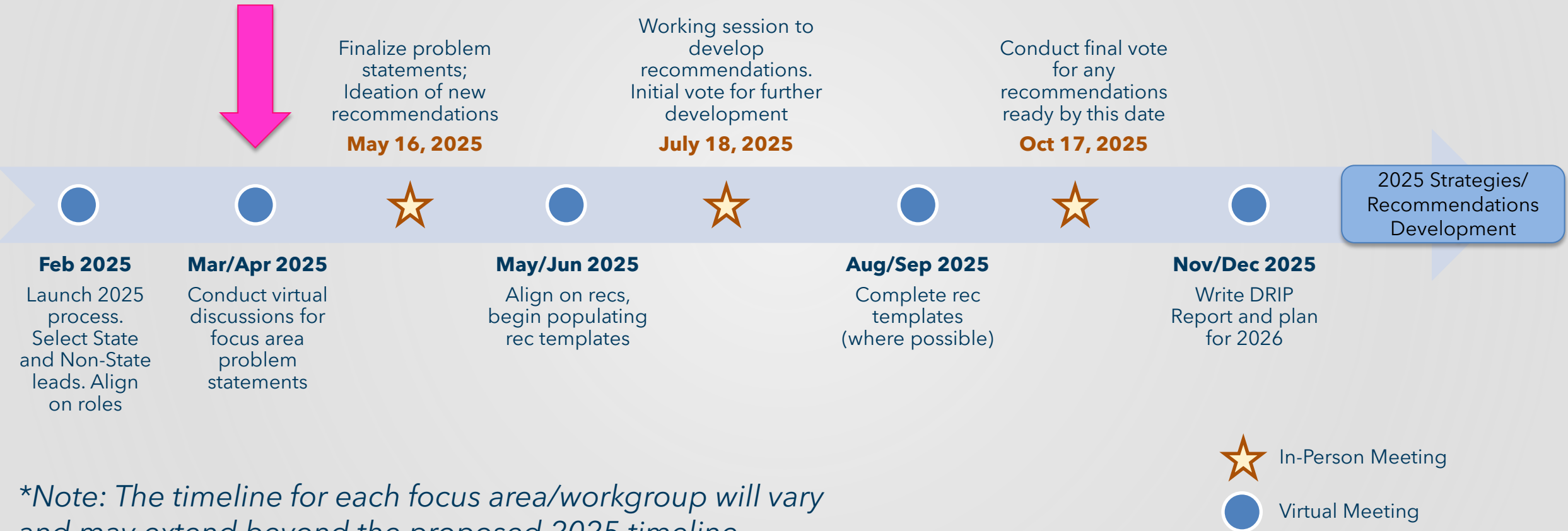
May - Jun Virtual Meetings: Develop recommendations

Meeting #2 (July): Working session to refine recommendations. Initial votes

Aug - Sep Virtual Meetings: Complete recommendations templates; Prepare for Oct vote

Meeting #3 (Oct): Final vote on recs that may be ready. Decide on which recs may need until April 2026

2025 Proposed DRIP Collaborative Timeline



**Note: The timeline for each focus area/workgroup will vary and may extend beyond the proposed 2025 timeline.*

For Group Discussion:

1. Does this capture the essence of the problem?
2. What are the ~2-4 key sub-topics to highlight

PROBLEM STATEMENT

30 minutes

Focus Area: Land Use Planning

Working Problem Statement

Land use planning is crucial for guiding development in the State and protecting its economic viability, but it should also promote drought resiliency. As DWR stated in its [Land Use Planning and Management 2016 document](#), land use planning and management cuts across many water related strategies. These resource management strategies include water storage and conservation, watershed restoration, water use efficiency, surface and groundwater quality, flood management, parks and recreation, adaptive management of climate change, and stewardship of agricultural lands.

The importance of well-coordinated land use and water management is particularly urgent as California experiences a hotter and drier climate. As evident in our recent drought periods, hundreds of thousands of acres of California fertile farmland are often fallowed. The [California Water Resilience Portfolio](#) reflects the urgency of land use, as detailed in Action 3.2 (address the economic, environmental, and social impacts of changing land use) and 3.3 (support local planning efforts to address potential land use changes in regions implementing SGMA). From a longer-term perspective, the [USGS has also estimated](#) that, if past patterns of California land-use and water demands continue, projected water needs over time will increase beyond current supply and cause greater stress to California's water resources.

Despite these pressing challenges, current land use planning and practices do not always address the full picture of water supply and demand. To address this, in the upcoming General Plan Guidelines (GPG) Update, guidelines for an "optional Water Element" are proposed. Currently, water-related priorities are spread across [a number of elements](#) within a local jurisdiction's general plan. This includes land use, conservation, open space, and most importantly, the safety element, which is statutorily required to address drought-related priorities in the context of hazard and climate change impacts. General plan elements are often not well aligned with Urban Water Management Plans – as required for urban water suppliers serving more than 3,000 connections by CA Water Code §§ 10610-

Focus Area: Land Use Planning

Working Problem Statement

Define: Land use planning is the process of managing how land is used to balance development, infrastructure and services, environmental protection, and economic sustainability.

Broad clear connection to water and drought resilience challenges: In California, land use planning affects water demands and supplies, but does not necessarily account for the water management strategies in place, and therefore leading to current land use practices often fail to fully address water supply and demand challenges. As population grows and droughts become more severe under climate change, the fragmented status quo puts populations and economies at risk of water scarcity and economic impacts. Improving coordination and collaboration between land use planners and water managers is critical to a more drought resilient future.

- Planning Processes (including General Plan)
- Urban (including housing)
- Ag (including land repurposing)
- Flood control (including managed aquifer recharge)

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RECOMMENDATION BRAINSTORMING

30-45 MINUTES

Brainstorming Recommendation Ideas

Planning Processes:

- New “Optional Water Element” of General Plan Guidance
- Stronger partnerships between land planners and water managers
- Regular recharge

High risk infrastructure hindered by land use planning:

- Lessons learned of cases to inform streamlining consolidation (small systems - rural water)
- Local well ordinances (rural drinking water)
- AG: Support and promotion of new benefits for farming communities impacted by land use transition
- UR: Regional Housing Needs Allocation to account for water supply availability

- Other ideas appropriate for this DRIP Collaborative?



PUBLIC COMMENT

NEXT STEPS - GETTING READY FOR THE DRIP COLLABORATIVE MAY MEETING

What's Next

MARCH-APRIL: Workgroup virtual meetings to refine the problem statements and early recommendation ideas.

- **March 18th** - Reducing Ecological Impacts of Drought Workgroup Meeting
- **March 28th** - Cross-Cutting Themes Workgroup Meeting
- April TBD - Infrastructure Workgroup Meeting
- April TBD - Drought Communications Workgroup Meeting
- Other DRIP Collaborative members, as well as members of the public, may join these workgroup meetings

APRIL: Co-leads will assist DWR Development Team Contacts to inform breakout discussions during the May meeting

MAY 16: DRIP Collaborative meeting (in-person)

- Finalize problem statements and begin ideation process for new recommendations



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Adjourn

Thank you!

INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON LAND USE PLANNING FOR DROUGHT RESILIENCE

