

## Focus Area: Drought Definition and Narrative

### Recommendation 6: [Drought Definition White Paper](#)

#### Recap of April 26<sup>th</sup> conversation on this recommendation, per the [Meeting\\_Summary](#)

- Both a narrative and mathematical definition of drought may be needed.
- The terms “water availability” and “water scarcity” may be more useful than “drought” when communicating with different water users.
- The process of acknowledging current definitions, conducting a literature review, and identifying gaps is very useful in this recommendation.
- The members were generally supportive of the recommendation.

#### Additional April 26<sup>th</sup> comments (submitted via the written worksheets)

- [Elea Becker-Lowe](#): State Agency should take this on? Connection to data/tools recommendation #2 on tools/resources/analysts. Consider existing information first
- [Katy Landau](#): Others have already done a lit review of existing definitions. Drought --> water availability. Focus on communicating the drought triggers for action. How to avoid 'drought fatigue' particularly in wet years. Connect with CA Water Commission and their drought white paper. Save our water campaign
- [Matessa Martin](#): Build off of work of CA Water Commission's drought strategies.
- [Sierra Ryan](#): Find other definitions/terms for situations like water quality challenges; groundwater decline. Can be used in literature and contracts
- [Suzanne Pecci](#): Support
- [Tim Worley](#): Finding more useful terms, such as "water availability" would be a very good outcome.
- [Justine Massey](#): Which literature will be included in the literature review? Should address verbage and math (averages); want to avoid giving a false sense of security.

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### Recommendation 7: Communication Program

#### Recap of April 26<sup>th</sup> conversation on this recommendation, per the [Meeting Summary](#)

- One jurisdiction or water district may report information differently than their neighbor across the street. Addressing this disparity could be challenging for the color-coded system.
- Intensive outreach will be needed for the adoption of such a system at all levels (state, regional, local, etc.).
- The average person may not understand the existing tier structure from established urban water suppliers' water shortage contingency plans. This will help standardize messaging.
- This recommendation integrates well with all the drought definition and narrative recommendations, as well as indicators and metrics.
- To be successful, the communication system would have to be shown continuously (similar to weather reports), even in non-drought periods, to acclimate all Californians.
- People want direct communication. As we develop this communication system, we should be sure that the communication is direct and communicates how serious the situation is.
- The members were generally supportive of this recommendation.

#### Additional April 26<sup>th</sup> comments (submitted via the written worksheets)

- Alvar Escriva-Bou: I would like to be involved in this recommendation, as this is quite related to rec #1
- Elea Becker-Lowe: Connects to data/narratives, etc. Save our Waters Campaign. Caution against duplication; Considering capacities, does this need to be something new? Or leveraging and streamlining existing?
- Katie Ruby: Check out the Bay Area Water Demand Reduction and Supply Monitor for inspiration. [https://bayareareliability.com/supply\\_conditions](https://bayareareliability.com/supply_conditions). Consider feasible timestep for updating status. How granular can we get? (Many agencies plan on a monthly timestep)
- Katy Landau: Wouldn't want to focus on drought, just water status, to institutionalize consistent messaging. Could have statewide standards, but messaging will be at the local level and will be varied. <https://saveourwater.com/>. <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/>.
- Sierra Ryan: Locally adaptable social media materials. Work with media groups to share for one or more outlets. Make ubiquitous, not only during drought.
- Justine Massey: Very related to component of Drought Indicators and Metrics recommendation. Should pull in data from California Groundwater Live. This is an exciting time to be in water resources management, there are many data. sources to link together.

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### Recommendation 8: Drought Case Studies

#### Recap of April 26<sup>th</sup> conversation on this recommendation, per the [Meeting Summary](#)

- This could be very useful to show the differences between places like the Russian River and Coachella- both represent very different ecosystems and water needs.
- This could be combined with the Drought Definition White Paper recommendation as a standalone section.
- The case studies should highlight both stories of success and potential major concerns/issues in drought situations.
- The DRIP Collaborative could be well situated to develop the case studies.
- The members were generally supportive of the recommendation.

#### Additional April 26<sup>th</sup> comments (submitted via the written worksheets)

- [Alvar Escriva-Bou](#): It could be potentially integrated with rec #6.
- [Elea Becker Lowe](#): "Scary stories" ("this could be you"). Combine with #6? Video?
- [Katie Ruby](#): Potential partnership with Save Our Water campaign? (If we want videos, etc. they may have the resources to do this)
- [Katy Landau](#): Rather than drought centric focus on how communities are managing water supplies under extreme water conditions. Include tribal perspectives. Build off of CWC white paper; Connect to drought definition rec #6 and metrics rec #1. Clarify the intended audience.
- [Matessa Martin](#): Link rec #6 with rec #8?
- [Sierra Ryan](#): What is the audience? Successes and failures? Could be great positive 5-minute videos to share. Could also be an opportunity to highlight failures and identify gaps that led to them.
- [Tim Worley](#): Scary stories / success stories - both good. Video clips in ~3 minutes. Maybe a college/university film class could make videos to illustrate the stories.
- [Justine Massey](#): Should combine this recommendation with the Drought Definition White Paper recommendation. Should use the case studies to unit around new or preferred terminology (i.e. water scarcity versus availability).