

Description of Senate Bill 552

In September 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 552, which assigned new responsibilities and requirements for the State and local governments to prepare for and respond in the case of a water shortage event. Overall, these requirements aim to improve the ability of Californians to manage future droughts and help prevent catastrophic impacts on drinking water for communities vulnerable to impacts of climate change.

Description of the Drought Resilience Plan

SB 552 requires counties to prepare a County Drought Resilience Plan (County DRP) to achieve meaningful and long-term improvements in water resilience for their residents. County DRP is meant to support a county in facilitating drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within a county's jurisdiction. Each county plan includes information about available data and tools compiled by state agencies, short-term response actions, long-term mitigation strategy and actions, and other drought supporting capacities.

Description of Drought and Water Shortage Task Force

Lake County has an established Drought and Water Shortage Task Force, which is made up of County staff with purview on topics related to drought and water shortage events. This Task Force is tasked with supporting all drought-related activities in Lake County (which includes activities beyond the scope of SB552). The ad hoc Advisory Committee (see below) is the body that will advise specifically on County DRP development and SB552 implementation activities. The Drought and Water Shortage Task Force is responsible for reviewing the County DRP as prepared by the ad hoc Advisory Committee and ultimately recommending adoption of the County DRP to the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

Description of Drought and Water Shortage ad hoc Advisory Committee

SB 552 requires counties to establish a standing committee, or an alternative process, that facilitates drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within each county's jurisdiction. Lake County has established the Drought and Waters shortage ad hoc Advisory Committee for this purpose. The Advisory Committee includes representatives' local governments, Tribes community-based organizations, local water suppliers, and local residents, to participate in the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee is not a decision-making body. Instead, it will advise on the development of the County DRP, which will ultimately be shared with the Lake County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force for recommendation for adoption to the County Board of Supervisors.

Advisory Committee members are expected to participate in four (4) meetings in 2025 to share their perspectives on DRP development and may be asked to review materials between meetings.