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Drought Impact on Public Drinking Water Systems

CDPH's Drinking Water Program oversees approximately 7,500 public water systems that serve drinking water throughout California. As part of its mission, the program provides technical assistance to at-risk drinking water systems and works with them to identify potential solutions and funding sources. CDPH also works with state and federal partners to identify additional resources that may be available.

During the ongoing extreme drought conditions in the state, the program is identifying drinking water systems that may be vulnerable to acute drinking water shortages due to drought, and CDPH continues to monitor and evaluate drinking water systems to determine others that may soon be at-risk.

Small drinking water systems are especially vulnerable to drought conditions. They have fewer customers, which can mean fewer options in terms of resources like funding and infrastructure. However, a public water system's size is not the only factor that may make it vulnerable to the effects of drought. Type of water source and local conditions also play a significant role in system vulnerability.

CDPH has prioritized assistance to the following public drinking water systems at this time due to their level of risk for drinking water shortages due to drought conditions if action is not taken immediately:

System Name	City	County	Population
City of Willits	Willits	Mendocino	8,062
Redwood Valley County Water District	Redwood Valley	Mendocino	3,969
Brooktrail Township Community Services District	Willits	Mendocino	3,800
Lake of the Woods MWC	Frazier Park	Kern	953
West Goshen	Goshen	Tulare	300
River Highlands Community Services District	Smartsville	Yuba	200
Washington Ridge Conservation Camp	Nevada City	Nevada	100
Camp Condor	Taft	Kern	75
Whispering Pines Apartments	Mid-Pines	Mariposa	55
Ophir Gardens	Auburn	Placer	45

CDPH is working with these drinking water systems, and with systems throughout the state, to find solutions to water shortages for vulnerable communities.

Potential solutions include, but are not limited to, stringent conservation measures interconnections with other water systems, development of new sources, expansion of existing sources (e.g., deepen wells, extend reservoir intakes), and treatment of sources that produce water that does not meet drinking water quality standards.

As solutions for these systems are implemented and additional vulnerable systems are identified, this page will be updated.

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State of California

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