



MARIPOSA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Roads – Parks & Recreation – Facilities – Airport
Engineering – Surveying – Transportation – Utility Operations
Fleet Maintenance – Solid Waste - Cemeteries

TEAM, SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP

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AGENDA of the WATER AGENCY ADVISORY BOARD

October 26, 2023, at 3:00 pm

Public Works Office
4639 Ben Hur Rd.
Mariposa

- A. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
- B. **Introductions**
- C. **Public Comment**
- D. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2023, Meeting
- E. **Action Items**
 - 1. Discussion and possible action to provide recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the implementation of SB 552
- F. **Discussion Items**
 - 1. Presentation by Sarah Ko from the Department of Water Resources regarding the County's obligation under SB552
 - 2. Discussion with Blackwater Consulting Engineers regarding *Draft MID Settlement Water Allocation Scoping Study*
 - 3. Continued discussion of the review of MID settlement payments
- G. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Public Works Department at (209) 966-5356.



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED

MEETING: October 10, 2023

TO: The Board of Supervisors **MINUTE ORDER ATTACHED**

FROM:

RE: Discussion, Direction, and Possible Action Regarding Actions Necessary for Mariposa County to Comply with SB 552, Drought Planning: Small Water Suppliers: Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems (Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe)

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION

Discussion, Direction, and Possible Action Regarding Actions Necessary for Mariposa County to Comply with SB 552, Drought Planning: Small Water Suppliers: Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems (Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe).

Board direction is requested on the following:

1. Establishing a Long-Standing County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force responsible for Overseeing the Development of the Mariposa Drought Resilience Plan as Required by SB552; and
2. Whether to Pursue Grant Funding or Utilize the Consultant Identified by the California Department of Water Resources For the Development of the Plan.

Accordingly, the Board is requested to also discuss the following questions:

1. What entity should be established as the Mariposa Drought and Water Shortage Task Force; and
2. Does the Board wish to direct that Task Force to utilize a consultant with whom DWR has already contracted to prepare DRPs for counties that choose to use that consultant or to allow the Task Force to make that decision? As noted below, the County or its Task Force must decide which option to pursue and advise DWR before December 31, 2023.

In response to the requirement to establish a Task Force, options the Board may wish to consider are Mariposa's Water Agency Advisory Board, the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District acting as the lead agency for the Yosemite Mariposa Integrated Regional Water Management Project (IRWMP), the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors itself or to develop a completely new entity.

The Water Agency Board's purpose is – "to recommend to the Water Agency Board of Directors the terms of any loan to be considered; investigate any grant and make recommendations to the Board of Directors of the Water Agency with respect to the MID Water Funds and FERC relicensing process and surface and groundwater issues. (see Mariposa County Water Agency Act (Chapter 2036, Statutes of

1959) as amended by Chapter 638, Statutes of 1977 for detailed information). Should the Board select the Water Agency Advisory Board, would that Board's purpose need to be modified to encompass the DRP creation and implementation responsibilities, so the Board would need to direct staff to do so?

The mission of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is to encourage and facilitate cooperative solutions to local resource conservation issues. The RCD provides technical, financial, and educational resources to meet the needs of local land users. The RCD serves as the convener of the Yosemite Mariposa IRWMP and, therefore, has established connections to a number of small water suppliers in the County. As the IRWMP lead agency, the RCD managed the development of the Mariposa County Drought Preparedness Plan (approved by the Board on July 15, 2014) and the Yosemite Mariposa Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and associated updates.

With respect to the second question, DWR has developed the County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program. Under that Program, counties can request up to \$125,000 in financial or direct technical assistance to support their planning efforts. Under the financial assistance grant, the County's Task Force would develop the DRP and request reimbursement. Regarding the direct technical assistance option, DWR has signed an agreement with Stantec, Inc., a company with substantial expertise in water systems. The County's Task Force can leverage off that agreement to enlist Stantec's services. Again, the County or its Task Force must decide which option to pursue and advise DWR before December 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS

In 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 552 (California State Senator Robert M. Hertzberg), which assigned new responsibilities and requirements at the State and local levels to help small water suppliers and rural communities reduce their risks of inadequate water supply amid a water shortage event. A water shortage event could be caused by droughts or other emergencies such as wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and other local emergencies. SB 552 identifies counties as the best-suited government entities to provide leadership to improve water resilience for small state water systems and domestic wells. A state small water system provides piped water to the public for human consumption for at least five, but not more than 14, service connections, and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year (Health and Safety Code Section 116275(n)). A domestic well is a groundwater well used to supply water for the domestic needs of an individual residence or a water system that is not a public water system, and has no more than four service connections, as defined in HSC Section 116681(i) (with equivalent definition in California Water Code Section 1060951(k)).

SB 552 requires counties to prepare a plan to achieve meaningful and long-term improvements in water resilience for their residents. To that end, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) prepared the County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook—Task Force Formulation, Plan Development, and Implementation Considerations for Implementing Senate Bill 552 (Hertzberg) (Guidebook) in collaboration with other State agencies, including the State Water Resources Control Board, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and Governor's Office of Planning and Research. This Guidebook (included with this Board item) is a technical resource for counties to develop a County Drought Resilience Plan (County DRP) and includes information about available data and tools compiled by State agencies, short-term response actions, long-term mitigation strategies and actions, and other supporting capacities. The Guidebook also provides guidance and suggestions on plan organization and implementation considerations. SB 552 allows counties to develop the County DRP as one stand-alone plan or as a collection of existing and new plans and associated components.

In addition to developing a County DRP, SB 552 also directs counties to establish a long-standing County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force (Task Force) to cultivate the continued practices of drought planning and improving long-term water resilience, as well as developing strategies for water shortage preparedness. As such, the Guidebook provides guidance and suggestions for establishing a Task Force that fulfills the purposes identified in SB 552, while allowing flexibility to accommodate individual counties' needs and organizational functions. Where applicable, counties are encouraged to consider their broad authority and available tools and resources when developing a County DRP and forming a Task Force to achieve broad and long-lasting benefits for all residents and water systems within their corresponding jurisdiction.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Do not discuss and the county will be out of compliance with SB 552.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Drought Preparedness Plan BOS Resolution No. 14-353_201410151345262326
2. DWR_Final_Guidebook_20230313_ADA_508_v5



COUNTY of MARIPOSA

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MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE ORDER

TO:	File
FROM:	Katherine Slenders/Deputy Clerk of the Board II
SUBJECT:	Discussion, Direction, and Possible Action Regarding Actions Necessary for Mariposa County to Comply with SB 552, Drought Planning: Small Water Suppliers: Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems (Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe)
RESOLUTION:	CC#633

The following action was taken by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on **October 10th, 2023**:

H.2. Board of Supervisors CC#633

Discussion, Direction, and Possible Action Regarding Actions Necessary for Mariposa County to Comply with SB 552, Drought Planning: Small Water Suppliers: Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems

Supervisor Smallcombe introduced the item. Mike Brusa commented he believed SB 552 speaks of compliance and enforcement.

Board discussion ensued.

ACTION: Create a Task Force Regarding Actions Necessary for Mariposa County to Comply with SB 552.

DIRECTION: Mariposa Water Advisory Board to modify their purpose by additionally becoming the Task Force for Mariposa County to Comply with SB 552, Drought Planning: Small Water Suppliers: Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems. Additionally noting to have the Mariposa Water Advisory Board come back to the Board of Supervisors with direction on how to proceed with the drought plan and what actions would be necessary to move forward.

RESULT:

DIRECTION GIVEN