

Glenn County Drought Taskforce

June 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes Summary

Overview of the Drought Taskforce and Recap of the 2014-2017 Drought

Deputy Director of OES provided a recap of the prior drought emergency and the activation of the Drought Taskforce.

- The Drought Taskforce was originally established in 2014 during the prior Drought Emergency. It was formed for the primary purpose of identifying and tracking dry wells and other water related issues. The Taskforce identifies available resources that may assist residents and businesses impacted by the drought. Additionally, the Taskforce promotes public awareness of the severity of the drought and water saving activities.
- **Glenn County activities during the 2014-2017 drought emergency included:**
 - A standardized process for dry well reporting and tracking was established.
 - Partnership between the City of Orland & County of Glenn was established to provide a solution for residents in need of potable water.
 - A metered filling station was added at the Orland Airport through City of Orland
 - The filling station utilized an underutilized city well.
 - A temporary moratorium on the issuance of new well permits was placed in effect in the County
 - Water conservation/restrictions implemented in the Cities of Orland and Willows by water authorities
 - Public information and outreach on drought, water saving, tips etc.
 - Public information was developed through GCSO-OES and Glenn County HHS - Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program. Review and approval by the Drought Taskforce.
 - Public information included:
 - Press releases
 - Flyers and mailers
 - County website
 - Public outreach events

Drought Situation Overview

Partners were asked to provide a general situation overview of the current local drought conditions.

Environmental Health:

- Approximately 40 to 50 domestic wells reported dry
 - Depth of wells reported dry varies; anywhere from 30 ft to 150 ft.

- Numerous permits for wells filed
- Primary area of impact is north county – Orland

Water Agencies

- Conducting well monitoring
- Water supply diminishing
- Reduction in surface water allocations
- Reduced irrigation rotations
- Rainfall records for 2020-21 water year are lower than the record 1976-77
- Bringing in additional water through purchases and transfers from partners
- Significant crop fallowing

Reservoirs

- East Park at minimum pool (5,000 acre ft)
 - Unable to conduct scheduled maintenance due to inability to recharge the reservoir following work
- Stony Gorge is near minimum pool, currently 7800 acre ft
 - Must be maintained to feed Elk Creek CSD
- Black Butte is higher than the others but dwindling. Minimum pool is 20,000 acre ft.

Creeks

- Grindstone Creek and Little Stony Creek are still running. Likely more water due to loss of trees from August Complex Fire.
- Stony Creek is dry. Lowest 2 years of recorded seen.
- High country wells are shallow and pull from area creeks
 - Further from the lakes, groundwater levels worsen.
 - Grindstone Creek supplies water to Grindstone Rancheria. Critical to their water supply.

Sustainable Ground Water Management Act (SGMA)

- Plans are in draft which include triggers for levels and response actions
 - Plans are due in January
- Many participants of the Drought TF are on the subcommittee working on the SGMA plan
- Groundwater level change maps available through DWR SGMA:
<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=SGMADataViewer#gwlevels>

Local Emergency Proclamation, Emergency Operations Center Activation, and Public Information

A local emergency was proclaimed by the Glenn County Board of Supervisors on June 1st. Glenn County OES has activated the EOC at a level 3 – minimal with minimal staffing to monitor the situation, collect information, provide public information, and coordinate the response.

The EOC initial objectives include situational awareness, documentation of the response, public information, and the development of long range and contingency plans.

- Action Items:
 - Develop a Drought webpage
 - Completed 6/15/21 www.countyofglenn.net/drought
 - Conduct public information on the webpage – Completed 6/15/21
 - Gather resources and assistance programs available for drought and include on webpage – Initial posted on website 6/15/21
 - Contact Yolo County about the emergency water tank program they conducted during the previous drought and request any resources on the program
 - Completed. Received by OES 6/15/21
 - Dry Well Reporting – update local report form

Drought Assistance Programs

- Refer to the website for list of Assistance Program available
 - <https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/sheriff/office-emergency-services/drought/drought-assistance-programs>

Drought Taskforce Meetings

Glenn County OES will develop meeting agendas and summaries for drought Taskforce meetings as part of the EOC incident documentation.

- Action Items:
 - Meeting minutes summary
 - OES to establish an email distribution list for Drought Taskforce for meeting invites, summaries, and situation updates
 - Attendees were asked to send Amy Travis, GCSO – OES, any additional partners that should be added to the Drought Taskforce:
atravis@countyofglenn.net
- Special meeting of the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 0900 hours will discuss a possible moratorium on ag wells

Next Drought Task Force meeting: July 8, 2021 at 1500 hours at GCOE Conference Center – Orland