

## Glenn County Drought Task Force Meeting Summary July 8, 2021, 1500-1600 Hours

### 1. Introductions

### 2. EOC/MAC Group Update

#### a. Situational update (Amy Travis)

- i. EOC activated at lowest level.
- ii. Local emergency proclaimed and renewal to go before the Board for review 7/20/2021.
- iii. OES constantly communicating with Cal-OES to identify eligibility for CDAA Disaster funding. Currently not eligible for CDAA funding.
- iv. Coordinating with policy groups, which are meeting twice a month.

#### b. Public information (Amy Travis)

- i. Drought website up and running at: [www.countyofglenn.net/drought](http://www.countyofglenn.net/drought)
- ii. Emergency declarations are listed on the website and minutes from the meeting.
- iii. Website also includes lists of available resources.
- iv. Website will be updated to include the new dry well incident reporting.

#### c. Dry well reporting (Sharla Stockton)

- i. Demonstrated the online well incident report system.
- ii. Available to complete online starting July 9, 2021.
- iii. The well incident report will allow for reporting of all issues (not just dry wells, but also sand/silt, lowering water levels, etc.) in one place and to analyze current situations as well as trends.
- iv. Data collected will be used in the future to help predict/prepare for upcoming situations and assist with gathering data for potential disaster response and recovery funding.
- v. Those without computers will be assisted by planning department to complete form.

#### d. Resources (Amy Travis)

- i. Donation of 18 pallets of bottled water made from Amazon in conjunction with James Gallagher.
- ii. Water bottle distribution site will be set up at:  
Orland Fire Department 810 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Orland, CA 95963.  
- Wednesday July 14, 2021 4 pm to 7pm

- Wednesday July 21, 2021 4 pm to 7pm
- iii. Anyone with dry well that submitted a dry well incident report will be provided with 10 cases of water. Report can be filled at the distribution site. Tablets will be available to complete a report on site.
- iv. If supplies allow, OES will work with other fire districts to receive some of the bottled water for additional water distribution events.

**e. Policy update**

- i. 6/22/2021 Board of Supervisors passed a temporary 45 day Moratorium on new AG well permits.
- ii. 8/3/2021 Board of Supervisors will revisit and will decide to terminate, extend or revise the Moratorium.

**3. Cal-OES Update**

- a. **Tom Graham, Cal OES Inland Regional Administrator**, reported that the Governor declared State of Emergency. Additional counties added for a total of 50 counties as of 07/08/2021.
  - i. OES is coordinating with other entities such as State Water Board, Department of Water Resources and are looking for other statewide programs to figure out solutions.
  - ii. FEMA/ Federal government involvement/assistance occurs when the state is overwhelmed and has exceeded the ability to respond and recover from said disaster. It is unlikely occur anytime soon for this incident
  
- b. **Rick Ehlert, Cal OES Inland Deputy Regional Administrator** reported:
  - i. Attending multiple counties' DTF meetings and sharing best practices.
  - ii. CDAA Funding was utilized in 2014/15 but has not been authorized for 2021 drought.
  - iii. Certain thresholds must be met.
  - iv. CDAA is reimbursement-based funding for public entities; not for individual homeowners. Costs must be greater than a jurisdiction can handle.
  - v. State budget has \$2.4 billion for drought, plus maybe another 2 billion.
  - vi. Funding may help with emergency and long-term drought relief.
  - vii. The state is in the process of evaluating the funding and determining how to implement programs.
  
- c. Glenn County (Amy Travis and Supervisor Grant Carmon)

- i. Working with State OES on getting other state agencies involved with Glenn County Drought Task Force – looking at funding sources/programs, assistance, and technical advice.

#### **4. Roundtable Report Out**

##### **a. Cities**

- i. Orland City Council
  - Providing bulk water sales to affected individuals; no plans to end as long as their wells continue to produce.
  - Updated their drought plan. Currently in Stage 1 of their plan, which asks for voluntary cutbacks in water usage. Stage 2 will implement restrictions and tiered rates.
  - Hooked up 6 properties to city water. These properties were adjacent to the city.
  - Orland has 7 wells (6 within cities limits) and all are doing well.

##### **b. Water agencies**

- i. Western Canal Water District, Ted Trimble - East of Butte City
  - Feather River source; their allocation has been reduced.
- ii. Orland Water Users, Rick Massa
  - Black Butte source
  - 5<sup>th</sup> delivery occurred on Monday, will last about two weeks.
  - Bureau of Reclamation contract will accommodate the 6<sup>th</sup> rotation in August.
  - Flood irrigated Ag land increase ground water table, which helps domestic wells. May need public support in the future to help explain how this will benefit the community.
  - OWU will contact BoR to discuss the minimum pool requirements for Black Butte Reservoir and determine if there is any emergency allowances for minimum pool.
- iii. GCID, Jared Shipley
  - GCID covers 135,000 acres of irrigated land.
  - Sacramento River has reduced supply to 75%. GCID has been taking drastic measures to help with conservation such as:
    - No spill policy started 05/07/2021
    - Asking growers to reduce water cover on mature rice.
    - Coordinate with others on water deliveries off the Sac River.
    - Stopping at 2,000 CFS (versus 2,300 CFS) draw from river.

- GCID has three well programs going and have been supplementing river water with well water and using their wells to provide farmers with their 75% allocation.
- iv. Stony Creek, George Pendell
  - The communities of Elk Creek and Grindstone community water systems should be adequately covered by current draws from Stony Gorge
  - There have been dry wells reported on the west side.
- v. Artois, Jack Cavier
  - Artois Community Service District provides water to approximately 200 residents
  - The district's 2 wells have dropped 20 feet in 2 months.
  - Well depths are 460 feet and are currently pulling at approximately 200'.
- vi. Orland Artois Water Users, Chuck Schonauer
  - Thinks they'll make it through the growing season, but will likely have no water for fall irrigation or frost protection.

**c. Agricultural agencies**

- i. Glenn County Farm Bureau formed a Water Committee
  - How do we help our community?
  - Educate the community on the importance of Ag, flood water, etc.
  - Posed the question - How can Glenn County develop more Community Service Districts (versus many 2-5 acre parcels with own wells?) Looking into funding to develop Community Service Districts.
  - Lastly, keep in mind that blanket ordinances don't always make sense for different parts of the counties.
- ii. UC Coop Extension
  - They have lots of resources for water conservation for crops, farmers, home, and landscape.

**d. Other organizations**

**5. Drought Taskforce Meeting Schedule**

Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 3:00 pm

Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 3:00 pm

**6. Other Items:**

- i. Review of dry well reports at next meeting.
- ii. Look at best practices from other counties.
- iii. Discuss tank program at next board of supervisors meeting.

- iv. Marcie Skelton, Ag Commissioner reminded everyone that there are crop reports on the county website to help educate the public on the importance of agriculture in our area.
- v. Jodi Samons, Member of the public, cautioned against getting caught up in “red tape” – don’t move too slow or wait for the state.

## **7. Public comment and Questions:**

**Q: Will Glenn County have an Emergency Water Tank Program, like Colusa County has already instituted?**

**A:** Colusa County had one in place in 2014/15 and was able to reinstitute it. Currently, Colusa County is funding the program locally and requesting CDAA funding to assist but no counties have been granted CDAA. Glenn has not instituted a program. GC OES is researching (discussion with Colusa, Yolo, and Tulare counties) and actively identifying program options for BOS to review.

**Q: How can individuals without computer access fill out a dry well report?**

**A:** Individuals will be assisted at the water distribution event. Staff will be on hand with a tablet to fill out dry well report. Smart phones can be used. Individuals can also contact the planning department at 530-934-6540.

**Q: Can data from the dry well report be shared at the meetings?**

**A:** Yes, that will be shared.

**Q: Will longitude/latitude be helpful to locate well?**

**A:** Not necessary, longitude/latitude are listed once address is inputted into the dry well report.

**Q: Has anyone reached out to USDA?**

**A:** Yes, a community member has already contacted them. There is a grant available but the community needs to apply for it - “Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG).

**Q: Is there any assistance with filling tanks such as delivery costs?**

**A:** \$10/1000 gallons but it is \$250 to haul. At this point, Glenn County does not have a tank program. Staff are researching programs and costs.

**Q: Can people get water from anywhere within the city?**

**A:** Yes, there are metered water fills. Appointments are required with the City of Orland. Contact the City of Orland for bulk water filling.

**Q: Is Glenn County looking at changing the wording on allowed domestic wells - different style wells that would be drilled faster. Currently there is a 6 month to 2 year wait time for rotary drilled wells.**

A: Yes, county counsel and Planning Department are working on a revision to the existing policy and will provide it to the BOS for review.

**8. Next meeting:** Tuesday August 12, 2021 at 3:00pm GCOE Conference Center 131 E Walker St. Orland