

## Glenn County Drought Task Force Meeting Summary

May 11, 2023, 1500-1700 hours

### Glenn County Office of Education – Conference Facility

1. **Introductions were made.**
2. **Situational Update was provided by Amy Travis, Sharla Stockton, and Pete Carr. [See slides for update.](#)**
  - a. Drought/Water Conditions – Drought Status removed from Glenn County. Replaced by Wet conditions due to heavy precipitation from 30 plus atmospheric rivers this water season.
  - b. Well Incident – Data Summary – One new dry well reported early in 2023. The dashboard has been updated to reflect 2022-23 numbers followed by cumulative totals from 2020-2023.
    - i. NVCF commented that the single dry well report for 2023 was due to a collapse of a well, following the return of water to the dry well.
  - c. City of Orland Well Levels – City wells are increasing, returning to 2020 levels. [See slides for graph.](#)
3. **Orland City Water System Expansion Project Update – Pete Carr**
  - a. Approximately 20 of the 40 connections within city limits are complete.
  - b. This project will connect 170-180 residents countywide.
    - i. Approximately 20 to 25 residents who initially signed up to convert from private well to city connection have withdrawn from the program. Residents on the waiting list were selected to fill these grant funded connections.
  - c. Engineering and permitting phase took longer than anticipated for this project which delayed construction slightly.
    - i. The project area north-west of the city will be going out to bid for construction this month.
    - ii. The project area south-east of the city will be going out to bid next month for construction.
  - d. The new city well funded by DWR under this expansion project is partially complete. The in-ground portion is complete. The structure and pump construction has not started.
4. **Resource Program Update**
  - a. North Valley Community Foundation reported on the water delivery and hauled water program.
    - i. Currently 206 residents are enrolled in the hauled water program.

1. This is down from a high of 242 – it is likely that residents have chosen to switch back to well water due to wells coming up from the rains.
- ii. DWR awarded an additional \$1.85 million to NVCF for Glenn and Tehama counties. This award will fund measuring and evaluation of wells for those enrolled in the hauled water program. This program is anticipated to serve 125 residents.
  1. This grant will provide measurement of well water depth to determine if the well has returned to usable levels. Additionally, this program may provide long-term solutions such as low volume pumps or replacement pumps.
- b. Low – fixed income well assistance programs
  - i. Glenn County applied for funding through DWR for permanent well assistance program. It was later determined that this program was very similar to the [program offered by RCAC](#), including the income restrictions that have proved prohibitive to many residents. Glenn County continues to pursue discussions with DWR on the well drilling program and income eligibility.

#### **5. Transition from Emergency Operations to Standing Drought/Water Committee (SB-552)**

- a. [DWR webpage for information on SB-552 and Drought Planning for Small Water Suppliers and Rural Communities](#)
- b. The State passed Senate Bill 552 in 2021 which requires Counties to have a Standing committee or Drought Task Force. Glenn County has met this regulation due to this Drought Task Force ad-hoc committee. This Task Force is in place until the Local Emergency for Drought is terminated. To continue to meet the SB-552 requirements, a standing committee will be established by the Board of Supervisors and this Task Force will transition to the standing committee.
- c. The standing committee's first task will be to guide the development of a County Drought Resilience Plan utilizing the [County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook](#)
  - i. The County will be applying for a grant through DWR for \$125,000 to fund the development of this required Plan.
- d. Following development of the Drought Resilience Plan, the committee would like to meet annually or semi-annually when not in periods of drought. More often when in drought emergencies.
- e. Once the standing committee is established by the Board, an email will be sent to this group with information on the transition.
  - i. If you have an interest in being a formal member on the standing committee for drought and meet one of the members listed, please contact the County Administrative Office. Task Force Membership is identified on page 2-4 of the [County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook](#).

**6. Presentation – DWR Spring 2023 Groundwater Update – [See slides.](#)****7. Policy Updates**

- a. Well Water Standards are still under development by the County. Several study session public Board meetings have been conducted in April and May to review and discuss the proposed standards. The draft has been sent for legal review. Once returned, another Board meeting study session will be announced to review it.

**8. Partner Agency Reports**

- a. Orland – Artois reported that they received 100% allocation. The pilot ground water recharge project is providing 1400-acre feet of recharge at this time, with another 600-acre feet scheduled for the summer. Additional properties are being annexed into Orland Artois to increase access to surface water and decrease use of groundwater in the area. The use of surface water leads to ground water recharge.
- b. Orland – Artois also reported that Orland Unit Water Users said that Stony Creek is predicted to flow through the summer due to continued slow releases from Black Butte.
- c. GCID received 100% allocation. Their soil canals provide an average of 80,000-acre feet of recharge per year.
- d. Ag reported 94,000 permitted acres of rice for this year. Last year only 24,000 acres of rice were planted.
- e. RCD applied for a grant for groundwater recharge plan development project. Currently providing all necessary supporting information to further the application.

**9. Public comment - None****10. Other Items – None****11. Next meeting:** No future meetings scheduled at this time.

- a. This Emergency Drought Task Force will transition into a standing committee by the Board of Supervisors. Once this transition is put into effect, those on this email distribution group will be notified and the website will be updated.