

# Drought Impact on Private Wells

## *Groundwater management and local impact*

More than 36 million California residents get their water from a safe to drink public source, while nearly two million Californians are served either by a private domestic well or smaller water system (less than 15 service connections). As a result of the severe ongoing drought, communities relying on groundwater may find their wells going dry, and may need to seek out alternative water sources for drinking water and/or sanitation.

### Who relies on well water?

Many municipal, agricultural, and disadvantaged communities rely on groundwater for up to 100 percent of their water supply needs regardless of whether it is a wet or dry year.

### How has the drought impacted domestic wells?

The severity of California's drought conditions continues to threaten local groundwater supplies. Groundwater extractions exceeding natural and managed recharge have caused historically-low groundwater elevations in many regions of the state. As a result of the ongoing drought and an increase in groundwater pumping, many communities that depend on private wells for drinking and basic necessities have found themselves without water.

### Cumulative Household Water Supply Shortages Reported to the State (as of October 8, 2015)



**Is there assistance for families with dry wells?**

The Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Housing and Community Development work jointly with counties to provide temporary assistance for people moving from housing units due to a lack of potable water. Assistance is available to those who are served by a private well or water utility with less than 15 connections, and where all reasonable attempts to find a potable water source have been exhausted. For water assistance information, contact the emergency manager in your county. A select list of emergency managers is provided below.

[Butte County](#)

Butte County Office of  
Emergency Management  
25 County Center Drive,  
Suite 200  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-7373

[Fresno County](#)

Fresno County Office of  
Emergency Services  
1221 Fulton Mall,  
Third Floor  
PO Box 11867  
Fresno CA 93775-1867  
(559) 600-3357

[Madera County](#)

Madera County Sheriff's  
Headquarters  
2725 Falcon Drive  
Madera, CA 93638  
(559) 675-7770

[Mariposa County](#)

Mariposa County Office of  
Emergency Services  
5082 Bullion Street  
PO Box 162  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
(209) 966-4330

[Merced County](#)

Merced County Office of  
Emergency Services (OES)  
3500 N Apron Ave,  
Atwater, CA 95301  
(209) 385-7548

[Riverside County](#)

Riverside County Fire  
Department, Office of  
Emergency Services  
Truman Holland  
Administrative Headquarters  
210 W. San Jacinto Avenue  
Perris, CA 92570  
(951) 955-4700

[Stanislaus County](#)

Office of Emergency Services  
3705 Oakdale Road  
Modesto, CA 65357  
(209) 552-3601

[Stanislaus County](#)

Office of Emergency Services  
3705 Oakdale Road  
Modesto, CA 65357  
(209) 552-3601

[Tuolumne County](#)

Office of Emergency Services  
2 S. Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 533-5511

These nine counties have reported at least 50 households have experienced water supply shortages since July 2014. The complete list of county emergency manager information is available at <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/ICESite/Pages/Drought.aspx>.

