

Improving Bay Area Regional Reliability

Bay Area water agencies are working together to leverage existing assets and resources and strengthen water supply reliability for over 6 million residents and thousands of businesses and industries in the region.

A REGIONAL APPROACH

As underscored by the recent unprecedented drought, the Bay Area is more resilient when the region's water agencies work collaboratively, rather than individually.

Inspired by opportunities to better leverage existing resources and assets, eight of the region's largest water agencies formed the Bay Area Regional Reliability (BARR) partnership to improve integrated regional water management and drought mitigation. After adopting principles in 2014 to guide the partnership, the agencies executed a Memorandum of Agreement in 2015.

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

BARR agencies collaboratively developed a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)—a project funded in part by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—to approach drought mitigation and response from a regional, integrated perspective, while taking stock of BARR agencies' existing water resources and assets and exploring new operational strategies to improve resilience for droughts and other emergency conditions.

While the DCP specifically addresses drought-related regional water management, it also provides benefits for emergency response and replacement or alternative supplies.

The BARR DCP assesses the vulnerability of the region's critical water resources and identifies strategies to improve regional reliability and resilience—drought response actions and drought mitigation measures—and an operational and administrative framework for implementation.

- Drought response actions are short-term actions triggered during drought to manage limited supplies and decrease the severity of immediate impacts. The DCP identifies two responses for regional implementation: regional drought response communications to provide consistent messaging to the public, and mobile water treatment facilities to protect health and safety and improve resilience during drought and other emergencies to the public
- Drought mitigation measures are actions, programs, and strategies implemented before a drought occurs to increase regional water supply reliability and improve long-term resilience. The 15 drought mitigation measures considered in the BARR DCP (shown on the following page) would utilize or expand existing assets while also providing some new facilities—such as intakes, storage, and treatment to fully leverage those assets. See www.bayareareliability.com for more detail on each project.

NEXT STEPS

BARR agencies or some subset of the partnership intend to further advance plans, explore funding options, and study feasibility for promising measures. Early efforts are already underway to advance several BARR drought mitigation measures, such as Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion. Evolving future conditions may drive the need for and feasibility of implementing other measures.



BARR Partnership

- Alameda County Water District (ACWD)
- Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA)
- Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)
- East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)
- Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD)
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
- Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)
- Zone 7 Water Agency (Zone 7)





Together, BARR agencies are pursuing measures and actions that would use existing infrastructure and water resources more fully to produce greater efficiencies and improved reliability for the entire region.