



DOUG CHAFFEE

CHAIR, ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION NORTH
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Letter of Promulgation

December 16, 2025

Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Orange Department Heads
Operational Area Jurisdictions
American Red Cross of Orange County
California Office of Emergency Services

Dear Emergency Response and Recovery Officials,

Herewith is presented the Orange County Domestic Well Drought Resiliency Plan ("Plan"). This Plan has been adopted by Resolution by the Orange County Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2025. This Plan has been approved by the County of Orange Disaster Council, known as the Emergency Management Council, and the Orange County Operational Area Executive Board, which represents the political subdivisions of Orange County as described in the Operational Agreement and the California Standardized Emergency Management System.

This plan, in accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 552, is to address water shortage scenarios for state small water systems (SSWS) and domestic wells. An SSWS is defined as a water system that provides piped water to the public for human consumption for at least 5, but not more than 14, service connections, and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year [Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 116275(n)]. A domestic well is defined as a groundwater well used to supply water for the domestic needs of an individual residence or a water system that is not a public water system and that has no more than four service connections [HSC Section 116681(i), with equivalent definition in California Water Code (CWC) Section 1060951(k)]. The County itself is not a water supplier. Instead, multiple municipal agencies and water districts are responsible for providing drinking water to the residents of the County. There are no SSWS operating within the County, and very few residences are dependent on domestic wells. Therefore, the scope of this plan extends to only a small fraction of County residents, and the potential emergency responses described herein are not directly managed or implemented by the County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Chaffee".

Doug Chaffee
Chair, Fourth District
Orange County Board of Supervisors