



# County Executive Office

## Memorandum

December 10, 2025

**To:** Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**From:** Michelle Aguirre, County Executive Officer *MAguirre*

**Subject:** Supplemental Request According to Board Rule 21

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by Michelle  
Aguirre  
Date: 2025.12.10  
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*S28C*

The County Executive Office is requesting a Supplemental Agenda Staff Report for the December 16, 2025, Board Hearing.

**Agency:** Sheriff-Coroner  
**Subject:** Orange County Domestic Well Drought Resiliency Plan  
**Districts:** All Districts

**Reason Item is Supplemental:** The Orange County Domestic Well Drought Resiliency Plan ("Drought Plan") is a requirement under California Water Code 10609.50-10609.80. The law provides that the Drought Plan be adopted as part of the jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). On the December 16, 2025, the Board of Supervisors agenda, the EOP is scheduled to be reviewed and adopted. The Agenda Staff Report and attachment were finalized after the filing deadline to the Clerk of the Board.

**Justification:** The Sheriff-Coroner Department is requesting this item be placed on the December 16, 2025, Board agenda for the Drought Plan to be reviewed and adopted the same day for purposes of ensuring compliance with state law, maintaining consistency across related emergency planning documents, and allowing the County to implement the required drought-resiliency measures without delay. For future revisions, this uniformity of dates will also allow for streamlined updates to both documents, synchronized review cycles, clearer tracking of compliance with State requirements, and efficient coordination across departments.

**Concur:** *Doug Chaffee*  
 Doug Chaffee, Chair of the Board of Supervisors

**cc:** Board of Supervisors  
 County Executive Office  
 County Counsel



**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM  
 AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** 12/16/2025  
**LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION:** Board of Supervisors  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S):** All Districts  
**SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** Sheriff-Coroner Department  
**DEPARTMENT HEAD REVIEW:** *[Signature]*  
 Department Head Signature  
**DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S):** Cory Martino (714) 647-1817  
 Michelle Anderson (714) 628-7158

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**SUBJECT:** Orange County Domestic Well Drought Resiliency Plan

<p><b>CEO CONCUR</b></p> <p><i>Maguire</i>                  Digitally signed by Michelle Aguirre                  Date: 2025.12.10 08:04:43 -08'00'                  CEO Signature</p>	<p><b>COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW</b></p> <p>Approved resolution as to form.</p> <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Action</i>  <i>Wendy Phillips</i>                  County Counsel Signature                  04F21F6B4102420...</p>	<p><b>CLERK OF THE BOARD</b></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>3 Votes Board Majority</p>
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**Budgeted:** N/A                      **Current Year Cost:** N/A                      **Annual Cost:** N/A

**Staffing Impact:** No                      **# of Positions:** N/A                      **Sole Source:** N/A

**Current Fiscal Year Revenue:** N/A

**Funding Source:** N/A                      **County Audit in last 3 years:** No

**Levine Act Review Completed:** N/A

**Prior Board Action:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)**

1. Adopt by Resolution the Orange County Domestic Well Drought Resiliency Plan, as approved by the Emergency Management Council and the Operational Area Executive Board.
2. Authorize the Chairperson to execute the Letter of Promulgation.

**SUMMARY:**

Adoption of the Orange County Domestic Well Drought Resiliency Plan (“Plan”) by Resolution and the execution of the Letter of Promulgation will, in accordance with the requirements of California Water Code Sections 10609.50-10609.80: identify vulnerable communities that rely on state small water systems (SSWS) or domestic wells; assess the risk of water shortage for each of these water sources; present short-term and long-term actions that can be implemented to help prevent catastrophic impacts to drinking water for these communities during an emergency; and improve resiliency of local water resources.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Senate Bill 552 (Stats. 2021, Hertzberg) added Sections 10609.50-10609.80 to the California Water Code. It requires each county in California to take steps to improve drought planning and preparedness for small water systems and rural communities, which have been identified as potentially vulnerable in the event of a water shortage, such as the drought that occurred in California from 2012 to 2016. Drought conditions are expected to increase over the coming years, and small, rural communities are more heavily impacted when groundwater supplies begin to dwindle, causing wells to run dry and small water systems to be impacted.

The Orange County Domestic Well Drought Resiliency Plan addresses water shortage scenarios for state small water system (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 (H&S) 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. H&S Section 116681(i), see also Water Code Section 10609.51(k)]. The County of Orange (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 is 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.

The Sheriff-Coroner Department, on behalf of the County of Orange Emergency Management Council and the Orange County Operational Area Executive Board, requests that the Board adopt the Plan by Resolution and to authorize the Chairperson to execute the Letter of Promulgation.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Attachment A - Orange County Domestic Well Drought Resiliency Plan
- Attachment B - EMC and OC Operational Area Executive Board Promulgation Letters
- Attachment C - California Water Code 10609.50-10609.80
- Attachment D - Draft Resolution
- Attachment E - Board of Supervisors Letter of Promulgation