Total Water Management

Evaluating Options for a Reliable Water Future

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Integration of North Monterey County Drought Contingency Plan and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Salinas/Carmel Rivers Basins Studies

The combination of these regional water management studies has opened the door to a remarkable opportunity. Working in concert, the development and sharing of comprehensive technical information between these two studies will provide the greatest potential for stakeholders to make the best, most informed decisions around critical water supply issues.

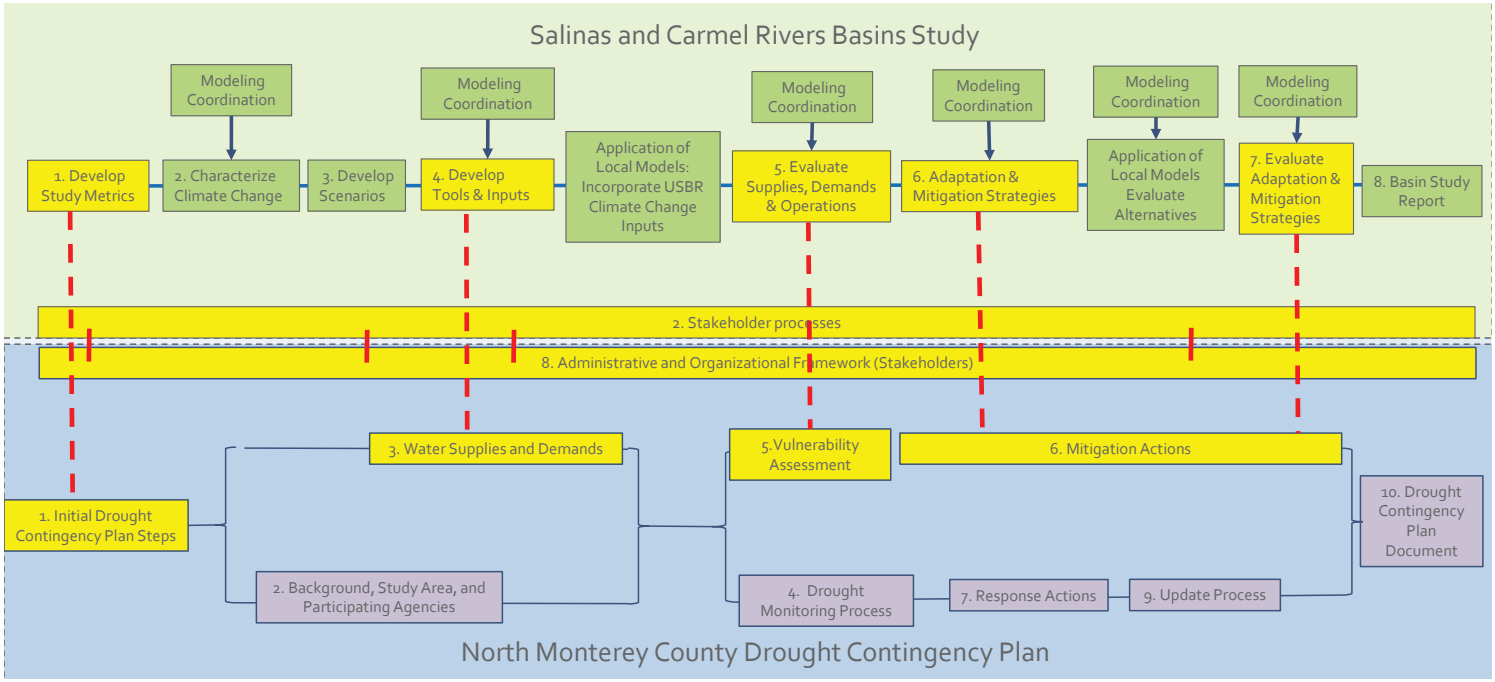
Drought Contingency Plan and Basin Study Coordination Underway

Federal and local agency stakeholders have been brought together, coordination of efforts is proceeding, and progress is being made on finalizing the scope and costs of these two studies. Among other immediate tasks, stakeholders are appraising the level of effort and complexity of managing multiple surface and groundwater models with climate change analysis, each with intricate layers of questions and issues included in the extensive scope of these investigations.

The common goal is to meet the needs of reliable, affordable water, and address the impacts of climate change. To do this, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is investing in a comprehensive approach to developing climate resiliency: the WaterSMART Basin Studies (Basin Studies) and the Water SMART Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) grants.

These programs are providing for the level of local/Federal collaboration that is critical in understanding data, making informed decisions and, developing and implementing effective water supply adaption strategies.

- The Basins Studies will develop leading-edge technical information regarding water supply and demand, to support and provide comprehensive data to local water managers making decisions on how to adapt to impacts associated with competing demands, climate change, and drought.
- The DCP is part of the Drought Response Program that seeks to prepare for and address drought in advance of a crisis. Water managers will have the tools to develop and/or update drought plans – the Drought Contingency Plan Process; implement projects that build long-term drought resiliency – Drought Resiliency Projects, and; develop and prepare to implement emergency response actions.



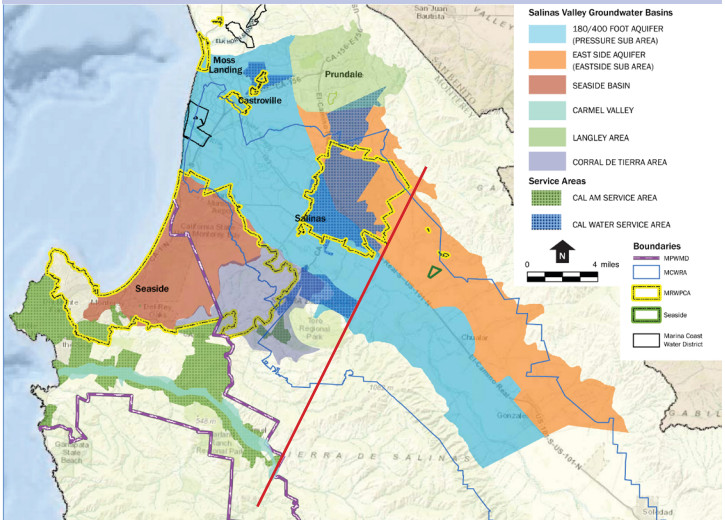
The DCP and Basin Study are part of a multi-agency effort. The chart above illustrates how all these studies, when woven together, inform and yield more comprehensive guidance documents to support local decision making and project implementation.

Geographic Extent and Project Outcomes of DCP and Basin Study

The DCP study area is a smaller sub-region of the overall Basin study area. However, this sub-region is the most critically impacted by water shortages and drought. It also includes the greatest diversity of stakeholders with seriously competing demands between agricultural, environmental and urban water users.

The study outcomes of the DCP and the Basin Study are linked, but address separate needs and timeframes as discussed below.

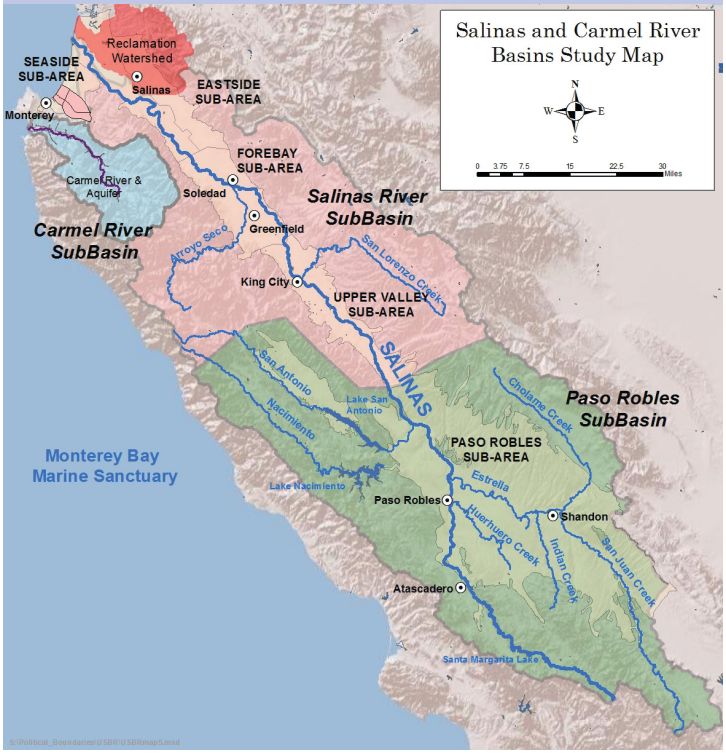
Drought Contingency Plan Geographic Extent



The DCP area is the Northern Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula, west of the red line shown above. The Plan will take 2 years to complete and will address these six elements:

1. **Drought Monitoring:** Establish a process for monitoring water availability, and a framework for predicting the probability of future droughts or confirming an existing drought. Includes process for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of water availability and other drought-related data to define stages of drought, mitigation and response actions.
2. **Vulnerability Assessment:** Evaluate and assess the risks and impacts of drought and the contributing factors that could impact critical resources in the Plan area. This information will support development of potential mitigation and response actions.
3. **Mitigation Actions:** Identify, evaluate and prioritize actions and activities that will build long-term water supply resiliency and mitigate risks posed by drought.
4. **Response Actions:** Identify, evaluate and prioritize actions and activities that can be implemented in a drought and are triggered during different stages of drought to provide quick benefits.
5. **Operational and Administrative Framework:** Determine local responsibility for undertaking the actions necessary to implement and the DCP.
6. **Plan Update Process:** Develop a process and schedule for monitoring, evaluating and updating the Plan.

Basin Study Geographic Extent



The Basin Study addresses the Salinas and Carmel River watersheds in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. The Basin Study will take 3 years to complete and have four major elements of their study framework:

1. Projections of water supply and demand will consider all potential water sources, including both groundwater and surface water, including an assessment of risks to the water supply relating to climate change. Projections of water demands may include demands for agricultural, municipal, environmental, and recreational water uses.
2. Analysis of how existing water and power infrastructure and operations will perform in the face of changing water realities, such as population growth and climate variability.
3. Development of options to improve operations, supply and demand imbalances and infrastructure needed to supply adequate water in the future.
4. All proposed alternatives will include analysis associated with their relative cost, environmental impact, risk, stakeholder response, or other attributes common to the identified alternatives.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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