



## News for Immediate Release

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### DWR Schedules August 19 Bakersfield Drought Workshop

**Sacramento** -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold a workshop in Bakersfield August 19 to provide updates about small water system drought response activities. The workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the offices of the City of Bakersfield Water Resources Department at 1000 Buena Vista Road.

Water year 2009 is California's third consecutive dry year, with water years 2007 through 2009 representing the 12th driest three-year period in the state's measured hydrologic record. Precipitation in the Tulare Lake hydrologic region, which includes the watersheds of the Kings and Kern rivers, was 55 percent of average in 2007, and 80 percent of average in both 2008 and 2009. Statewide runoff for water year 2009 is projected to be 71 percent of average, up from the 53 and 58 percent of average experienced in water years 2007 and 2008, respectively.

The Governor's Executive Order S-06-08 directed DWR and the Department of Public Health (DPH) to coordinate with the California Emergency Management Agency to identify public water systems at risk of experiencing health and safety impacts due to drought conditions and water delivery limitations. DPH has completed a statewide evaluation to identify water systems vulnerable to drought; its list of vulnerable systems is available at:  
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DroughtPreparedness.aspx>.

The list is dominated by small systems, which have historically experienced the majority of drought-related health and safety impacts and water shortage emergencies. Although small systems serve a low percentage of California's total population, they constitute the majority of the state's public water systems. Small systems tend to be located outside major metropolitan areas, often in lightly populated rural areas where opportunities for interconnections with another system or water transfers are nonexistent.

Most small system drought-related problems stem from dependence on an unreliable water source, typically groundwater from fractured rock sources. Historically, particularly at-risk geographic areas have been foothills of the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range and inland Southern California, and the North and Central Coast regions. DPH's list of vulnerable systems includes systems in the foothills to the east and south of Bakersfield, in the Lake Isabella and Tehachapi areas.

For background information about droughts and drought preparedness, see:  
<http://www.water.ca.gov/drought/>.

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*The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.*

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.