

Case Example: El Dorado Drought Preparedness Plan

In 2004, California's El Dorado Irrigation District and El Dorado County Water Agency joined together to update drought and conservation plans and to develop and fund a comprehensive drought preparedness program. They used a Shared Vision Planning process that involved numerous stakeholders. One of the most challenging aspects of the study related to integrating climate change input into the computer model. Some participants felt strongly that climate change needed to be addressed, while others felt just as strongly that all the fuss over climate change was a hoax. By agreeing to look at a diversity of scenarios and likely resource constraints, the group was able to cover needed ground without either endorsing or debunking climate change specifically. The ability to find a suitable path on a polarizing topic helped build trust among participants and in the process.

Deister, Ane D. (in press). Ch 8: Drought Preparedness in Northern California: People, Practices, Principles and Perceptions. *in* Bourget, E.C. (ed.) *Converging Waters: Integrating Collaborative Modeling with Participatory Processes to Make Water Resources Decisions*. Institute for Water Resources: Alexandria, VA.

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