

Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework Project



The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) and the Regional Water Providers Consortium (Consortium) are partnering to address how emergency drinking water will be provided to the public following a disaster. The project spans the five-county Portland Metropolitan Region which includes Clackamas, Clark, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. It will not address water supply for fire suppression, hospitals, prisons, other institutions, businesses, or shelters. These may be addressed in a future project phase.

In the last decade, water providers in the region have been using Urban Area Security Initiative funds and local budgets to purchase emergency mobile water treatment and distribution systems. Before additional equipment can be funded, the RDPO Steering Committee asked water providers and their partners to develop an emergency water planning framework and identify emergency water gaps to support future grant requests and emergency water distribution efforts. The overarching goal of the project is to advance regionally coordinated planning efforts for the effective and equitable delivery of drinking water post-disaster in the greater Portland metro region.

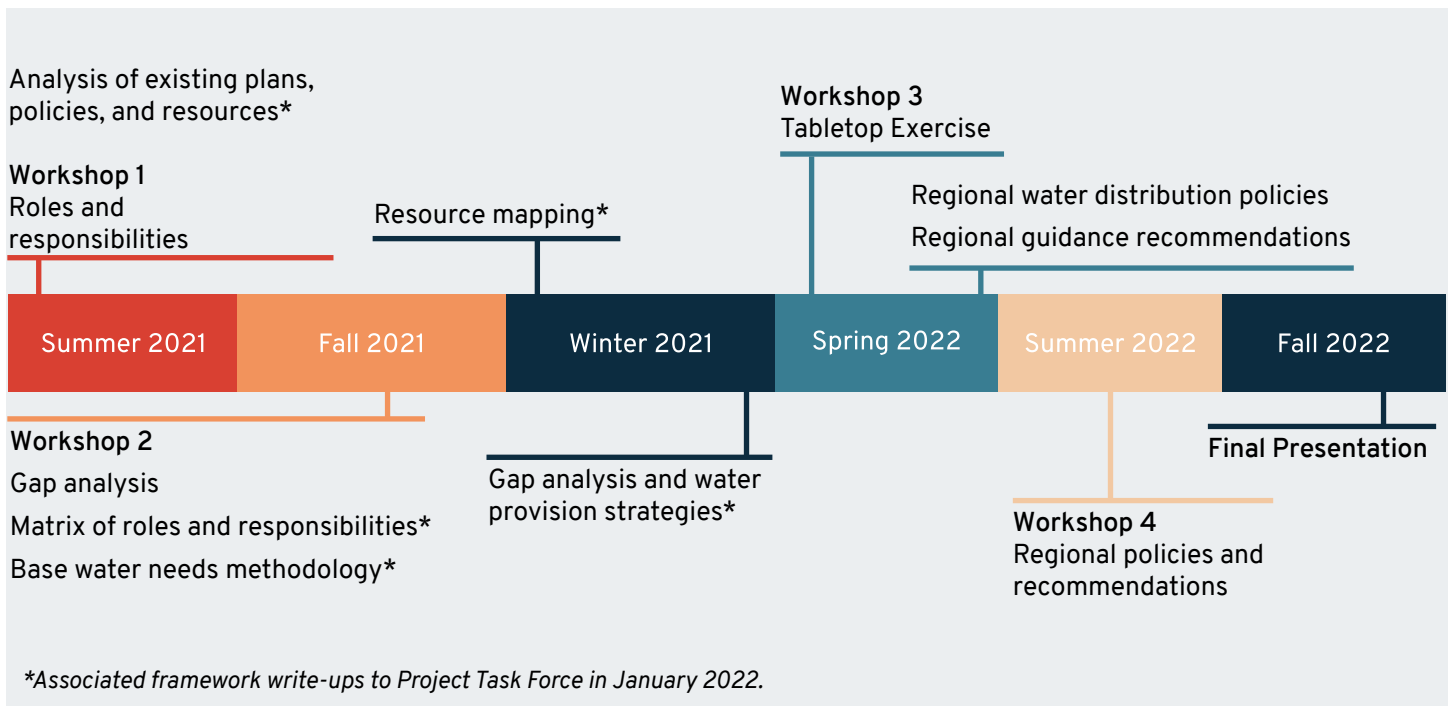
Goals

- Enhance pre-disaster planning and collaboration between regional water providers (RWPs), as well as between RWPs and Emergency Managers/RDPO, and other stakeholders for effective post-disaster emergency drinking water provision
- Develop a framework that will help a water provider assess their current system, identify capability gaps, develop solutions to close gaps, and incorporate needed improvements into long term planning
- Establish clear lines of communication around emergency water delivery among partners
- Clarify and document roles and responsibilities amongst federal, state, regional, and local partners in the provision of emergency drinking water post-disaster
- Provide guidance to water providers to enhance their emergency response around water delivery
- Ensure water is provided to vulnerable/underserved communities during and after a disaster
- Develop a strategy to close the gap between water resources and demand following a disaster
- Develop policies to address regional emergency management and water distribution priorities
- Conduct workshops with stakeholders to test planning assumptions, guidelines, and policy recommendations

Primary Stakeholders

- Cities (public works) and water districts
- City and county emergency management and public health
- Federal response agencies
- Oregon Emergency Management
- Oregon Health Authority
- Washington State Emergency Management
- Utilities
- Metro
- CERTs / NETs
- Regional Water Providers Consortium
- RDPO workgroups & Steering Committee

Project Timeline



Project Task Force (PTF)

The PTF is an integral part of the development of the Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework (EDWF). The PTF will serve as an advisory body to the project team, review work and provide input where needed. Project Task Force includes:

- Nic Westendorf - Deputy Public Works Director, City of Tualatin
- Scott Johnson - Emergency Management Division Director, Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency
- Carrie Pak - Chief Engineer, Tualatin Valley Water District
- Robin Pederson - RDPO Public Works Chair; Utility Resilience Coordinator, City of Gresham
- Kim Swan - Manager, Clackamas River Water Providers

Consultant Team

- Project Manager: Allison Pyrch, Salus Resilience / Hart Crowser
- Lead Stakeholder Engagement Engineer: Nicki Pozos, The Formation Lab
- Lead Infrastructure System Engineer: Kent Yu, SEFT Consulting Group
- Water Utility Integration Lead: Taylor Stockton, RH2 Engineering
- Technical Advisor: Bob Willis, RH2 Engineering



For more information on this project, please contact Rebecca Geisen, Managing Director with the Regional Water Provider Consortium at rebecca.geisen@portlandoregon.gov.