

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
APRIL 19, 2016**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

DROUGHT RESPONSE IN TULARE COUNTY – SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

**DISCUSSION**

Many other counties throughout the State of California (State) have experienced the loss of water as a result of dry wells, increased contamination of water supplies, and other challenges faced by struggling water systems. However, due to the number of private shallow wells in Tulare County (County), the County's population has had its unique challenges. Therefore we want to highlight the activities that have and are going to take place in communities within the County to help solve drought conditions.

The County has been working the past two years to address its emergency water needs and to develop long-term solutions. With the support of the Governor and the State Legislature, these efforts have been advanced over the past two years – allocating more than \$148.4 million toward emergency drought response and long-term solutions throughout the County. This has included the following allocations:

- \$7.3 million from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for emergency bottled water delivery to an estimated 1,000 homes; connection of homes with dry wells to community systems; and consolidation of water systems.
- \$5.8 million in funding from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to set up and maintain nearly 600 temporary household water tanks for residents with dry wells.
- \$133.5 million in State Water Board grants to permanently address water contamination issues; expand and upgrade water and wastewater systems; and drill new wells in several communities.
- \$1.8 million in Department of Water Resources funding to establish new wells to support the communities of East Porterville, Monson, Okieville, and the Tule River Tribe.

These efforts have made a significant difference for thousands of residents throughout the County, however, there is more to do.

As was noted above, the State has committed the funding and resources and successfully drilled a high producing well near East Porterville that we believe will ultimately provide the needed capacity to allow the City of Porterville (City) to begin connecting East Porterville residents to their system. On a parallel track, State Water Board staff will soon begin negotiations with the City to immediately begin connecting residents living in homes adjacent to the City's mainline.

**POLICY ISSUE**

None at this time; informational item.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time; informational item.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None at this time; informational item.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None at this time; informational item.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the *Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012* to improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that the Water Boards' goals and actions are clear and accessible, by demonstrating and explaining results achieved with respect to the goals and resources available, by enhancing and improving accessibility of data and information, and by encouraging the creation of organizations or cooperative agreements that advance this goal.