



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

Water Work Group

Planning Committee Meeting

September 27, 2024 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Participation: Laura Ramos, Monica McBrearty, Jase Trovao, Kent Stahl, Emily McCague, Mary Fahey, Sara Qaderi, Kevin Sischo, Allison Medley, Lacey McBride, Tukta Phetasa, Emily Wilson, Stephanie Anagnoson, Jenny Nunez-Rodriguez, Yesenia Silva, Esmeralda Hurtado, Sarge Green

Agenda Item #2: Updates

Water Well Replacement Program

The Water Well Replacement Program has completed a total of 325 long term solutions, including pump repairs/replacements, well replacements, and connections to public water systems. In the past 4 weeks, there have been 24 long-term solutions completed. There are currently 109 in the contractor queue ready to go, waiting on drillers. There are currently 326 applications in various stages of processing.

Tanks and Hauled Water Program

The Tanks and Hauled Water Program has a total of 1244 homes participating in the program: 355 in Fresno County, 66 in Kern County, 35 in Kings County, 341 in Madera County, 58 in Mariposa County, 51 in Merced County, 17 in San Joaquin County, 30 in Stanislaus County, and 291 in Tulare County. In the last 4 weeks, there have been 17 participants added to the program, primarily in Madera and Tulare County.

Bottled Water Program

The Bottled Water Program has a total of 3,539 participants. 1255 homes are private household wells that are experiencing drought related failures: 371 in Fresno County, 68 in Kern County, 37 in Kings County, 348 in Madera County, 52 in Mariposa County, 52 in Merced County, 17 in San Joaquin County, 28 in Stanislaus County, and 282 in Tulare County. In the past 4 weeks, 14 households have been added to the program, primarily in Madera County.

NOAA

Above normal temperatures are expected through the end of the week. No precipitation is expected. October through December is expected to have above normal temperatures. The lower half of the Central Valley is reporting no drought, but there is a possibility of drought in the top portion of the Valley. A La Niña season is approaching, but precipitation is not guaranteed.

Agenda Item #3 Well Mitigation

Laura Ramos gave an overview of a Well Mitigation Plans Findings Summary created by student assistant Phoebe Bloomfield. No specific GSA's were identified in the presentation and was instead of summary of all GSA's that had a well mitigation plan available to the public. The presentation was separated into 5 different sections: Scope, Eligibility, Application, Funding, and Interim Action.

The Scope is focused on small domestic wells producing less than 2 acre-feet of water per year, and if it is a reduction in groundwater that has caused the well to go dry. All GSA's will first conduct an investigation of the well to see what is causing the well to go dry, whether it be mechanical or other issues, and most will not help with wear and tear of the well.

For Eligibility, it is determined by location and must be in the geographical boundary of the GSA, and it cannot be next to an agricultural well. The GSA's have an income eligibility that is below the 80% of the state's average, and it is for all low-income households. The well must also be registered with the GSA and have a permit. Eligibility also requires the well's age not being older than 25 years, and it must have good standing with GSA rules.

There are two Application processes, some online and some must be a written request in paper to the GSA. For applications online, they must have all the well information, the usage of it, how it is accessible, and any contact information for the well owner. For the written applications, they need a well completion report, records on how the wells were maintained, and information on the amount of water used or power consumption records that could be used as a proxy. In some cases, a stakeholder could submit the claim, and not necessarily the owner.

Some of the GSA's are getting the funding to provide the service by implementing any assessments, fees, charges, or penalties for members of the GSA. Others are doing it through Prop 218 and are from fees to agriculture groundwater pumpers. The funding ranges from \$20,000 to \$1 million annually.

There were a few GSA's that did not have a plan for intermittent action. Those that did have Interim actions would start within 14 days, and once the investigation started, if the claim was denied, then they would stop all actions such as bottled water or water tanks that they provided. If there was not an intermittent action, information was given about services such as Self-Help Enterprises.

There was some concern about the location eligibility, specifically related to being near agricultural wells. It is not clear enough what that might mean, whether it be half a mile or two miles. Most small communities have a well next to an ag well, so more information and clarification will need to be researched for this section.

**DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from the CA Partnership for SJV Water Work Group. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented in the meeting. If any individual has comments or changes, please [email, waterandsustainability@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:waterandsustainability@mail.fresnostate.edu).*

The next Partnership Work Group meeting will be held on **Friday, October 25th, 2024, at 11:00 AM.**

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