

## Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Substances Committee Hearing

### Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study Overview

February 18, 2015

#### Contracting Relationships

- The Department of Water Resources contracted with Tulare County for \$2 million to complete the Study.
- Tulare County sub-contracted with Provost & Pritchard
- Provost & Pritchard sub-contracted with Community Water Center, Self Help Enterprises, Keller Wegley Engineering, and Kabbot Jenner and Lew for various tasks.

#### Tasks Performed by each Study Partner

- Tulare County administered the contract with the Department of Water Resources and posted study materials to our website. The County created and housed a significant portion of the DAC database that was made more comprehensive in the Study. The County maintains the database post-Study.
- Provost and Pritchard expounded the County's database to include additional data and perform mapping tasks, administered the sub-consultant's contracts and budget, facilitated stakeholder meetings, and produced the study's reports. Additionally, three of the Pilot Projects were completed by Provost & Pritchard.
- Community Water Center worked to create a diverse stakeholder database, sent meeting notices to those on the list, and worked through their community contacts to get folks to the meeting. Community Water Center also provided note keeping and translation services during stakeholder meetings.
- Self Help Enterprises provided technical assistance, contact information for key stakeholders, and assisted in refining the database.
- Keller Wegley Engineering completed one of the Pilot Projects and provided peer review on Pilot Projects.
- Kabbot Jenner and Lew provided legal feedback on Pilot Projects that included options for forming new entities, service contracts, and other agreements. All parties worked together to develop stakeholder meeting agendas and materials, as well as review of the Final Report and Pilot Reports.

#### Most Important Study Findings

- Improve Funding for Disadvantaged Communities
  - Change the consolidation incentive program to incentivize larger systems to consolidate communities on private wells.
  - Fire Flow protection
    - Allow funds to cover this cost- several projects are on hold due to the community's inability to cover the additional costs outside of the grant.
- Continue the Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee
  - Consists of a diverse group of stakeholders across the region.
  - Cost approximately \$50,000-\$70,000 annually to
    - Develop strategic plan for implementing recommendations
    - Refine pilot projects to help communities utilize the tools in the Study
    - Projects came out of this diverse group meeting on a regular basis that were not part of the Study
    - Maintain website and database
- Establish a regional Disadvantaged Community Coordinator or similar entity to assist communities to access funding, support regional projects, and engage in existing programs (i.e. IRWM, Government 101 training, etc.)

## Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee Hearing

### Tulare County Drought Response in East Porterville

February 18, 2015

#### East Porterville Current Status

- Community of more than 1,800 homes and, the majority of which rely on very shallow private wells for water
- Private wells
  - Current estimates are that of the 911 private wells that have been reported dry countywide, 73 percent of those are in East Porterville. (665 wells, 2,700 residents)
  - The East Porterville wells are typically only 20 to 30 feet deep
  - The community is adjacent to the Tule River which has historically provided recharge for the wells.
  - Due to the lack of rain and more importantly snow fall the Tule River has been dry for many months.
- The City of Porterville has water lines that extend through the community in a few locations
  - Rough estimates are that there are approximately 100 homes adjacent to a City of Porterville water main that are not currently connected.
  - Property owners along the lines were given the opportunity to connect when the lines were built, however, many property owners chose not to connect.
  - The drought conditions have negatively impacted the City's water supply capacity.
    - City of Porterville needs additional water capacity (new wells) to connect those residences along existing lines.

#### County Drought Response

- Non-potable filling stations for East Porterville residents
  - Two set up in the community
  - Use for sanitation purposes, including cleaning, bathing, and flushing.
  - Clearly marked that the water is not for consumption (drinking or cooking).
    - Water comes from the City of Porterville's water system the tanks are non-potable and the barrels or buckets residents use to transport and store the water are non-potable therefore the water is not considered safe for consumption.
    - The County tests the water supplied at the tanks regularly for bacteria and to date the water has remained free from bacteria.
    - Self-service stickers that residents can use to label the containers that are used to transport the water back to their homes, as well.
- Bottled Drinking Water Delivery
  - Grant from the State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Fund
    - Bottled drinking water to residents.
    - Requires residents to fill out a short self-certification form (required by the funding agency) that qualifies the household based on income and location.
    - All residents in East Porterville that received the first emergency delivery of bottled water received the self-certification form.
    - CSET has an office in the community and have the forms available for those that wish to receive the bottled drinking water.
    - 315 households are participating in the bottled water program.
    - Many residents have chosen not to participate in the program for various reasons.
- Private Well Failure
  - Since February 2014 the County has been working on
  - Private well failures do not fit into traditional funding streams and are a challenge.

- Since the Disaster Declaration in September, the County has worked closely with CalOES, Division of Drinking Water, CalHome, Department of Water Resources, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to identify solutions for private well failures
  - Must meet regulatory requirements
  - Must fall within the CDAA funding requirements
  - Must be the best fit for temporary relief

### Local Partnerships

- The County has tasked three local private non-profits to assist the County with private well failure drought response actions.
- By partnering the County will be able to place tanks more swiftly throughout the County.
  - Self Help Enterprises with purchasing tanks, pumps, and pipe for the individual household tank program and Self Help provide training on the proper installation of the individual household tanks..
    - Selected for this task because of their technical expertise in housing.
      - Prior to the Disaster Declaration, Self Help Enterprises began placing potable tanks at residences utilizing a donation from Bank of the Sierra.
  - Community Services and Employment Training (CSET) to install the tanks and plumb to the homes.
  - United Way of Tulare County with contracting with a potable water hauling firm.

### Tanks Placed to Date

- Only placed a handful of test tanks have been placed
- Ensure that the tanks
  - Function properly
  - Maintain potable standards
  - Sufficient water is supplied per household
- Once testing is complete tanks will be placed at all owner-occupied residences that are out of water.

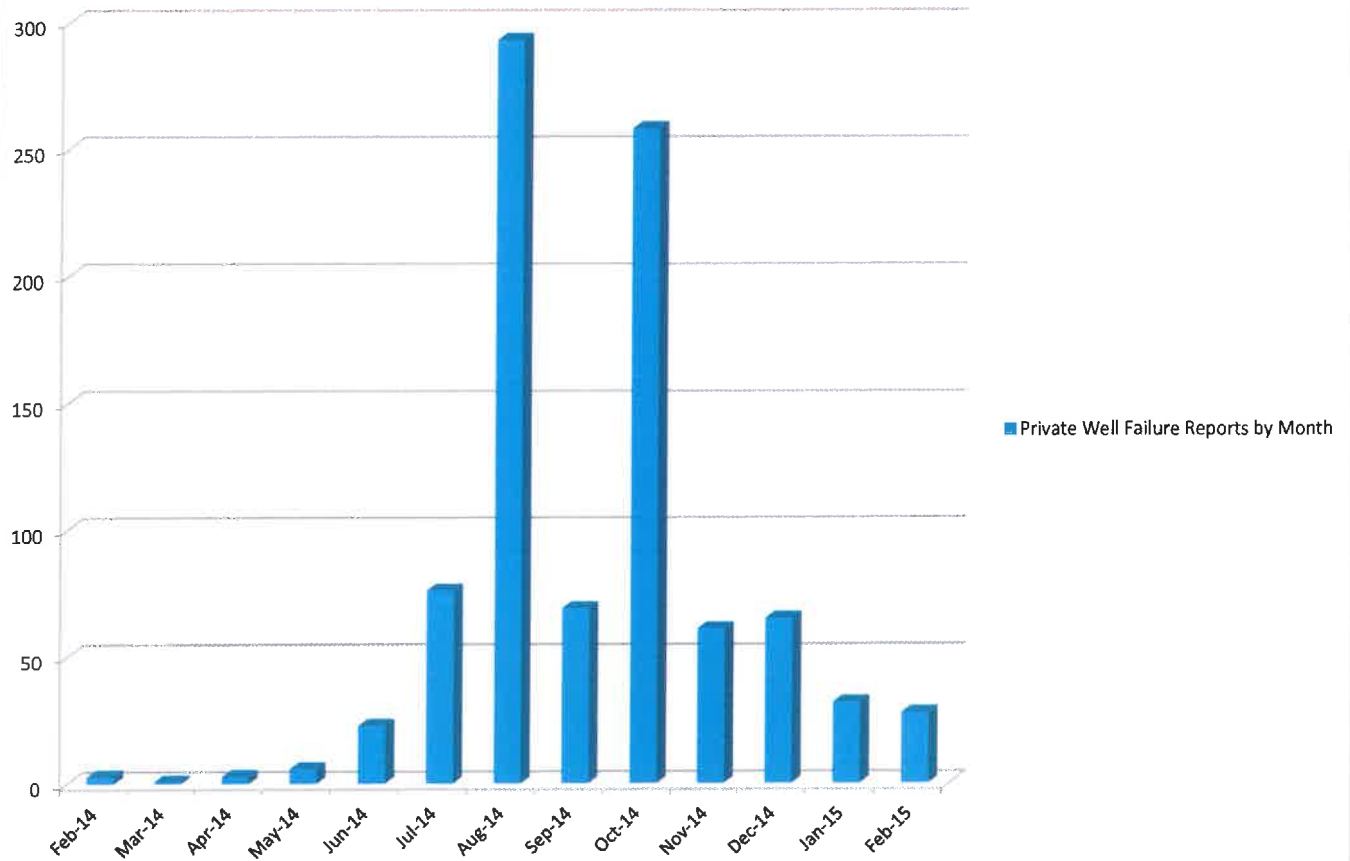
### Challenges

- Inability to provide tanks to rental properties.
  - Approximately 50% of those reported out of water are rentals.
- Inability to connect residences to an existing water main.
  - Permanent connection would be the less expensive alternative to a tank and expensive hauled water.
    - The resident would become a customer of the system and pay for the water supplied.

### Next Steps

- Continue to provide bottled drinking water through the Cleanup and Abatement Fund grant to those that qualify
- Residents that are out of water and are owner-occupied will begin receiving potable tanks and hauled water.
- Individual household tanks will be potable and therefore will provide residents with safe drinking water.
- Non-potable tanks will remain in place until all individual tanks are placed.
  - These tanks are clearly labeled and have self-service labels for residents to use.
- CSET is in the community helping to get the word out, as well.

### Private Well Failure Reports by Month



## Private Well Failures

