

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: CEO / Office of Emergency Services

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-5

Urgent

Routine

*D.S.*  
*DK*

AGENDA DATE January 12, 2016

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Accept the Sixth Update on the Temporary Water Assistance Program and Continue the Countywide Declaration of a Local Emergency Due to a Multi-year Drought in California

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept the sixth update on the Temporary Water Assistance Program in Stanislaus County.
2. Approval to continue the Countywide declaration of a local emergency due to a multi-year drought.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The financial impact of the drought and subsequent water shortage on Stanislaus County may not be fully understood for years to come. The California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA), California Government Code 8680 et. seq., provides financial assistance from the State for costs incurred by local governments as a result of emergency activities undertaken in response to a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2016-30

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:

  
CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

# Approval to Accept the Sixth Update on the Temporary Water Assistance Program and Continue the Countywide Declaration of a Local Emergency Due to a Multi-year Drought in California

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## **DISCUSSION:**

With California facing one of the most severe droughts on record, Governor Brown proclaimed a drought State of Emergency on January 17, 2014 and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortages. In the State of Emergency proclamation, Governor Brown directed State officials to assist farmers and communities that are impacted by dry conditions and to ensure the state can respond as Californians face the increasing severity of the drought's effects.

On March 27, 2015, Governor Brown approved a \$1 billion emergency drought relief package to take effect immediately to meet interim emergency drinking water needs for those communities with a contaminated water supply or that suffer drought related water outages or threatened emergency. There are State programs through the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) which address essential community services and relief efforts for families experiencing drinking water shortages due to drought.

Further, on April 1, 2015, Governor Brown signed Executive Order B-29-15 due to continued severe drought conditions causing extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in California. Saving water, increased enforcement against water waste, investing in new water technologies, and streamlining government response were specifically outlined in the latest Governor's Proclamation. This Proclamation also keeps the January 17, 2014 and April 25, 2014 Proclamations in full force.

On July 28, 2015, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local state of emergency in Stanislaus County due to the severity of the water shortage and the impacts of the drought to County residents. Additionally, the Board accepted the Stanislaus County Water Contingency Plan which includes a Temporary Water Assistance (TWA) Program. The TWA is administered by Self-Help Enterprises, a private non-profit organization, which places temporary water tanks at homes where a domestic well has run dry. The Board, as required by Government Code Section 8630, subdv. d., continued the emergency proclamation every 30 days.

To date, Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services has received 69 Homeowner Applications for the Temporary Water Assistance Program. Sixty-six applications have been forwarded to Self-Help Enterprises (SHE). Applications not forwarded to SHE are not eligible under the TWA program because they are not currently on a well-driller list or are a rental which requires the owner to provide a tank at their expense.

Forty-four tanks have been installed since program inception and currently 47 sites are receiving water delivery. Water delivery sites will decline as tanks are removed due to permanent solutions. Permanent solutions are increasing as new wells are drilled in the area. Four tanks have been removed and three more tank removals are scheduled all

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due to new wells on the property. Seven additional permanent solutions have been mitigated by repairs and connection to other water sources, such as municipal sources.

A Temporary Water Assistance Program Hotline has been established to assist the public in receiving the services needed. The Hotline number is 552-3880 and directs callers to the County's website ([www.stancounty.com](http://www.stancounty.com)) for a Homeowners Application, with options to speak to someone at the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services (OES) or Self-Help Enterprises. Additionally, Spanish language versions of the application have been posted online.

The Board of Supervisors will be asked to review this emergency proclamation at least every 30 days to evaluate the need for continuing the local emergency and will proclaim the termination of the emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant, pursuant to Government Code Section 8630, subdv. d.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

The recommended actions support the Board's priorities of A Safe Community and A Healthy Community by delivering emergency services, specifically drinking and sanitation water, in a cost effective manner.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

The department has existing staff to perform the work necessary to continue this emergency proclamation. The Temporary Water Assistance Program will be administered by Self-Help Enterprises with County administrative oversight.

**CONTACT PERSONS:**

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