

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

DEPT: Office Of Emergency Services

BOARD AGENDA #: \*B-4

AGENDA DATE: October 25, 2016

**SUBJECT:**

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

**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

No. 2016-530

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien  
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)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King  
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.


**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Office Of Emergency Services  
Urgent  Routine

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AGENDA DATE: October 25, 2016



CEO CONCURRENCE: 

4/5 Vote Required: Yes  No

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**SUBJECT:**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Accept the sixteenth update on the Temporary Water Assistance Program in Stanislaus County.
2. Approve to continue the Countywide declaration of a local emergency due to a multi-year water shortage.

**DISCUSSION:**

With California facing water shortfalls in some of the driest years in recorded state history, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency on January 17, 2014 and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for these dry conditions. Precipitation rates have been below average for the past four years, and only one of the past nine years was particularly wet. With the National Weather Service expecting La Niña conditions this winter, the outlook on improving the state's water shortage remains uncertain. Californians now face a fifth consecutive year of the effects of these severe water shortfalls.

Governor Brown has initiated several Executive Orders due to continued severe drought conditions causing extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in California. Specifically outlined in the Governor's Proclamation were, saving water, increasing enforcement against water waste, investing in new water technologies, and streamlining government response activities. The Governor's latest drought-related executive order on May 9, 2016, established a new water use efficiency framework to bolster the state's drought resilience and strengthen urban water contingency plans.

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. The \$3.7 billion in State drought funding appropriated in the 2014 and 2015 Budget Acts, as well as in March 2015 through emergency legislation, continues to advance toward meeting critical near-term needs

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and long-term drought resiliency and water supply needs. At the end of Fiscal Year 2015-16, \$997 million had been committed to supporting drought relief and infrastructure improvement projects. In June 2016, Governor Brown approved an additional \$254.7 million for the 2016-17 budget to continue the state's response to the water shortages. These additional funds will be available to aid in emergency drinking water for communities, emergency food assistance, enhanced fire protection, environmental and wildlife assistance, assistance to communities to help dispose of the dead and dying trees in high hazard zones for public safety issues, and the continued statewide awareness campaign.

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 potential impacts 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.

To date, Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services has received 95 Homeowner Applications for the Temporary Water Assistance Program. Sixty-four (64) tanks have been installed since program inception. Twenty-nine (29) tanks have been removed due to drilling of new wells or well repairs leaving 35 tanks still in service. Seven (7) properties continue to receive water delivery only. Permanent solutions continue to rise and are a marker of the success of the temporary program.

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.

### **POLICY ISSUE:**

The Board of Supervisors shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 30 days, pursuant to Government Code Section 8630, subd. c. Termination of the emergency shall be proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant, pursuant to Government Code Section 8630, subd. d.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Self-Help Enterprises (SHE), a private non-profit organization, is administering the TWA program in Stanislaus County. As a non-profit organization, SHE is eligible for 100% reimbursement of funds expended through the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA). For the months of August 2015 through March 2016, SHE has invoiced and been approved for reimbursement by CDAA for \$551,567 on behalf of work completed in Stanislaus County. Due to a backlog and end of fiscal year, SHE has not invoiced since March 2016.

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

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 PERSON:**

Stan Risen, Chief Executive Officer	Phone (209) 525-4305
Dale Skiles, Fire Warden /Assistant Director of OES	Phone (209) 552-3600
Keith Boggs, Assistant Executive Officer	Phone (209) 652-1514

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

None