

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

DEPT: Office Of Emergency Services

BOARD AGENDA #: \*B-3

AGENDA DATE: March 7, 2017

**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Accept the Twenty-first 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. 2017-98

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Withrow, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Chiesa

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, 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

D.S.

BOARD AGENDA #: \*B-3

AGENDA DATE: March 7, 2017

CEO CONCURRENCE: *phk*

4/5 Vote Required: Yes  No

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**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Accept the Twenty-first 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

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Accept the twenty-first 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.
3. Direct staff to continue working with those individuals who are currently receiving assistance to find a permanent water supply solution.

**DISCUSSION:**

California has faced some of the driest years in recorded state history. As a result, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency on January 17, 2014 and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to address the dry conditions. 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.

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 has placed temporary water tanks at homes where a domestic well has run dry.

On February 7, 2017 the Board of Supervisors directed staff to close the Temporary Water Assistance Program application period and grant no continued lease agreements with current program participants. The application period was immediately closed and all Homeowner Applications were removed from websites. Self-Help Enterprises sent 35 letters via US certified mail to current program participants informing them their program participation will end when their current lease expires. Participants were also informed they must provide a monthly update to SHE showing documentation of their progress toward a permanent water solution.

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Examples of documents that may be provided include a letter from a licensed well driller indicating their position on the waiting list, proof of financing for a new well or a permit from a local water service provider showing intent to connect.

To date, 45 permanent solutions have been realized out of 80 households that have received assistance through the program. Permanent solutions include the drilling of new wells or well repairs. An additional five participants were in the process of having a new well drilled when the most recent storms hit. Drillers are waiting for the ground to dry before resuming jobs. Four participants plan to connect to the City of Newman as soon as the project is completed which is estimated to be summer of 2017. There are still 35 households receiving assistance that include 29 tanks still in service and 6 water deliveries. Over 3.2 million gallons of water have been delivered through the TWA program to Stanislaus County residents since program inception in August 2015.

The United States Drought Monitor reported days of heavy precipitation during February continued to improve mountain snowpack in California, but created areas of flooding, especially downstream. As of February 21, the daily Sierra Nevada snowpack was 186% of average for the date. Given these dramatically wet indicators, widespread improvements throughout California were published on February 23, 2017 as seen in the maps below






FEBRUARY 23, 2017



FEBRUARY 23, 2016



Intensity

-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

While the drought continues to decline in California due to heavy precipitation and above average snowpack, emergency conditions continue for homeowners in Stanislaus County who have not yet achieved a permanent water solution. In order to continue to provide temporary assistance and be eligible for the appropriated drought funding allocation through CDAA, the County must renew the emergency proclamation in accordance with Government Code Section 8630, subd. c. It is recommended the twenty-first update be approved and staff will continue to work with affected homeowners to seek permanent water supply solutions.

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**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 December 2016, SHE has invoiced and been approved for reimbursement by CDAA for \$918,729 on behalf of work completed in Stanislaus County.

**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