



# California County Café

– Specializing in Drought Resilience

1/29/2025



# Welcome and Setting Intention

*Julia Ekstrom - California Department of Water Resources*



# On the Menu

Welcome and Setting Intention

→ The C3 Process - Reminder

→ Statewide SB 552 Status

Theme for Today: **Technical Assistance Providers**

→ Sharing and Discussion

Closing



# The C3 Process

- **Desired outcome** - Network and exchange ideas and resources among counties.
  - Increase the understanding of SB 552 intent and requirements.
  - Learn about different implementation approaches, practices, and experience.
  - Compare identified resource needs and share funding opportunities.
  - Improve coordination with other agencies and interested parties.
- **Our format** - Information exchange among counties to share information and approach to SB 552 implementation. (Café gatherings and Office hours)
- **Intended audience** - County staff.

*Appreciate others listening in but focusing on staff who are responsible for developing the DRP and implementing.*



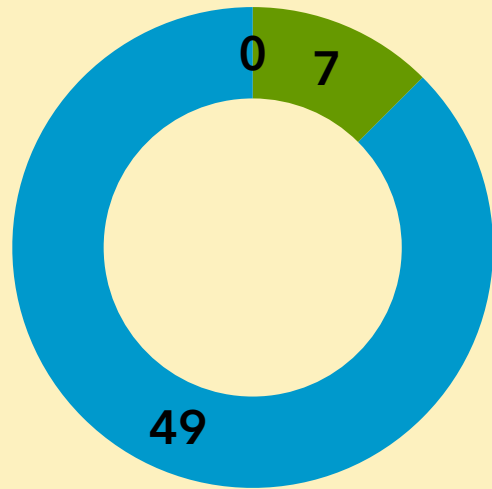
# Essentials of the C3 Gathering

- ✓ Join the conversation – share your experience and learn from other perspectives and experiences.
- ✓ Make a connection – use the chat to connect with other participants.
- ✓ County focused – While all are invited to join, this gathering will focus on supporting county staff.

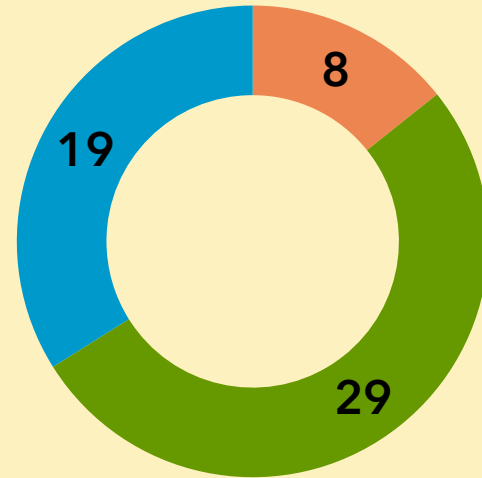


# Statewide SB 552 Status

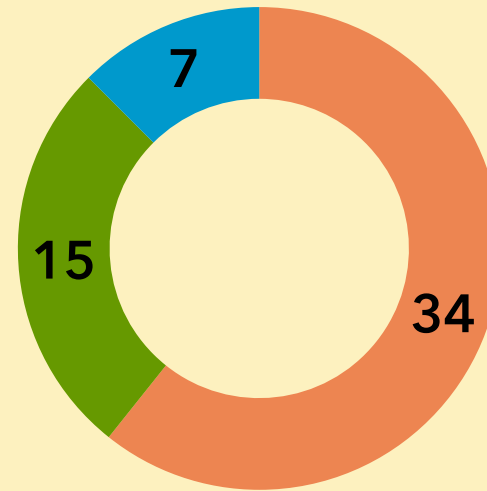
## Task Force Formation



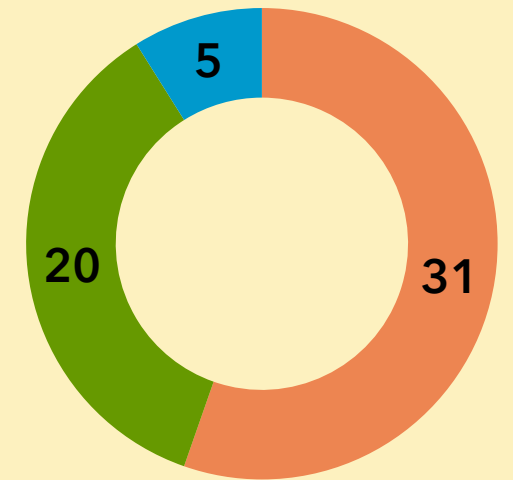
## Risk Assessment



## Response Actions and Mitigation Strategies



## County Drought Resilience Plan Development



■ In Progress ■ Completed ■ Not Started

Source: 1/28/2025 data based on input from 56 counties enrolled in DWR's assistance program. Exclusions: The City and County of San Francisco are covered by other requirements, and one has not enrolled in DWR's assistance program.



# Technical Assistance Providers

*Orit Kalman - Facilitator*



# Technical Assistance Providers

## What's on our mind?

- Enhancing local capacity to support DW and SSWS
- Building trust in communities
- Promoting local agencies/CBO relationships to support DW and SSWS communities.
- Suggestions for leveraging resources and funding to support emergency response and long-term planning.

## Our Presenters:

**Tami McVay**, Self Help Enterprises (SHE)

**Cyril Barmore**, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

**Jennifer Strauch**, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)







# Self-Help Enterprises

8445 W. ELOWIN COURT, VISALIA CA 93291 (559) 651-1000

[WWW.SELFHHELPENTERPRISES.ORG](http://WWW.SELFHHELPENTERPRISES.ORG)

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY • SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

ENGLISH TTY (800) 735-2929 • SPANISH TTY: (800) 855-3000

*Self-Help Enterprises is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the living conditions of low-income residents and has been serving the Central San Joaquin Valley since 1965.*

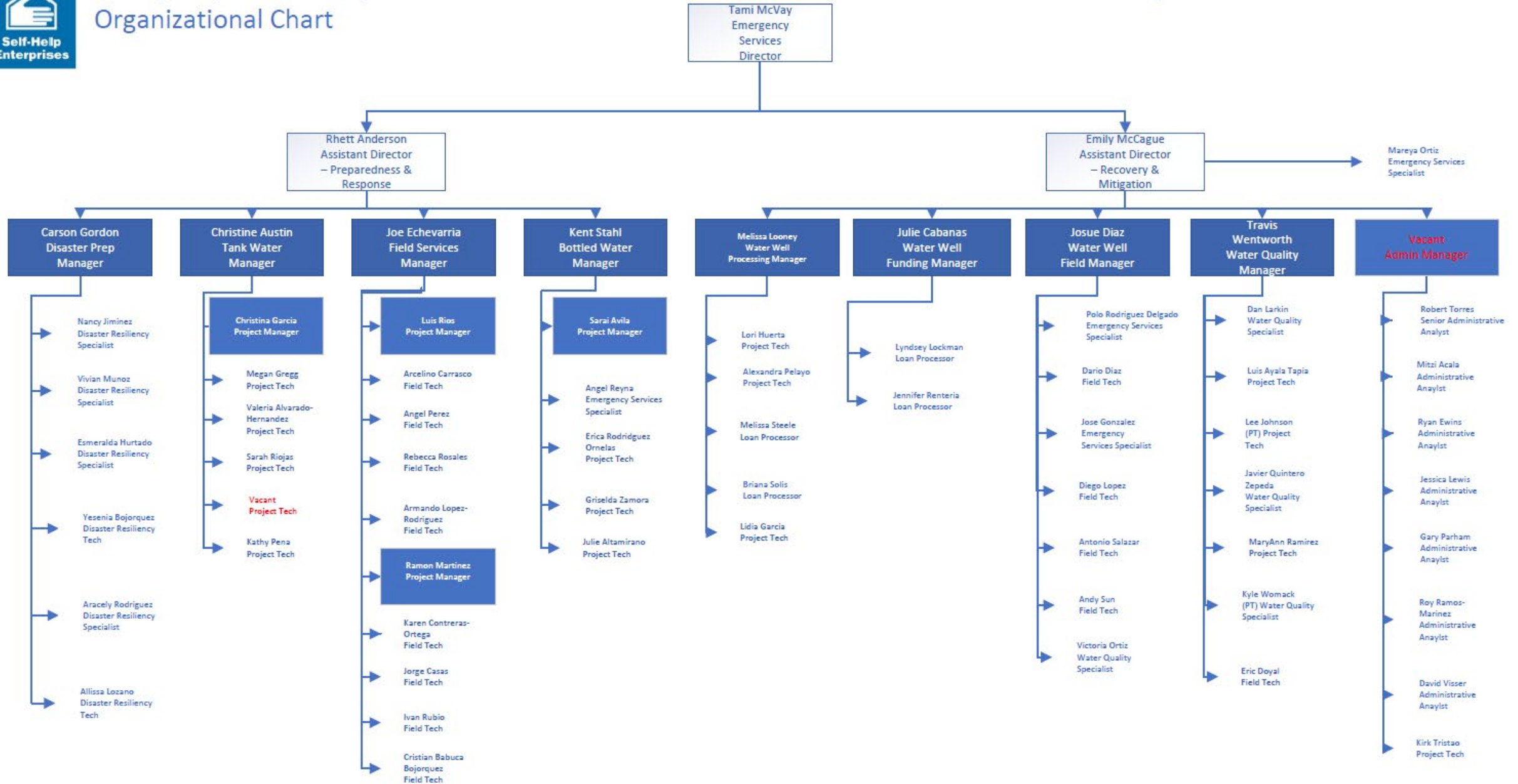
# Service Territory – 29,000 mi<sup>2</sup>





# Emergency Services Department Organizational Chart

Staffing Structure December 2024





# First Contact

EMERGENCY SERVICES



## Bottled Water Storage and Logistical Deployment

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- Receive bottled water deliveries, up to 20 pallets at a time
- Field Technicians and Supervisors are forklift certified
- With the Coordination of the Bottled Water Team, we can deploy multiple teams to deliver bottled water to communities, individual homes, and special events/projects



# Tank and Hauled Water Program

INTERIM SOLUTIONS

# Community Water System Outages

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## Services Provided:

- Storage Tanks & Installation
- Hauled Water
- Urgent Bottled Water Distribution

## Communities Currently Receiving Assistance:

- Tooleville
- Seville
- Tillie Creek
- Ridgecrest
- Spring Mountain



# Community Response Steps

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1. Coordinate with all parties involved (State Water Board and Community Development)
2. Identify the nature of the emergency (water deliveries to existing tank, bottled water, installation of larger tank, etc..)
3. Coordinate internally for logistical deployment of urgent bottled water distribution
4. Identify a water source for hauled water
5. Arrange for on-going support by securing a water hauler who will make ongoing deliveries until permanent solution is reached
6. Collaborate with others to secure a permanent solution plan





# Field Team

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & INTERIM SOLUTIONS

# Field Team Activities



Well Assessment (Single Homes & Community Wells)



Tank Inspections (Weatherization & Repairs)



Post Tank Installation Inspections



Bottled Water Storage and Logistical Deployment



Community Bottled Water Deliveries

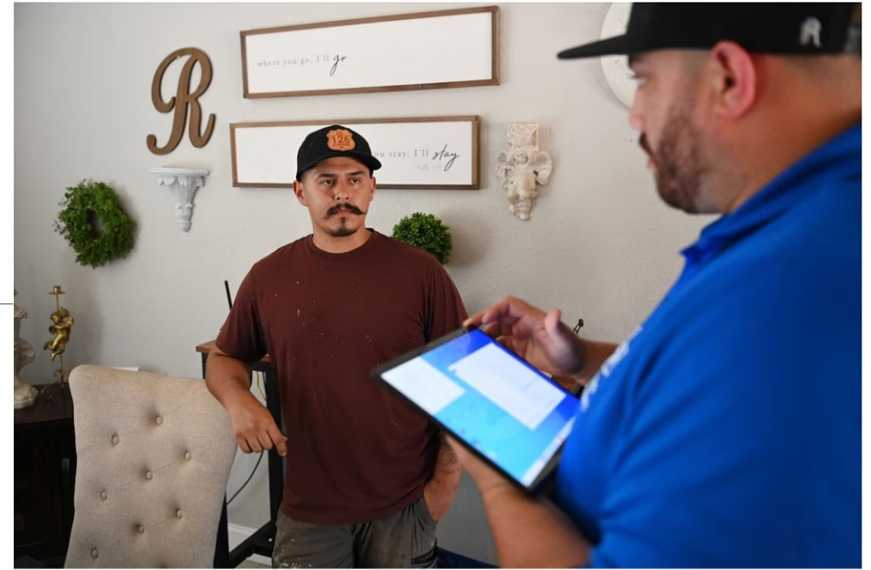


Emergency Response (EOS & LISTOS)

# Well Assessments

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- Appointments are scheduled by the Intake Team
- Field Technicians make contact with Participants
- Participant qualification and documentation are collected
- Inspection of well and well sounding takes place
- Assessing Well Sustainability
- Pictures are taken of the property and well site to determine Tank & Pump System placement
- Full Well Assessment Reports are submitted for approval
- 30 gallons of water are dropped off as part of the 72-hour response efforts



Salvador Ruiz, left, talks to Rubio of Self-Help Enterprises. Ruiz qualified for water deliveries because his family's well was dry. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)



Ivan Rubio of Self-Help Enterprises checks the water level of a well at a home. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

# Tank Inspections

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- Post Tank Installation Inspections are scheduled to verify that Tank and Pump Systems are functioning properly and providing vital resources to our participants
- Tank Inspections are scheduled six (6) months after the initial approval and tank installation
- Weatherization of PVC and hose lines are installed to prevent lines freezing
- Weatherization of Tanks and PVC during extreme heat events



# Domestic Water Well Repair, Replacement, and Connection Program

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

# Quick Guide to Program Guidelines, Eligibility and Terms

## Program Terms and Conditions

- Five Year unrecorded grant
- Maximum \$60,000 grant
- No payments or interest
- Grant may cover existing well repair or replacement, lateral connection to existing main for local water system and abandonment of existing well.

## Property and Well Eligibility

- Located within service area (Fresno, Kings, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare Counties)
- Private Domestic Well Only
- Dry or unsustainable well as a result of drought
- Verifiable Title
- Well must be located on owner's parcel or proof of existing shared well agreement required
- Property must be currently occupied

## Participant Eligibility

- Property Owner eligible (may be tenant occupied but owner must apply and qualify)
- Income may not exceed 80% MHI (based on 5-year average) OR
- Provide proof of eligibility in qualifying program (CARE, Medi-Cal, SNAP or TANF)
- Must retain ownership for five-year grant period

# Process and Procedures

## Phase 1: Application

- Submit complete application for review
- Complete and sign Income Self Certification Form
- Submit title documentation
- Certify and obtain verification property is not within existing water system sphere of influence and eligible for connection
- Submit a minimum of one complete estimate

## Phase 2: Processing

- Inspection of well and vetting of submitted estimates
- Selection of well driller (for connections, selection of contractors)
- Completion of processing by SHE staff, notification of approval to participant
- Preparation of grant documents

## Phase 3: Approval

- SHE grant approval review
- Grant document signing by participant
- Well driller signature on Terms of Award and final estimate
- Funding verification
- Ready to Go issued to driller

## Phase 4: Well Construction

- Contractor will obtain permits and order materials needed
- Driller will schedule start date with participant
- SHE field staff will monitor well construction
- Upon completion testing will occur; filtration devices will be utilized as needed via our Water Quality Division
- Well monitoring device will be installed if participant authorized

# Field Management – Construction/Repair Oversight

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- Pre-Construction Well Assessment
- Complete vetting of estimates
- Job award oversight
- Coordinate on well construction and progress with driller
- Review and approve change orders during construction
- Act as an intermediary between driller and homeowner
- Complete final inspection upon well completion
- Verify water samples collected
- Review testing results and coordinate with driller and water quality team for potential filtration devices
- Complete final closeout of construction with driller







# Water Quality Program

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

# Water Quality Program Overview

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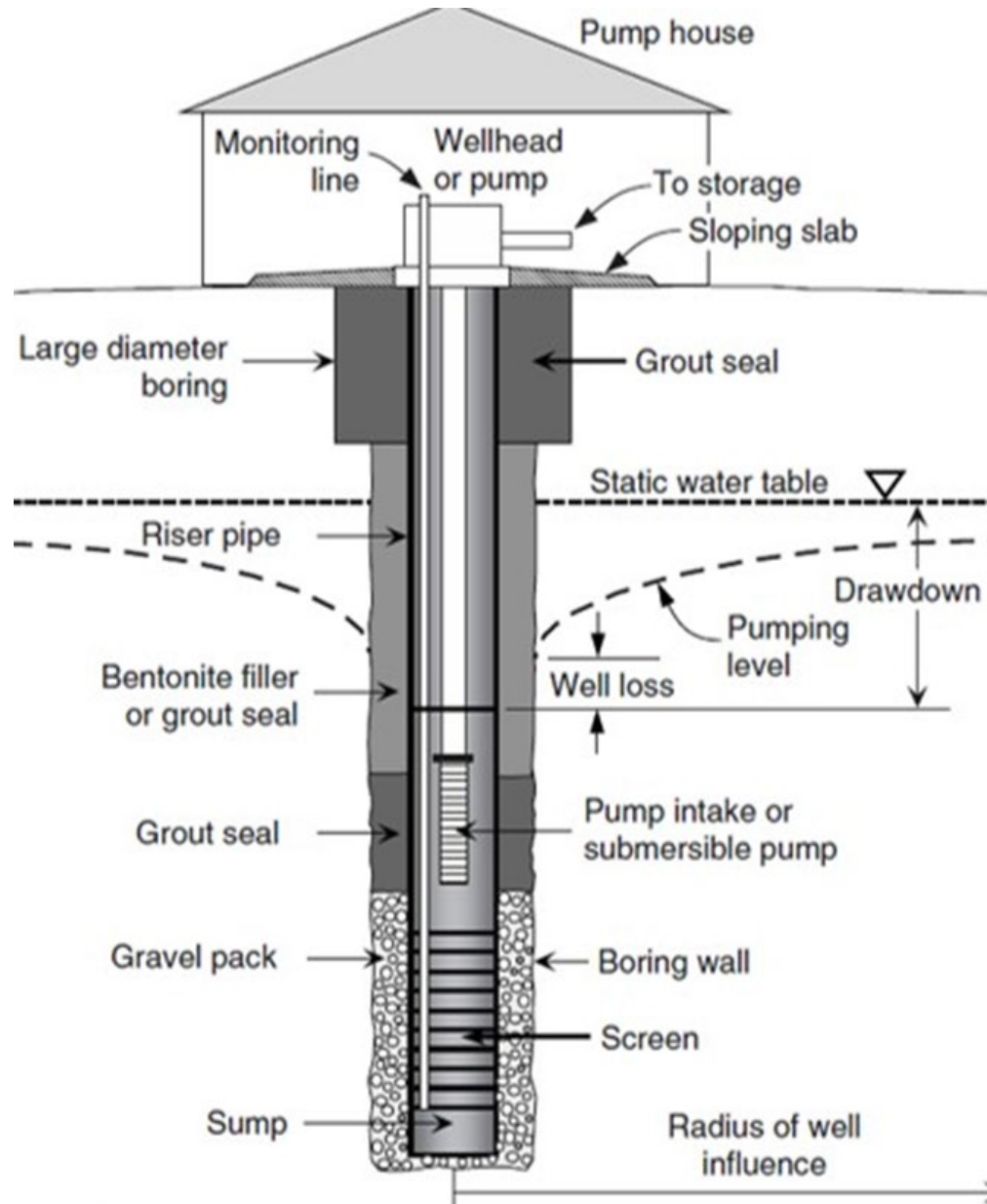
- Conduct outreach to prospective disadvantaged households served by private wells or state small water systems
- Provide well assessment and sampling services
- Analyze testing results, determine any contamination issues
- Provide interim solutions including point of entry and/or point of use (POE/POU) filtration devices to households that have water quality issues
- Educate participants on water quality contamination, filter operation and maintenance

# Water Quality Program Process

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1. Participant intake, program qualification
2. Assess the private well, or state small water system
3. Identify potential point source contamination, check well for functionality, sound well depth, collect samples:

Total Coliform	Total Chromium	123TCP
E.coli	Lead	Uranium
Nitrate	Copper	Gross Alpha (Sierra Nevada Range only)
Perchlorate	EDB	Additional contaminants as deemed necessary
Arsenic	DBCP	
4. Review test results, determine if POE or POU is required
5. Oversee installation, conduct post water quality testing
6. Participant Education: contamination, well maintenance, filter O&M



# Domestic Well Stewardship Program

EDUCATION

# Impacts Since Inception

Outreach: 68,000 Engagements

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Tanks & Hauled Water: 4,753 installed tanks (community and private well)

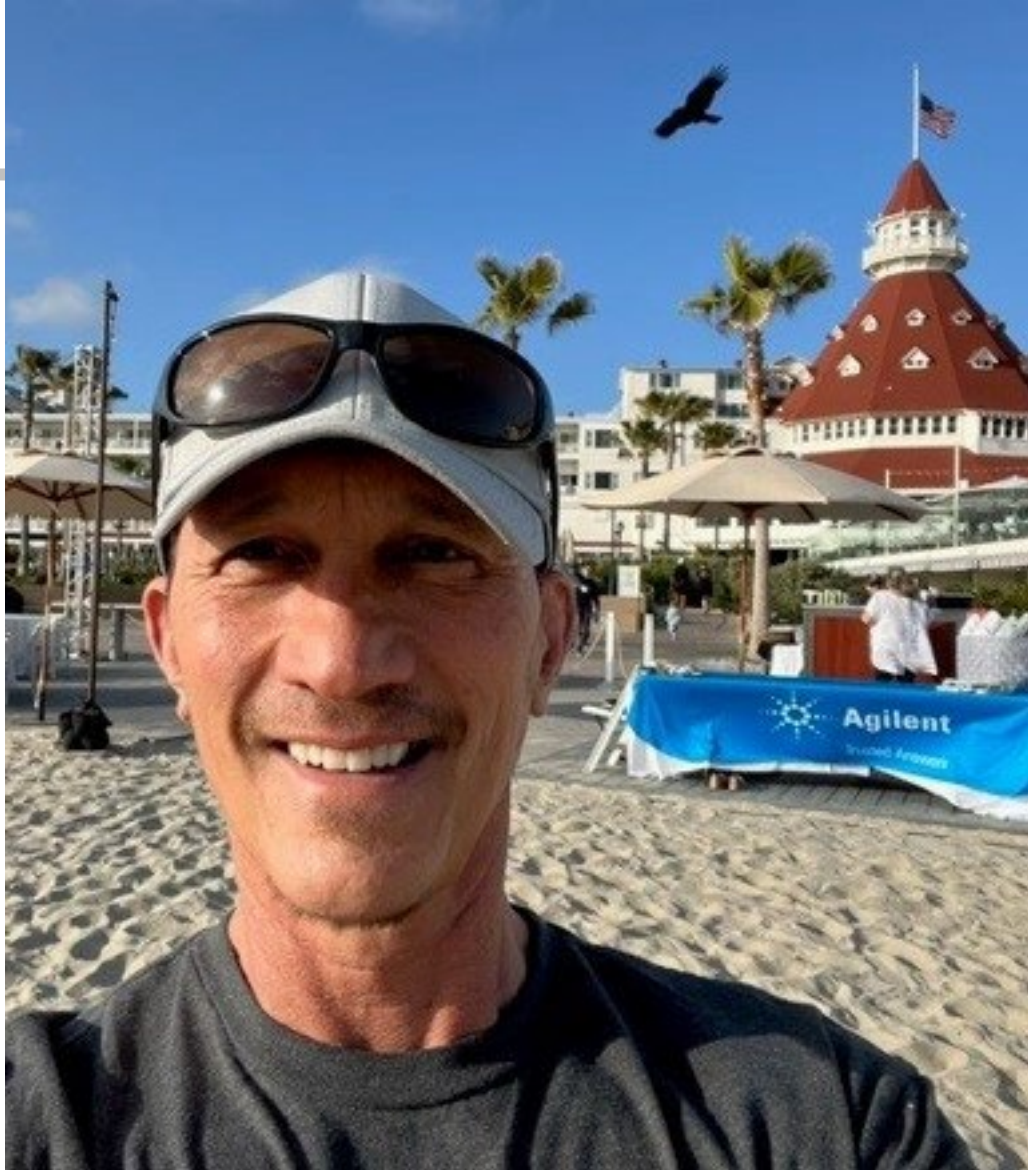
Bottled Water: 7,954

Water Wells: 764

Connections: 25

Year	Tanks Installed	Bottled Water Deliveries	Wells Drilled	Wells Tested	Filtration Devices Installed	Groundwater Level Monitoring Devices
2024	118	636	215	167	83	33
2023	207	1325	123	95	31	30
2022	726	951	14	72	33	-

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part under the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resiliency (SAFER) Drinking Water Program through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the foregoing, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



## Your RCAC Representative Today...

### **Cyril Barmore**

- Small Utility Consultant  
SAFER Train
- (707) 770-8748
- [CBarmore@rcac.org](mailto:CBarmore@rcac.org)

# About RCAC

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## **Our Mission**

RCAC partners with rural and Indigenous communities to achieve their vision and well being through technical assistance, training, financial resources and advocacy.

## **Our Vision**

Rural and Indigenous communities throughout the West are empowered to be vibrant, healthy and thriving.





# RCAC Programs

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Affordable housing



Community facilities



Water and wastewater infrastructure financing (Loan Fund)



Classroom and online training



Technical assistance



Income surveys

# Regionalization & Community Outreach

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- Facilitation
- Mediation
- Framework development
  
- Interest Surveys
- Community Meetings
- Public Information

# Household Water Well & Septic System Program

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Low interest loans and grants available to construct, refurbish or replace individual water well and septic systems.

Program Requirements	Loan Terms
Resident must be in a rural area, town or community.	Max loan amount: \$15,000
Applicants must own and occupy the home being improved.	Interest rate: 1%
New home construction and community systems are not eligible.	Maturity may not exceed 20 years.
Household income may not exceed \$37,730 for CA.	Associated loan costs not to exceed \$250 and can be included in the loan.

# Clean Drinking Water Well Replacement - GRANT

Financial assistance available for individual households and small water systems dealing with drinking water emergencies.

Program Requirements	Grant Terms
Eligible applicants are owners of individual households and small water systems (serving at least 2, but fewer than 15 service connections & NOT a Public Water System).	Up to \$60,000 available for individual wells and up to \$100,000 for small water systems.
New home and small water system construction is NOT eligible.	Repayment required in full if property is sold, transferred or leased within first five years from project completion.
Household income may not exceed \$62,938. For small water systems, income is based on the average household income of the owners.	-

# Household Water Well and Septic System Program

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**Contact Info:**

**Yeng Lao, Loan Officer**

**Email: [YLao@rcac.org](mailto:YLao@rcac.org)**

**916-500-1260**



# RCAC Loan Fund

Application: [Environmental Infrastructure Loans - RCAC](#)



Established in 1988



Designated Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)



Capitalized at over \$180 Million



Financial resource for community development projects in the 13 western states (population of 50,000 or less)

**Barbara Roesner**  
Loan Officer, Southern CA  
[BRoesner@RCAC.org](mailto:BRoesner@RCAC.org)

**Michael Archer**  
Loan Officer, Northern CA  
[MArcher@RCAC.org](mailto:MArcher@RCAC.org)





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Rural Development



# Water & Environmental Programs

## *Decentralized Systems*

Jennifer Strauch, Water and Environmental State Office Specialist

[Jennifer.Strauch@usda.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Strauch@usda.gov)

(530) 233-4137 ext. 112

# Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program

*This program helps qualified nonprofits and tribes create a revolving loan fund to increase access to clean, reliable water and septic systems for households in rural areas.*

- **Eligible Areas:** Rural areas and towns with populations of 50,000 or less, Tribal lands in rural areas, Colonias
- **Funds usage:** Grant funds may be used to help a nonprofit create a revolving loan fund for eligible individuals who own and occupy a home in an eligible area. The fund may be used to construct, refurbish or service individually-owned household water well and septic systems.
- **Matching Funds:** Yes, the nonprofit must contribute at least 10%.
- **Link to fact sheet:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/media/file/download/rd-fs-rus-decentralizedwatersysgrant.pdf>



# Other USDA Rural Development Programs to consider:

- **Single Family Housing Programs**

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs>

- **Community Facilities**

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

- **Other Water and Environmental Programs**

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs>
  - Colonia's only- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/individual-water-wastewater-grants>
  - Search Grant for predevelopment- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/search-special-evaluation-assistance-rural-communities-and-households-grant-14>

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [www.rd.usda.gov/ca](http://www.rd.usda.gov/ca)

# Technical Assistance Providers

## Questions and Discussion

- Enhancing local capacity to support DW and SSWS
- Building trust in communities
- Promoting local agencies/CBO relationships to support DW and SSWS communities.
- Suggestions for leveraging resources and funding to support emergency response and long-term planning.

### **Resources:**

- General questions on developing short-term response actions - Reference the [\*\*DWR County Drought Resilience Plan Guidebook\*\*](#)
- For specific questions about your county - Reach out to DWR at [\*\*CountyDRP@water.ca.gov\*\*](mailto:CountyDRP@water.ca.gov)



# Polling: What should we discuss at our next gathering?

Please add in the chat **your most pressing topic** that you would like to be discussed next in the County Café Gathering.

## Upcoming Counties Discussion Opportunities:

February 5, 2025, 9-10:30am: Webinar on the Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool

February 19, 2025, 9-10am : Office Hours

March 26, 2025, 9-10am : California County Café Gathering





# Closing - Thank you!

Next steps - we will follow up with an email to counties for future gatherings, ppt, invitation to share in upcoming gathering.