

# North Tulare County Regional Project - Seven Community Summit

June 28, 2016, 6pm, Orosi Memorial Hall

North Tulare County Water Alliance

RCAC

CWC

# Agenda

- I. Current Water Situation
- II. Planning for the Future
- III. Planning Together as a Region
- IV. Governance Alternatives
- V. Preferred Governance Alternative
- VI. Proposed Next Steps for Regional JPA
- VII. Questions? Discussion?

# I. Current Water Situation



# Cutler

Governance Entity	# of Connections (& Population)	Current Monthly Rate	Active wells	Status of Well(s)
Public Utility District	1,218 (6,200)	\$27.10 *doesn't include sewer or other services	2 (of 8)	2 active wells are providing water which meets standards 6 previous wells have been deactivated due to contamination (3 by Nitrate, 1 by DBCP, 1 by Nitrate & DBCP, 1 by Bacteria)

- The newest of the two wells has half the production capacity of older wells
- In the planning phase for a new well, a blending tank, and connection to existing wells.
- Construction is underway (60% complete) for replacing the part of the distribution system and installing pressure tank

# Orosi

<b>Governance Entity</b>	<b># of Connections (&amp; Population)</b>	<b>Average Current Monthly Rate</b>	<b>Active wells</b>	<b>Status of Well(s)</b>
Public Utility District	1,628* <i>*The # reported to State and appearing in SDWIS. Orosi PUD bills 1,628 connections, but reports a total of 2,196 EDU's (8,770)</i>	\$28 - \$30 <i>*metered rate, doesn't include sewer or other services</i>	5 (of 9)	5 active wells are providing water which meets standards 4 previous wells have been deactivated due to contamination (all by Nitrate)

- The wells which were installed more recently have reduced capacity compared to older wells

# East Orosi

Governance Entity	# of Connections (& Population)	Current Monthly Rate	Active wells	Status of Well(s)
Community Services District	106 (700)	\$17.15 *doesn't include sewer or other services	2	2013 average: Nitrate 63.7 mg/L (MCL=45) & Bacteria (TCR violation)

- East Orosi CSD received interim funding to distribute bottled water to residents through June 2017.
- East Orosi is currently evaluating a proposed new well to be located on the grounds of the Orosi Family Education Center, located at Ave 408 and Rd 128 (Hwy 63) and transport that water through the Orosi Water System and through a connection to East Orosi

# Sultana

Governance Entity	# of Connections (& Population)	Current Monthly Rate	Active wells	Status of Well(s)
Community Services District	180* <i>*The # appearing in SDWIS, but Sultana CSD reports 246 EDU's (775)</i>	\$27.13 <i>*doesn't include sewer or other services</i>	2	Well #3 (Primary): meets standards Well #2 (Back-Up): DBCP 470ppt (2013) (MCL=200ppt)

- Self Help is working with Sultana and Provost and Pritchard to prepare a construction funding application for a well, transmission main between SCSD and Monson, completion of the Monson water distribution system (i.e. outside the new core water system), water services to properties along Road 104) and water meters.

# Monson

Governance Entity	# of Households (& Population)	Current Monthly Rate	Active wells	Status of Well(s)
NA	41 (164)	NA	Private Domestic Wells	Well failures have left 14 households dry, and nitrate has been detected as high as 130 mg/L (2012) (MCL=45)

- Residents don't currently pay water bills, but are at risk of unsafe drinking water and well failure.
- Tulare County has secured approximately \$1.5 million in State and Federal drought emergency funding to drill a community well in Monson and build a limited distribution network to serve part of the community. The project also includes a filling station and water meters.
- Tulare County received LEFA funding to assist in the formation of governance to enable Monson to obtain domestic water from Sultana, with the end goal of annexation into the Sultana service area.

# Seville

Governance Entity	# of Connections (& Population)	Current Monthly Rate	Active wells	Status of Well(s)
County Receivership	77 (400)	\$60.00 *doesn't include sewer or other services	2	Well #2 (Emergency): Nitrate 19-31 mg/L (2015) (MCL=45 )

- Seville received emergency funds to repair portions of their distribution system and replace the pressure tanks.
- Yettem and Seville are currently in the planning phase for a new well located on the west side of Yettem to serve both Yettem and Seville, a new connection between Yettem and Seville, drilling of a test well, preparing an engineering report, plans and specifications, and environmental documents.
- Seville has received emergency funding to distribute bottled water for residents through June 2017, there is a pending application which would provide additional bottled water up to sometime in 2018.
- Seville has also received funds for a new storage tank and booster pumps.

# Yettem

<b>Governance Entity</b>	<b># of Connections (&amp; Population)</b>	<b>Current Monthly Rate</b>	<b>Active wells</b>	<b>Status of Well(s)</b>
County Zone of Benefit	64 (350)	\$56.00 *doesn't include sewer or other services	2	Well #1 Nitrate 28-37 mg/L (2014) Well #2: Nitrate 24-29 mg/L (2014) (2014 blended avg: Nitrate 29 mg/L; MCL=45)

- Yettem and Seville are currently in the planning phase for a new well located west of Yettem to serve both Yettem and Seville, a new connection between Yettem and Seville drilling of a test well, preparing an engineering report, plans and specifications, and environmental documents.

## II. Planning for the Future

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# The Need

- ▶ The seven communities of the NTC region all rely exclusively on groundwater
- ▶ Uncertainty about the future sustainability of groundwater wells to reliably supply drinking water to these communities.

# Groundwater contamination model:

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8HZvfKgZOg>

# Water Quality

## ▶ Contaminants

- ▶ Cutler and Orosi have had to deactivate wells
- ▶ East Orosi has unsafe levels of nitrates
- ▶ Seville and Yettem have struggled with nitrates
- ▶ Sultana has only 1 well, the back-up is contaminated with DBCP and nitrates
- ▶ Many private wells in Monson are contaminated

## ▶ Future Regulation

- ▶ New contaminants and more protective standards are constantly being added to the list of drinking water regulations
- ▶ No guarantee that wells will be a reliable source of safe drinking water for the long term without expensive treatment options

# Water Quantity

- ▶ **Groundwater Overdraft**
  - ▶ Water is pumped out of the ground faster than it is able to recharge
  - ▶ Causes water tables to drop and wells to fail, particularly during drought
  - ▶ Public well in Seville began to fail and had to be replaced in August 2014
  - ▶ Nearly half of the domestic wells in Monson have failed
  - ▶ Newer deeper wells produce less water and at greater cost
- ▶ **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014)**
  - ▶ requiring local agencies to develop plans to regulate the use of groundwater starting in 2020
- ▶ **Uncertainties about how much groundwater will be available to all users, including public water systems**

### III. Planning Together as a Region

## Planning Together

- ▶ We have a common need-a sustainable, affordable source of drinking water
- ▶ We can work together-group representing all 7 communities has been meeting for the last year
- ▶ We have a study that gives us an idea of what a regional project could be and what it may cost
- ▶ Affording a regional project depends on collaboration - all of us coming together

# Our First Collaboration Step is

## Defining a Governance Structure:

- ▶ Allows us to own, operate and manage a regional infrastructure project
- ▶ The new entity board will implement all project steps including project planning, design and construction
- ▶ Together we will decide on affordability of the regional project and how to pay for it
- ▶ We will seek to qualify for and obtain maximum grant funding

## IV. Governance Alternatives

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# Governance Structures Options

- ❑ One of us owns it and contracts to the others;
- ❑ Another Agency, such as Alta ID, owns it and contracts with all of us - we only buy water from it;
- ❑ We all own it together.

*Guess which option we chose?*

## We All Own It Together - here are options

- ✓ Ownership and operation of the supply, treatment, and distribution facilities will merged under a single organization.
- ✓ Partial regional consolidation involving some of the water systems (Sultana/Monson, Yettem/Seville) but there are currently no plans for a full consolidation of all seven community water systems.

## How are we going to Own It?

The group reviewed a number of options for Regional project ownership:

- ❑ State legislation written just for us
- ❑ Joint Powers of Agency/Authority (JPA)
- ❑ Creating a new Agency that is like one of us, a PUD, CSD

*Guess what we chose?*

## V. Preferred Governance Alternative

## Joint Powers Agency - JPA

- ▶ A Joint Powers Agency is a new public agency created by a group of individual public agencies that have common powers to implement programs and projects collectively through an agreement.
- ▶ To be established, the JPA must file a Notice of a Joint Powers Agreement with the Secretary of State
- ▶ Until we file those documents, a JPA cannot incur any debts, liabilities, or obligations, or exercise any of its powers.

# JPA Details:

Our JPA will be called: **North Tulare County Regional Water Alliance**

## Our JPA will:

- ▶ Have its own Board of Directors
- ▶ Administer the terms of the regional project agreement, which will outline water allotment, cost to the customer, etc.
- ▶ Provide information to residents about planned projects
- ▶ Deliver a safe, sustainable and affordable water supply to all of us - the member agencies.
- ▶ File funding applications, comply with funders regulations, etc.
- ▶ At a future date, allow new water districts to join, and participating water districts to exit the JPA

*The only thing each system/community will commit to now is a minimal cost to the system to be a part of the JPA (insurance, legal, accounting, board stipends etc.)*

***Joining is not anticipated to result in significant cost to the consumer at this time.***

# The Alliance Board of Directors

- ▶ From existing Cutler Board-2
- ▶ From existing Oroshi Board-2
- ▶ From existing East Oroshi Board-1
- ▶ From existing Sultana Board-1
- ▶ Tulare County-1
- ▶ Community member from Yettem/Seville-1
- ▶ Community member at large (from any of the seven communities)

*Board can and will change over time as Yettem/Seville consolidate and become an independent system etc.*

# What we need from you

Do we have your support to move forward with forming the JPA as we proposed today to explore regional drinking water options and apply for funding to provide safe, reliable, affordable water in the long term? - show of hands

## We will be mailing a survey asking people to check one:

- In support of my water system/community participating in the JPA
- Not in Support of my system/community participating in the JPA
- I support & would like to continue getting more information

# VI. Proposed Next Steps for Regional JPA



# Tentative Timeline\*

(\*Subject to change according to the Board of Directors)

- ▶ July - August 2016:
  - ▶ Community polling (show support for creating a regional agency to plan and build a regional project)
- ▶ October 2016:
  - ▶ Form the JPA by signing the agreement and drafting bylaws
- ▶ October - December 2016:
  - ▶ Meet with the state to discuss funding for JPA start-up, Technical Assistance, and Feasibility Study
- ▶ 2017:
  - ▶ Complete Alternatives Analysis, select alternative, and update Feasibility Study (conduct community meetings)
- ▶ 2017 - 2018:
  - ▶ Secure Planning Funds for project plans and specifications
- ▶ 2018 - 2019(?):
  - ▶ Complete Final Designs, Plans, and Specification
- ▶ After 2019(?):
  - ▶ Secure Construction Funding and begin Construction

## **VII. Questions? Discussion?**