

**North Tulare County Regional Project Seven Community Summit**  
**All Stakeholders Information Meeting**

June 28, 2016,  
At 6pm  
Orosi Memorial Hall

All Stakeholder Questions:

**Q: Why can't East Orosi's new well be located in East Orosi itself instead of in Orosi?**

A: The groundwater in that area is contaminated with nitrates (a similar issue with Seville and Yettem); the farther west you go, the better chance of finding good water

**Q: Why is Seville's project timeline taking so long and why aren't the community's bad pipes more of an immediate priority?**

A: Environmental issues are the major hold up and are forcing the project to only be allowed to continue during certain times of year for local species protection. This individual project is the county's responsibility and they are moving as quickly as they can and are hoping they will only have to do a state of CA environmental study, not also the federal one. The plan is to drill the new well in the fall and do the pipelines/distribution system in the spring.

**Q: It has been a pretty wet year—how long does it take the rain to then impact and refill the aquifer?**

This year was actually only a 75% year—it was barely enough to maintain the current groundwater levels and certainly not enough to refill them. It would take lots of water and multiple wet years to restore the ground water supply. Farmers need the water for Ag and so do humans for consumption. This is where the new SGMA sustainability plans due in 2020 for each basin will come in.

**Q: Where would the water for this potential regional project come from?**

If the proposed project comes to fruition, Alta Irrigation District would be providing the water via the Friant Kern Canal where it would then go through a surface water treatment plant and then be distributed to the seven communities.

**Q: For the ballot that will be going out this summer, who receives and should answer it?**

The ballot will be sent to everyone who pays a water bill.

**Q: What about water rights? Is the water source secured/guaranteed?**

Alta irrigation has pre-14 water rights—some of the best rights to have so they own and can provide the water but they need to use the Friant Kern Canal for conveyance and contract will need to be signed, permissions given etc. to use the canal for that purpose. Future contracts between the JPA and Alta would exist, if this project goes through, ensuring that the communities receive a certain allotment of water every year.

**Q: No one gives up anything for free—what is Alta's motive for "giving" these seven communities drinking water?**

Alta ID is not “giving” water away—all citizens living within their irrigation district pay a small fee regularly and because of this, more or less have ownership over the water in this area—what the seven communities would be paying Alta is not for the water but for the delivery of the water and all that it entails.

**Q: Rate analysis—what will this project do to costs?**

Once the JPA is formed the SWRCB will meet with them to discuss next steps in getting funding for planning, design and construction of a regional project. If the systems go it alone or work together, as contaminants worsen and more are regulated and as the drought continues, the price of water will be going up no matter what. The longer the group waits to move forward on a project like this, the more expensive things will get. There is funding available from the state now with an emphasis on regional projects so the time is ripe. Once a final planning study is done, there will be much more accurate numbers of what this will cost each community and its rate payers and then it will be decided if the project is feasible and affordable.

**Q: What percentage of the community needs to vote for or against for this to move forward or be halted?**

There is no hard percentage. The idea is for the JPA to form and investigate a regional project unless there is an overwhelming lack of support based on these community ballots and community feedback.