

## Paul Boyer Appointed by Governor to Valley Task Force

SHE Senior Community Development Specialist Paul Boyer, a 28-year veteran of the organization, was recently appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

Boyer is a Council Member and former Mayor of the City of Farmersville, Tulare County. Connie Conway, Chair of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and Greenlaw Grupe, Jr., founder of The Grupe Company, a land development firm, will serve as deputy chairs for the

task force. The partnership brings state agency secretaries and Central Valley representatives

together to make recommendations to the Governor regarding changes that would improve the economic well-being of the Valley and the quality of life of its residents.

Congratulations Paul! 🏠



Paul Boyer

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# SHE NEWS

SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES

Fall 2005

## Celebrating 40 Years of Building Houses, Homes and Communities

On Friday, July 22, 2005, Self-Help Enterprises staff and board members, participant families, partners and friends gathered in the rural town of Del Rey in Fresno County to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of Self-Help Enterprises. More than four hundred attendees gathered to honor the work of the many families striving to better their lives and the staff that help make their dreams come true.

The event took place at the site of the new Villa Del Rey 48-unit rental housing community. Jefferson Acres, a Self-Help Enterprises subdivision of 63 new homes, is under construction right next door. Over the past 40 years, more than 55 new homes have been built in Del Rey by Self-Help Enterprises.

“This is an ideal place for us to celebrate the 40th Anniversary. Del Rey is our kind of town – a small, farmworker community with a strong history, great potential and a great need for decent housing,” said Peter Carey, Chief Executive Officer for Self-Help Enterprises and only the third executive director in the history of the organization. 🏠



USDA Rural Development State Director Paul Venosdel (above), State Assembly Member Juan Arambula (left) and California Housing Finance Agency Executive Director Theresa Parker express their appreciation for the work of Self-Help Enterprises and congratulate families that built their own homes.



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## Celebrating 40 Years of Service in the San Joaquin Valley

"When I was 19 years old, I came to work for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Farm Labor Program begun here by the Quakers in the early 1950s. One of the biggest problems they saw in the San Joaquin Valley was the lack of affordable housing, particularly for farmworkers. Bard and Olga McAllister, Howard Washburn and his wife, and others dedicated their lives to developing a program that would address this huge need for decent, affordable housing for low-income families. When I came on board with AFSC in 1965, the group was in the process of putting together the applications that would make Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) possible. I'm proud to say that I helped bring SHE to life and that 40 years later it's going stronger than ever and I'm still a part of it!"

- *Graciela Martinez, Chair, SHE Board of Directors*



## Alpaugh Gets Clean Drinking Water

By *Katie Amos, AmeriCorps VISTA*

Alpaugh, a tiny rural town just west of Earlimart, Tulare County, is experiencing a lot of activity these days. Whether it's the big trucks and backhoes driving in and out of town, the yard full of large green pipe next to the Memorial Building, or the unfamiliar faces at the local café, Alpaugh is bustling. Self-Help



Enterprises (SHE) has been working with the community to provide clean drinking water for residents. The Alpaugh Joint Powers Authority (AJPA) has received approximately \$4 million dollars in grant and loan

funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) to upgrade their water system.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on June 3, 2005. Representatives from the AJPA, Tulare County Waterworks District, Alpaugh Irrigation District, USDA, DWR, SHE, Boyle Engineering, Halopoff & Sons and members of the community were in attendance.

This project will make much needed infrastructure improvements to the current water system. The work will include the installation of a pump in the new well, a new water storage tank and the replacement of much of the pipeline in the water distribution system. This work is anticipated to take approximately nine months to complete.

In addition to the construction crew, an AmeriCorps National Community Civilian Corps team was in Alpaugh during the summer to aid many of the residents who needed

to move their water connection from the alley behind their homes to the street front. SHE Senior Community Development Specialist Paul Boyer and AmeriCorps VISTA Katie Amos worked with the volunteers to install new water services to many homes.



It has been a long, hard struggle for Alpaugh to get to this point but the community will finally be able to enjoy clean and healthy tap water. Assisting small, rural communities in the San Joaquin Valley to improve their water systems and the quality of life for their residents is central to the mission of Self-Help Enterprises.

People are counting on us!

## SHE Receives 78-Acre Land Grant from Westlands Water District

On Friday, August 26, 2005 Westlands Water District and Self-Help Enterprises signed a historic agreement that deeded 78 acres of land to SHE to be used for the development of affordable housing, a park and an elementary school in Mendota, Fresno County.

General Manager Tom Birmingham represented Westlands Water District and said the land gift is part of the district's ongoing commitment to farmworkers and other residents of the west side of the valley even as farm land is retired.

Fresno County Supervisor Phil Larson, Mendota Mayor Pro Tem Robert Silva and other dignitaries participated in the event. During its 40-year history, Self-Help Enterprises has built 175 homes in the City of Mendota and provided housing rehabilitation and other services.



*Self-Help Enterprises CEO Peter Carey signs the agreement to receive 78 acres from Westlands Water District at Mendota City Hall.*