

## NONPROFIT EYES THIRSTY KERN

THEO DOUGLAS

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The state's historic drought is, for the first time in recent memory, bringing Self-Help Enterprises to Kern County.

The Visalia-based nonprofit is seeking a \$400,000 federal grant to help rural, low-income Kern County families fix up their homes — and improve water wells.

Previously, it has focused on Kings and Tulare counties. But Patrick Isherwood, its manager of rental of housing, said the company has been asked to work in Kern.

“We’ve received many calls from families telling us their well has gone dry and asking if there’s anything we can do to help them to get water to their house,” Isherwood said. “Hundreds over 2015, especially since spring. It’s been an epidemic.”

Self-Help folks will come to the Kern Council of Governments board meeting on the evening of June 18 to discuss the grant and to make sure no other agencies are going after the same pot of money.

Its grant application is due July 6.