

The Modesto Bee

Dry wells: Homeowners in Stanislaus County can apply for temporary water supply

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Stanislaus County has begun taking applications for a program that provides a temporary water supply for homeowners with dry wells.

Working with the nonprofit Self-Help Enterprises, the drought relief program will furnish a tank and small pump to restore water to the taps. After the system is installed, a service delivers water on a routine schedule to refill the tank.

County supervisors approved the program Tuesday because homeowners with dry wells are waiting nine months to a year for a driller to sink a new well. In the meantime, residents have no water for their daily needs.

The application for the "Temporary Water Assistance" program is on the front page of the county website, <http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us>. Eligibility is not based on income. The program is for homeowners with failed wells in the unincorporated areas of Stanislaus County.

A committee will review and approve the applications. Self-Help Enterprises has provided the temporary water systems for drought-stricken residents in other counties.

State drought-relief funding covers the costs.

For those without computer access, applications are available at the county Office of Emergency Services, 3705 Oakdale Road in Modesto. For information, call 209-552-3600.