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## **Kern County, nonprofit group sign agreement to help well owners during drought**

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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (KBAK/KBFX) - Kern County residents who have a dry water well could get help under an agreement signed Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors.

The county has a new agreement with Visalia-based Self-Help Enterprises, a nonprofit group that provides drought relief to well owners.

Funding for the assistance will be provided through various state grant programs, according to the county. Self-Help Enterprises will work directly with well owners to request reimbursement from the appropriate state agency, and no funding will be provided by or administered through the county.

Aid could include installing water-distribution lines, refilling storage tanks on the property, or leasing a new water tank at no cost to the homeowner.

"We expect many more drinking water emergencies will arise as the drought lasts into summer and fall," Kern County Public Health Services Director Matt Constantine said in a news release. "Self-Help Enterprises' long experience in helping San Joaquin Valley residents to access state funds to install water treatment and water supply systems will be highly welcome."

Call Amy Rutledge at (661) 862-8776 for more information or to request aid under this program.