

Open house planned for Drought Resource Center

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By David Castellon



Community Services Employment Training will hold an open house on Thursday to introduce the public to its Drought Resource Center.

The center, at 185 S. Leggett St. in Porterville, offers services and referrals for Tulare County residents affected by the Valley's drought, including free use of public showers, sinks and portable toilets.

CSET also operates an office at the site to provide drought-related information and referral services for people needing help. Residents also will be able to apply for bottled water pick up, household tank installation and the county's bottled water delivery programs on site.

Some of the worst effects of the drought are occurring in the southeast part of Tulare County, particularly in East Porterville, where hundreds of homes have had their wells go dry.

"We are very pleased to be assisting local residents as they navigate this difficult time," Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner, CSET's executive director, said in a press release. "Our goal is to provide residents with as much information and access to services as possible."

CSET officials say community partners that also can offer other types of assistance also will be at the open house, including representatives from Self-Help Enterprises, Family HealthCare Network and Tulare County Employment Connection.

The open house will run from 5 to 7 p.m., and scheduled services, including showers and water pick up, will go on during this time.

— David Castellon