

Supervisor Ennis delivers State of the County address

By Luis Hernandez

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A multi-year drought will have lasting effects on Tulare County, but as a whole, the county responded well, said Supervisor Mike Ennis.

Among other efforts, Ennis said the construction of a grant-funded well in Porterville, the water tank program and establishing the Household Bottled Water program are examples of short and long term solutions the county has come up with in response to the drought.

“Some communities were affected more than others, but all of our districts and neighboring counties felt the pain and impacts of the drought,” Ennis said during the State of the County presentation Tuesday.

Ennis also addressed accomplishments in law enforcement, fire protection, construction of infrastructure projects, business development and job creation. The State of the County led off the weekly board meeting.

The recently-completed well will serve as a water source for homes in the Doyle Colony, Ennis said. The Water Tank Program was a combined effort with United Way, CSET, and Self-Help Enterprises.

Ennis said Porterville procured the water to fill the tanks.

“The Water Tank Program that provides tanks to help alleviate some of the immediate needs of residents whose wells have gone dry,” he said. Ennis’ district includes the Porterville area.

According to the county’s Office of Emergency Services, the Household Bottled Water Program has provided 1,551 bottles to county households.