

THE MADERA TRIBUNE

USDA, NONPROFIT AID LOCAL FAMILY

By John Rieping

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Family well went dry in 2015

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's undersecretary for rural development, along with other people, visited a low-income Madera County family this week to put a face on efforts to aid those devastated by California's continuing severe drought.

"I can't imagine the shock when a well runs dry and when there's no water, and few of us have had to live with that burden. And I'm just very glad that there's hope for the future for you for a much deeper well," Undersecretary Lisa Mensah told Faustina and Estanislao Cabrera, who live southeast of Madera and southwest of the Bonadelle-Madera ranchos area.

The couple live in their rural home of 28 years with two adult daughters and a 7-year-old granddaughter. Their well went dry in spring 2015.

"They thought about what could they do to raise funds to maybe drill a new well or get funds so they could get water?" said 62-year-old Faustina, as translated by Sonia Sanchez of Self-Help Enterprises. "They thought that, given that they're older, that might be challenging. So they really made an effort to seek out help ... They wanted to keep living here."