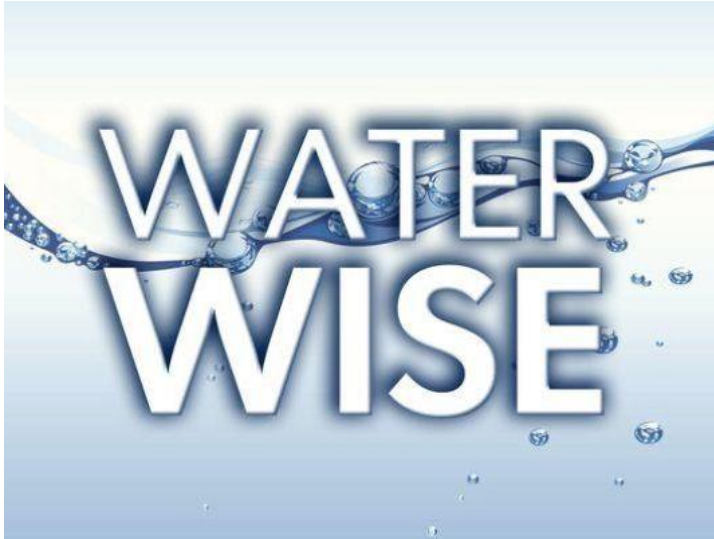


## Waterwise: Board leadership workshop offered

May 12, 2016

By Luis Hernandez



Self-Help Enterprise's Sue Ruiz says those who complete the 2016 Water Boards Leadership Institute workshop will be better prepared to lead.

"Anybody who comes out it's going to have better leadership skills; be a better decision maker; be better at all that," she said. "It's guaranteed."

The six-weekend workshop in community leadership, which starts June 17 and 18, is aimed at members of water or sewer district boards from disadvantaged communities. Others who would benefit from the workshop includes those who plan to join a board or those who assist one, serving as a secretary or note keeper.

And there's a reason why.

"State officials have come to realize members from small community boards need to come to the table," Ruiz said.

"We have to have representation at the table."

The participation is required because of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Ruiz said.

"We feel it's important for community leaders to come out," Ruiz said.

This is the first time the water boards leadership workshop will be offered. Self-Help Enterprises and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation are teaming up to organize the workshop.

Ruiz said the instruction will be at Self-Help Enterprises' office in Visalia. There will be a team of presenters and the instruction will be in an active setting.

"It's going to be participatory," he said. "There'll be a lot of problem-solving with your board and other boards. Time will go very quickly."

A similar workshop held previously ended with 35 participants graduating. It started with 38.

"That says a lot," Ruiz said. "That's evidence it's worth your time. When you don't lose a lot of people, it says a lot."

The dates for the workshop are:

- June 17 and 18.
- July 23.
- Aug. 6.
- Sept. 10.
- Oct. 1.
- Nov. 5.

Information: 802-1627.