

THE PORTERVILLE RECORDER

State issues city \$2.81M to hook more up to water

March 7, 2018

By: Myles Barker

Approximately 40 homes are being targeted

Now that all residences that have signed up to the East Porterville Water Project are hooked up to the city's water system, the state has identified approximately 40 more homes in and around the city that need the same treatment.

City Manager John Lollis said the state issued another funding letter to the city at \$2.81 million that is to deal specifically with additional water line extensions kind of in the periphery of the city as well as some areas just outside that are currently on water tanks.

"They wish to have the tanks removed and have folks connected to the city's water system," Lollis said, adding that the city has been working with the state as well as Self-Help Enterprises (SHE), who was a partner in the East Porterville water connections. "Right now they [SHE] are providing service to the water tanks that are at these residences."

In terms of the new source of funding from the state that has been put in place, Lollis said it is valid through December of 2019.

"So we have essentially two years to get the project designed and constructed," Lollis said. "Certainly we would like to get them connected as soon as possible, but there's lots of other projects in the queue as well."

Unlike with the East Porterville Water Project, which was executed by state contractors, Lollis said this project would be designed entirely by the city.

"We know that the funds are available so now we need to design the project and get it out to bid," Lollis said.

As far as where the targeted residences are located, Lollis said there are some on Cobb Street, which is on the far northern part of the community off of Pioneer Avenue and Highway 65, and on Cloverleaf Street next to Highway 65, kind of more on the southern part of the community.

"Those are areas that were annexed into the city and can be connected," Lollis said, adding that there are also some in the vicinity of West North Grand to the west of Newcomb.

"Those are the folks outside of the city that Self-Help is working with and that is likely to see additional water line connections made," Lollis said.

Overall, Lollis said he is glad the city is, with the state's help, able to continue to try and bring water service to those who are without it.

"Even though the perception is that the drought is over, Tulare County itself is still under an emergency declaration of the governor and we are still seeing effects of the drought continuing to this day," Lollis said.