

# 2019 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE NEWS



## LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE DEVELOPS WATER MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE & EXPERTISE

Residents of disadvantaged rural communities in California's San Joaquin Valley often find it challenging to participate and effectively lead their communities in regards to water quality and quantity issues that they face.

**To help build leadership capacity and gain water management tools, Self-Help Enterprises' Community Engagement and Planning team launched the first-of-its-kind 2019 Rural Communities Water Managers Leadership Institute for community water board members and staff, water leaders, and residents from rural communities.**

The six-month Leadership Institute program, offered at no charge thanks to the generous support from the Central Valley Community Foundation, USDA Rural Development, and the State Department of Water Resources, took place from March through August 2019 with sessions held one Saturday per month. Through bilingual trainings, workshops, and an educational tour, water leaders from disadvantaged communities gained the skills and knowledge to effectively participate in regional water management and planning programs, such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program. The Leadership Institute will also establish a cohort of participating communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Thirteen residents, known as Cohort 1, from 10 disadvantaged communities in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties graduated the 2019 Leadership Institute. To date, the Leadership Institute has trained more than 60 new water leaders.

## LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CURRICULUM

Discover how the Leadership Institute curriculum was developed and explore the curriculum topics covered in the program.

## MEET THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE WATER LEADERS

Get to know the 2019 Leadership Institute participants that are making a difference every day in their communities.

## WATER TOUR HIGHLIGHTS WATER SOURCES, USES, AND USERS

Learn about the water tour stops in Tulare County and how water projects can address water quality and quantity.

## JOIN THE 2020 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Read how water managers and community leaders can participate in the 2020 Leadership Institute.

# LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CURRICULUM

To develop the Leadership Institute curriculum, SHE conducted an intentional stakeholder scoping process through three focus groups and surveys to capture the needs and topics of interest from community residents. This culminated in the “Stakeholder Perspectives and Recommendations” Report and the 2019 Rural Community Water Managers Leadership Institute.

Through classroom instruction, group activities and a water tour, the curriculum enhanced leadership skills, increased participants’ knowledge about water resources water management programs and prepared participants to engage in important groundwater management planning and implementation efforts taking place within their region.



During the six-month program, curriculum topics explored included:

## **Session 1: March 2019**

Topics: Water Conditions in the Central Valley, Introduction to Water Management and Planning Programs, and Community Participation in Water Management Programs

## **Session 2: April 2019**

Topics: State Water Management-California Water Laws and Regulations, Understanding Stakeholder Interests and Political Dimensions of Water Management, and Water Management and Planning Programs

## **Session 3: May 2019**

Topics: Funding Programs and Requirements, Site Visit of IRWM Funded Project, Project Development and Working with Engineers and Consultants

## **Session 4: June 2019**

Topics: Presenting Information to Your Community/Board, How to Prepare for and Participate in Meetings, and Consensus Building

## **Session 5: July 2019**

Topics: Water Sources, Uses, and Users Water Tour

## **Session 6: August 2019**

Topics: Policy and Legislative Advocacy, Building and Sustaining Community Power and Partnerships, Diversifying California Water Management, and Graduation



“The information I have learned has broadened my knowledge of water matters. This will allow me to be a more informed board member of my water district [and] will assist in more informed decision making.”

- Donna Clemons, Armona Community Services District Board Member

# MEET THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE WATER LEADERS

Leadership Institute participants have varied water management backgrounds and represented several counties in the San Joaquin Valley. Thirteen residents from 10 disadvantaged communities in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties graduated from the program. This included water board members, supervisors of mutual water companies, members of advisory committees, and a manager for a resource conservation district. These varied backgrounds allowed participants to share water challenges and successes, resources, and build a community. Today, these water leaders possess increased tools and support to address underlying water quality and access issues as well as bring real solutions to their communities.

Meet the water leaders that are making a difference – every day – in our rural communities.



**Melinda Barrett**  
Mariposa/Oakhurst, CA

- Program Manager for the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
- Head of the Regional Water Management Group
- Founding member of the Los Angeles County Office of Sustainability



**Jim Maciel**  
Armona, CA

- Chairman of the Armona Community Services District
- Chairperson of the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
- 2018 Recipient of the Water Justice Leadership Award



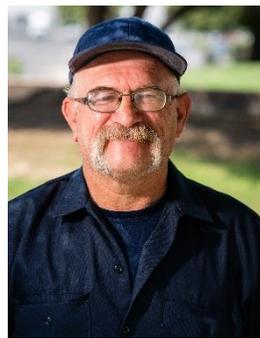
**Donna Clemons**  
Armona, CA

- Board Member and Secretary of the Armona Community Services District
- Member of the Armona Elementary School District Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Kings Co.



**Everett McGhee**  
Fuller Acres, CA

- Board Member and Supervisor of the Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company
- Member of the Kern County Officials Association
- Ground support for the CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection/U.S. Forest Service



**Luis Gomez**  
Fuller Acres, CA

- Board Member of the Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company
- Holds training certificates as part of his role with the Mutual Water Company



**Isabel Solorio**  
Lanare, CA

- Board member of the Lanare Community Services District
- Appointed to the Rural Communities Advisory Committee for the North Fork Kings GSA
- Co-Founder and President of Community United Lanare



**Malinee Crapsey**  
Three Rivers, CA

- President and Board Member of the Sierra Kings Homeowners Association (SKHA)
- Previously worked as a public affairs officer



**Jesus "TuTuy" Montes**  
Visalia, CA

- Advocate for safe drinking water
- Member of Circulo de Hombres



**Reyna Castellanos**  
Visalia, CA

- Owner of Linguistica Interpreting and Translation
- Specializes in translation and community outreach
- Collaborates with nonprofits and environmental justice organizations to build strong communities



**Somphane Hunter**  
Poplar, CA

- Board Member and Treasurer of the Poplar Community Services District
- Educator and Treasurer of the Association of Mexican American Educators
- Co-creator of the Kiwanis Club of Central Valley Literacy

**George Barnes**  
Lemon Cove, CA

- Board member of the Lemon Cove Water Board
- Earned a Ph.D. in geophysics

**Rosaura Fraticelli**  
Lanare, CA

- Community leader and member of Community United for Lanare
- Community food bank volunteer
- Advocate for clean drinking water

**Juanita Flores**  
Cutler/Orosi, CA

- Advocate for safe water quality in rural communities
- Interested in American Sign Language (ASL) and medicine
- Involved in her children's schools

**Norman Quinn**  
Armona, CA

- Board Member of the Armona Community Services District
- Utility manager for Native American tribe

**"The Leadership Institute provides us with training and resources to help us do a better job of serving [our communities] as well as understating the rules and regulations we must comply with."**

*- Jim Maciel, Chairman of the Armona Community Services District*

# WATER TOUR HIGHLIGHTS WATER SOURCES, USES, AND USERS



On July 20, 2019, Leadership Institute participants, guests from rural communities, and staff from Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) partook in a water tour that highlighted common water needs, current projects underway and discussed ways communities could work together to address water quality and access in the region. Tour stops included the following locations and presenters:

- **SBS Ag, Farm and Dairy in Tulare, CA**  
Presenter Blake Wilber, committee member of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Advisory Committee member and partner at SBS Ag, shared how they conserve water for their farm and dairy operations by leveraging resources including solar power, reducing waste, and using a drip irrigation system to farm in a more sustainable way.
- **Okieville Highland Acres Mutual Water Company**  
Presenters Maria Martin and Maria Marquez, Board Members of the Okieville Highland Acres Mutual Water Company, informed how the recent drought led to dry wells in the community. With support from SHE, the community received \$2.5 million in emergency grant funding from State and Federal sources to drill a new community well and construct a distribution system.
- **Farmersville Sports Park**  
Presenter Paul Boyer, Farmersville City Council Member, shared how the sports park is designed to provide a space for the community as a recreational facility as well as provide benefits to the environment including small amounts of water recharge.
- **Oakes Basin**  
Presenter Mark Larsen with the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWCD) informed that the Oakes Basin was constructed for the purpose of groundwater recharge, stormwater layoff and habitat mitigation.
- **Packwood Creek Structure**  
Presenters Mark Larsen and Shane Smith with KDWCD shared how the project is focused on maximizing water storage and recharge capabilities in Packwood Creek.



“I was very excited about touring the Okieville project and how a project like this could make a change in my community. I learned that we could pursue something similar.”

- Melinda Barrett, Program Manager for the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District

# JOIN THE 2020 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) will be recruiting water leaders, water board members, staff and residents from disadvantaged communities to participate in the 2020 Rural Communities Water Managers Leadership Institute. Similar to the 2019 Leadership Institute, the six-month program will be offered at no cost and will consist of trainings, workshops, and educational tours focused on building and maintaining long-term water management expertise in rural communities.

The program will offer a variety of activities and resources for water leaders and managers with topics including, but not limited to:

- Local and Regional DAC Water Uses, Challenges, and Solutions
- California Water Management and Planning Programs
- Local, Regional, and State Water Agencies, Laws, and Regulations
- Benefits of Participating in Water Management
- Effective Participation in Regional Water Management and Planning
- Funding and Financing Under Regional Water Management and Planning Programs
- Water Sources, Uses and Users Water Tour
- Sustaining Participation in Regional Water Management and Planning Programs



## Why Participate

Disadvantaged communities have been disproportionately represented on the boards and committees of regional water management and planning programs, such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program. As water management and planning programs become a significant focus for other water interests that have more resources, it is critical that water leaders, water board members, staff and residents from disadvantaged communities are given the tools and resources necessary to improve their participation in these programs and represent the interests of their community.

## Add Your Name to the Interest List

If you are interested in participating in the 2020 Leadership Institute, please contact Eva Dominguez at [EvaD@SelfHelpEnterprises.org](mailto:EvaD@SelfHelpEnterprises.org) or (559) 802-1634 for more information or to be placed on an interest list.

**"I will implement what I learned in my community and share the information with members of the committee so that we can work better together."**

*- Isabel Solorio, Member of the Rural Communities Advisory Committee for the North Fork Kings GSA*

# THANK YOU TO THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FUNDERS

Funding for the Leadership Institute was provided by the Central Valley Community Foundation and the United States Department of Agriculture. Additional funding for this project has been provided from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 and through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources. The Leadership Institute was developed and hosted by Self-Help Enterprises.

