

# FOX 26 NEWS

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## Water tank program offers help for homeowners with bad wells

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By: Rich Rodriguez

Water wells are going dry all over the Valley due to the drought.

But there is a program that homeowners can tap into for a temporary water solution.

The Gonzalez Family has been living in the Madera County community of Madera Lakes since 2017. When they moved in the pump was operating at 35 percent. Now it's nearly dry.



Water tank program offers help for homeowners with bad wells.

There's a good stream of water when you open the faucet but it doesn't last long. Homeowner Luzbiney Gonzalez explains just how bad it is.

"We had a servicer come out here and they were saying we're running out of water and so they put the timer for every five minutes. So if the water runs for more than five minutes it is now spitting out air."

Gonzalez admits she panicked. Her neighbors are experiencing the same problem. They recommended Self-Help Enterprises. The non-profit received funding from the California State Water Board and installs 2500 gallon tanks to tap into home water systems. Marliez Diaz is the water sustainability manager for Self-Help.

"We just have to go out, perform an assessment. We have to determine the well is low functioning and then they can be eligible for the tank water."

Diaz says the tank water program is open to all homeowners. There is no income limit. Once approved a tank can be delivered within 72 hours.

The Gonzalez family of five is eligible for 2400 gallons of water each week.

"This will bring us water to our house. Provide our water needs. We are gonna take care of water because I just know how much we take for granted."

Homeowners on the tank water program are not allowed to water their lawns or trees.

So far Self-Help has hooked up 350 water tanks in eight Central California counties.

For more information on the Self-Help tank water program call (559) 802-1685.