

SFGATE

Resources Available For Dry Well Owners, Users

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Residents in San Joaquin County who are worried about the status of water inside their wells due to the drought can receive assistance as of Tuesday to access drinking water, according to the county's Office of Emergency Services.

Anyone who has a dry well or believes their well might get dried up can qualify for emergency bottled water services, a water tank, well assessments and water quality testing, county officials said.

"Water is an essential resource in the San Joaquin Valley and no resident should be without access to drinking water," county Board of Supervisors chair Chuck Winn said in a press release. "San Joaquin County staff have worked to ensure Self-Help Enterprises can provide vital services and emergency assistance during this drought."

Self-Help Enterprises is an organization that focuses on working with low-income families to build and maintain homes and communities.

Previously, the organization's service areas include much of the San Joaquin Valley but they've now expanded their services to San Joaquin County.

Residents who are eligible for the bottled water program are provided a certain fixed amount of water each day for each resident of the household.

Another resource dry well users can use is the county's water tank program, which allows people to have a large water storage tank installed on their property that will connect to the home for them to receive clean drinking water, according to the county.

After the tank installation, the program will have water pulled and pumped into the tank to get residents water.

Residents may use the program for one year, but evaluations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Well assessments and water quality testing are also available for residents concerned about their well being dry or failing to see if the well is in good operating conditions.

The San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services and the Environmental Health Department worked with Self-Help Enterprises, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley and the State Water Resources Control Board worked together to make the resources available for residents.

People can contact Self-Help Enterprises at (559) 802-1685 or visit <https://sjready.org/events/drought/> for assistance with their wells.