



## Drought Resilience in Tulare County



California's five-year drought left Tulare County particularly vulnerable. The unincorporated community of East Porterville, in the heart of Tulare County, is considered "ground zero" of the drought. Hundreds of households lost access to clean, running water as a result of dry wells, or faced deteriorating water quality from increasing nitrate contamination. Residents were relying on deliveries of bottled drinking water and non-potable water before the unprecedented joint collaboration of the three state agencies – State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Water Resources, and the California Office of Emergency Services, and the governments of Tulare County and the City of Porterville – provided a more permanent, safe, and reliable solution. Together, through Proposition 1 grants and loan forgiveness, the state agencies fully funded a connection to a public water system. The project connects approximately 1,100 properties to clean and reliable source of drinking water. Already, the project is enabling Tulare County residents to be prepared for the worsening effects and frequency of drought. As climate change intensifies drought conditions, these collaborative efforts to safeguard communities against the effects of drought and other extreme events are critical to maintaining a resilient future.



Image provided by the California Department of Water Resources Photoshelter Gallery (FL\_Porterville-6912.jpg)

For more information about Safeguarding California and Climate Change Adaptation efforts in California, visit <http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/>