

Dates of Activity: January 2008 through March 2008
Seed Grant: Sowing Seeds for Community Health
Grantee Organization: Self-Help Enterprises
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Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership

Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) contacted representatives of the following communities: Lanare, Planada, Monterey Park Tract, Fairways Tract, Matheny Tract, Pixley, Plainview, Tooleville, Richgrove, and West Goshen regarding water system issues.

Community surveys in Seville (Tulare County) and Fairmead (Madera County) are completed. The survey of Seville indicated the median annual household income is about \$14,000 compared to survey data for much larger area which was over \$40,000. Similarly, the survey in Fairmead indicated a low-income percentage of 90 percent as compared to census tract block group (40 plus square miles) in which Fairmead resides, which has a low-income percentage of 62%. The results of these surveys make these communities more competitive in funding resources for water system improvements. Seville will likely receive California Department of Public Health (CDPH) funding; Fairmead, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Seed money loan needs were evaluated, and three seed money loans were approved for a total of \$59,418. The first loan commitment was made to the Allensworth Community Services District for \$23,700 (emergency operations); second, Richgrove Community Services District for \$9,468 (preliminary engineering for SDWSRF application); third, Fairways Tract Mutual Water Company in the amount of \$26,250 (preliminary design for CDPH Prop 84 funding). Seed money funding from the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is being matched by SHE's Community Development Fund to provide the balance of funding for these loans.

Communities were prioritized in relation to drinking water health issues and community incomes.

All of these activities supported progress in meeting the Partnership's objective of assisting communities in securing funds to provide water that meets state and federal drinking water standards.

Planned Activities for next 3-6 months

Work will continue to develop the priority list of needy communities with drinking water issues.

Additional seed money funds will be committed/expended to pay for preliminary and design engineering services for community water projects.

Follow-up will be required, during this period, to respond to questions related to the eight applications to CDPH for water project funding.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

Delays in moving ahead with CDPH Programs for safe drinking water are delaying implementation of solutions to many disadvantaged communities.