

Dates of Activity: April 2008 through June 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**

Contacted staff and/or board members regarding water system issues including project financing and revenue needed in the following communities: Arvin, Aerial Acres, Bodfish, Buttonwillow, Edmundson Acres, Fairmead, Fairways Tract, Hardwick, Hilltop, Krista Mutual, Lamont, Lands of Promise, Lanare, Lemon Cove, Matheny Tract, Monson, Monterey Park Tract, Pixley, Plainview, Plañada, Pond, Ponderosa, Soults Tract, South Lake, Tooleville, Richgrove, Seville, Weldon and West Goshen.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reviewed State Revolving Fund (SRF) applications for completeness and determined applications prepared by Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) on behalf of Hardwick, Pixley, Soults Tract, Richgrove and Seville were considered complete and ready for review by California Department of Water Resources (CDWR). Allensworth will require that an audit be performed and submitted to CDPH prior to decision on application completeness, so a seed money loan has been approved to pay for this work. Fairways Tract received a Letter of Commitment from Proposition 84 funding to resolve the nitrate problem by connecting with the City of Porterville water system. Aerial Acres, Arvin and Edmundson Acres received Proposition 84 Letter(s) of Commitment for funding to correct Arsenic contamination of their community wells. Buttonwillow received a commitment of funds from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/Community Development Block Grant (HUD/CDBG) programs that will provide a match with district funds to build a much needed 500,000-gallon water storage tank.

Since the inception of the Partnership seed grant contract, SHE has committed \$96,641.31 and expended \$56,911.96 in seed money funds to directly benefit disadvantaged communities with water quality issues. This quarter, seed money outlays have been given to Lanare (Fresno County), for preliminary engineering, in the amount of \$9,317.50, and to Seville (Tulare County) for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$5,257.65. As can be seen, the \$25,000 in seed money from the Partnership has been more than matched by SHE's Community Development Fund to provide the balance of funding for these loans and grants. SHE was able to obtain an additional \$5,250 in private seed money to finance a Weldon Water Supply Engineering Report.

Staff assisted in engineering procurement for Buttonwillow, Fairways Tract, Ponderosa and Tooleville water project designs and additional preliminary engineering work for Frazier Park, Matheny Tract and the Weldon area. Staff also met with Buttonwillow and Kern County to successfully review their application for CDBG funds. SHE helped Arvin to complete a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document that was needed to provide an emergency replacement water supply for the community. SHE and community members participated in several San Joaquin Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP) to ensure that small disadvantaged community clean water supply and funding opportunities are covered in each of these Plans.

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**

Assist communities in expediting work that seed money loans/grants will fund.

Review changes to USDA Rural Development loan guidelines for funding opportunities for water systems in small disadvantaged communities.

### **Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

Delays in moving ahead with CDPH programs for safe drinking water are delaying implementation of solutions to many disadvantaged communities; fortunately, however, during this past quarter, loan-closing for the Plainview water project occurred and Proposition 84 funding was committed to four projects that SHE assisted.