

Dates of Activity: October 2008 through December 2008
Seed Grant: **Sowing Seeds for Community Health**
Grantee Organization: **Self-Help Enterprises**
Contact Person: **Tom Collishaw, Paul Boyer**
Phone: **559.651.1000 x681**
Email: **tomc@selfhelpenterprises.org, paulb@selfhelpenterprises.org**

Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership

This past and last quarter, staff continued its work with dozens of San Joaquin Valley communities to assist with resolving water quality issues. The Tooleville Water Distribution System Replacement Project went out to bid; the low bid received was approximately 70 percent of the engineer's cost estimate. Construction is almost complete in the Tulare County community of Plainview on two contracts—one for well site improvements and the other on the replacement distribution system. Staff received bids from contractors (within the project budget) for water connections on private property which will allow connections to the new main lines.

Since the inception of its Partnership seed grant, Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) has committed and expended more than \$100,000 in seed money funds to directly benefit disadvantaged communities with water quality issues.

Staff assisted in engineering procurement for the Alpaugh Arsenic Treatment Project by participating in the interview of engineers that had submitted proposals. SHE staff and community members continued to participate in several San Joaquin Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) to ensure that small disadvantaged-community clean water supply and funding opportunities are covered in each of these Plans. These included the Upper Kings, Kaweah, Poso and Kern IRWMPs. 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.

Staff participated in the Partnership Summit in Stockton on Dec. 11, 2008. "An Evaluation of Water Program Funding Available to Disadvantaged Communities" was presented to the Water Work Group panel. (See Attachment List #1)

Staff prepared the report "Comparison of Funding Options: Disadvantaged Community Water System Projects" which evaluates funding programs available to disadvantaged community water projects. (See Attachment List #2)

Planned Activities for next 3-6 months

None, contract complete

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

Challenge for disadvantaged communities to be shovel-ready for economic stimulus package funding.

The following attachment may be downloaded from the [Water Work Group Document Library](#) located on the Partnership Web site:

1. An Evaluation of Water Program Funding Available to Disadvantaged Communities
2. A Comparison of Funding Options for Disadvantaged Community Water System Projects