



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **321 East Porterville Households Now Connected To Reliable Water Supply**

EAST PORTERVILLE, CA – One year after a new distribution system began delivering safe drinking water to families in the drought-stricken community of East Porterville, 321 homes are now receiving water from the system and an additional 446 homes are expected to be connected by the end of 2017.

“This project has been a huge success,” said Steve Doe, Department of Water Resources (DWR) project manager. “We’re pleased to see that by the end of the year, more than 750 families will have a permanent solution to the local water crisis. A lot of people have worked hard and quickly to make this project happen. We thank the residents for participating, the local agencies and non-profits for their on-the-ground guidance, and our State partners for their leadership and involvement.”

Tomas Garcia’s family started enjoying running water again in April, three years after their home lost it. “My time for hauling water is over,” Garcia said. “It’s a 100-percent relief for me and my family, and our lives are so much better. We still have to save water, so we don’t water our grass every day.”

Three State agencies – the Department of Water Resources (DWR), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services – partnered with the City of Porterville, other Tulare County agencies, and local non-government organizations to deliver a permanent solution to the water woes of East Porterville, where many wells had gone dry or become contaminated as a result of the historic drought from 2012 to 2016. The new water system, which connected unincorporated East Porterville with the City of Porterville’s water supply, relieves the southern San Joaquin Valley community of its dependency on bottled water and emergency water storage tanks, which many families had relied upon for years. Water connections were provided to residents free of charge, paid for by the State.

Arthur Hinojosa, DWR’s drought manager, noted that although California’s emergency drought declaration was officially lifted in April, drought impacts continue in several counties. Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.’s proclamation retained prohibitions on the wasteful use of water and advanced measures to make water conservation an ongoing success.

“California’s heavy precipitation last winter and spring took the spotlight off projects like East Porterville that were designed to end a real crisis,” Hinojosa said. “The project continues and so does the importance of water conservation.”

Californians are proving their acceptance of water conservation as a California way of life. The SWRCB reported earlier this month that urban Californians reduced their water use by 17.4 percent in June 2017 compared to June 2013 – a reduction of 113,759 acre-feet or 37.1 billion gallons.

To learn ways to conserve, visit [Save Our Water](#).

