



News Advisory

Ribbon cutting marks new day for Tulare Co. community

***The 480 residents of Seville had been under a boil water notice for years
Event Scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday August 5***

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TULARE: The Tulare County Board of Supervisors will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony Today at 9 a.m. to celebrate a project that promises to bring safe and affordable drinking water to Seville, a severely disadvantaged community that has long struggled with groundwater contamination issues.

With 480 residents and 90 service connections, the Seville community has dealt with chronic nitrate compliance issues. Since 2014, the community has also experienced frequent water outages due to lowering water table levels.

The project, including a \$4 million construction funding agreement from the State Water Resources Control Board, is emblematic of the potential of Senate Bill 200, signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in July 2019, to bring solutions to communities throughout California that are struggling to access safe and affordable drinking water.

“This project shows how we can work together to bring clean and safe drinking water to communities in need throughout the state and we applaud the local leadership that has made this a reality,” said E. Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Board.

“Regionalization and consolidation of our state’s drinking water systems improves community resilience and builds connections that bridge equity and access. We look forward to the continued work ahead.”

The event will be held near the intersection of Avenue 384 and Maraposa Drive in northwest Tulare County. Representatives of the State Water Boards and local county officials will be present.

The project includes two phases implemented over several years leading to the consolidation of Seville Water Co. with neighboring Yettem Water System, to create one, more resilient system Phase 1 of the project has already been completed – the construction of a 211,000-gallon storage tank, site of the ribbon-cutting ceremony. That project was underway before SB 200 became a reality and used funds from Proposition 84 and other sources.

Also included in Phase I is a change in governance structure. Tulare County has been the receiver for Seville Water Co. since a court order in 2009. Now, a Yettem-Seville



general services district will take over ownership of the Seville Water Co. Seville's water had been under a "boil water notice" notice for more than five years, a major inconvenience and health concern for residents.

The storage tank, already in use, is a key component of this consolidation. Phase II will involve the drilling of a new well in Seville and construction of a 1.5-mile pipeline to link the two systems. That project will begin once a new funding agreement with the Division of Financial Assistance is reached.

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