

## Land purchase for Monson's water system to be considered

By Luis Hernandez

January 11, 2016



The Tulare County Board of Supervisors will consider authorizing the purchase of property where the Monson community water system will be installed.

The property, a .81-acre lot, is located at 10736 Simpson Dr., just south of Avenue 388.

Tulare County Property Manager Robert Newby said the property is on the east side of the community.

“The piece of land we selected is adjacent to all houses,” he said. At that location, a well will be built and underground piping, for the distribution system, installed.

The property was sold to the county for \$35,000.

Residents in Monson, a small community in north Tulare County, had their domestic well gone dry. Presently, the residents are using small tanks, getting water deliveries up to three times each week.

Already, county administrators have applied for grants for emergency drought relief from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Board. The agencies, according to county administrators, are preparing grant agreements that will come before the supervisors' board for approval.

Newby said several properties were considered before deciding on the one at Simpson Drive. Newby said the engineers who will design the water system were also consulted.

Two other agencies were also involved. Self-Help Enterprises personnel helped survey the area and the county's RMA determined the property will meet the needs of a well site for a public water system.

“Self-Help went out to talk to owners and optimize the location,” Newby said.

Newby said the real estate negotiations with property owners were amicable.

“They understood the value of the water system to the community,” he said. “They were cooperative sellers. They understood the need for the community.”

The property was also picked away from other residents' wells, Newby said

“We didn't want to draw water from the same aquifer,” he said.

While it may still be a while before the well and system are finished, the land purchase is a first step in the effort, Newby said.

“We were keen to the needs of all neighbors,” he said.

In a report prepared for the supervisors, administrators said the county's five-year strategic plan includes a Quality of Life Initiative to promote public health and improve environmental quality. Infrastructure improvements assist the Monson water system in meeting safe drinking water standards for supply and decrease the contamination risk to human health as well as the environment, county administrators said.

**How to attend**

**What:** Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting

**When:** 9 a.m., Tuesday

**Where:** board of Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell Ave., Visalia.

**Online:** [www.tularecounty.ca.gov/board](http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/board), click on "Agenda Packets," then the meeting date.