## The Fresno Bee

Loan for Self-Help will fund water well installations in Valley Agency gets \$1 million loan for new wells in the Valley

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Self-Help Enterprises has taken on hundreds of drought-related projects, including this one in Daleville, south of Fresno, where a water tank was installed at a home without water.

Self-Help Enterprises has obtained a low-interest \$1 million loan from the <u>Local Initiatives Support</u> <u>Corporation</u> to help pay for well drilling in the San Joaquin Valley.

Self-Help Enterprises is maximizing state and federal grants and combining the low-interest loan to help pay to drill new wells for the hundreds on the agency's waiting list.

By combining grants and loans, the cost to the customers is reduced.

Interest on the \$1 million loan is 2 percent, said Tom Collishaw, president and chief executive officer for Visalia-based Self-Help.

In the past year, SHE has placed 861 temporary

storage tanks and pumps into homes that are receiving regular water deliveries; replaced 55 domestic wells; coordinated bottled water deliveries to 987 families; and extended new water lines to 105 homes.

The funding from Local Initiatives Support Corporation will fund construction of an additional 30 wells.

Self-Help is a nonprofit community development corporation covering seven Valley counties from Kern to Stanislaus.