



# Media Release

## Tuolumne County Communities With Dry or Contaminated Wells Get a Reliable Source of Drinking Water

*\$1.6-million Project to Connect 57 Properties on Private Wells to a Public Water System*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SACRAMENTO** – Property owners in Tuolumne County with dry or contaminated wells are now getting access to clean and reliable drinking water thanks to a collaborative effort by state and local agencies.

The \$1.6-million project to connect 57 residences in the Quartz and Stent communities of Jamestown in Tuolumne County to a public water system has been spearheaded by the State Water Resources Control Board, Tuolumne County, Tuolumne Utilities District and the California Department of Water Resources.

“We’re really proud of the effort by everyone involved on this project who came together to protect the health and safety of this community,” said Kassy Chauhan, the lead engineer on the project for the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water. “We’re especially grateful to the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD), which has been a consolidation partner in the region and serves water to approximately 85 percent of the county’s residents. The Quartz–Stent Water Main Extension Project is an example of TUD’s willingness to connect residents to their public water systems in an effort to ensure that all county residents have access to clean and affordable drinking water.”

In 2015, Tuolumne County’s Environmental Health Department sought assistance from the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water to address drought conditions and conduct water quality monitoring of private wells located in the Quartz and Stent communities -- approximately six miles southwest of Sonora. The investigation revealed that eight private wells serving 16 residences had gone dry, and more homes were using other wells with high levels of nitrate and arsenic that exceeded state and federal drinking water standards.

With funding and technical help from state and local agencies, the TUD extended the water main of its Sonora-Jamestown water system to connect properties where private wells had failed or became contaminated. The utility has completed the main line extension project, which consisted of approximately 12,000 feet of pipeline that will support a total of 97 homes -- 57 properties identified for connecting in this phase, and the potential to connect an additional 40 properties in the future.

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Since the completion of the pipeline, 33 homes have been hooked up to the public water system and are receiving drinking water that meets state and federal standards. Tuolumne Utilities District expects that many of the remaining 24 properties will connect throughout the year and into 2018. Some property owners have not decided when they will connect to the system.

“We’re pleased to be a part of this project that provides the residents of Quartz and Stent the ability to connect to our public water system and have access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water,” said Thomas J. Haglund, general manager of the Tuolumne Utilities District. “Thanks to the help of the county, the state, and all others involved, we were able to complete this project under budget and ahead of schedule.”

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