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Residents of Tehama and Glenn counties whose household wells have run dry can apply for free water deliveries through North Valley Community Foundation, which has received a \$5 million grant as part of a statewide drought relief package.

The grant from the state Department of Water Resources will help NVCF start a water delivery program in Tehama County similar to one the foundation has operated in Glenn County for more than a year. The grant also expands and extends the Glenn County program, which was supposed to expire this month.

NVCF applied for the grant, which totals \$5,040,240, at the request of each county government. The program in Glenn County already serves 241 households.

“Glenn County appreciates the continued financial assistance from California Department of Water Resources, the efforts of North Valley Community Foundation and the support of our legislators working with us to bring this needed drought relief to our rural communities,” said Tom Arnold, a Glenn County supervisor who is co-chair of the county’s Drought Task Force.

More than 422 households in Glenn County and 142 in Tehama County have reported dry or intermittent wells. The highest concentration of dry wells is in the Orland and Corning areas.

Permanent solutions such as deepening a well, digging a new one or hooking up to city systems are expensive and time consuming. The water delivery program through NVCF offers a temporary but immediate fix to promote health and safety.

The program provides up to 60 gallons of drinking water delivered each month. For nonpotable uses, like laundry and showers, the program delivers up to 2,500 gallons of water per month. Residents who don’t have water tanks can have a large tank and pump installed free as part of the program. A tanker delivers the nonpotable water, which is provided with the cooperation of

the cities of Orland and Willows, the Elk Creek Community Services District and Tehama County.

To apply, residents should first report their dry wells online, then fill out an application. Links to do both are provided at nvcf.org/drought-relief.

Completed applications can be returned to NVCF by mail or email. Tehama County applications also can be dropped off in person at the Tehama County Environmental Health Office, 633 Washington Street in Red Bluff. Glenn County applications also can be dropped off in person to Orland City Hall or the Glenn County Planning Department in Willows.

Tehama County residents who would like to learn more about the program can attend an informational meeting from 4-6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, at the Corning Veterans Hall, 1620 Solano Street.

Glenn County residents who are already in the program will receive an amendment to their contract from NVCF in order to continue receiving water.

DWR awarded \$86 million statewide for drought relief and water resilience efforts. The funding for Tehama and Glenn County was among a \$44 million allocation that provides assistance to small communities struggling to address drought impacts as part of the Small Community Drought Relief Program.

“Small communities are the most vulnerable to the impacts of our new hotter, drier climate and lack the resources to immediately deal with these challenges,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “These continued investments from the state strengthen local partnerships to provide reliable drinking water for all Californians because everyone has the human right to water.”

For more information, email drought@nvcf.org or call 530-230-4153.