



## Safe Drinking Water and Fire Water Supply Feasibility Study for Tecopa, California



### Project Description

The disadvantaged communities of Tecopa and Tecopa Hot Springs, which are located in a desert area in remote Southeastern Inyo County, have no sources of potable drinking water. Although many households have domestic wells, water from the wells does not meet the State's safe drinking water standards for dissolved solids such as fluoride and arsenic. Currently, residents either drive 45 miles to purchase purified water, or they drink the well water which subjects them to long term negative health effects. Moreover, during frequent power outages that plague these communities (especially during periods of high winds and intense summer heat) the existing wells cannot be operated. In addition to lack of a potable water supply, these communities lack facilities to quickly refill firefighting apparatus used by the local volunteer emergency services district. Recent fires in the area have demonstrated the severity of this problem.

The grant funding will be used to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether safe drinking water fire flow water storage facilities can be provided in the two communities. Instead of focusing on the delivery of potable water to every household, the study will analyze the feasibility of constructing a public drinking water station in each community which would provide treated, potable water where residents could fill drinking



water containers. The study will also identify a location in each community where an above ground water storage tank for fire flow could be located and will identify the type of storage tank that should be used.