

Pratt Mutual Water Company

Updated on October 18, 2016

County: Tulare

Population: 1500

Challenges: Long-term violation of the maximum contaminant level for arsenic

After years of struggling to provide water that meets the drinking water standard for arsenic, the Pratt Mutual Water Company and city of Tulare teamed up in April 2016 to turn on the tap to reliable and clean drinking water.

Thanks to the State Water Resources Control Board's mandatory consolidation order issued on March 29, 2016, the 1,500-plus residents of Matheny Tract, who were once served arsenic-tainted water by Pratt Mutual, are now receiving drinking water from Tulare that meets state and federal standards.

"The state is committed to implementing mandatory consolidation where appropriate, and this action was the best avenue for supplying safe drinking water supplies to the residents of Matheny Tract," Cindy Forbes, deputy director for the Division of Drinking Water said at the time of the consolidation. "All Californians should have access to clean and reliable drinking water, and this is an important tool the State Water Board has in moving toward that goal."

In 2010 the Division of Drinking Water, then with the California Department of Public Health, issued a compliance order to Pratt Mutual for consistently violating the maximum contaminant level for arsenic. After the order was issued, Pratt Mutual began talks with Tulare regarding consolidation into the larger system. In April 2011, Tulare and Pratt Mutual agreed to proceed with the consolidation. In August 2013, \$4.9 million in Proposition 84 funding was made available to construct a new water distribution system for Matheny Tract, which included two points of connection to Tulare's water system.

The State Water Board, having encouraged voluntary consolidation, issued the mandatory order to get the two systems to consolidate after delays in the process. This was the first mandatory consolidation order issued by the Division of Drinking Water.



Photo 1: State and local officials turn on the water from Tulare to Matheny Tract.

Media Coverage:

[Tulare, Matheny Tract nearing agreement on clean water delivery](#)

Fresno Bee

[Matheny Tract connects to Tulare water system](#)

Visalia Times-Delta

[South Valley community no longer has to worry about water ...](#)

KFSN-TV

[State orders Tulare to pipe clean water to Matheny Tract homes](#)

Fresno Bee

[Water on the way for Matheny Tract](#)

Visalia Times-Delta

[Tiny Central Valley Community Tests California's Clean-Water Law](#)

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[The Flint of California](#)

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