A state-funded well to outrun arsenic — Caruthers, Fresno County

Caruthers is a small Fresno County farm town whose water district has spent years working through a state-funded arsenic-treatment project — a quieter, less dramatic version of the crises documented elsewhere in this record, but part of the same pattern of small water systems unable to fix contamination without outside money.

3128

Caruthers' population, per Fresno LAFCo's disadvantaged-unincorporated-community narrative — 812 housing units.

2006

Year the Caruthers Community Services District's Well No. 5 arsenic-treatment project was first filed with the state, under a Prop 84 funding program.

What happened

The Caruthers Community Services District identified arsenic contamination in its wells and pursued a state environmental-review and funding process — a 2006 arsenic-treatment project for Well No. 5, and a later, broader feasibility study for a new well and treatment facility — financed in part through California's Proposition 84 drinking-water funding program. The record we reviewed documents the project's filings and feasibility study but not a final completion date or a before-and-after water-quality comparison.

Impact — what we know, and what we don't

- **Current arsenic levels:** Not confirmed in the sources reviewed — we have the treatment project's filing history, not a current compliance status.
- **Total project cost and completion date:** Not captured in this pass.
- **Farm-labor share of Caruthers' population:** Not separately confirmed; Caruthers is a census-designated place in a Fresno County farm region, officially listed as a

disadvantaged unincorporated community, but we don't have an occupation-specific figure.

Part of a larger pattern

Caruthers is the least dramatic water story in this Fresno County pass, and that's deliberate to include: not every community here is mid-crisis. Caruthers represents the far more common version of this project's thesis — a small farm town quietly working through a years-long, state-funded infrastructure fix for a problem (**arsenic**) that recurs across nearly every county in this record.

Sources

- California Environmental Quality Act project filings, "Caruthers Community Services District Well and Well Water Treatment Facility," California State Clearinghouse (**SCH No. 2008051098**).
- California State Water Resources Control Board, Proposition 84 Active Projects List.
  Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.

Full citation detail and source archive: **Data**. Back to **water insecurity in the Central Valley**.