

**We will begin soon**

**Athal Mutual Water Company**

**Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company**

**Public Meeting**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

# Athal Mutual Water Company Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company

**Public Meeting**

**March 15, 2023**

**6:00 PM**





## **Water Board's Mission Statement**

*Preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.*

# To Participate

**Please hold off on questions or comments until we reach the public comment section.**



**You may fill out a comment card during the presentation or raise your hand later.**



**Everyone will have the chance to speak during public comment.**

# Meeting Agenda

- Background of Water Systems
- Overview of Consolidation Process
- Overview of Administrator Appointment
- Administrator Scope of Work
- Administrator Funding
- Community Involvement
- Next Steps
- Public Comments/Questions



# **Water System Background**

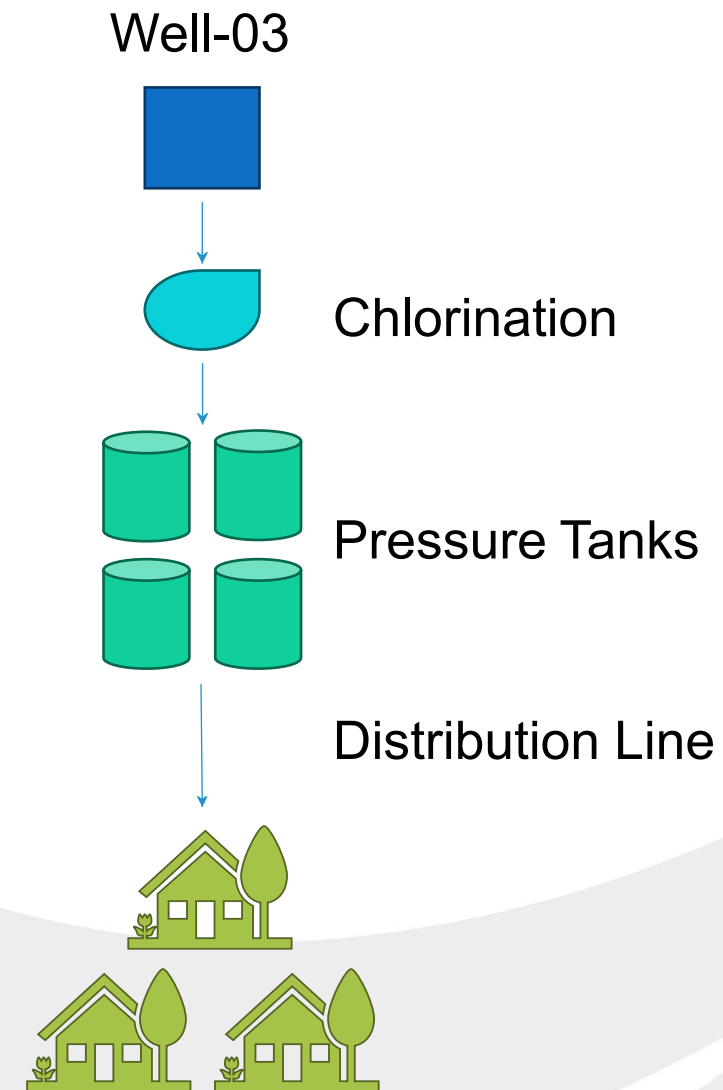
## **Athal Water Company**

## **Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company**

**Reyna Rodriguez**  
Water Resource Control Engineer  
Division of Drinking Water, SAFER

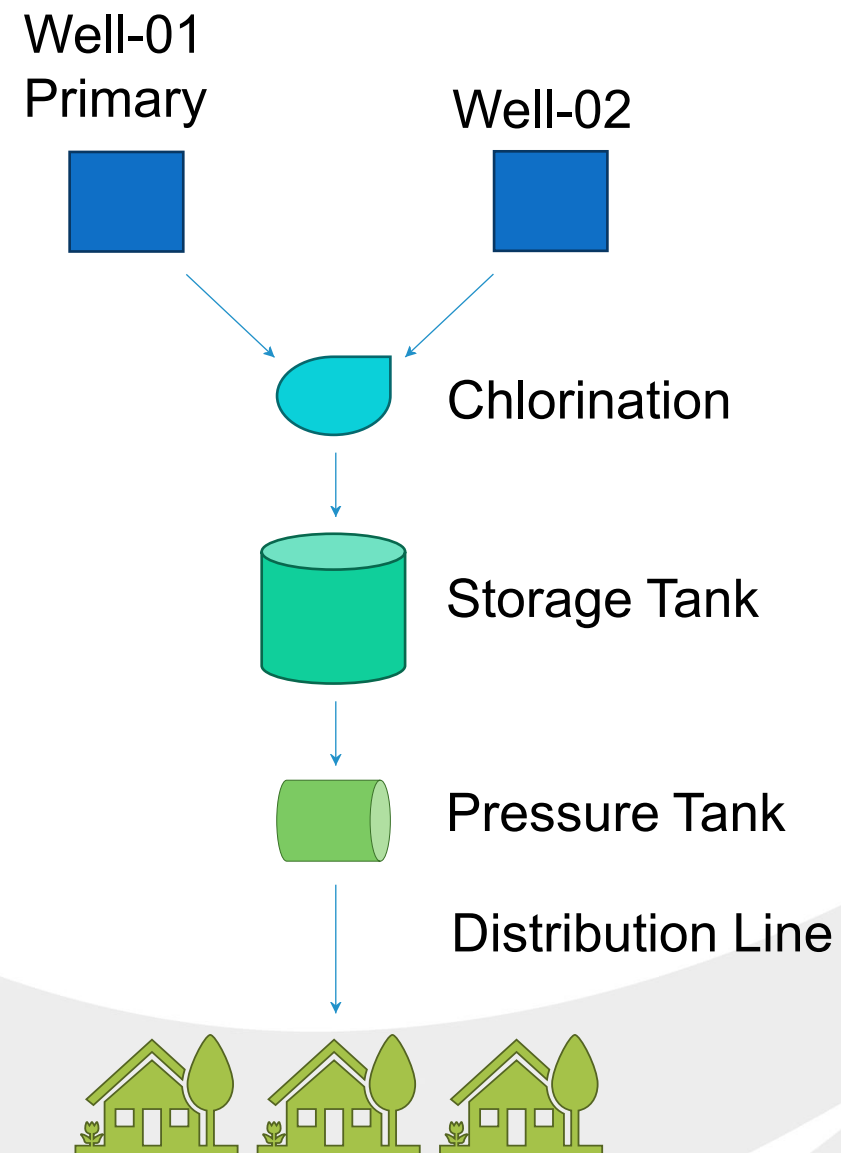
## Infrastructure: Athal MWC

- Sole source: Well 03
- No storage capacity
- Aging infrastructure
- No backup power supply



## Infrastructure: Fuller Acres MWC

- Storage capacity
- Aging infrastructure
- No backup power supply





# Equipment Life Expectancy

Equipment	*Typical Equipment Life Expectancy	Age of Equipment	
		Fuller Acres MWC	Athal MWC
Wells	35 - 45 years	Age Unknown	11 years (Well 03)
Chlorination Equipment	10 - 15 years	Age Unknown	10 years (Estimated)
Storage Tanks	30 - 60 years	4 years old	N/A
Mains & Distribution Pipes	35 - 40 years	70 years (Estimated)	65 - 85 years

\*Table 1: Typical Equipment Life Expectancy available at:

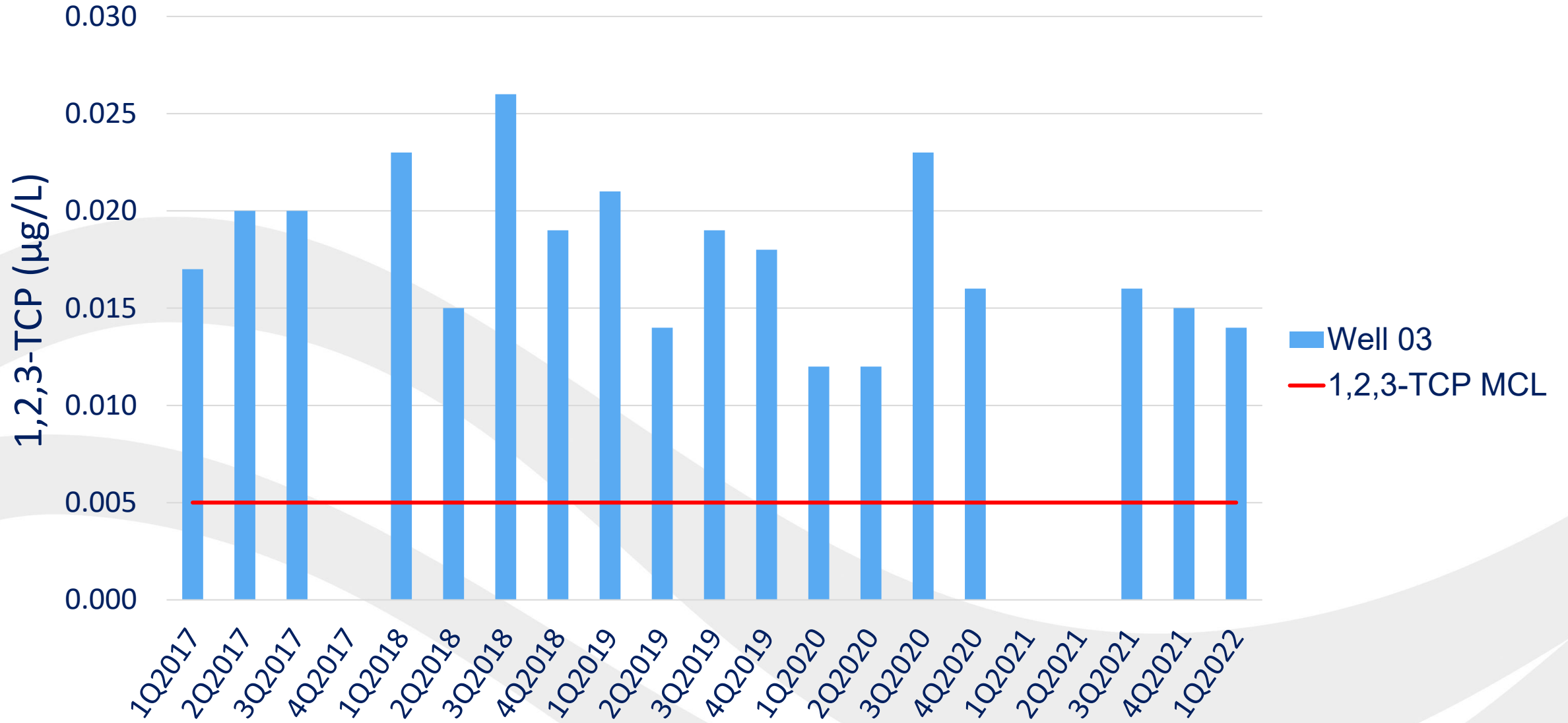
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/TMF.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/TMF.html)

## Water Quality: 1,2,3-Trichloropropane

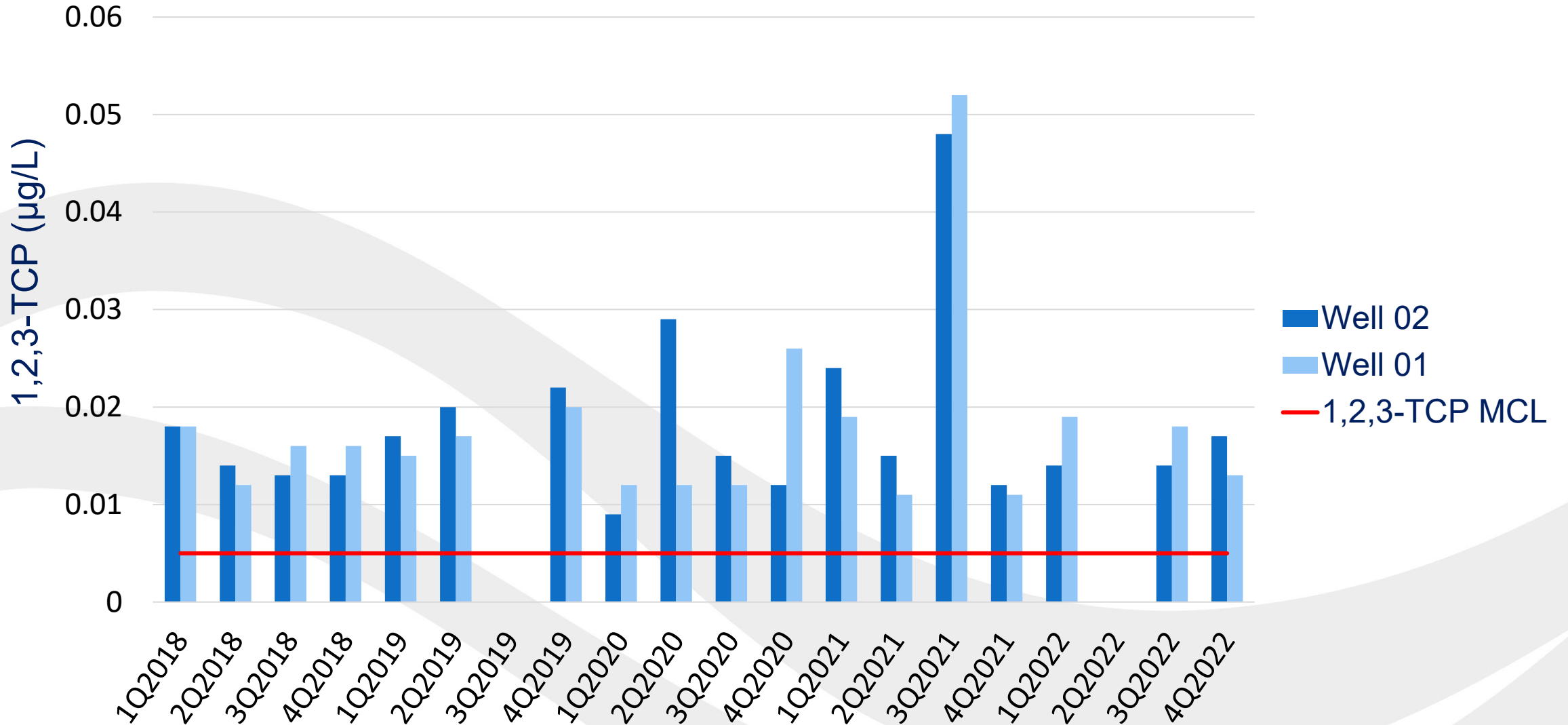
- Both systems violated the 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1, 2, 3-TCP) maximum contaminant level (MCL) since May 2018
  - 1, 2, 3-TCP MCL: 0.005 µg/L
- Health effect
  - Increased cancer risk



# 1,2,3-Trichloropropane: Athal MWC



# 1,2,3-Trichloropropane: Fuller Acres MWC



# Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity



- Water infrastructure maintenance and replacement
- Water quality monitoring
- Public Notices



- Stakeholder communication
- Organization
- Adequate staff and training



- Revenue sufficiency
- Fiscal management and controls
- Capacity to implement solutions

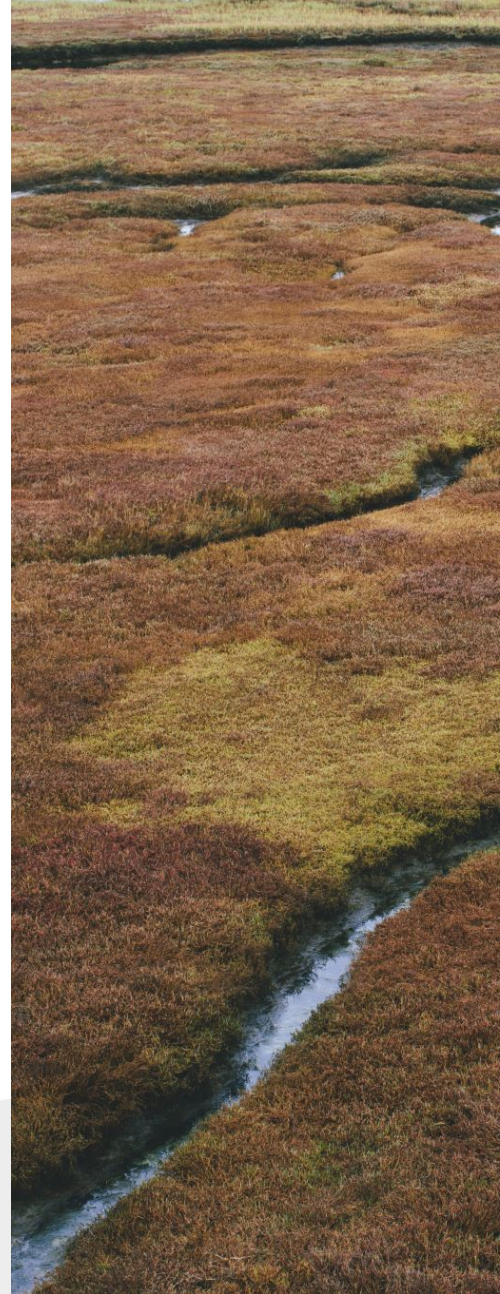
# Drought Planning: Senate Bill 552

## Small Water Suppliers: All (15-2,999 connections)

Implement drought resiliency measures, subject to funding availability:

- a) Detect production well groundwater levels - *Jan 1, 2023*
- b) Mutual aid organization membership - *Jan 1, 2023*
- c) Continuous operation during power failures - *Jan 1, 2024*
- d) Backup source of water supply or a water system intertie - *Jan 1, 2027*
- e) Meter each service connection and monitor water loss - *Jan 1, 2032*
- f) Meet fire flow requirements - *Jan 1, 2032*

For more information, please visit: [https://bit.ly/SB552\\_DroughtPlanning](https://bit.ly/SB552_DroughtPlanning)



# Consolidation Overview


## Athal Mutual Water Company

## Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company

**Reyna Rodriguez**

Water Resource Control Engineer  
Division of Drinking Water, SAFER

# Goals

- 
- Safe and reliable drinking water
  - Complete necessary improvements
  - Maintain community engagement
  - Oversee implementation of long-term consolidation solution



# Mandatory Consolidation – What Does It Mean?

- The State has the authority to order consolidation between two systems.
- Mandatory consolidation is only applicable when:
  - The subsumed system is a disadvantaged community
  - “Documented” water quality or quantity issue
  - There is an adequate and sustainable water system nearby



# Mandatory Consolidation – What Does It Mean?

- The subsumed systems would be owned and operated by the receiving system
  - Subsumed systems: Athal Mutual Water Company and Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company
  - Receiving system: Lamont Public Utility District



# Why is the State Board Taking This Action?

- Water Quality Issues
- Physical Infrastructure Deficiencies
- Technical, Managerial, and Financial Issues

**The State Board has determined that Athal Mutual Water Company and Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company cannot reliably provide safe and affordable water to its customers.**



# Consolidation Process



Six-month voluntary consolidation letter issued



First Public Meeting



Six-month period ends

# Consolidation Process



Second Public Meeting



Issue Mandatory Consolidation Order



Complete Water System Improvements and Transfer Ownership

# Consolidation Funding

## What costs will be covered?

- Technical Assistance
- Capital costs to implement the project

## Funding may be available for:

- Planning & Construction
- Reimbursement for time spent on the project
- Legal Services

# Administrator Overview Athal Mutual Water Company

**Bryan Potter, P.E.**  
**Senior Water Resource Control Engineer**  
**Division of Drinking Water, SAFER**

# What is a Full Scope Administrator?

A person or entity appointed and/or authorized to exercise total and complete managerial control over a designated water system

- Shall have all necessary licenses and certifications for scope of appointment
- Shall have sufficient experience for scope of appointment
- Shall be subject to a background check







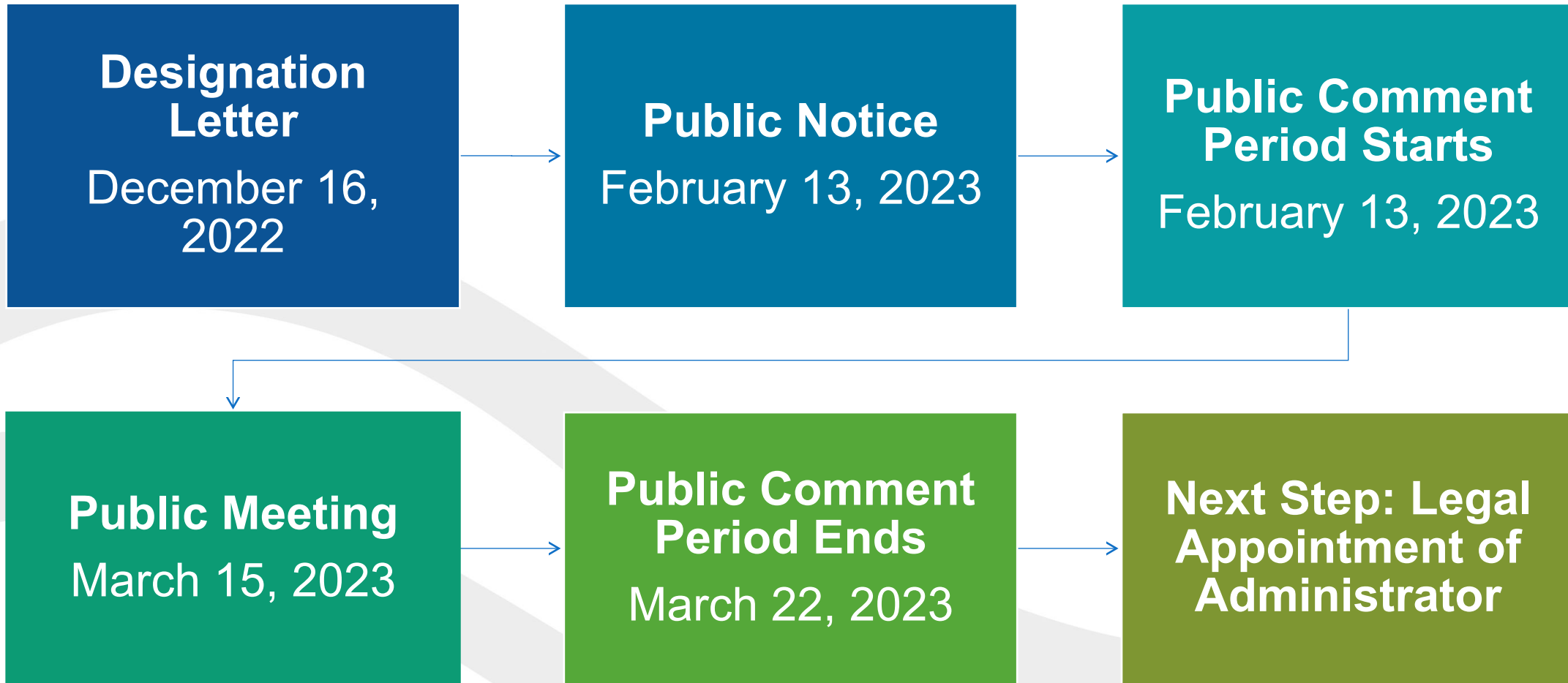
ADMINISTRATORS

# Administrator Authority

- **Applicability:**
  - A public water system or state small water system that serves a disadvantaged community and that the state board finds consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.
- **Policy Handbook:**
  - [bit.ly/SAFER Administrator Handbook](https://bit.ly/SAFER_Administrator_Handbook)



# Administrator Appointment Process

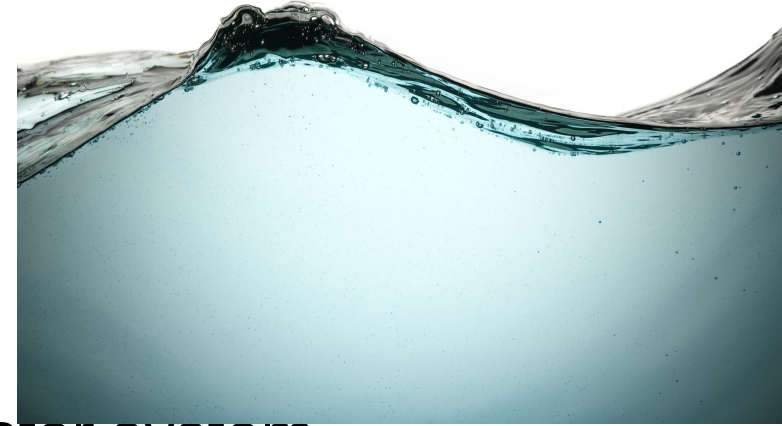


# Potential Administrator for Athal MWC

- Administrator to be determined
- Future public notice will include:
  - Name of potential administrator
  - Qualifications
  - Any known conflicts of interest
- Additional public comment period



# Scope of Work and Ultimate Goals



## The Administrator will:

- Take full administrative and managerial control of the water system
- Oversee and facilitate the process of consolidation
- Address financial limitations of the water system and apply to the State Water Board for the funding to make the necessary improvements to the water system
- Keep customers informed of the consolidation and improvement project status on a regular basis

# Community Accountability and Engagement Plan

- Administrator develops within 90 days
- Public meetings at least once every three (3) months
  - Provide 10-day notice
  - Opportunity for public comment
- Community involvement
- Public access to records



# Post-Administrator Drinking Water Service Plan

1. **Identify** and evaluate technical, managerial, and financial issues
2. **Plan** to address technical, managerial, and financial issues
3. **Identify** and evaluate potential significant future issues
4. **Identify** needed resources
5. **Evaluate** governance feasibility
6. **Evaluate** feasibility of connecting to or consolidating with another system



# Administrator Funding

## State Water Board will be responsible for:

- Salary and benefits for Administrator
- Administrative costs attributed solely to Administrator (working space, phones, furniture)
- Legal, accounting and other similar managerial fees

## Funding may be available for:

- Construction and planning projects
- Ongoing operation and maintenance costs

# Stakeholder and Community Input



Community members may submit a petition to the State Water Board for reversal or modification of a decision of an administrator or substitution of the administrator



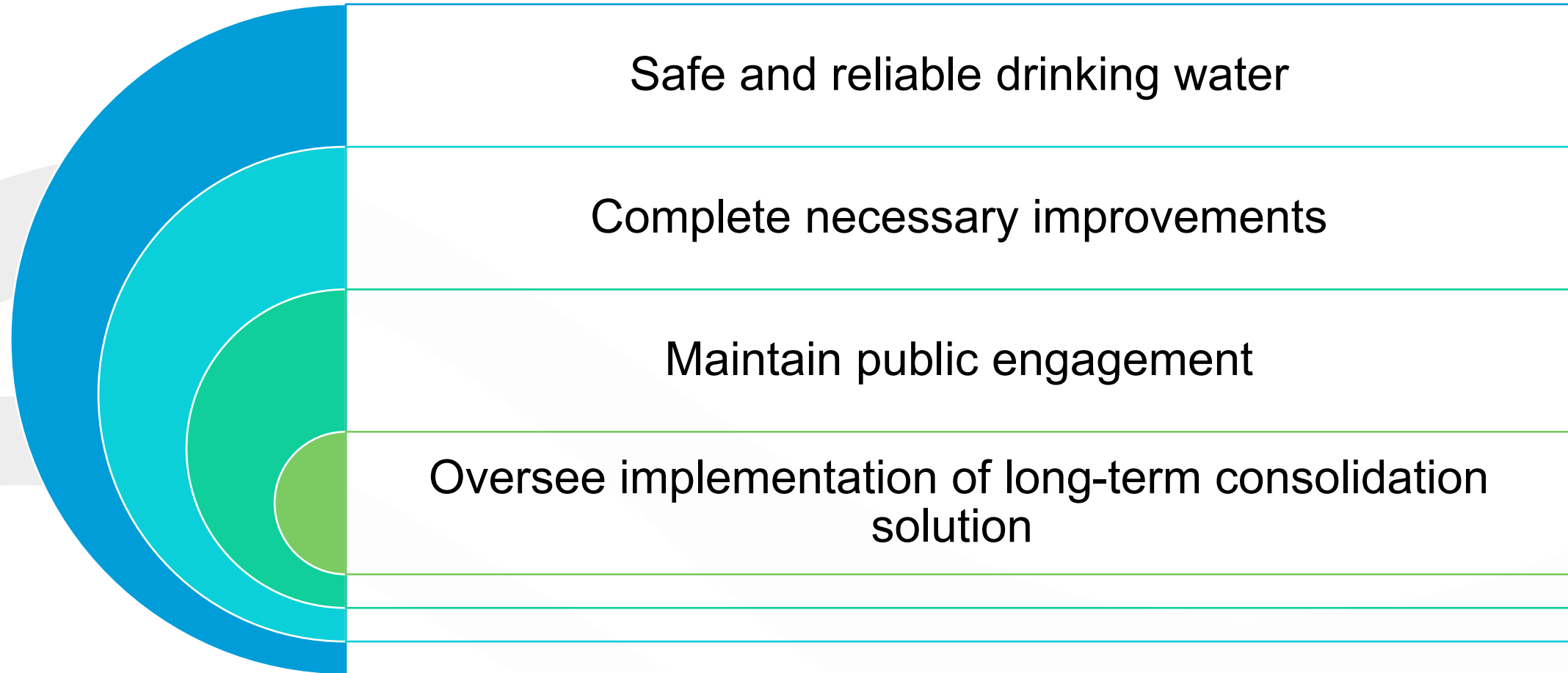
Must be received by the State Board within 30 days of date of administrator's decision



State Board will review and act on the petition



# Goals



# Athal Mutual Water Company Fuller Acres Mutual Water Company Public Comments/Questions

**Brita Romans**  
Office of Public Participation

## Comments? Questions?

- First and last name
- Affiliation
- Concise question or comment  
(*3 minutes max*)



# Next Steps and Closing

# Next Steps

- Administrator FAQ – the Water Board website: [bit.ly/SAFER\\_Administrators](https://bit.ly/SAFER_Administrators)
- The Public Comment deadline is March 22, 2023
- Written comments and questions are addressed by mail, email or phone:
  - ❖ Reyna Rodriguez, State Water Resources Control Board  
265 W. Bullard Avenue, Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93704
  - ❖ [DDW-SoCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DDW-SoCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov)
  - ❖ Phone: (559) 447-3485

# Thank you and contact us!

[DDW-SoCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DDW-SoCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov)