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## State Water Resources Control Board

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE PROPOSED IDENTIFICATION OF EAST OROSI COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AS A DESIGNATED SEWER SYSTEM AND IDENTIFICATION OF A PROPOSED ADMINISTRATOR FOR EAST OROSI COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

APRIL 17, 2025, 6:00 PM  
LOCATION OF MEETING:  
Safe Haven Sustainable Farms  
41787 Road 142, Orosi, California

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED** by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regarding (1) the proposed Identification of the East Orosi Community Services District (CSD) as a designated sewer system and (2) identification of Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) as a proposed sewer system administrator to the East Orosi CSD.

The meeting will include a presentation by the State Water Board and an opportunity for the public to provide comments on and ask questions about the following topics:



- Basis for the proposed identification of East Orosi CSD as a designated sewer system,
- Purpose and role of a sewer system administrator, and
- Proposed administrator qualifications, conflicts of interest, and scope of work.

Members of the public, including representatives of East Orosi CSD, affected ratepayers, renters, and property owners, can submit written questions and comments through **May 7, 2025**.

Email [dwq-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwq-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov) with the subject “**AB805 Administrator**” to receive confirmation that your comments and questions were received.

#### MEETING INFORMATION

This meeting will be held at the **Safe Haven Sustainable Farms located at 41787 Road 142, Orosi, California**, with State Water Board present. To participate virtually:

-  **ZOOM:** [https://bit.ly/TulareWB\\_zoom](https://bit.ly/TulareWB_zoom)
-  **PHONE:** 1 (669) 444-9171; enter Meeting ID: 983 0376 6536

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E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## LANGUAGE SERVICES & ACCESSIBILITY

The public meeting will offer English and Spanish language services. For questions regarding language services or to request interpretation services, translation of documents, or submit a language access complaint, use **one** of the following:

- Submit a [Language Access Request](#) online
- Call the State Water Board's Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA) at (916) 341-5254.
- Email OPEETA at [contact@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:contact@waterboards.ca.gov).

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

## HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments may be submitted through May 7, 2025.



EMAIL: [dwq-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwq-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov) with the subject "AB805 Administrator"



MAIL: Stephanie Torres  
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Water Quality  
1001 I Street, Floor 15 Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments or other material may be submitted electronically or by written letter with the subject "AB805 Administrator" and must be received by **12:00 pm (noon) on Monday, May 7, 2025.**

## DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

On February 21, 2025, the State Water Board issued a letter to East Oroshi CSD describing information that supports finding East Oroshi CSD to be a designated sewer system in need of an administrator. The February 21, 2025 letter and additional meeting materials regarding the proposed identification of East Oroshi CSD as a designated sewer system and proposed appointment of an administrator will be available on or before April 7, 2025. Documents will be accessible through the State Water Board website:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/sewer\\_system\\_administrators/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sewer_system_administrators/).

To receive an email notification when the documents are available, please send a request to [dwq-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwq-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov). If you are unable to access these documents electronically, please contact Stephanie Torres at (916) 341-5572.

## BACKGROUND

East Oroshi CSD serves approximately 1,000 people within the disadvantaged community of East Oroshi with 100 connections to septic tanks as part of its current sewage collection and sanitary sewer system design. One lift station – managed and maintained by East Oroshi CSD - transports sewage to the Cutler-Oroshi Treatment Plant

under the oversight of the Cutler-Orosi Joint Powers Authority. Orosi Public Utility District provides utility costs for transport.

As described in the February 21, 2025 letter to East Orosi CSD, under the Water Code, a “designated sewer system” is a “sewer service provider that serves a disadvantaged community that is either an inadequate sewer service or a sewer system that has a demonstrated history of failure to maintain technical, managerial, or financial capacity to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.” (Water Code section 13288, subdivision (f).) A sewer system may be designated if there is evidence that the sewer system has a demonstrated history of failures to meet regulatory standards for proper wastewater collection, treatment and disposal and may have deficiencies such as infrastructure failure, insufficient capacity or ineffective wastewater treatment. (Water Code section 13288, subdivision (j).) If the State Water Board makes certain findings, based on evidence, it may appoint an administrator to provide full management and control of East Orosi CSD as a designated sewer system.

In its February 21, 2025 letter to East Orosi CSD, the State Water Board identified factors that support finding that East Orosi CSD is a designated sewer system and proposed to use its authority in Water Code section 13289.5 (added through Assembly Bill (AB) No. 805) to appoint Tulare County RMA as a sewer system Administrator (as outlined in the State Water Board Administrator Policy Handbook) to help resolve East Orosi CSD’s failures to provide adequate sewer service and other deficiencies. This public meeting to hear from East Orosi CSD, affected ratepayers, renters, property owners and the public is part of the process outlined in Water Code section 13289.5 and the Administrator Policy Handbook.

#### **NAME OF PROPOSED ADMINISTRATOR**

Tulare County RMA has been identified as a viable candidate to be appointed as an administrator of the East Orosi Community Services District. Their qualifications include:

- Experience in design, operations, and maintenance of community water and wastewater systems for nearly thirty years.
- Successfully managing several drinking water projects and consolidations. Consolidations included connecting small community water systems and private domestic wells to large community water systems.
- Staff include 13 licensed Professional Engineers, three Professional Land Surveyors, and three licensed water distribution operators.

#### **SCOPE OF APPOINTMENT & SERVICES PROVIDED**

If appointed, this administrator will be a Full-Scope Administrator as defined in the State Water Board Administrator Policy Handbook available online at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/agendas/2025/jan/012225\\_3\\_policy.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/2025/jan/012225_3_policy.pdf).

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflict of interest has been identified or reported by Tulare County RMA at this time. An appointed administrator will be required to assure compliance with rules and regulations concerning conflicts of interest.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Stephanie Torres at (916) 341-5572 or [stephanie.torres@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:stephanie.torres@waterboards.ca.gov) or visit the State Water Board website: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/sewer\\_system\\_administrators/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sewer_system_administrators/).

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Date                      March 17, 2025

  
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Courtney Tyler  
Clerk to the Board