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State Water Resources Control Board Notice of Public Meeting and Public Comment Period

Potential Appointment of a Limited Scope Administrator and Administrator Identification for Allensworth Community Services District

Public Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2024, 6:00pm
Allensworth Elementary School
3320 Young Road
Allensworth, CA 93219
In-person participation only

PURPOSE

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) invites you to attend a meeting to learn about the potential appointment of Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) as the limited scope administrator of the Allensworth Community Services District (Allensworth CSD) water system.

A limited scope administrator is a person or entity that is appointed and/or authorized to assist in the technical, managerial, and/or financial operations and management of a designated water system to provide an adequate supply of safe and affordable drinking water.

This public meeting is a requirement of the administrator appointment processes as specified by California Health and Safety Code section 116686. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the following:

- Administrator purpose and role
- Administrator appointment process

Prior to the selection of an administrator, the State Water Board shall provide an opportunity for the public to submit comments for at least 30 days after this notice. The public can submit questions and comments regarding the identification of Stantec as the potential limited scope administrator for Allensworth CSD through **Thursday, June 20, 2024**. The meeting will also include an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments in person.

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS – DEADLINE JUNE 20, 2024

Mail: Saeeda Rafique
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water
500 N Central Avenue, Suite 500, Glendale, CA 91203
Email: DDW-Administrator@waterboards.ca.gov

LANGUAGE SERVICES

This meeting will be held in English with Spanish interpretation. If you would like to request interpretation services in another language, please contact Jen Gross at (916) 327-8777 or SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov by May 29, 2024.

ACCESSIBILITY

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

MEETING MATERIALS

Meeting materials and details are available at bit.ly/DDW_AdminWebsite.

BACKGROUND

Between 2019 and 2023, Allensworth CSD has been repeatedly cited for various violations related to water treatment, monitoring, and reporting, including Arsenic, Nitrate and Total Coliform violations as well as failure to submit required reports. These citations highlight consistent non-compliance with California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) regulations and Domestic Water Supply Permit provisions, raising concerns about the organization's adherence to water quality standards and regulatory requirements. As a result, Allensworth CSD has been placed on the State Water Board's Failing Water System list. Allensworth CSD has also demonstrated limited technical, managerial, and financial capacity.

On January 19, 2024, the State Water Board took the first step in designating Allensworth CSD as a water system in need of an administrator given its inability to consistently provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water to their customers.

INFORMATION ON THE POTENTIAL ADMINISTRATOR

NAME OF ADMINISTRATOR

The Stantec team has been identified as a viable candidate to be appointed as a limited scope administrator for Allensworth CSD. Their qualifications include:

- Multidisciplinary team of experts in community engagement, water resources planning, financing, groundwater management, drinking water treatment, and well design and construction.
- Specialized experience working with economically distressed communities to address water resources challenges.
- Understanding of the unique water resources challenges experienced by communities in the Eastern San Joaquin Valley.

- Dedication to implementing an inclusive planning process that ensures communities have a voice while meeting the goals of the State Water Board and Allensworth CSD.

Additional qualifications of the Stantec team are provided in the attached document.

SCOPE OF APPOINTMENT & SERVICES PROVIDED

This administrator will be a limited scope administrator as defined in the Administrator Policy Handbook. A description of this process and the administrator authority is contained in Health and Safety Code Section 116686 and in the State Water Board's Administrator Policy Handbook at bit.ly/Administrator_Policy_Handbook.

Stantec will evaluate the water system and then propose a Work Plan to the State Water Board. This Work Plan will delineate the scope of work and services for the limited scope administrator appointment.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

To date, no conflict of interest has been found by the State Water Board or reported by Stantec. If at any time a proposed action would create a conflict of interest, an administrator is required to provide written notice to the State Water Board in addition to all ratepayers, renters and property owners, who receive water service from the designated water system 30 days prior to taking the action.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact:

- Bryan Potter at (559) 447-3397; bryan.potter@waterboards.ca.gov
- Saeeda Rafique at (818) 559-2070; saeeda.rafique@waterboards.ca.gov

Or visit our website: bit.ly/DDW_AdminWebsite

Administrator Qualifications



Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) will work closely with the community of Allensworth CSD while assessing the water system's technical, managerial, and financial capacity. Together with the Allensworth CSD Board, Stantec will identify, evaluate, and implement short- and long-term solutions to secure safe, reliable drinking water for the community served. Stantec is dedicated to implementing an inclusive planning process that ensures community members have a voice in meeting the goals of the State Water Board and Allensworth CSD.

Administrator Lead

Emily Finnegan, Administrator Lead

Emily brings nearly a decade of facilitation and project management experience, including providing oversight for implementation of communications, outreach, and engagement activities for local public agencies. Emily serves as the Administrator providing holistic managerial support for Teviston Community Services District (TCSD). TCSD faces chronic challenges with technical, managerial, and financial capacity, including challenges related to water quality and infrastructure. As Administrator, Emily oversees a team of hydrogeologists, engineers, community outreach staff, and financial experts to support TCSD in addressing key challenges and she works alongside the TCSD Board, staff, and community to implement an inclusive planning process that centers community expertise.

Khandriale Clark, Administrator Deputy

Khandriale brings six years of experience convening multi-party working groups, coordinating complex projects, and guiding publicly engaged water resources planning efforts. She has worked extensively with public agencies across the State of California, primarily helping agencies engage community members in the development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

Technical Lead

Nicole Belle Isle

Nicole brings over a dozen years of engineering experience, including managing, designing, and providing regulatory compliance and construction oversight for capital projects. She has extensive experience working with state, local, and federal agencies to advance projects and ensure regulatory compliance.

Stantec SAFER Program Team

Mike Antos, PhD, ENV SP (Stantec Program Manager)

Tori Klug, PE, ENV SP (Stantec Deputy Program Manager)

Depending on the solutions identified for Allensworth, Stantec may consult their extended team of experts in environmental permitting, utilities coordination, facilitation, water treatment, conveyance, water system financing, and planning.

For more information, please visit www.stantec.com.