
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water

June 26, 2024

System No. 1000054

Brooke Mello, Water Manager
Las Deltas Mutual Water System
P.O. Box 1093
Firebaugh, CA 93622
brookemello_books@outlook.com

COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. 23-E1-24R-001
***ADMINISTRATOR ORDER TO LAS DELTAS MUTUAL WATER SYSTEM AND
SELECTION OF PROVOST AND PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP AS THE FULL-
SCOPE ADMINISTRATOR***

Enclosed is Compliance Order No. 23-E1-24R-001 (Order), issued to the Las Deltas Mutual Water System public water system ("Water System"). Please note that there are legally enforceable directives associated with this Order.

The State Water Board appreciates the willingness of the Water System and Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group ("Provost and Pritchard") to work together over the past few years. As discussed in the Order, the Water System is ordered to accept Provost and Pritchard as a full-scope administrator and allow Provost and Pritchard to exercise full authority and control over the Water System. The State Water Board looks forward to continuing to work with both the Water System and Provost and Pritchard as they develop a sustainable long-term solution.

Any person who is aggrieved by a citation, order or decision issued under authority delegated to an officer or employee of the State Board under Article 8 (commencing with California Health and Safety Code (CHSC), Section 116625) or Article 9 (commencing with CHSC, Section 116650), of the Safe Drinking Water Act (CHSC, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4), may file a petition with the State Board for reconsideration of the citation, order or decision.

Petitions must be received by the State Board within 30 days of the issuance of the citation, order or decision by the officer or employee of the State Board. The date of issuance is the date when the Division of Drinking Water signs the citation, order or

decision. If the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition is due the following business day by 5:00 p.m.

Information regarding filing petitions may be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/petitions/index.shtml

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Omid Rabbani of my staff at (909) 888-4985 or me at (916) 341-5045.

Sincerely,



Andrew Altevogt, P.E., Ph.D.
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Drinking Water
State Water Resources Control Board

Enclosures

Certified Mail No. 7014 2870 0001 2130 1731

Cc (via Email):

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Stephen T. Spencer
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Sudarshan Poudyal, District Engineer, Fresno District
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Sudarshan.Poudyal@waterboards.ca.gov

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

Name of Public Water System: Las Deltas Mutual Water System

Water System No: 1000054

Attention: Brooke Mello

Las Deltas Mutual Water System

P.O. Box 1093

Firebaugh, CA 93622

Issued: June 26, 2024

COMPLIANCE ORDER NO. 23-E1-24R-001
ADMINISTRATOR ORDER TO LAS DELTAS MUTUAL WATER SYSTEM AND
SELECTION OF PROVOST AND PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP AS THE
FULL-SCOPE ADMINISTRATOR
CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, SECTION 116686

The State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”), acting by and through its Division of Drinking Water (“Division”), hereby issues Order No. 23-E1-24R-001 pursuant to Section 116686 of the California Health and Safety Code¹ (“CHSC”) to Las Deltas Mutual Water Company, Inc. as the legal owner of Las Deltas Mutual Water System (“Water System”) as set forth below.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all statutory citations are to the California Health and Safety Code.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES

In order to provide affordable, safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities and to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, Section 116686, subd. (a) of the CHSC authorizes the State Water Board to order a “designated water system to accept administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services, including full management and control of all aspects of the designated water system, from an administrator selected by the state board.”

- Section 116686, subd. (r)(2)(B) defines “designated water system” as a public 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.”
- Section 116681, subd. (h) defines a “disadvantaged community” as “a disadvantaged community, as defined in Section 79505.5 of the Water Code.”
- Division 26.5, Section 79505.5, subd. (a) of the Water Code states, “Disadvantaged Community” means a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income.
- Section 116681, subd. (a) defines “adequate supply” as “sufficient water to meet residents' health and safety needs at all times.”
- Section 116681, subd. (e) defines “consistently fails” as “failure to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.”
- Section 116681, subd. (p) defines “safe drinking water” as “water that meets all primary and secondary drinking water standards.”
- Section 116275, subd. (c) defines “primary drinking water standards” as maximum contaminant levels, treatment techniques adopted in lieu of

maximum contaminant levels, and monitoring and reporting requirements of maximum contaminant levels as specified by regulation.

- Section 116686, subd. (f) states that, “A designated water system shall not be responsible for any costs associated with an administrator that are higher than the costs necessary to maintain the designated water system and provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.”

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Water System Characteristics

The Water System is classified as a community water system serving approximately 375 people through 107 service connections. The Water System operates under Domestic Water Supply Permit No. 03-23-11P-045 issued by the State Water Board on October 4, 2011. The Water System’s sole source of domestic water is treated water purchased from the City of Firebaugh. The Water System is not permitted for and does not provide any treatment of its own. It maintains a receiving water facility that includes three 30,000-gallon storage tanks and a booster pump station that maintains pressure in its distribution system.

B. The Water System Serves a Disadvantaged Community

A disadvantaged community is classified as a community with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. According to the 2017 – 2021 American Community Survey² (ASC), 80 percent of the statewide MHI is \$67,278. Based on the 2017-2021 ASC, the Water System is located within the City of Firebaugh, Fresno County, with a calculated lower bound MHI of \$37,676. This income classifies the Water System as a disadvantaged community.

² The State Water Board utilizes the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates to determine the MHI of a community. The ACS data for 2023 is based on the 5-year period from 2017-2021.

C. The Water System Has Consistently Failed to Provide an Adequate Supply of Affordable, Safe Drinking Water

According to the 2018 inspection report the distribution system is in poor condition, due primarily to its age. The initial system was installed in 1929, and the system is generally original, except where breaks or leaks could not be repaired and required replacement. The Water System experienced a main break in 2018 leaving its customers out of water for an extended period of time.

On July 6, 2018, all five positions on the Water System board became vacant. In August 2018 a special shareholders meeting was held due to vacancies on the board. The board has not been filled to date.

Compliance Order No. 03-23-120-005 was issued to the Water System on April 6, 2012, for violation of the distribution system pressure requirements of the California Waterworks Standards. Compliance Order No. 03-23-120-005 and its directives remain in effect.

The Water System has exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) for total trihalomethane (TTHM) during the second quarter of 2017. In May 2017, the Division issued Compliance Order No. 03-23-17R-003 for violation of TTHM MCL exceedance. The Compliance Order directed the water system to return to compliance on or before June 30, 2020. The Water System failed to comply with the Compliance Order to implement a solution and the violation is ongoing. Results of TTHM quarterly monitoring results and calculated LRAA between 3rd Quarter 2015 and the present are shown in Table 1 below. As indicated in Table 1 below, the Water System has consistently failed to meet the TTHM MCL, as well as failed to collect samples at required frequency (i.e. quarterly monitoring).

Table 1. Stage 2 TTHM Sample Results for Sample Location at 35175 W. Shaw Avenue

Sample Quarter	TTHM (mg/l) MCL=0.080 mg/l	
	Quarterly Average	LRAA
No additional sample results reported	--	--
1Q2021	98	0.098
4Q2020	--	0.12
3Q2020	--	0.12
2Q2020	--	0.106
1Q2020	120	0.111
4Q2019	--	0.105
3Q2019	93	0.105
2Q2019	120	0.110
1Q2019	100	0.098
4Q2018	--	0.098
3Q2018	--	0.098
2Q2018	96	0.095
1Q2018	100	0.096
4Q2017	--	0.096
3Q2017	90	0.096
2Q2017	99	0.095
1Q2017	99	--
4Q2016	--	--
3Q2016	0.087	--
3Q2015	0.076	--

D. Administrator Appointment

On November 2, 2020, the State Water Board provided the Water System with notice and an opportunity to show by November 15, 2020, that; (1) the Water System “has not consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.”; and/or (2) that the Water System, “has taken steps to timely address its failure to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.” The notice is shown in Attachment A. The State Water Board did not receive a response from the Water

1 System demonstrating that the Water System has consistently provided an adequate
2 supply of affordable and safe drinking water.

3
4 Pursuant to Section 116686, subd. (b)(2) and the Administrator Policy Handbook, on
5 August 27, 2021, the State Water Board notified by mail all ratepayers, renters, and
6 property owners in the Water System's service area, as well as representatives of the
7 Water System, of a public meeting on September 29, 2021, to provide information on
8 the proposed administrator for the Water System and receive input on the potential
9 administrator appointment. This notice is shown in Attachment B. The notice also
10 included the name, qualifications, proposed scope of the appointment and services to
11 be provided by the administrator being considered, and disclosure of conflicts of
12 interest, as defined in Title 2, Division 6, Chapter 7 of the CCR.

13
14 On December 21, 2022, a new Administrator Assistance Request assignment was
15 issued by the Division of Financial Assistance to the proposed administrator, Provost
16 and Pritchard Consulting Group ("Provost & Pritchard") to complete initial outreach,
17 system assessment, and work plan for the designated water system.

18
19 On September 29, 2021, the State Water Board conducted a public meeting pursuant
20 to Section 116686, subd. (b)(2) for the affected ratepayers, renters, and property
21 owners in the Water System's service area. Public comment and feedback were
22 solicited during the meeting. The State Water Board received and responded to
23 general questions regarding funding, replacement water, and the timeline of
24 appointing an administrator.

25
26 The closing period for public comment on the administrator selection was October 6,
27 2021. No comments were received expressing concern about the qualifications of the
28 proposed administrator.

On February 2, 2024, the Division contacted Provost & Pritchard to confirm their willingness to be an administrator for the Water System, pursuant to Section 116686. Provost & Pritchard confirmed their willingness to serve as the administrator for the Water System (Attachment C).

FINDINGS

1. Based on the above Statement of Facts, and pursuant to Section 116686, subd. (r)(2)(B), the Water System is a “designated water system” because it serves a disadvantage community, and “the state board finds [it] consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.” According to the 2017- 2021 American Community Survey, the Water System’s service area has a calculated MHI of \$37,676, approximately 45 percent of the statewide MHI of \$84,097. The Water System has an active compliance order for violation of the TTHM MCL. The Water System has not implemented a long-term solution and sampling results consistently exceed the MCL for TTHM.
2. The Division has complied with the procedural requirements in Section 116686 and the Administrator Policy Handbook to appoint the Administrator to the Water System. The Division considered all public comments, and none were serious enough to warrant changes to the proposed administrator.
3. As set forth in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15061, this Order is exempt from the provisions of CEQA because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the Order will have a significant effect on the environment. The Order requires the Water System to accept administrative, technical, operational, legal, and managerial services, including full management and control of all aspects of the designated water system from an administrator selected by the State Water Board. The Order does not propose

or require the Water System to undertake any specific actions which will have a significant effect on the environment.

4. The Division of Financial Assistance has approved \$773,937 in initial funding for the approved Scope of Work, which will be included in the executed work plan. The approved Scope of Work includes a Community Accountability and Engagement Plan, a Post-Administrator Drinking Water Service Plan, and tasks necessary to assist the Water System. The administrator is not legally liable for costs outside the approved Scope of Work. Other costs related to the operations and maintenance, or infrastructure improvements of the water system shall be paid from water rates, and/or grants, as applicable. Additional funding may be available to support the administrator appointment, as necessary.

ORDER

The State Water Board hereby orders as follows:

1. Provost and Pritchard is appointed as the full-scope administrator for the Water System. Effective July 26, 2024, the Water System is ordered to unconditionally accept administrative, technical, operational, legal, financial, and managerial services, including full management and control of all aspects of the designated water system from Provost & Pritchard. Full management and control includes hiring, dismissal, and reassigning staff to support administrator and operational duties.
2. Effective immediately, the Water System must work with Provost and Pritchard to effectuate the transition of full management and control of the Water System. This includes but is not limited to, providing Provost and Pritchard access to all electronic and hard copies of operating records of the water system, customers'

accounts, water quality and quantity records, water system's design and operation plans. The Water System shall also provide access to water system facilities, and access to finances including restricted and unrestricted funds.

3. This Order shall remain effective and in place until rescinded, terminated, or otherwise modified by the State Water Board.

The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Order and/or to issue such further order(s) as it may deem necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be issued as amendments to this Order and shall be deemed effective upon issuance.

Nothing in this Order relieves the Water System of its obligation to meet the requirements of the California Safe Drinking Water Act, CHSC, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4 ("SDWA"), or any regulation, standard, permit or order issued thereunder.

PARTIES BOUND

This Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Water System, its officers, directors, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

SEVERABILITY

The requirements of this Order are severable, and the Water System shall comply with each and every provision hereof notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.

FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The California SDWA authorizes the Division to issue orders and citations with assessment of administrative penalties to a public water system for violation or

continued violation of the requirements of the California SDWA or any regulation, permit or order issued or adopted thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to correct a violation identified in a citation or order. The California SDWA also authorizes the Division to take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been issued to a public water system if the system has violated applicable law or regulations or has failed to comply with an order of the Division; and to petition the superior court to take various enforcement measures against a public water system that has failed to comply with an order of the Division. The Division does not waive any further enforcement action by issuance of this order.

June 26, 2024

Date



Andrew Altevogt, P.E., Ph.D.
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Drinking Water
State Water Resources Control Board

Attachments:

- A. Division of Drinking Water Notice
- B. Public Meeting Notice
- C. Administrator Correspondence

Attachment A

Administrator Designation Letter



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

November 2, 2020

Brooke Mello
Las Deltas Mutual Water System
P.O. Box 1093
Firebaugh, CA 93622

**RE: NOTICE – 1st STEP OF ADMINISTRATOR PROCESS
LAS DELTAS MUTUAL WATER SYSTEM (CA1000054)**

Dear Mrs. Mello,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is taking the first step to designate Las Deltas Mutual Water System (Las Deltas) as a public water system in need of an Administrator because it has not consistently provided an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water to its customers. The State Water Board is taking this step now for two reasons: 1) a State funded administrator will be able to take on many of the tasks that will be required to assist the water system into coming into compliance with applicable drinking water laws and regulations sustainably into the future, and 2) it may take some time to go through the required steps to appoint an administrator. A summary of the designation process, responsibilities of a full-scope administrator, applicable regulatory sections, and policies are provided as attachments.

The legally required formal first step in this process is for the State Water Board to give Las Deltas notice of its intended action and provide the water system an opportunity to show either of the following:

- a. It has not consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water, or
- b. It has taken steps to timely address its failure to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.

If Las Deltas has evidence and wishes to show that the violations listed on the following page have been resolved, please provide that information by **November 15, 2020** via email to Karen Nishimoto at Karen.Nishimoto@waterboards.ca.gov.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

List of Violations

Las Deltas has failed to:

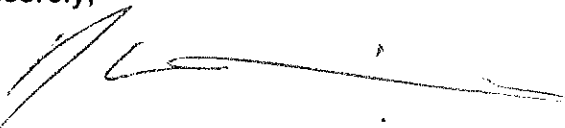
- Comply with CCR, Title 22, Section 64602, Minimum Pressure requirements. Specifically, the Las Deltas Mutual Water System is unable to maintain an operating pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi) at the user's service connection at all times. Compliance order 03-23-12O-005 was issued to Las Deltas on April 6, 2012. Las Deltas has failed to submit a plan for improvements to correct the violation.
- Comply with Section 116655 of the California Health and Safety Code Section 116555(a)(1) and California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Section 64533(a), Maximum Contaminant Levels for Disinfection Byproducts. Compliance order 03-23-17R-003 was issued to Las Deltas on May 30, 2017.

The legal owner of the Las Deltas Mutual Water System is the Las Deltas Mutual Water Company, Inc. and is responsible for compliance with all statutory and regulatory drinking water requirements in domestic water supply permit 03-23-11P-045. On July 6, 2018 all five positions on the Las Deltas Mutual Water Company, Inc. board became vacant. In August 2018 a special shareholders meeting was held due to vacancies on the board. The board has not been filled to date.

According to the 2018 inspection report the distribution system is in poor condition, due primarily to its age. The initial system was installed in 1929, and the system is generally original, except where breaks or leaks could not be repaired and required replacement. Las Deltas Mutual Water System experienced a main break in 2018 leaving its customers out of water for an extended period of time.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me. Due to our current COVID response, email is the best correspondence method. I can be reached at Karen.Nishimoto@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Karen Nishimoto, P.E.
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Southern Engagement Unit
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water

- Attachment 1. Administrator Process Summary
- Attachment 2. Responsibilities of a Full-Scope Administrator
- Attachment 3. Section 116686 of the California Health and Safety Code
- Attachment 4. Administrator Policy Handbook

cc: Brooke Mello
620 Meadowlark Drive
Turlock, CA 95382

Las Deltas Mutual Water Company

4284 N San Diego
Firebaugh, CA 93622

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Visalia, CA. 93290

Supervisor Brian Pacheco
Fresno County Board of Supervisors, District 1
2281 Tulare, Room #301
Fresno, CA 93721

Attachment 1

Administrator Process

Section 116686 of the California Health and Safety Code and the Administrator Policy Handbook, adopted by the State Board in September 2019, requires that the State Board must find that the System's public water system is a "designated water system" and take other specific actions before it can issue an order to the System to accept a full-scope administrator. A "designated water system" is defined in section 116686(m)(2) as a public water system that serves a disadvantaged community, and that the State Water Board finds consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water. A copy of section 116686 and the Administrator Policy Handbook are provided in subsequent attachments. The actions required of the State Water Board are summarized below.

1. The State Board must give the water system notice of its actions and provide it with an opportunity to show either of the following:
 - a. It has not consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water, or
 - b. It has taken steps to timely address its failure to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.
2. Conduct a public meeting in a location as close as feasible to the affected community.
 - a. Provide 30-day notice of the public meeting to affected ratepayers, renters, and property owners.
 - b. Provide an opportunity for representatives of the System, affected ratepayers, renters, property owners, and the public to present oral and written comments at the meeting.
 - c. Provide an opportunity to submit comments by mail or electronically during the 30-day notice period and for at least one week after the public meeting
3. Make a reasonable effort to provide notice to all ratepayers, renters, and property owners who receive water service from the designated water system of the following:
 - a. The name and qualifications of the administrator being considered by the State Board
 - b. The scope of the appointment and the particular services to be provided by the administrator being considered by the State Board, and
 - c. Any conflict of interest
4. Issue an order to the System requiring it to accept a full-scope administrator to take complete management control of its public water system.

Attachment 2

Responsibilities of a Full-Scope Administrator

All actions taken by an administrator are required to be in the best interest of the community served by the water system and must be intended to develop the water system's capability to sustainably deliver an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water so that the services of the administrator are no longer necessary. Section 116686 and the Administrator Policy Handbook requires the State Water Board to enter into a contract or grant agreement with an appointed administrator and fund the cost of the administrator to provide the agreed upon service to the System.

The Administrator is required to provide reports in order to keep the governing board or owner of the water system and the customers served informed about actions taken and status of the system. In addition, the Administrator Policy Handbook includes a process that allows any ratepayer, renter, or property owner who receives water from a designated water system to submit a petition to the State Water Board for the reversal or modification of an administrator decision or replacement of an administrator. A complete description of an administrator's obligations is contained in section 116686 of the Health and Safety Code and in the Administrator Policy Handbook.

The authority and scope of work of an administrator is established on a case by case basis in the contract/grant agreement executed between the State Water Board and the administrator and in the order issued to the public water system to accept the services of the administrator. **In the case of Las Deltas Mutual Water System, the full-scope administrator appointed to it will have authority to exercise complete managerial control over its public water system, including but not limited, to financial reviews, responding and representing Las Deltas to regulatory agencies, entering into contracts, establishing operational budgets and rates, acceptance of water rate payments to pay water system expenses, system operation, and keeping customers informed of the status of the water system.**

Attachment 3

CA Health and Safety Code Section 116686:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=116686.

The State Water Board has not provided a paper copy of this section in the interest of decreasing environmental impacts. However, should you be unable to access this website for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact our office for a paper copy.

Attachment 4

Administrator Policy Handbook:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/2019/sept/091719_6cs1_cleanversion.pdf

The State Water Board has not provided a paper copy of this section in the interest of decreasing environmental impacts. However, should you be unable to access this website for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact our office for a paper copy.

Attachment B
Public Meeting Notice

State Water Resources Control Board

Video and Teleconference Meeting During COVID-19 Emergency

This meeting will occur via remote presence only as a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing.

Notice of Public Meeting

Identification of a Potential Administrator for Las Deltas Mutual Water System

September 29, 2021

6:00pm - 8:00pm

https://bit.ly/LasDeltas_Administrator

Remote Participation Only

PURPOSE

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) invites you to attend a meeting to learn about Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group and its teaming partners (the Provost & Pritchard team) as a potential administrator to the Las Deltas Mutual Water System (Las Deltas MWS).

An administrator is a person or entity that is appointed and/or authorized to exercise total and complete managerial control over a designated water system in order to provide an adequate supply of safe and affordable drinking water.

This public meeting is a requirement of the administrator selection process. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the following:

- Current status of drinking water in Las Deltas MWS
- Purpose and role of an Administrator
- Administrator qualifications, conflicts of interest, and scope of work

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The meeting will also include an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments. The public can submit questions and comments through **October 6, 2021**.

MEETING LOGISTICS: If you wish to join the meeting by Zoom or phone:

Zoom: https://bit.ly/LasDeltas_Administrator

Phone: +1-669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 931 5286 0569

LANGUAGE SERVICES

To request language interpretation or sign language services, please submit your request at least 10 business days before the meeting by contacting Marina Perez at (916) 322-4265 or SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov.

ACCESSIBILITY

Telecommunications device for the 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 on remote participation are available at bit.ly/DDW_AdminWebsite. To receive meeting materials in advance, register at http://bit.ly/LasDeltas_updates. Meeting materials and details will be emailed to registered participants before the meeting.

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS – DEADLINE OCTOBER 6, 2021

Mail: Omid Rabbani

State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water
464 W 4th St, Room 437, San Bernardino, CA 92401

Email: DDW-Administrator@waterboards.ca.gov

BACKGROUND

On November 2, 2020, the State Water Board took the first step in designating Las Deltas MWS as a water system in need of an administrator because it has not consistently provided an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water to its customers. Las Deltas MWS has active compliance orders for violation of the Maximum Contaminant Level for disinfection byproducts and violation of maintaining the minimum pressure requirements of 20 pounds per square inch (psi) at user's service connection at all time.

The State Water Board proposes appointing an administrator for Las Deltas MWS to manage the water system. All actions taken by an administrator are required to be in the best interest of the community served by the water system and include the following:

- Developing access to an adequate supply of safe and affordable drinking water; and
- Holding public meetings at least every three months.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Any ratepayer, renter, or property owner who receives water from a designated water system can submit a petition to the State Water Board to reverse or modify an administrator decision or to replace an administrator. 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 (Sept. 2019) at https://bit.ly/SAFER_Administrator_Handbook.

Information on Proposed Administrator

NAME OF ADMINISTRATOR

The Provost & Pritchard team has been identified as a viable candidate to be appointed as an administrator for Las Deltas MWS. Their qualifications include:

- Managed all aspects of dozens of water systems and special districts, including all necessary technical, managerial, and administrative needs.
- Specialized public outreach capability to help facilitate stakeholder discussions.
- Certified Treatment and Distribution operators on staff ready to provide operational support.
- Team of engineers, planners, and technicians with extensive experience in water resource management, planning, and implementing solutions.

SCOPE OF APPOINTMENT & SERVICES PROVIDED

This administrator will be a Full-Scope Administrator as defined in the Administrator Policy Handbook available online at bit.ly/SAFER_Administrator.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

To date, no conflict of interest has been found by the State Water Board or reported by the Provost & Pritchard team. 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

Omid Rabbani (951) 580-8220; Omid.Rabbani@waterboards.ca.gov
Karen Nishimoto at (818) 551-2049, Karen.Nishimoto@waterboards.ca.gov
Water Board website: bit.ly/DDW_AdminWebsite

Junta Estatal de Control de Recursos de Agua

Reunión por video y teleconferencia durante la emergencia de COVID-19

Esta reunión será solo a distancia. Esto es por la emergencia de COVID-19 y las órdenes ejecutivas del gobernador para proteger la salud pública limitando las reuniones públicas y requiriendo el distanciamiento social.

Aviso de reunión pública

Identificación de un Administrador Potencial para: Las Deltas Mutual Water System

29 de septiembre de 2021

6:00pm - 8:00pm

[https://bit.ly/LasDeltas Administrator](https://bit.ly/LasDeltas_Administrator)

Participación solo a distancia

PROPÓSITO

La Junta Estatal del Agua (SWRCB), lo invita a una reunión para información sobre Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group y sus socios de equipo (el equipo de Provost & Pritchard) como potencial administrador de la compañía Las Deltas Mutual Water System (Las Deltas MWS).

Un administrador es una persona o entidad designada y/o autorizada para ejercer el control gerencial total y completo de un sistema de agua designado para brindar un suministro adecuado de agua potable segura y asequible.

Esta reunión pública es un requisito del proceso de selección de un administrador. El propósito de esta reunión es informar sobre lo siguiente:

- El estado actual del agua potable en Las Deltas MWS
- El propósito y función de un Administrador
- Las competencias, conflictos de interés y alcance de trabajo del Administrador

En la reunión el público también podrá hacer preguntas y comentarios. comentarios. El público puede enviar preguntas y comentarios hasta el **6 de octubre de 2021.**

LOGÍSTICA DE LA REUNIÓN: Si desea unirse a la reunión por Zoom o por teléfono:

Zoom: https://bit.ly/LasDeltas_Administrator

Teléfono: +1-669-900-9128 Identificación de la reunión: 931 5286 0569

SERVICIO DE INTERPRETACIÓN DE IDIOMAS

Para solicitar interpretación en otro idioma o en lenguaje de señas, contacte a Marina Perez al (916) 322-4265 o en: safer@waterboards.ca.gov a más tardar 10 días hábiles antes de la fecha de la reunión.

ACCESIBILIDAD

Los usuarios de dispositivos de telecomunicación para sordos (TDD, por sus siglas en inglés) pueden contactar al Servicio de Retransmisión de California llamando al: (800) 735-2929 o a la línea de voz al (800) 735-2922.

MATERIALES DE LA REUNIÓN

Los materiales de la reunión y detalles para participar a distancia están en bit.ly/DDW_AdminWebsite. Para recibir los materiales de la reunión por adelantado, regístrese en http://bit.ly/LasDeltas_updates. Los materiales y detalles de la reunión se enviarán por *e-mail* a los participantes antes de la reunión.

CÓMO ENVIAR COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS - LA FECHA LÍMITE ES EL 6 DE OCTUBRE DE 2021

Correo postal: Omid Rabbani

State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water
464 W 4th St, Room 437, San Bernardino, CA 92401

Email: DDW-Administrator@waterboards.ca.gov

CONTEXTO

El 2 de noviembre de 2020, la SWRCB tomó el primer paso para designar a Las Deltas MWS como sistema de agua en necesidad de un administrador – esto fue por no abastecer adecuadamente a sus clientes con agua potable asequible y segura de forma consistente.

Hay órdenes de cumplimiento para Las Deltas MWS. Esto es por exceder el MCL (nivel máximo de contaminantes) de productos secundarios de desinfección. Y también por no mantener siempre la presión mínima requerida de 20 libras por pulgada cuadrada (psi) en la conexión de servicio.

La SWRCB propone designar un administrador para Las Deltas MWS. Se requiere que todas las acciones que el administrador tome sean lo que más convenga a la comunidad que el sistema de agua abastece, y deben incluir lo siguiente:

- Desarrollar acceso a un abastecimiento adecuado de agua potable segura y accesible; y
- Tener reuniones públicas al menos cada tres meses.

Todo contribuyente, arrendatario o propietario que reciba servicio de agua de un sistema de agua designado, puede enviar una petición a la SWRCB para revertir o modificar decisiones de un administrador o para reemplazar a un administrador. En la sección 116686 del Código de Salud y Seguridad y en el Manual de Políticas del Administrador (sept. de 2009) de la SWRCB, está la descripción de este proceso y de la autoridad del administrador https://bit.ly/SAFER_Administrator_Handbook.

Información sobre el Administrador propuesto

NOMBRE DEL ADMINISTRADOR

El equipo de Provost & Pritchard fue identificado como un candidato viable para ser designado como administrador de Las Deltas MWS. Estas son algunas de sus competencias:

- Ha administrado todos los aspectos de decenas de sistemas de agua y distritos especiales (incluidas todas las necesidades técnicas, gerenciales y administrativas)
- Tiene capacidad de educación e información pública especializada para ayudar a facilitar discusiones de las partes interesadas.
- Su personal incluye Operadores de Tratamiento y Distribución certificados listos para brindar soporte operativo.
- Cuenta con equipo de ingenieros, planificadores y técnicos con vasta experiencia en la administración de recursos de agua, la planificación y la implementación de soluciones.

ALCANCE DE LA DESIGNACIÓN Y LOS SERVICIOS PROVISTOS

El administrador será un administrador de rango total tal como lo define el Manual de Políticas del Administrador disponible en línea en bit.ly/SAFER_Administrator

CONFLICTOS DE INTERÉS

A la fecha, ningún conflicto de intereses ha sido encontrado por la SWRCB ni reportado por el equipo de Provost & Pritchard. Si en cualquier momento una acción propuesta creara un conflicto de intereses, 30 días antes de tomar la acción, el administrador debe avisarle por escrito a la SWRCB y a todos los contribuyentes, arrendatarios y propietarios que reciben el servicio de agua del sistema de agua designado.

MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Omid Rabbani (951) 580-8220; Omid.Rabbani@waterboards.ca.gov
 Karen Nishimoto al (818) 551-2049, Karen.Nishimoto@waterboards.ca.gov
 Sitio web de la Junta de Agua: bit.ly/DDW_AdminWebsite

Attachment C
Administrator Correspondence

From: [Hamish Kellam](#)
To: [Rabbani, Omid@Waterboards](mailto:Rabbani,Omid@Waterboards)
Subject: RE: Las Deltas MWS- Administrator Order
Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 4:12:21 PM

EXTERNAL:

Hi Omid,

No problem at all. I'm glad to confirm that Provost & Pritchard is willing and ready to be appointed as the administrator for Las Deltas MWS.

Thank you,

Hamish Kellam
PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP
455 W. Fir Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611
Office: (559) 449-2700 | Fax: (559) 449-2715 | Ext: 183
E-mail: hkellam@ppeng.com | Website: provostandpritchard.com

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

This communication and any accompanying attachment(s) are privileged and confidential. The information is intended for the use of the individual or entity so named. If you are not the intended recipient, then be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of this communication and any accompanying attachments (or the information contained in it) is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately delete it and notify the sender at the return e-mail address or by telephone at (559) 449-2700. Thank you

From: Rabbani, Omid@Waterboards <Omid.Rabbani@Waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 3:56 PM
To: Hamish Kellam <HKellam@ppeng.com>
Subject: Las Deltas MWS- Administrator Order

You don't often get email from omid.rabbani@waterboards.ca.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Hamish,

Thank you for working through the Administrator process for Las Deltas MWS with us. The public comment period regarding Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, Inc. ("Provost & Pritchard") as the proposed administrator closed on October 6, 2021. We did not receive comments opposing the appointment of Provost & Pritchard as the administrator for Las Deltas MWS. As required by the findings within the Administrator Order to be issued to Las Deltas MWS, can you please confirm Provost & Pritchard's willingness to be the administrator for Las Deltas MWS?

Sincerely,

Omid Rabbani
Water Partnership Coordinator
Division of Drinking Water
464 W 4th St, Room 437, San Bernardino, CA 92401