

---

## State Water Resources Control Board

### Division of Drinking Water

August 19, 2021

#### **SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE SIERRA VISTA ASSOCIATION WATER SYSTEM**

On August 27, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) took the first step in designating Sierra Vista Association 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. A public meeting was then held on February 4, 2021, and the residents and customers of Sierra Vista Association were invited to learn about the proposed administrator, California Rural Water Association (CRWA). The State Water Board issued Order No. 03\_24\_21R\_001 to Sierra Vista Association on April 7, 2021 selecting CRWA as the administrator. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, CRWA is no longer the proposed administrator. On July 1, 2021 the State Water Board issued a letter to Sierra Vista Association rescinding the order.

The State Water Board is now proposing Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group and its teaming partners (the Provost & Pritchard team) as a potential administrator for Sierra Vista Association.

#### **REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATOR**

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, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 116686. 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.
- Holding public meetings at least every three months.

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

---

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

in the State Water Board's Administrator Policy Handbook (Sept. 2019). at [https://bit.ly/SAFER\\_Administrator\\_Handbook](https://bit.ly/SAFER_Administrator_Handbook) .

## **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ADMINISTRATOR**

### Qualifications of Proposed Administrator

The Provost & Pritchard team has been identified as the proposed administrator for Sierra Vista Association. Their qualifications include:

- Managing 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 and Services Provided

This administrator will be a Full-Scope Administrator as defined in the Administrator Policy Handbook available online at [https://bit.ly/SAFER\\_Administrator\\_Handbook](https://bit.ly/SAFER_Administrator_Handbook).

### 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.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Prior to the selection of an administrator, to provide administrative, technical, operational, legal, and managerial services to a designated water system, the State Water Board shall provide an opportunity to submit comments by mail or electronically for at least 30 days after this notice.

Public comments are being accepted until September 30, 2021. Please send your comments to one of the options below:

Mail: Karen Nishimoto, P.E.  
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water  
500 North Central Avenue Suite 500 Glendale, CA 91203

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

If you have any questions or verbal comments regarding this letter or the administrator, please contact Caitlin Juarez of my staff. Due to our current COVID response, email is

the best correspondence method. Ms. Juarez can be reached at [Caitlin.Juarez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Juarez@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Karen Nishimoto*

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

CC:

Bryan Potter, P.E.  
Tulare District Engineer  
Division of Drinking Water  
[Bryan.Potter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bryan.Potter@waterboards.ca.gov)

Tricia Wathen, P.E.  
Central CA Section Chief  
Division of Drinking Water  
[Tricia.Wathen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tricia.Wathen@waterboards.ca.gov)

Supervisor Vander Poel III, Chairman  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors  
County of Tulare Administrative Offices  
2800 W. Burrel Ave  
Visalia, CA 93291

Cosmo Garvin  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
State Water Resources Control Board  
[Cosmo.Garvin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Cosmo.Garvin@waterboards.ca.gov)