West Water Company
Public Meeting
Bruce Burton, P.E.
Betl Girma, P.E.
State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water
- Explain the West Water Company consolidation and change of ownership with the Fitch Mountain CSA-41.

- Receive feedback.

- Answer questions.
Meeting Logistics

Presentation with slides

Documents and presentation online

Everyone will be muted
Meeting Logistics (continued)

Email questions during the meeting to NorCalEngagement@Waterboards.ca.gov

We will also open it up to comments and questions at the end of the meeting. You can raise your Zoom hand if you have a question or comment.
How To Raise Hand – Via Computer

**Step 1:** Click the ‘Participants’ button at the bottom of the screen. This brings up several options to choose from to provide nonverbal feedback.

**Step 2:** Select the ‘Raise Hand’ option.
How to Raise Hand Via Computer (continued)
How to Raise Hand Via Computer (continued)
How To Raise Hand – Via Phone

- Dial *9
Let's Practice Raising and Lowering Hands!
• Meeting Outline:
  • Overview of the West Water System
  • Proposed State Water Board action
  • Reasons for action
  • State Water Board goals
  • Process
  • Community input
  • Question/Answer
Water System Basics

5,000-gallon tank

Emergency Generator

Booster Pump

Pressure Tanks

Galvanized Pipe Distribution

Residences

62-foot deep well

Liquid Chlorine
The West Water System would be owned and operated by Sonoma County.

The West Water System would become the West Water District in Sonoma County Service Area (CSA) 41.

The West Water System will be operated and regulated as an independent public water system with no physical connection to another water system or any legal ties to any other public water system, including Fitch Mountain.
Why is the State Board Taking Action?

Physical Condition/Deficiencies of the System

- Physical condition of well – Well casing is in poor condition. Failure of this well would leave the community without water.

- Lack of adequate storage – Additional storage is needed to provide water to customers when the system is out of service for short periods of time.

- Inadequate water rights

- Distribution system - Pipes are going on 65 years. Leaks and corrosion that have reduced the flow of water are likely.
Why is the State Board Taking Action? (continued)

Potentially serious water quality problem

- Historically, the well produced water with coliform bacteria.
- Chlorine disinfection installed in 1999.
- Bacterial contamination found in February 2019.
- Bacterial contamination seems to occur when the river is high in the winter since the well is only 62 feet deep. When the river is high, river water has the potential to enter the well more easily.
Current ownership limitations

- Cannot afford for necessary improvements.
- Cannot qualify for private financing.
- Cannot qualify for State Water Board funding.
- Cannot serve residents on Riverside Drive
Ultimate Goals

- Change to a sustainable public entity (managerial consolidation).

- Complete improvements to make the system sustainable: new well, adequate storage, new distribution system, remote monitoring equipment, and customer meters.

- Provide service to customers on Riverside Drive who wish to receive it.

- Ensure safe and reliable drinking water is provided to customers for the foreseeable future.
Six-months for voluntary consolidation agreement.

Public Meeting (original public meeting postponed). Six-months restarted from the date of this meeting.

Appoint a Full-Scop Administrator to take legal control of the water system.
Takes legal control of the water system:

- Oversees consolidation process.
- Applies for State Water Board funding to make necessary water system improvements.
- Deals with water rights issues.
- Coordinates analysis to determine necessary rates to operate the rebuilt water system.
- Informs customers of consolidation and improvement project status on a regular basis.

Proposed administrator qualifications will be available once the selection is made but before the order is issued to give you time to review and give us your comments. More information on the administrator process will be provided soon.
Improvement Project: new source well, adequate storage, new distribution system, remote monitoring equipment, customer water meters

State Board will contact property owners on Riverside Drive

State Board will determine fair market value of water system

State Board makes required findings
Process (Continued)

- Second public meeting
- Consolidation Order issued
- Compensation to owners
- Transfer of water system to Sonoma County
- Complete necessary improvements
Written comments and questions can be mailed or emailed to:

Betli Girma  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 17th Floor  
Sacramento, CA  
OR  
NorCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov  

Notifications of future developments