Informational Meeting on Palo Alto Park Feasibility Study

Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

SAFER Program - October 27, 2026

Ways to Participate

Submit a comment:

Email SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov with subject “PAPMWC,” and follow instructions in return email to join the meeting.



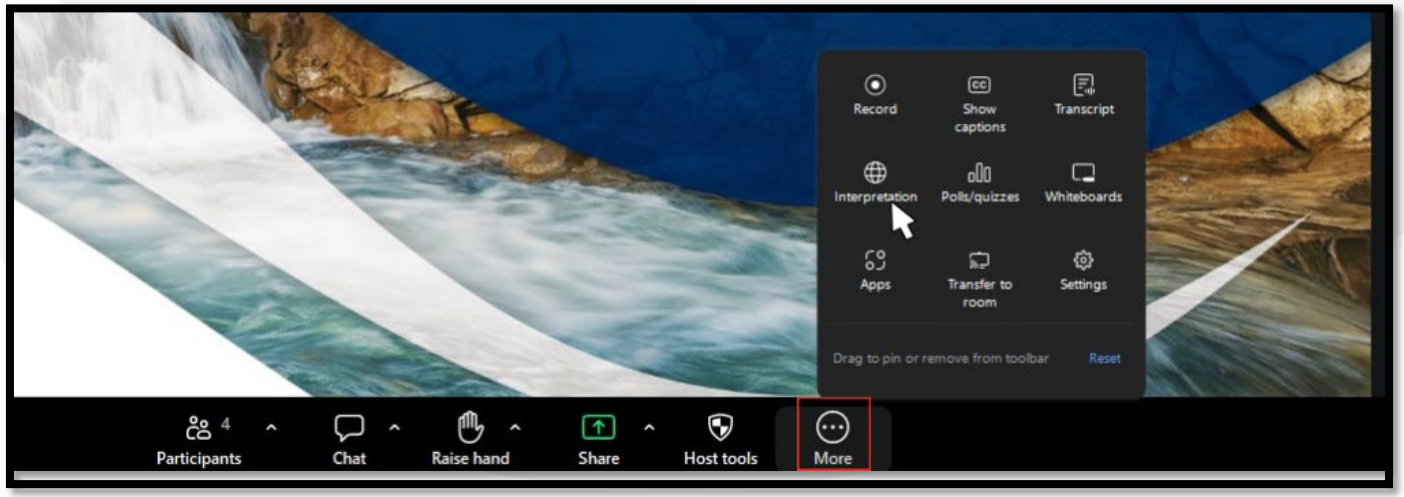
Technical or language interpretation assistance:
SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov

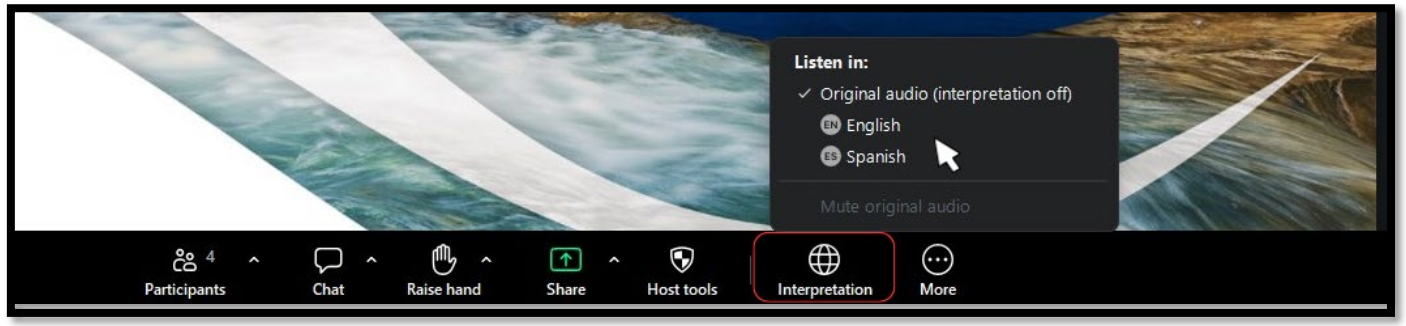
Language Interpretation through Zoom

Locate the **options bar** at the bottom of your screen.

Click the **three dots** and select the **Interpretation** icon in your meeting controls

- Navigate to Language Channels
- **Everyone must select a language: English or Spanish**
- If listening in Spanish, click **Mute Original Audio**





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View Presentation Options

Click on one of the **Tab Options** at the top of your screen:

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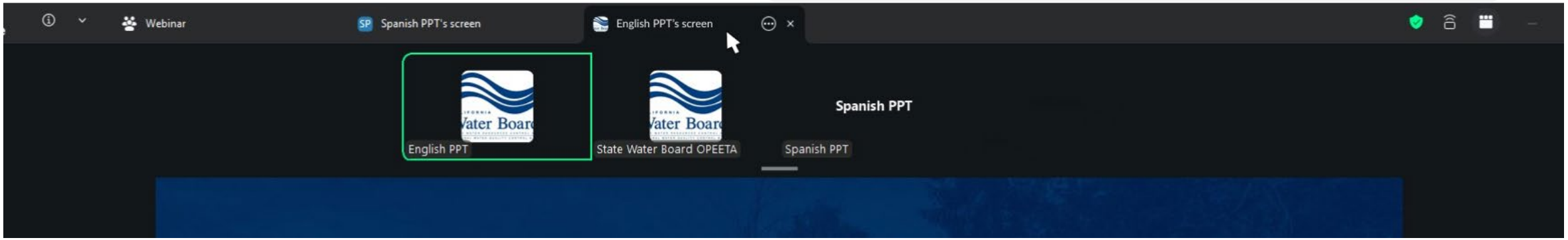

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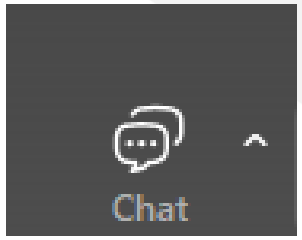
Zoom Interactions

Click on **Chat**.



- To send or read a message from participants or staff.
- To communicate with staff a technical issue.

Click on **Raise Hand**



- Raise your hand to ask to speak.



Water Boards' Mission

Preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Welcome & Introductions

Johannus Reijnders
SAFER Drinking Water Solutions Engagement Team



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

SAFER Program – October 27, 2026

Welcome & Introductions

State Water Board

- **Johannus Reijnders**
  (*Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs*)
- **Icelyn Yepez**
  (*Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs*)
- **Zohra Mir**
  (Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs)

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

- Caitlin Glover
- Mike Antos
- Connie Adera
- Rachel Wittenberg

Meeting Agenda

1. SAFER Program Background
2. Feasibility Study Overview
3. Feasibility Study Findings
4. Public comment
5. Wrap up and Next Steps



Meeting Agreements



Please hold off on questions and comments until we reach the public comment section.



You may fill out a comment card during the presentation or raise your hand after.



Everyone will have a chance to speak during the public comment section.

Stantec

Community Meeting

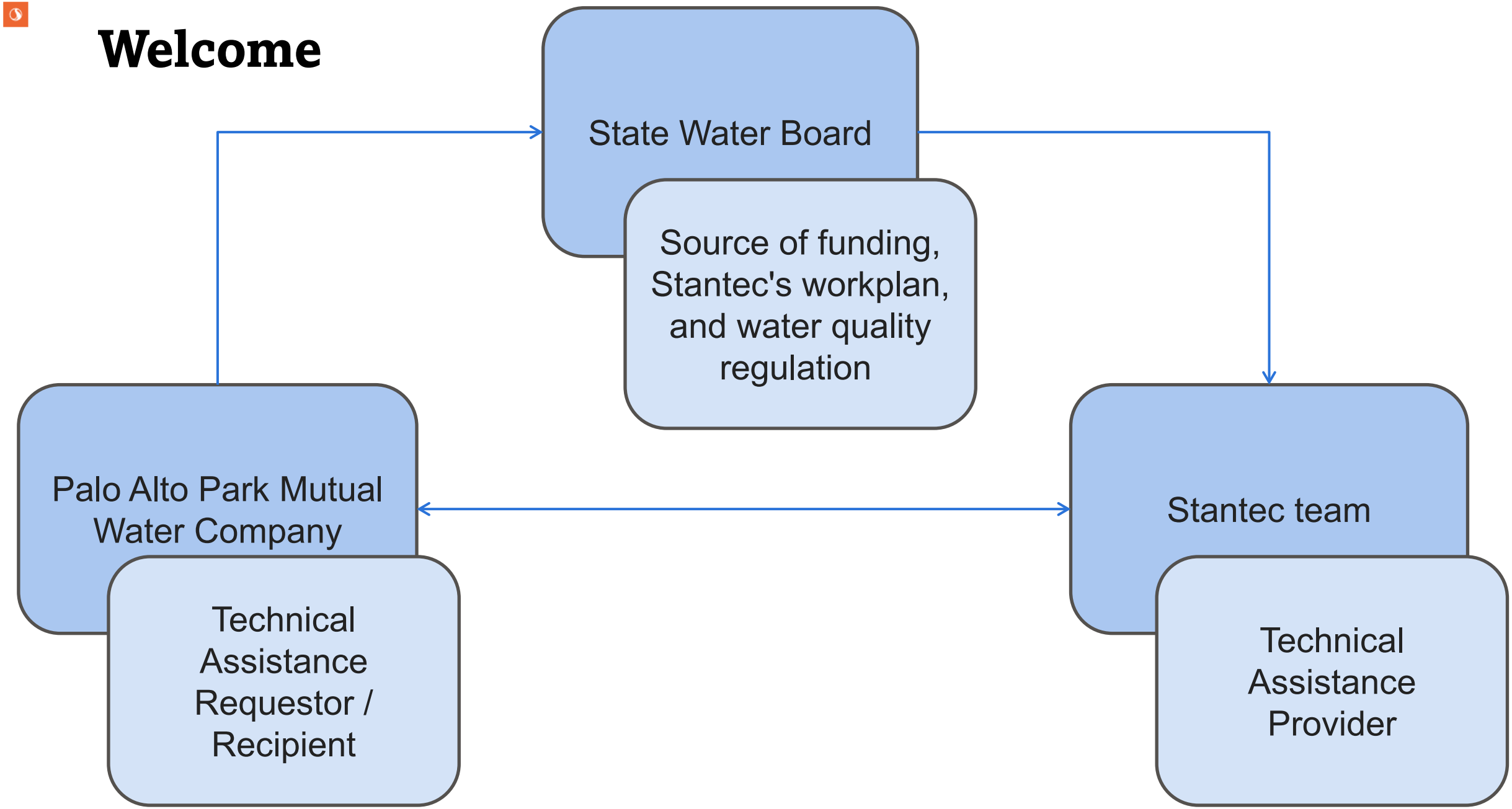
Palo Alto Park Feasibility Study Technical Assistance

October 27, 2026



Photo source: www.papmwc.org

Welcome


State Water Board
Source of funding, Stantec's workplan, and water quality regulation
Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company
Technical Assistance Requestor / Recipient
Stantec team
Technical Assistance Provider

What to expect from Stantec's presentation today?



Learn about the Technical Assistance work that has been done



Receive overview on the SAFER Program and the Feasibility Study



Understand what will be happening next

SAFER Program Background

SAFER Drinking Water Program

Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program

- Aims to provide safe and affordable drinking water in California via short- and long- term solutions

Current Assignment – Technical Assistance

- Evaluate two alternatives to provide safe, reliable, and clean drinking water to Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company:

Alternative 1: Evaluate a treatment system to address the water quality concerns and evaluate developing a new well

Alternative 2: Connect with the City of East Palo Alto and receive water from their supplies

Update to PAPMWC's Emergency Response Plan

Important Definitions – Water Quality Standards

- Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs):
  - Legally enforceable primary standards that apply to public water systems and protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in water
- Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs):
  - Non-health-based standards established to address water quality and aesthetic concerns such as taste, color, and odor
  - Community water systems in California must comply with SMCLs

Important Definitions – Consolidation

- Intertie or Interconnection:
  - A physical connection between two distinct water systems
  - Each water system retains full control of their respective water system
  - These configurations should be accompanied by robust legal agreements or contracts



- Physical Consolidation:
  - The joining of two systems via a physical connection
  - The smaller water system is dissolved, and its customers are provided water service and billing by the larger receiving water system
  - The combined water systems operate under one permit

Project Overview

What is a Feasibility Study?

- A feasibility study evaluates potential solutions to a water system's problem to help determine which options may be viable
  - Evaluates alternatives based on technical needs, costs, regulatory requirements, environmental impacts, and site constraints

- Identifies potential options and areas where further study may be needed
  - Does not select an option or make decisions about what happens next

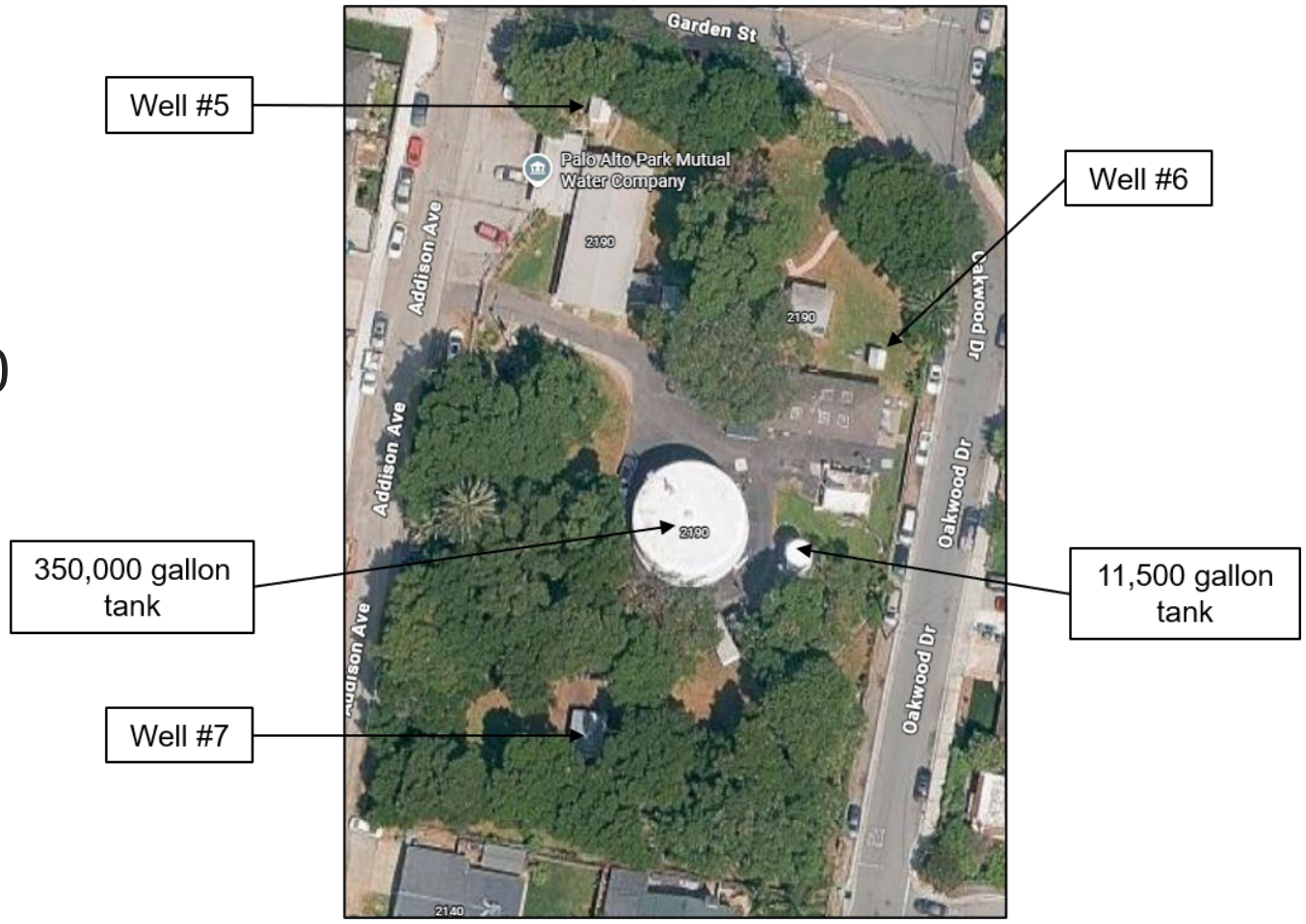
Why was a Feasibility Study Needed for PAPMWC?

- On May 23, 2024, Division of Drinking Water issued a citation to PAPMWC because it does not meet the requirements for producing enough water to supply the community

- This study provides information to help PAPMWC and other decision-makers, including regulators and mutual water company shareholders, consider the available options and determine next steps
  - If an option is selected to move forward, additional planning, engineering, and design may be needed

Why was a Feasibility Study Needed?

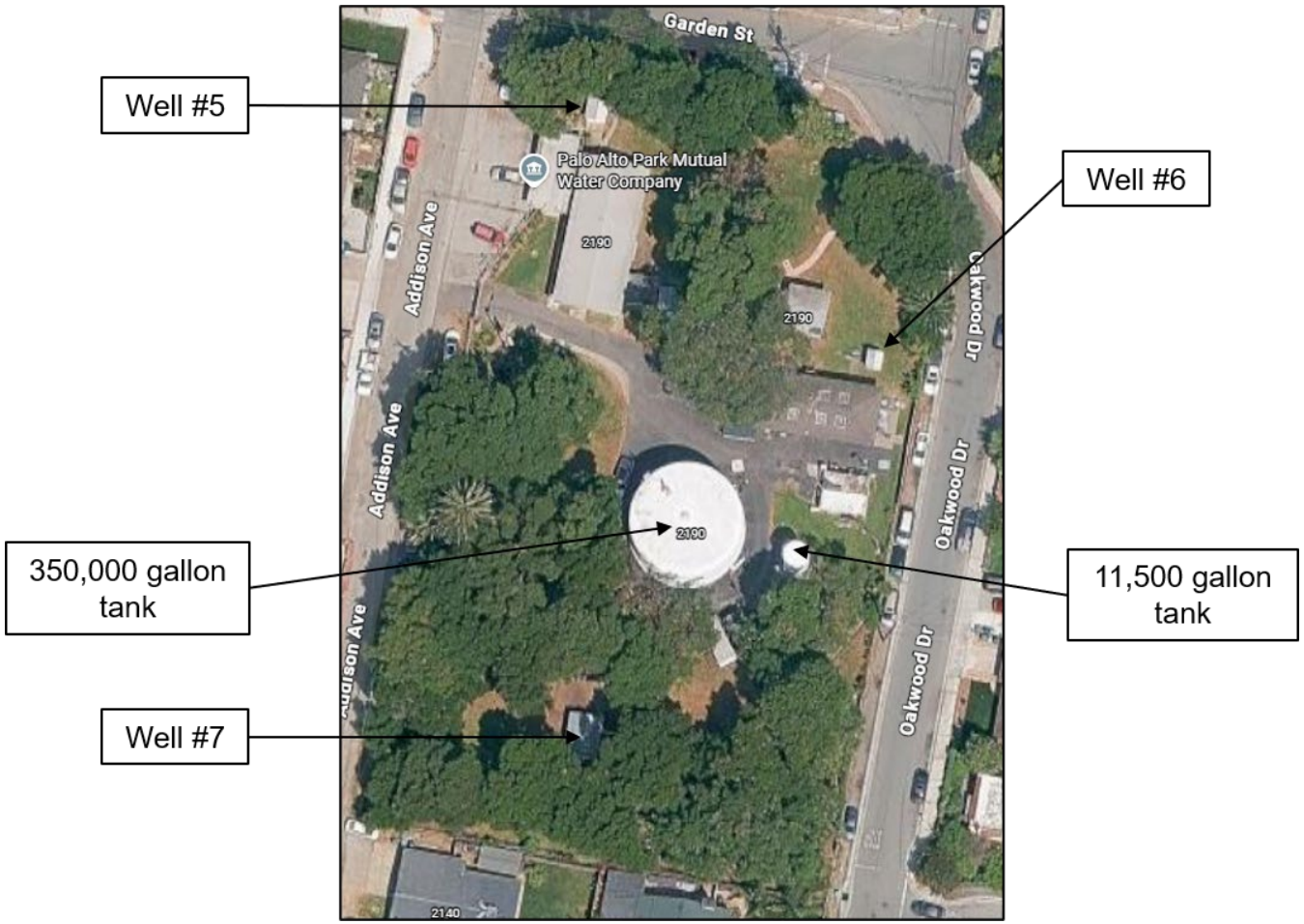
- PAPMWC has three active wells (Wells 5, 6, and 7)
- PAPMWC has two storage tanks onsite (350,000 gallons and 11,500 gallons)
- Water produced by Wells 5 and 6 has decreased in recent years
  - Wells have exceeded their useful life
  - Wells 5 and 6 do not have any water quality issues that are higher than the limits (MCLs and SMCL)



Why was a Feasibility Study Needed?

- Well 7 is unable to be operated
  - Contains iron, manganese, and aluminum above the SMCLs
  - Previously Well 7 was blended with Wells 5 and 6

Additional supply and treatment is needed to meet requirements



Feasibility Study Summary

Alternatives Considered in Feasibility Study

Alternative 1: Evaluate a treatment system to address the water quality concerns and evaluate developing a new well

Alternative 2: Connect with the City of East Palo Alto and receive water from their supplies

Alternative 1: Treatment and a new well

- New well design criteria
  - Sized to replace the existing Well 5 and Well 6
  - Water quality of the new well is unknown → potential to have iron and manganese above the SMCL

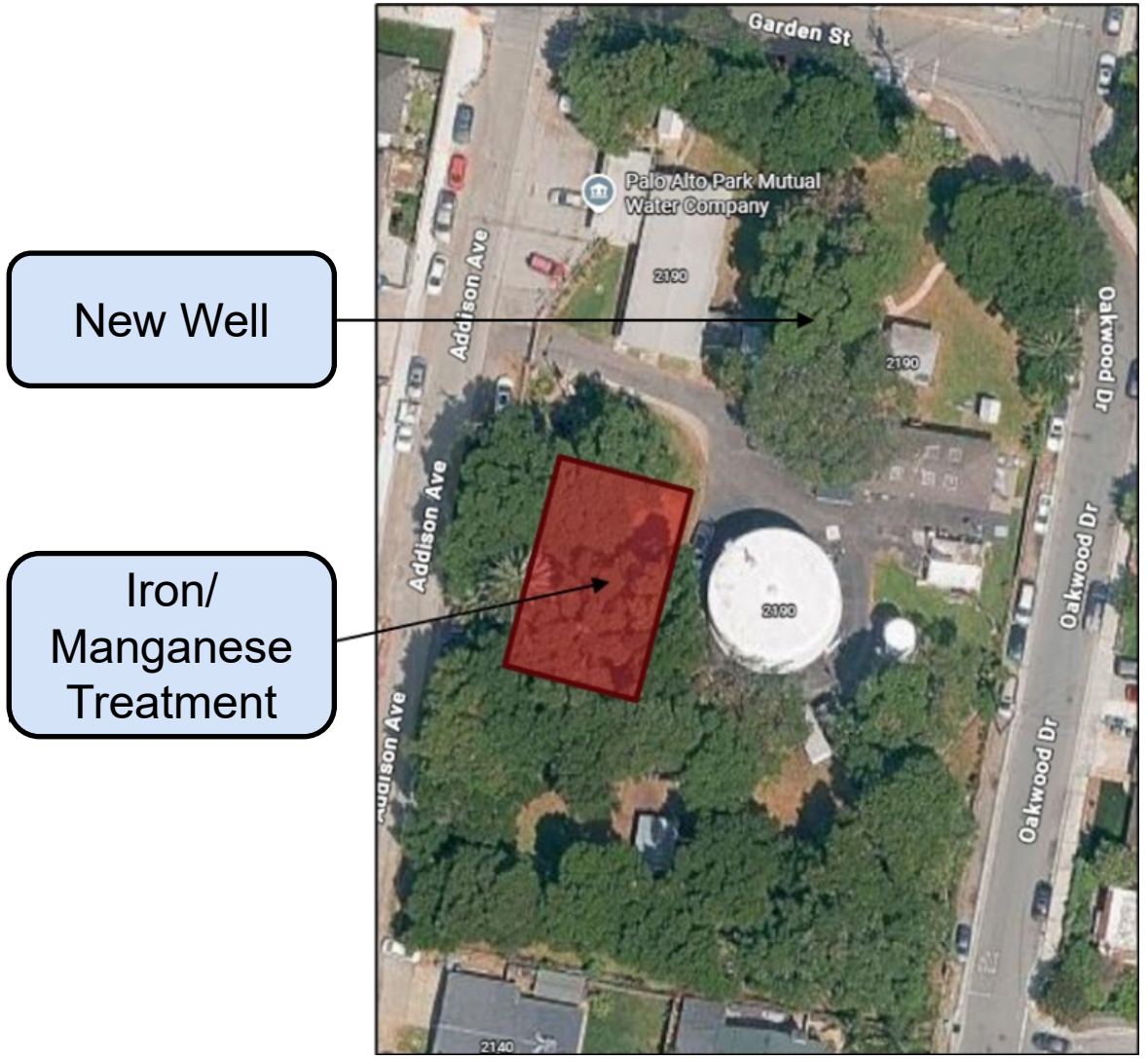
- Treatment approach
  - Option 1: Treatment for Well 7 only → assumes new well does not require treatment
  - Option 2: Treatment to support entire water system

- Treatment design criteria
  - Treatment incudes two pieces: chemical addition and filtration
  - PAPMWC completed a 2021 pilot to determine the chemical addition and filtration needs

Alternative 1: Treatment and a new well

- Capital Equipment Cost Estimate Includes:
  - New well and site work
  - Treatment equipment, piping connections, and other site work
  - Decommissioning the existing wells

- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Cost Estimate Includes:
  - Disposal of water treatment waste
  - Replacement of materials within the filter (every 10 years)
  - Chemical dosing
  - Equipment maintenance
  - Additional operator hours for treatment monitoring



Alternative 2A & 2B explored in Feasibility Study

Alternative 2: Connect with the City of East Palo Alto and receive water from their supplies

Alternative 2A: **Physical Consolidation** with the City of East Palo Alto

Alternative 2B: **Intertie or Interconnection** with the City of East Palo Alto

City of East Palo Alto

- City of East Palo Alto serves a population of 29,519 via 3,878 connections
- PAPMWC serves a population of 2,900 via 692 connections
- City of East Palo Alto purchases all of its drinking water from San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Regional Water System
  - Contract allows them to receive water
  - Surface water source
- City of East Palo Alto operates one groundwater well that is treated for iron and manganese → primarily serves as an emergency source
- City of East Palo Alto has no onsite storage

Alternative 2A:
Physical Consolidation

- PAPMWC would be dissolved and no longer exist as a water system
- City of East Palo Alto would assume ownership and management of the water system
- City of East Palo Alto would take over the maintenance of all infrastructure and all management including billing and customer service

Physical Consolidation:

- The joining of two systems via a physical connection
- The smaller water system is dissolved, and its customers are provided water service and billing by the larger receiving water system
- The combined water systems operate under one permit

Alternative 2B:
Intertie or Interconnection

- PAPMWC would purchase water from the City of East Palo Alto

- PAPMWC would continue operating as a water system and be responsible for maintaining all infrastructure and manage billing and customer service

Intertie or Interconnection:

- A physical connection between two distinct water systems
- Each water system retains full control of their respective water system
- These configurations should be accompanied by robust legal agreements or contracts

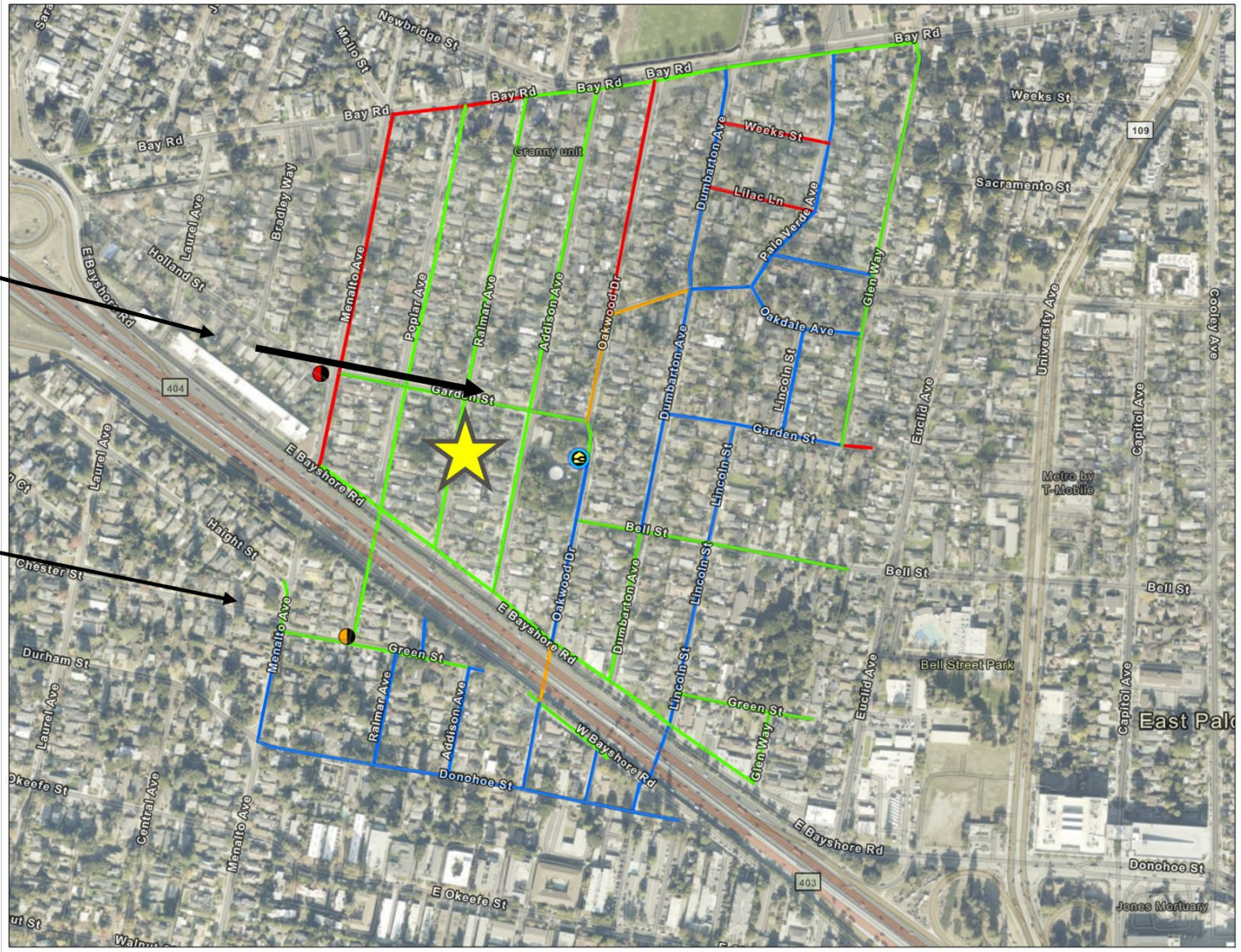
Alternative 2A & 2B Infrastructure:
Connect with the City of East Palo Alto

- How would the two systems be connected?
  - Option 1: Two points of connection between the two drinking water distribution systems
  - Option 2: Pipeline to connect the City of East Palo Alto's distribution system to the PAPMWC existing storage tanks

Alternative 2: Connect with the City of East Palo Alto

New intertie: Holland Street

Re-developed intertie: Green Street



Alternative 2A & 2B Infrastructure:
Connect with the City of East Palo Alto

- Option 1: Two points of connection between the two drinking water distribution systems
  - Equipment Cost Estimate Includes:
    - Two booster pump stations and site work to support pump stations
- Option 2: Pipeline to connect the City of East Palo Alto's distribution system to the PAPMWC existing storage tanks
  - Equipment Cost Estimate Includes:
    - Pipeline cost and site work to support pipeline

Summary and Comparison

Alternative	Advantages	Disadvantages
1: Treatment and New Well	• Ensure customers are served with water that meets the MCLs and SMCLs • Development of new well • PAPMWC retains independence	• Increased O&M costs and monitoring for PAPMWC • Potential to increase costs for PAPMWC residents • Would not update customer services provided by PAPMWC

Summary and Comparison

Alternative	Advantages	Disadvantages
2A: Physical Consolidation	• Ensure customers are served with water that meets the MCLs and SMCLs • May improve economies of scale • Consolidation may increase transparency in customer service and billing • The City of East Palo Alto is interested in exploring this option	• SFPUC may not have sufficient supply capacity to support additional customers, residents would rely on imported water • Potential to increase costs for PAPMWC residents • PAPMWC assets may incur deferred maintenance costs for the City of East Palo Alto • Would require local support from PAPMWC, City of East Palo Alto, and their communities • Menlo Park residents in the PAPMWC may not have a mechanism to be represented

Summary and Comparison

Alternative	Advantages	Disadvantages
2B: Intertie or Inter-connection	• Ensure customers are served with water that meets the MCLs and SMCLs • Anticipated to require less time to implement • The City of East Palo Alto is interested in exploring this option	• SFPUC may not have sufficient supply capacity to support additional customers, residents would rely on imported water • Potential to increase costs for PAPMWC residents • Would require local support from PAPMWC, City of East Palo Alto, and the communities • Would not update customer services provided by PAPMWC

Cost Impact Assumptions

- Alternative 1: New Well and Treatment
  - Assumes the project is funded through a bond or loan
  - System has an existing loan – originally set aside to pay for treatment but was reallocated to a new well

Cost Impact Assumptions

- Alternative 2A: Physical Consolidation
  - Costs and customer rates will depend on future negotiations with the City of East Palo Alto
  - Customer rate impacts were not evaluated because future costs and rates are not yet known
  - Will require future negotiation with City of East Palo Alto and SFPUC

- Alternative 2B: Intertie or Interconnection
  - Assumes PAPMWC purchases water from the City of East Palo Alto to serve all customers
  - Assumes current operating and maintenance costs continues, except for chlorination
  - Costs depend on water purchase assumptions, infrastructure needs, and future negotiations with the City of East Palo Alto and SFPUC

Understanding the Financial Analysis

- A full rate study will need to be completed before the project moves forward

- The study includes a 10-year Rate Revenue Sufficiency Analysis for Alternatives 1 and 2B, not a full rate study.
  - The analysis evaluates projected revenues, operating expenses, capital costs, and existing debt to estimate potential rate impacts.

Estimated costs and rate impacts are based on assumptions and may change

Cost Summary

Alternative	Estimated Capital Cost
1: Well 7 Treatment and New Well	$2,011,000
1: Full System Treatment and New Well	$2,734,000
2A: Physical Consolidation, Interties	$1,202,000
2A: Physical Consolidation, Pipeline	$1,459,000
2B: Intertie Consolidation, Interties	$1,202,000
2B: Intertie Consolidation, Pipeline	$1,459,000

Cost Summary

Alternative	Estimated Capital Cost	O&M
1: Well 7 Treatment and New Well	$2,011,000	$43,000
1: Full System Treatment and New Well	$2,734,000	$70,000
2A: Physical Consolidation, Interties	$1,202,000	Not assessed
2A: Physical Consolidation, Pipeline	$1,459,000	
2B: Intertie Consolidation, Interties	$1,202,000	Not assessed
2B: Intertie Consolidation, Pipeline	$1,459,000	

Cost Summary

Alternative	Estimated Capital Cost	O&M	Cost Impact
1: Well 7 Treatment and New Well	$2,011,000	$43,000	20% monthly increase in rate revenue
1: Full System Treatment and New Well	$2,734,000	$70,000	30% monthly increase in rate revenue
2A: Physical Consolidation, Interties	$1,202,000	Not assessed	Not assessed
2A: Physical Consolidation, Pipeline	$1,459,000		
2B: Intertie Consolidation, Interties	$1,202,000	Not assessed	Potential 140% monthly increase in rate revenue based on annual water purchase cost estimate
2B: Intertie Consolidation, Pipeline	$1,459,000		

Public Comment

Johannus Reijnders
SAFER Drinking Water Solutions Engagement Team



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

SAFER Program - October 27, 2026

Public Comments Guidelines

Remote

1. Email comment to: **DDW-NorCalEngagement@Waterboards.ca.gov**
2. Raise hand and wait to be called on. Speaking time is limited to **3 minutes.**
3. For technical or language assistance, email: **SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov**.

- ***Please speak slowly for language interpretation***

Wrap up and Next Steps

Stantec

Technical Assistance Provider



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

SAFER Program, October 27, 2026

Wrap up and Next Steps

Demand Assessment

Data Review

Water Sampling and Testing

Alternatives 1: New Well + Treatment

Alternatives 2a: Physical Consolidation

Alternative 2b: Intertie or Interconnection

Capital and O&M Costs

<u>Draft</u> Feasibility Study Report

Input from SWB, Palo Alto Park MWC, and the community

We are here

<u>Final</u> Feasibility Study Report

Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Stantec will provide the final feasibility study with comments from the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company and the community to the State Water Board

- This concludes Stantec's technical assistance assignment

- The State Water Board will review the study and comments to determine next steps, including whether additional planning assistance may be appropriate based on the technical feasibility, funding eligibility, and other necessary requirements of the alternatives evaluated

Potential Funding Considerations

- **If consolidation is determined to be feasible and the most sustainable solution**

  Grant funding and/or Principal Forgiveness (PF) may be available for the consolidation project, subject to DFA's assessment and applicable funding requirements.

- **If an alternative project is pursued**

  If consolidation is feasible but is not the preferred solution identified by the applicant, loan funding may be available for an alternative project, subject to applicable DWSRF requirements.

Eligibility and available funding depend on DFA's assessment and applicable program requirements.

Source: SFY 2026–27 DWSRF IUP, Appendix F

Thank you!

To submit public comments about the feasibility study, please contact: DDW-NorCalEngagement@Waterboards.ca.gov

Deadline for public comment: November 6th, 2026

Thank you!

Email: DDW-NorCalEngagement@Waterboards.ca.gov



CALIFORNIA
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Resources



Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company Project Webpage

https://go.waterboards.ca.gov/PAPMWC