

# Northern Tulare County Regionalization

*Community Meeting*



SAFER Program – August 27, 2025

# Welcome and Local District Boards Roll Call

- Cutler Public Utility District
- Sultana Community Services District
- Orosi Public Utility District
- Yettem-Seville Community Services District
- East Orosi Community Services District

# Welcome & Introductions

*Johannus Reijnders*  
*State Water Resources Control Board*



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# Welcome & Introductions

## State Water Board

- Bryan Potter (DDW)
- Caitlin Juarez (DDW)
- Eric Uppal (DFA)
- Julia Glick
- Johannus Reijnders
- Aaron Dickinson
- Icelyn Yepez

## Provost & Pritchard

- Maija Madec
- John Plath
- Ryan Jensen

## UC Berkeley, UCANR

- Kristin Dobbin

# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Recap of the 6/18 Meeting
- Community Decision Making
- Our Recommendations
- Next Steps



# What We Welcome

- We welcome waiting to give your questions and comments until we reach the discussion portion for each section
- We welcome your comments
- We welcome speaking one at a time and using the microphone
- You can comment several ways: speak during the discussion, fill out a comment sheet for us to read out loud, or leave your feedback after

# Recap: Why We're Here & What We've Heard

*Johannus Reijnders*  
*State Water Resources Control Board*



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# Project Purpose: Building a Stronger Water Future

Our Shared Goal:

*Ensure every community in the Northern Tulare County Region has long-term, sustainable access to safe drinking water.*

# **Project Purpose: How can the Water Boards support this goal?**

- Open dialogue to shape a shared regional vision
- Fund studies to explore drinking water solutions in the region
- Share examples of successful regional governance partnerships
- Support the region in preparing a strong funding application
- Provide technical assistance toward a regional drinking water solution

# Community Workshop (3) – 06/18/25

## Summary of Activity #1

### Community Challenges:

- Contaminated and dry wells
- Unsafe drinking water
- High service costs and reliance on bottled water
- Aging infrastructure and limited governance capacity
- Lack of community engagement

### Goals for Regionalization:

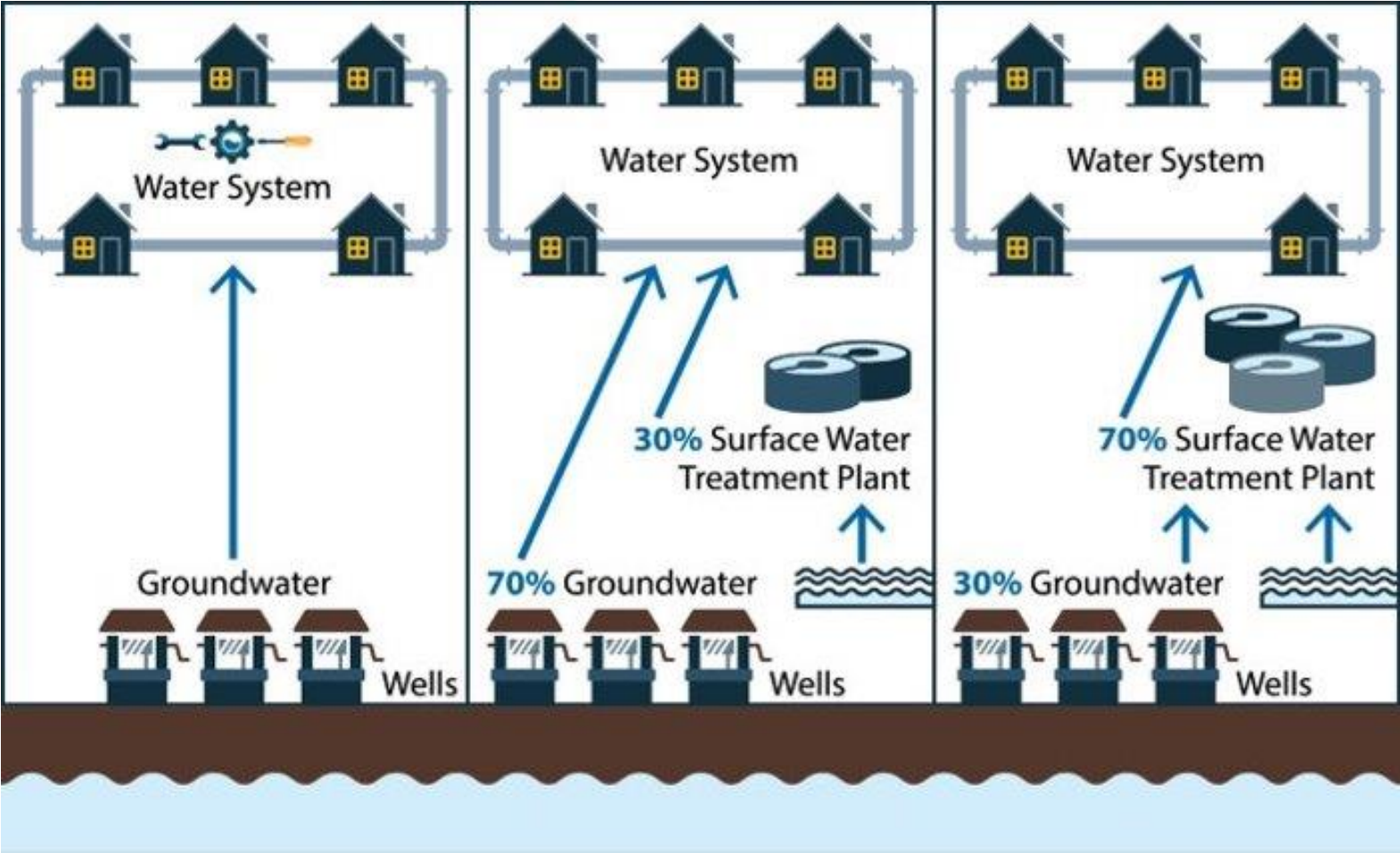
- Lower costs, better infrastructure, fair representation, and long-term sustainability and collaboration

## Summary of Activity #2

Despite differences in the models, several shared concerns and priorities emerged:

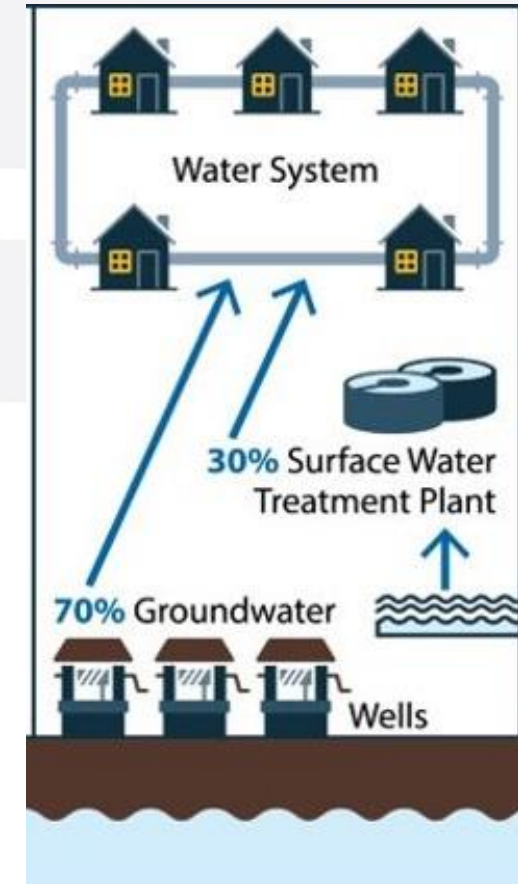
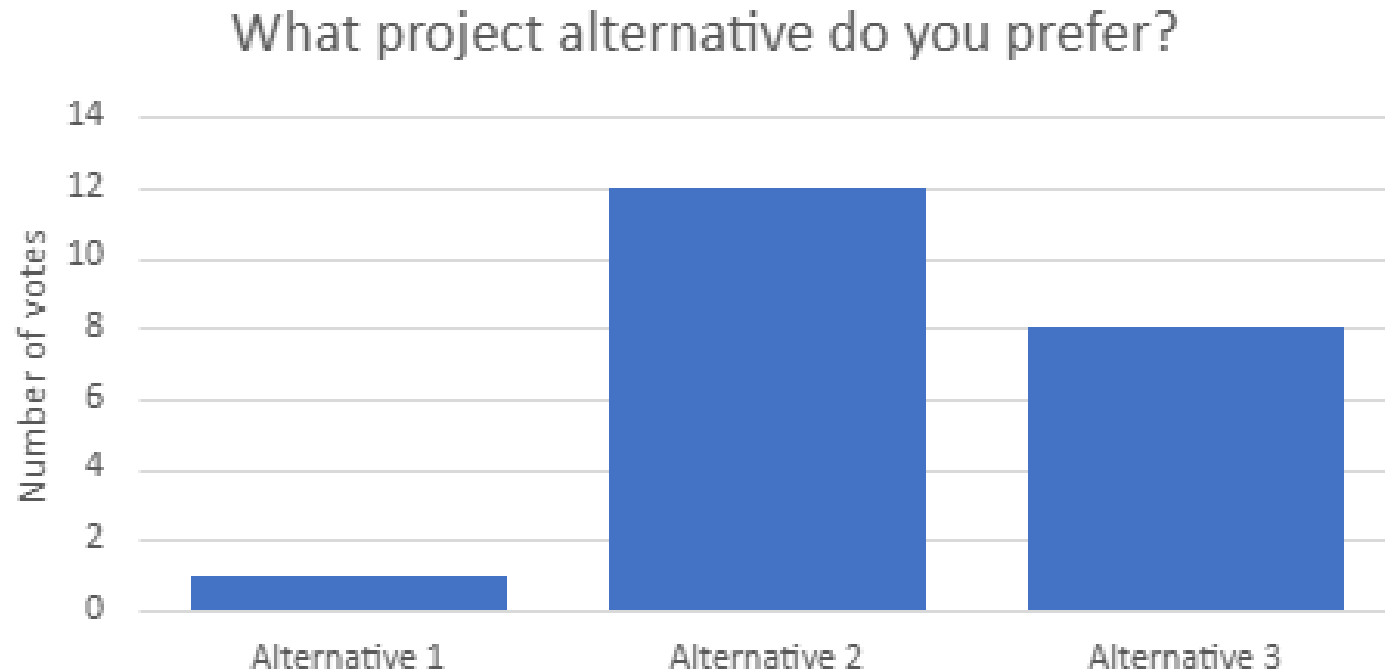
- Fair and balanced representation, especially for smaller underserved communities
- Affordable and equitable cost structures
- Greater trust, transparency, and community involvement in decision-making
- Need to increase technical and managerial capacity due to aging infrastructure
- Long-term sustainability and climate resilience

# Alternatives 1, 2, & 3



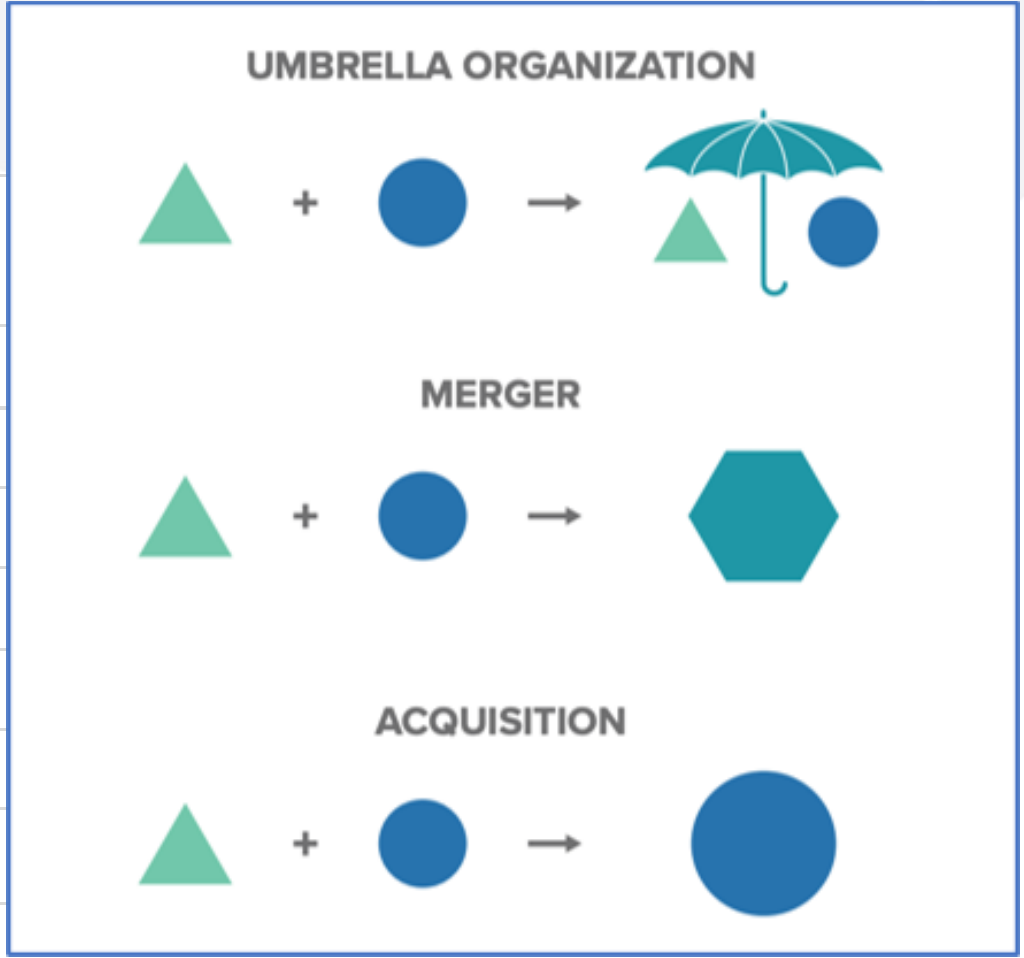
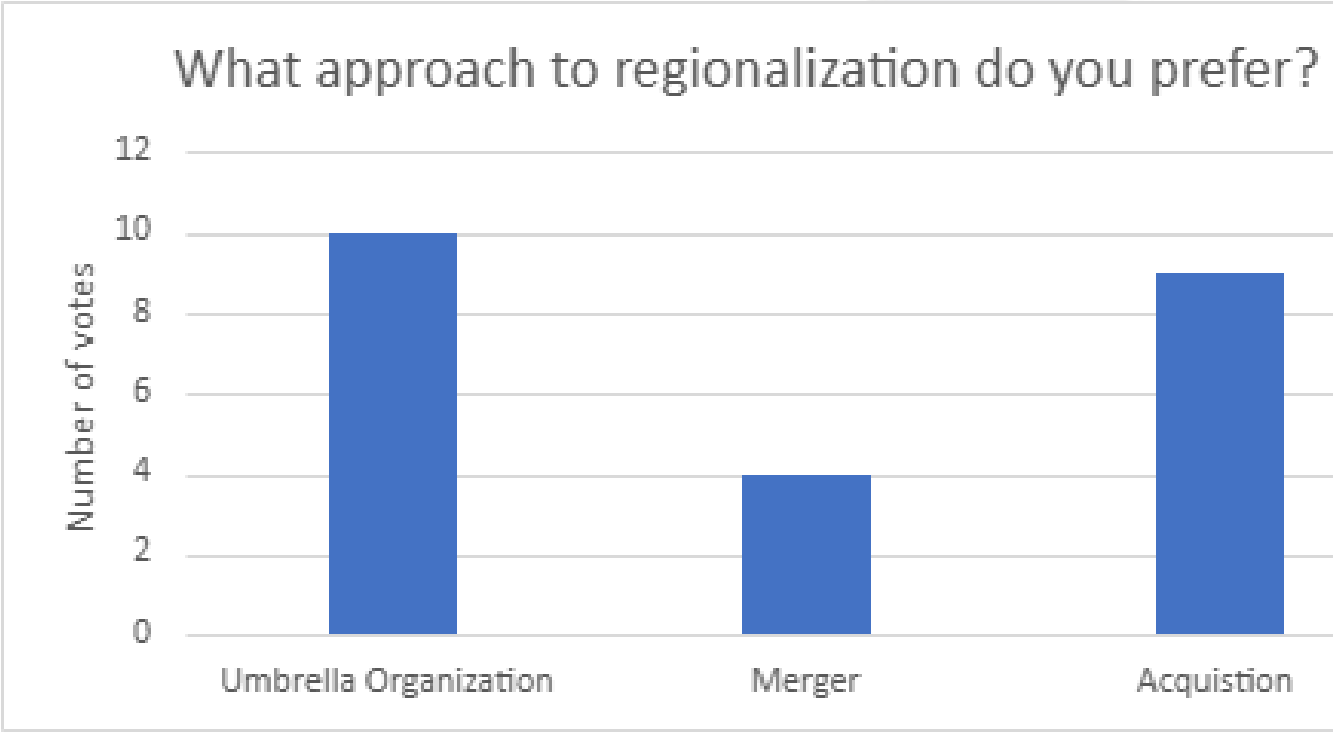
# Community Workshop (3) – 06/18/25

## Exit Ticket Results



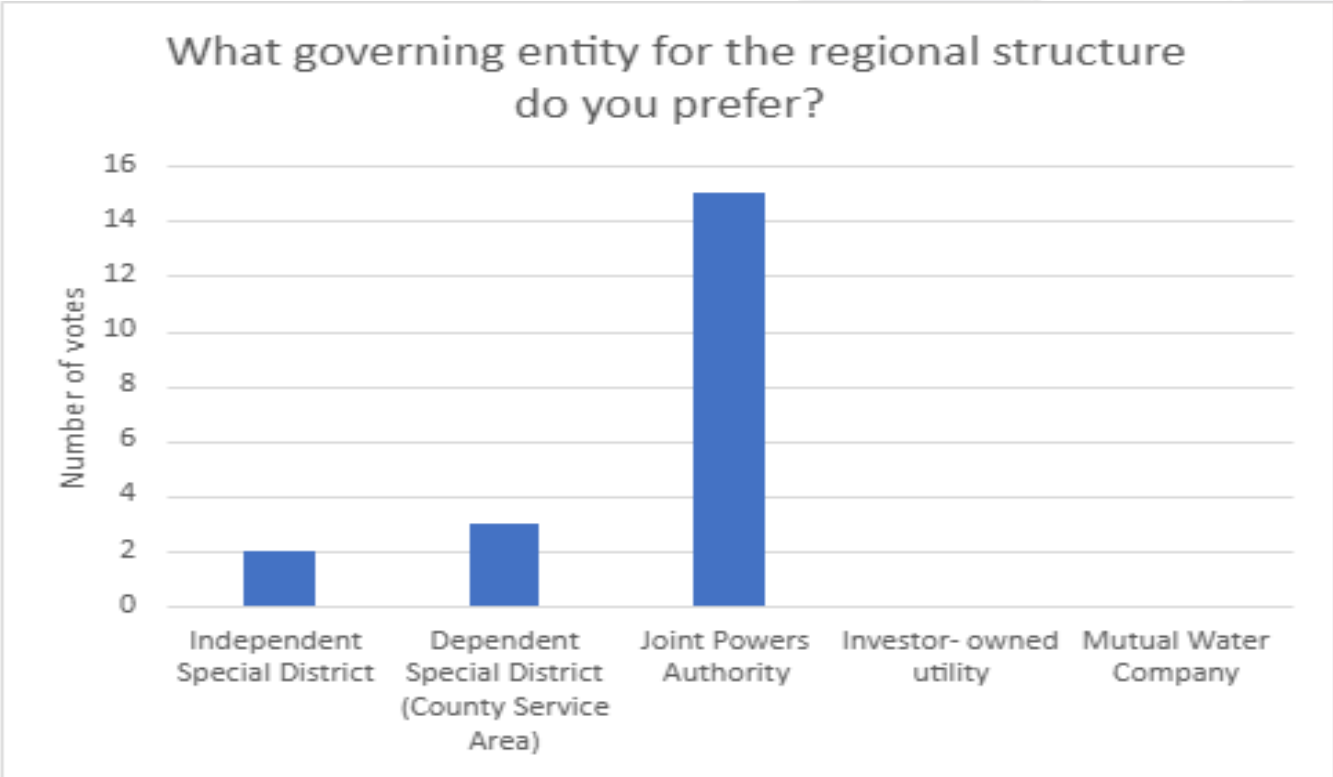
# Community Workshop (3) – 06/18/25

## Exit Ticket Results



# Community Workshop (3) – 06/18/25

## Exit Ticket Results



### Joint Powers Authority

Collaborative governance structures in which two or more public entities create a new governing entity to jointly exercise common powers toward a specific, defined purpose

### Dependent Special District/County Service Area

### Independent Special District

# Governance Term Sheet & Selecting an Alternative

*Bryan Potter*  
*Division of Drinking Water*



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# Selected Project Alternative

- Each water system shall submit its preferred infrastructure alternative from among those presented in the feasibility study completed by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group to DDW by **December 19<sup>th</sup>**.
  - Alternative 1: Individual System Improvements and Physical Consolidation Loop
  - Alternative 2: Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant Partial Supply
  - Alternative 3: Regional Surface Water Treatment Plant

# Joint Governance Term Sheet

- Draft a governance term sheet jointly among all participating water systems and submit to DDW by **December 19<sup>th</sup>**
  - The proposed governance model to be pursued
  - The preliminary structure for board representation and decision-making
  - A general timeline and next steps for implementation
  - Points of agreement and areas still under discussion
- The purpose of the Governance Term Sheet is to ensure mutual understanding, build alignment, and establish a path forward as the water systems move toward formal consolidation.

# Why now?

- Funds are finite and demand is high.
- The State Water Board is **currently funding** Technical Assistance to support this regionalization project.
- The Planning Technical Assistance funding for regionalization may not be available in the future.

# Community Visioning

*Group Discussion*



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# Community Visioning – Self Reflection

Self Reflection (5 Minutes): Write down any initial thoughts or questions you have about the following topics, or any topics that have been discussed at previous community workshops.

What governance solution do I think will accomplish the goals of this regionalization?

What proposed project alternative will serve the region sustainably and equitably?

What does collaborating as a region look like to me?

What questions do I have for the State Waterboard?

What questions do I have for other local boards or communities?

# Community Visioning – Large Group

As a large group, this is your opportunity to share with each other and begin the process of coming to a mutually beneficial agreement. We welcome collaboration and respect.

- Listen mindfully and carefully.
- Talk to each other, not just the facilitator.
- Ask for clarification when needed.
- Invite and allow others to speak.

# Next Steps

*Johannus Reijnders*  
*State Water Resources Control Board*



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# Timeline

- August 31st: Feasibility Report is finalized
- December 9th: Community Workshop #5 in Monson
- December 19th: Draft Governance Term Sheet Due

# How to Continue the Conversation

- Drop off a comment card at your local water district's office.
  - Take a comment card home with you today.
  - Fill one out at your local water district's office.
- Email: [SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov)
- Online Form: <https://bit.ly/saferntc>

# Closing Meeting Local District Boards Roll Call

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