

Old River & South Kern MWCs

Public Meeting
6:00 - 8:00 pm

We will begin soon

Technical assistance email: DDW-administrator@waterboards.ca.gov

Old River & South Kern MWCs

Public Meeting

September 21, 2021

6:00 p.m.





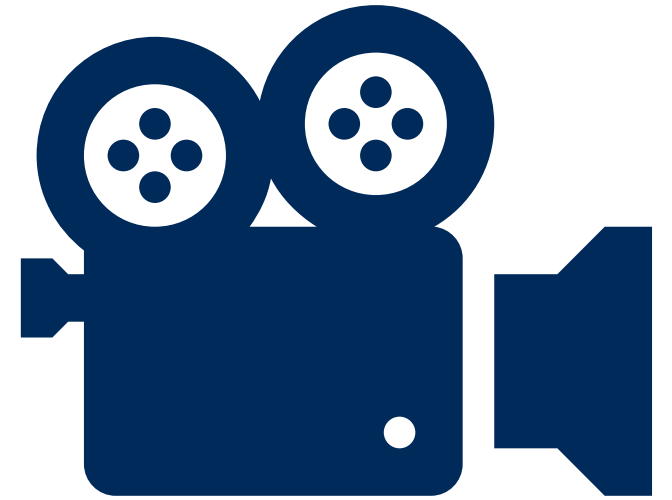
Water Board's Mission Statement

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.

Recording

The presentations for today's meeting are being recorded. By entering this meeting, you agree to be recorded.

The comment and question portion will not be recorded.

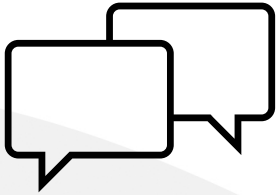


To Participate

Technical Assistance

Use the Chat **or** Email

DDW-Administrator@waterboards.ca.gov

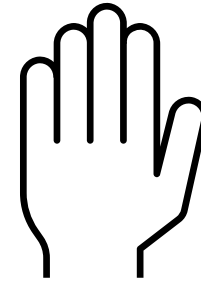


Phone Commands

*9 to raise hand

*6 to mute/unmute

Everyone will be muted,
until public comment



Meeting Agenda

- Background of Old River & South Kern MWCs
- Overview of Consolidation Process
- Overview of Administrator Appointment
- Potential Administrator and Scope of Work
- Community Involvement
- Next Steps
- Public Comments/Questions



Water System Background Old River & South Kern MWCs

Chad Fischer, P.E.
Water Resource Control Engineer
Division of Drinking Water

Old River MWC

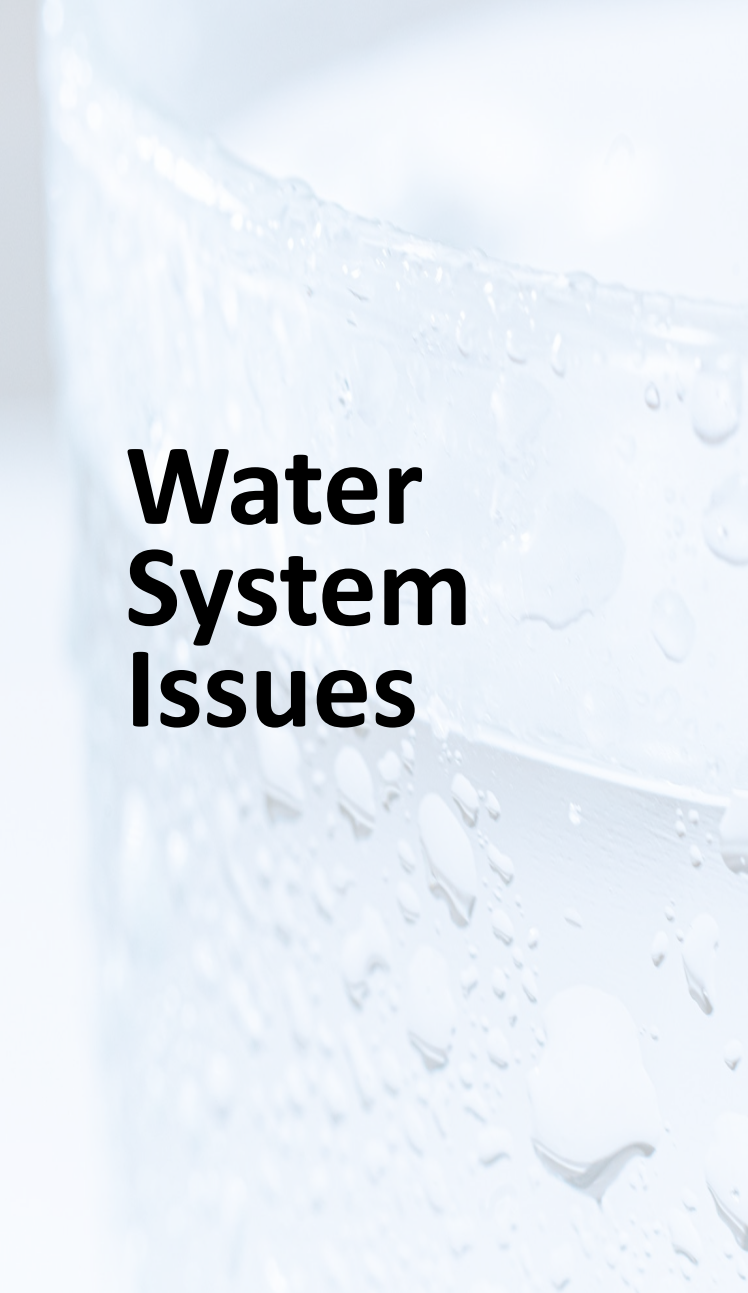
- Service Connections: 14
- Population: 128
- Single source
- No storage



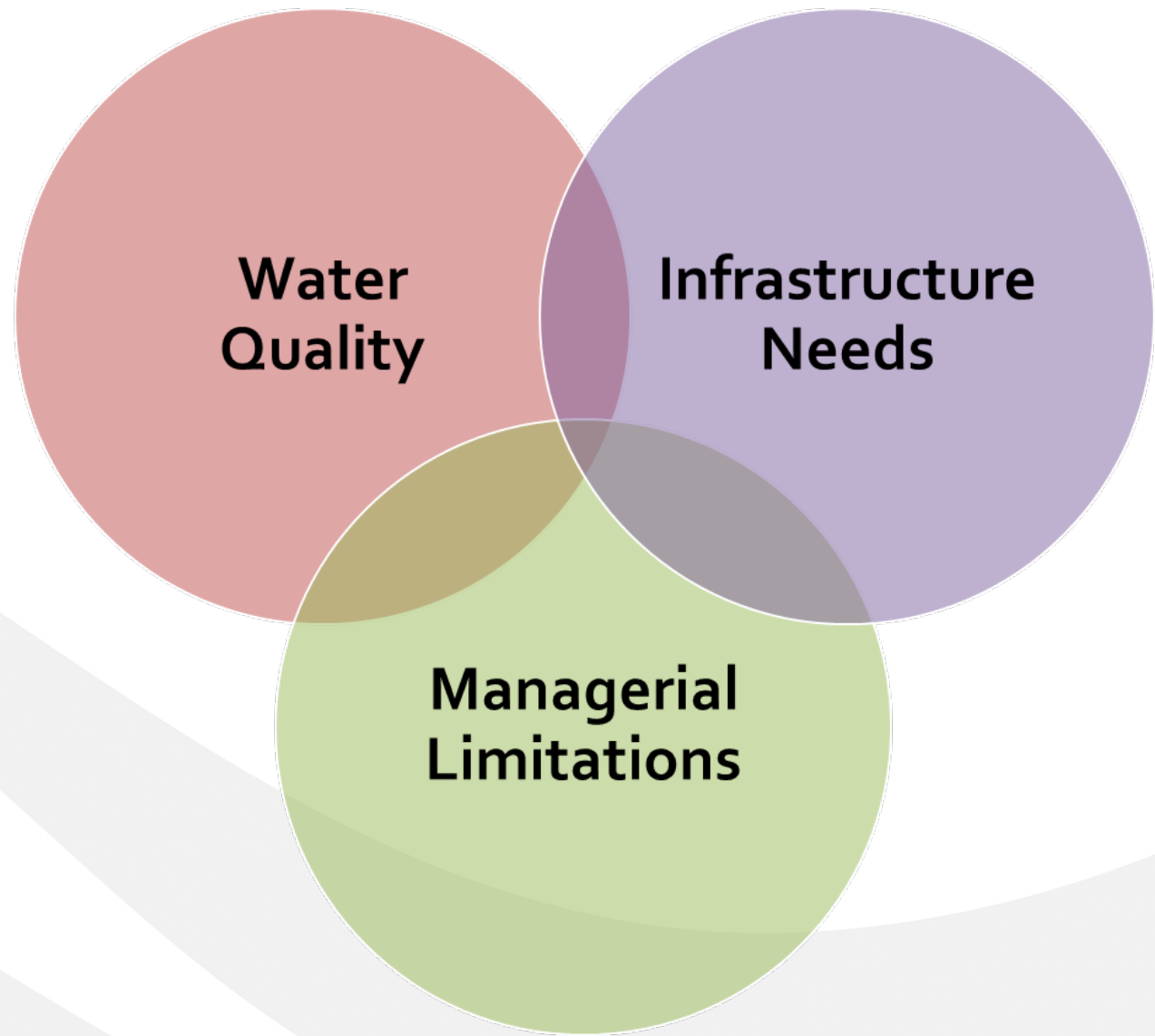
South Kern MWC

- Service Connections: 15
- Population: 32
- Single source
- No storage





Water System Issues



Water Quality

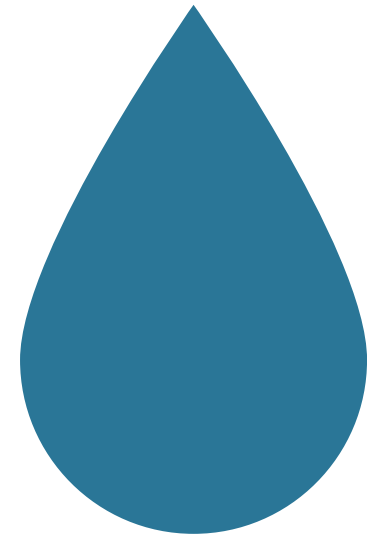
Old River MWC

- Violations: Uranium MCL



South Kern MWC

- Violations: Uranium and 1,2,3-TCP MCLs



Infrastructure Needs

- Both MWCs rely on a single groundwater well
 - Wells were drilled 50+ years ago
- Aging infrastructure
- Lack of water meters
- No storage

Managerial Limitations

- Lack of financial capacity to implement compliance solutions
- No boards in place to make decisions



Consolidation & Administrator Overview

Caitlin Juarez
Water Resource Control Engineer
Division of Drinking Water, SAFER

Mandatory Consolidation – What Does It Mean?

- State law requires mandatory consolidation be between two public water systems.
- The Old River and South Kern Water Companies would be owned and operated by the City of Bakersfield.



Consolidation Process



Six-months for voluntary consolidation agreement



Public Meeting



Second Public Meeting

Consolidation Process



Issue Mandatory Consolidation Order



Complete negotiations, planning, & construction



Transfer of Water System to City of Bakersfield

What is an Administrator?

- A person or entity who is appointed and/or authorized to exercise total and complete managerial control (Full-Scope) or for a specific purpose (Limited-Scope) over a designated water system
 - Shall have all necessary licenses and certifications for scope of appointment
 - Shall have sufficient experience for scope of appointment
 - Shall be subject to a background check





ADMINISTRATORS



Administrator Authority

- **Applicability:**
 - A public water system or state small 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.
- **Policy Handbook:**
 - bit.ly/SAFER_Administrator

Administrator Appointment Process



Potential Administrator for Old River and South Kern MWCs

Provost & Pritchard and teaming partners

Qualifications:

- 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.



Administrator: Scope of Work and Ultimate Goals



The Administrator will take legal control including:

- Oversee the process of consolidation
- Address financial limitations of the water system and apply to the State Water Board for the funding to make the necessary improvements to the water systems
- Ensure that the systems are operated by a certified distribution system operator until consolidation is complete
- Keep customers informed of the consolidation and improvement project status on a regular basis

Community Accountability and Engagement Plan

- Administrator develops within 90 days
- Public meetings at least once every three (3) months
 - Provide 10-day notice
 - Opportunity for public comment
- Community involvement
- Public access to records



Post-Administrator Drinking Water Service Plan

1. **Identify** and evaluate technical, managerial, and financial issues
2. **Plan** to address technical, managerial, and financial issues
3. **Identify** and evaluate potential significant future issues
4. **Identify** needed resources
5. **Evaluate** governance feasibility
6. **Evaluate** feasibility of connecting to the City of Bakersfield



Administrator Funding

State Water Board will be responsible for:

- Salary and benefits for Administrator
- Administrative costs attributed solely to Administrator (working space, phones, furniture)
- Legal, accounting and other similar managerial fees

Funding may be available for:

- Construction and planning projects
- Ongoing operation and maintenance costs

Stakeholder and Community Input



Community members may submit a petition to the State Water Board for reversal or modification of a decision of an administrator or substitution of the administrator



Must be received by the State Board within 30 days of date of administrator's decision



State Board will review and act on the petition

Goals

- Safe and reliable drinking water
- Complete necessary improvements
- Maintain public engagement
- Oversee implementation of long-term consolidation solution



Old River & South Kern MWCs

Public Comments/Questions

Brita Romans
Engagement Coordinator, Office of Public
Participation
California Water Boards

Online Participation

Public Comments or Questions:

- **Raise Virtual Hand – Verbal Comments/Questions**

OR

- **Add it to the Chat function**

OR

- **Email** the following to ddw-Administrator@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Your name and affiliation,
 - Last 3 digits of your phone number,
 - If you'd like to read your comment yourself,
 - Subject: **“Old River & South Kern Public Comment”**

Phone Call-in Participation

Public Comments or Questions:

- *9 to raise your hand
- *6 to unmute yourself

OR

- Email the following to ddw-Administrator@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Your name and affiliation,
 - Last 3 digits of your phone number,
 - If you'd like to read your comment yourself,
 - Subject: **“Old River & South Kern Public Comment”**



Participation Instructions

When your name is called, please share your...

- First and last name
- Affiliation
- Where you are calling from
- Concise question or comment (3 minutes max)

Comments? Questions?

- First and last name
- Affiliation
- Where you are calling from
- Concise question or comment (*3 minutes max*)



Next Steps and Closing

Next Steps

- Public Comment Deadline – September 28, 2021
- Written comments and questions can be mailed or emailed to:

Karen Nishimoto

State Water Resources Control Board
500 North Central Avenue Suite 500
Glendale, CA 91203

OR

DDW-Administrator@waterboards.ca.gov

OR

[\(818\) 551-2004](tel:(818)551-2004)

- Administrator FAQ – visit the Water Board website at:
waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/administrator.html



Thank you!

Contact us!

DDW-Administrator@waterboards.ca.gov