



NEWHALL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

WATER LINES

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Summer/Fall 2016



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Exploring a New Water District: What's in it for You?

Four of the five elected members of the Newhall County Water District Board of Directors are exploring constructive new ways to benefit our customers. This includes a bold idea to create a new, modern and public water district using the best elements of NCWD and our neighboring water providers, including Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA).

Admittedly, this idea still needs substantial examination. We must continue to complete exhaustive financial studies before making any determination. We believe this bold idea has merit and it's our duty to explore how it could benefit not only NCWD customers, but also the entire Santa Clarita Valley (SCV).

It is a complex process with many moving parts. Not surprisingly, some have asked, "What's in it for NCWD

customers?" We believe there may be significant benefits - here's why:

[A Modernized Water District Would Cut Costs and Stabilize Rates](#)

Our Valley is served by a patchwork of five separate water providers, some go back nearly 100 years. This means five separate budgets, operating and administrative personnel, general managers, lawyers, water infrastructure, vehicle fleets, pension systems, etc. As a relatively small community, we believe it will be easy to find efficiencies by combining redundant services and equipment. A modernized water agency making decisions together (instead of in separate board rooms) would:

- * Improve our ability to stabilize rates
- * Plan for much-needed regional projects (like recycle water)
- * Offer more coordinated and even better service to customers

The current model works, but not nearly as well as it could. It's too fragmented. Project integration and regional planning are not the focus. As a result, important projects such as getting recycled water throughout the SCV have seen huge delays. We can do better.

[We Can Improve Elected Representation & Governance](#)

Did you know, because of rules and laws which are decades-old, roughly 5,000 local residents are served and billed by one water district, but actually live in the territory of the neighboring district - and vote for its board? Also, roughly 40 percent of the SCV does not have the ability to vote directly for their retail water representatives!

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These archaic oddities can be frustrating for the public. Exploring the formation of a potential new water district can bring fair, clear representative governance to everyone in the Santa Clarita Valley.

We Can Effect Change in the Boardroom, Not the Courtroom

In the past several years, numerous lawsuits have been filed between NCWD and CLWA. It's exhausting, but we took these actions to protect our customers. Though we generally prevailed, we think a better solution is to have a seat at the table. Our directors and our customers would have a direct say in all water costs in the valley, not just retail rates. More broadly, it would allow us to bring the best ideas of our District to the operations, rates and budgets of a new agency.

The truth is, NCWD and CLWA have much more in common than we do in conflict. Exploring a new agency is about focusing on these commonalities, rather than conflicts. We most certainly can do better.

We Can Benefit NCWD Customers Directly

These are the "big picture" goals for the entire Santa Clarita Valley. As NCWD board members, our top priority is making sure any potential new district has every-day benefits for our customers. The work being done on your behalf includes making sure these benefits become part of this process moving forward:

- * Protect NCWD's near-absence of debt and ensure debt from other districts never impacts our customers
- * Secure new sources of water for NCWD customers, including recycled water supplies
- * Establish a much stronger voice for NCWD and its customers in Sacramento and Washington D.C.
- * Infuse the new organization with NCWD's way of doing business; to the benefit of all SCV residents

Because this concept has both big picture and every-day benefits for NCWD customers, we feel it is worthy of exploring fully. After all, finding ways to benefit ratepayers is the job you elected us to do.

Please visit www.YourSCVWater.com to learn more.



Board of Directors

B. J. Atkins
President

Maria Gutzeit
Vice-President

Kathy Colley
Director

Dan Mortensen
Director

Lynne Plambeck
Director

Meetings are regularly held at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month, unless noted otherwise. The boardroom is located at 23780 North Pine Street Santa Clarita, CA

Serving Our Customers

NCWD's customer service staff is available to assist you during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 4 pm (except Holidays). If you have a water emergency after hours, contact NCWD 24-hours a day at (661) 259-3610 and press "0", our answering service will contact our stand-by staff member to assist you promptly.

Receive our quarterly eNewsletter directly in your inbox - Sign Up Today at www.ncwd.org

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Employee Recognition



(from left to right: Donnie Best, April Bielefeldt & Richard Gonzalez)

Donnie Best, Water Production Quality, April Bielefeldt, Customer Service and Richard Gonzalez, Water System Worker, celebrated 15 years of service with the District. Our ability to provide low-cost, quality water to our customers is due to our capable & dedicated employees. Thanks for all you do!

GO GREEN SAVE MONEY

1. Pay your bill online with the click of a button from your home or office.
2. Sign up to receive a monthly eBill notification.
3. Visit www.ncwd.org and sign up today or contact 661-259-3610. By going "green" you're helping to protect the environment and saving money in the process.