



## Minutes

### Carmichael Water District/Sacramento Suburban Water District 2x2 Committee Meeting October 11, 2023

#### Location:

3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821, and Audio Conference at 1-669-900-6833, and Video Conference using Zoom at Meeting Id #844 9333 1479

#### Call to Order – Videoconference/Audioconference Meeting

SSWD Director Criag Locke (Chair Locke) called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

#### Roll Call

SSWD Directors

Present: Dave Jones and Craig Locke.

SSWD Directors

Absent: None.

CWD Directors

Present: Jeff Nelson.

CWD Directors

Absent: Mark Emmerson.

SSWD Staff Present: Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) General Manager Dan York (SSWD GM York), Jeff Ott, Matt Underwood, and Heather Hernandez-Fort.

CWD Staff Present: Carmichael Water District (CWD) General Manager Cathy Lee (CWD GM Lee) and Debbie Martin.

Public Present: Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz, Ellen Cross, Carl Jones, Christine Kohn, Jose Henriquez, Jay Boatwright, Bruce Hartzell, Kevin Thomas, Cody Brown, and Carlton Fisk.

#### Public Comment

None.

## Consent Items

1. **Draft Minutes of the August 9, 2023, Carmichael Water District/Sacramento Suburban Water District 2x2 Committee Meeting**

CWD Director Nelson moved to approve the Consent Item; SSWD Director Jones seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Nelson, Jones, and Locke.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:	Emmerson.		

## Items for Discussion and/or Action

2. **Communication Outreach Summary**

CWD GM Lee presented the staff report.

Discussion ensued over the outcome of the community engagement meetings that the General Managers attended.

The Committee agreed to have staff place the meeting summary on each district's website.

The Committee additionally agreed to place the Public Outreach and Engagement Summary Report to the CWD/SSWD Joint Board Meeting taking place on October 24, 2023, for approval.

Chair Locke requested staff bring the edits that he and Director Jones had to the Major Themes Document to SSWD's November Regular Board meeting.

3. **Draft Further Analysis of Combining Carmichael Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District**

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

The Committee agreed to include the Draft Further Analysis Document at the CWD/SSWD Joint Board Meeting taking place on October 24, 2023, for approval.

The Committee agreed they did not need minor details included, just a broad overview.

CWD Director Nelson requested to include additional information into the Executive Summary section of the report.

Chair Locke noted that the Findings section of the report could include topics such as; water supply reliability, rates, the total amount of registered voters, a comparison of other districts in the local region, water quality, and the 5 key reasons why the study was being conducted in the first place.

CWD Director Nelson expressed concern over the concerned ratepayers that attended CWD’s Public Information Workshop, noting he wanted to make sure Directors had good talking points to help educate customers.

4. **Consolidation or Reorganization**

CWD GM Lee presented the staff report.

Discussion ensued over the difference between reorganization and consolidation, and the different requirements for each.

Jose Henriquez, Executive Officer of Sacramento LAFCo, clarified that if all 10 Directors unanimously voted for a consolidation, a special election would be only triggered if more than 25%, but less than 50%, of the entire proposal area’s registered voters or landowners (meaning, the population of both districts combined) protested. He explained that LAFCo sends out a protest form to the registered voters to provide their vote.

Chair Locke moved to recommend choosing to consolidate the two districts rather than reorganize to the CWD/SSWD Joint Board; CWD Director Nelson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Nelson, Jones, and Locke.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:	Emmerson.		

5. **Final Number of Board of Directors**

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz (Mr. Horowitz) clarified the process of how to reduce Board Members.

SSWD Director Jones expressed he would like to see the Board member size go from 11 Directors down to 5.

Chair Locke expressed he was interested in reducing to either 7 or 5 Directors, but was still unclear of the process on how to get there.

Discussion ensued over the process of reducing Director seats.

Mr. Horowitz expressed that he would need to clarify if there was a timeframe for when division seat reductions would need to be completed by.

Pending Mr. Horowitz findings, the Committee agreed that their first choice would be to begin the new District with 11 seats, knowing that Director Jones would be willing to excuse himself from the Board, declaring the two seats as vacant. They would then reduce to 9 seats in 2026, 7 seats in 2028, and then ultimately 5 seats in 2030, making for a more gradual reduction.

The Committee also agreed, pending Mr. Horowitz findings, that their second choice, should there be a timeframe for when division seat reductions would need to be completed, that they would begin the new District with 11 seats, knowing that Director Jones would be willing to excuse himself from the Board, declaring the two seats as vacant. Then reduce to 7 seats in 2026, and 5 seats in 2028.

GM York pointed out that there was also an option of creating an Advisory Committee to allow any Directors that did not get elected to one of the available seats an opportunity to stay engaged with the District at an advisory capacity.

The Committee agreed to include this option at the CWD/SSWD Joint Board Meeting taking place on October 24, 2023.

#### 6. **LAFCo Application Process**

CWD GM Lee presented the staff report.

The Committee agreed to bring the draft Resolution to the October 24, 2023, CWD/SSWD Joint Board Meeting.

Christine Kohn (Ms. Kohn), with In Communications, recommended addressing the public's questions first by answering them through the Technical Analysis Report, then moving towards considering voting on a resolution. She wanted to be sure to allow enough time to inform the public of milestones and offer an opportunity for the public to provide comments. Ms. Kohn additionally recommended the Boards hold another Public Information Workshop at each agency to address the questions from the public, before voting on a resolution to consolidate.

The Committee agreed with Ms. Kohn's recommendation, and further agreed to hold two separate Public Information Workshops in the first week in December, if possible, to address the public's questions.

CWD Director Nelson pointed out that the draft resolution could still be presented at the CWD/SSWD Joint Board meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> for both Boards to provide comments and edits, noting each respective Board could vote on their resolution at their own Board meetings once appropriate to do so.

Chair Locke proposed that each Board could have the draft resolution presented at their November regular Board meetings, and then potentially vote to approve the draft resolutions at their December regular Board meetings.

#### 7. **Joint Board Meeting Agenda**

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

The Committee agreed to have the following items on the Agenda for the October 24, 2023, CWD/SSWD Joint Board Meeting.

1. Public Outreach
2. Further Analysis Report

3. Consolidation versus Reorganization
4. County versus Irrigation District
5. Final Number of Board Members
6. LAFCo Resolution

SSWD GM York expressed staff would draft the Agenda and send it out to the Committee members for their approval.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

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Dan York  
General Manager/Secretary  
Sacramento Suburban Water District