POSTED: FEBRUARY 29, 2024





Carmichael Water District/Sacramento Suburban Water District 2x2 Committee Meeting Monday, March 4 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Carmichael Water District Board Room 7837 Fair Oaks Boulevard Carmichael, CA 95608

Join from computer, tablet or smartphone. Click on this URL to join:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdOipgDsoHtaNMGy5RWUix 5X1YUoPk1j

Join by phone: Dial US <u>+1 669 900 6833</u> **Meeting ID:** 814 3116 0242 **Passcode:** 258349

AGENDA

The Board will discuss all items on its agenda, and may take action on any of those items, including information items and continued items. The Board will not take action on or discuss any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except: (a) upon a determination by a majority vote of the Board that an emergency situation exists; or (b) upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members of the Board are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that the need to take immediate action became apparent after the agenda was posted. Agenda packets can be found at our website at carmichaelwd.org.

The Board of Directors welcomes and encourages participation in meetings. This meeting is being conducted in person and via videoconference and will be recorded. Public comment may be given on any agenda item as it is called and limited to three minutes per speaker. Matters not on the posted agenda may be addressed under Public Comment. Please follow Public Comment Guidelines found on the District's website at carmichaelwd.org/public-comment-guidelines/.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the General Manager at 483-2452. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Public Comment

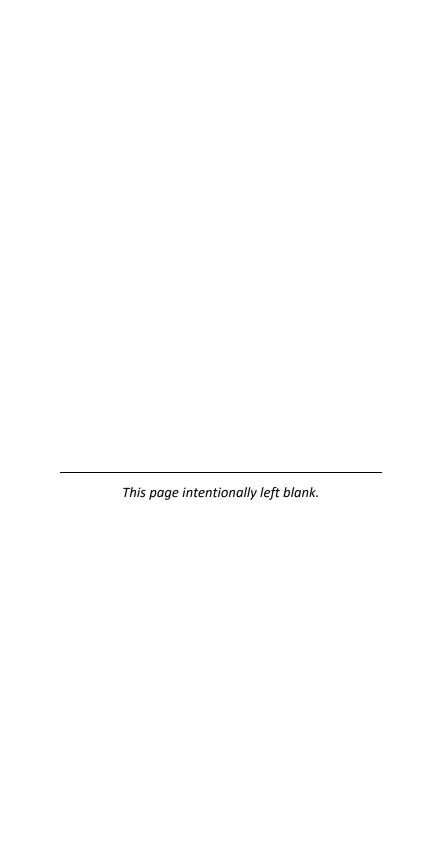
Any member of the public may address the Board on any item of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Minutes for the Carmichael Water District/Sacramento Suburban Water District 2x2 Committee Meeting - December 13, 2023

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

- 3. Public Information Workshops and Outreach Report
- 4. Draft LAFCo Resolution Review







Minutes

Carmichael Water District/Sacramento Suburban Water District 2x2 Committee Meeting December 13, 2023

Location:

3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821, and Audio Conference at 1-669-900-6833, and Video Conference using Zoom at Meeting Id #875 3766 7349

Call to Order – Videoconference/Audioconference Meeting

CWD Director Jeff Nelson (Chair Nelson) called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

SSWD Directors

Present: Dave Jones and Craig Locke.

SSWD Directors

Absent: None.

CWD Directors

Present: Jeff Nelson and Mark Emmerson.

CWD Directors

Absent: None.

SSWD Staff Present: Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) General Manager Dan York

(SSWD GM York), Matt Underwood, and Heather Hernandez-Fort.

CWD Staff Present: Carmichael Water District (CWD) General Manager Cathy Lee (CWD

GM Lee).

Public Present: Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz, Kevin Thomas, Ellen Cross, Jennifer

Persike, Jay Boatwright, Christine Kohn, Jose Henriquez, Kyler Rayden,

and Greg Zlotnick.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Items

1. Draft Minutes of the October 11, 2023, Carmichael Water District/Sacramento Suburban Water District 2x2 Committee Meeting

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

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

Items for Discussion and/or Action

2. Communication Outreach Summary

CWD GM Lee presented the staff report, noting both documents would be posted to each District's website.

Chair Nelson expressed he would provide his edits to CWD GM Lee.

3. Public Information Workshop Overview

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

Jennifer Persike expressed that the intent of the Public Information Workshops was to be an open house style, noting that an open house workshop style allows customers to move around the room and ask questions, and that it is a more informal interaction in a neutral setting. She noted she and Ellen Cross (Ms. Cross) would be there to collect questions and comments from customers, and she answered clarifying questions from the Committee.

CWD Director Emmerson expressed he was in support of the open house style and recommended providing refreshments. He additionally suggested having an online survey/questionnaire available for the customers attending the meeting virtually.

SSWD Director Jones expressed he was in favor of the informal style.

SSWD Director Locke agreed as well, and expressed he was interested in finding out how the customers felt about the information provided and what they learned from the meeting.

Chair Nelson suggested handing out a questionnaire when customers entered the meeting in an effort to open up discussion among the customers in attendance, and even possibly handing out an additional questionnaire as they left the meeting as well, to see if their opinion changed at all.

Further discussion ensued regarding collecting information and opinions from the customers.

It was additionally suggested for each staff member and Director to have nametags.

SSWD Director Locke recommended each Director be allowed to attend each workshop.

Christine Kohn expressed that if the Committee was considering a survey, for them to identify what the goals of the survey were, as only surveying the customers that attend the meeting would provide a very limited number of opinions from the customers each District serves.

Chair Nelson was looking to collect information just from the customers in attendance to see what their concerns/questions were and learn if they understood the information better after the workshop.

SSWD GM York expressed each General Manager would bring the request to both Boards in January for recommendations.

4. LAFCo Resolution Timeline

CWD GM Lee presented the staff report.

Chair Nelson pointed out that both workshops should take place before moving forward on the resolution, and further recommended including the resolution in each District's January regular Board meeting. He suggested to then hold the workshops, present it again at each District's February regular Board meeting, then present it again to the Joint Board meeting in March, or allow each District to vote on it at their own regular Board meeting.

SSWD Director Jones expressed he was getting fatigued, as these discussions have taken place for a few years, and he would like to see some decisions being made.

Chair Nelson expressed it would be important to hold the workshops before anything was decided on the resolution.

SSWD GM York expressed that more time would allow legal counsel has an opportunity to review the resolution.

Chair Nelson stated that both Districts could discuss the resolution at their January regular Board meetings.

5. Combination Discussion Process and Timeline

SSWD GM York presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

Jose Henriquez agreed that if the districts were to submit a resolution to LAFCo in March, staff would then begin with the tasks listed in the Process and Timeline document.

SSWD GM York expressed that there were a few items that would need to be decided prior to submitting the resolution to LAFCo.

SSWD Director Locke clarified that the districts would have opportunities to review the resolution at their January and February Board meetings, with the anticipation of solidifying it at the March Joint Board Meeting.

SSWD GM York agreed with SSWD Director Locke's statement, and further expressed that he and CWD GM Lee would finalize the Process and Timeline document for the January Board meetings.

Chair Nelson expressed that the January 8, 2024, Joint Board Meeting was possibly not needed.

Ms. Cross expressed that the Boards could finalize the language for the resolution at the January 8, 2024, Joint Board Meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline between the LAFCo resolution and the next general election.

Josh Horowitz, District Legal Counsel, reminded the Committee that candidates for Director seats would need to pull their papers in August of 2024, for the November 2024 election, which would determine how many candidates were running for each seat.

SSWD GM York expressed he and CWD GM Lee would finalize the Process and Timeline.

6. 2x2 Committee Meetings for 2024

Chair Nelson presented the item, noting he felt there would be value in holding another CWD/SSWD 2x2 Committee Meeting after the Public Information Workshops.

SSWD Director Locke recommended having another meeting on February 7, 2024, and suggested having a light agenda just to discuss the outcome of the Public Information Workshops.

SSWD Director Jones recommended dissolving the Committee after the resolution has been voted on.

SSWD GM York pointed out that the Committee was beneficial, as there were still items that could be brought to the Committee for consideration for recommendations to the full Boards.

Chair Nelson proposed having a discussion on if the 2x2 Committee should continue as a committee or not.

CWD Director Emmerson agreed with the idea of holding a Committee meeting following the Public Information Workshops.

SSWD Director Locke proposed to set a standing meeting of the Committee, something like the last Wednesday of the month, and if a meeting was not needed, to just cancel it.

Chair Nelson liked the idea of a standing meeting of the Committee. He agreed with the idea of holding the Committee meeting the first part of February and recommended

there be only one Agenda Item to review the feedback from the Public Information Workshops without the need for any Agenda materials.

The Committee agreed to hold the next meeting on February 7, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., noting that if it is decided that the meeting is not needed, it can be canceled.

The Committee requested to place an item on the next Committee Meeting Agenda to decide if additional meetings are necessary.

Adjournment

Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Dan York General Manager/Secretary Sacramento Suburban Water District This page intentionally left blank.

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District General Manager

Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District General Manager

RE: Public Information Workshops and Outreach Report

DATE: February 27, 2024

BACKGROUND

Carmichael Water District (CWD) and Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) hosted their second public information workshop on 01/24/2024 and 01/31/2024, respectively. The purpose of the workshop is to inform the public with the process to date and topics reviewed in the Further Analysis Report and answer/respond to any questions and comments from the districts' rate payers.

SUMMARY

Both workshops were in-person with online/virtual options. General Managers from both districts presented the status of the combination and the main points of the Further Analysis Report, followed by questions and answers (Q&A) from the audience. The workshop also provided an informal "Talk with Your Directors" session where the audience was able to speak to the directors one-on-one prior to the close of the meeting. 56 people attended CWD's workshop in person with 11 online and approximately 30 people attended SSWD's workshop in person with 13 online.

Major themes raised from the workshops include potential benefits of combination, representation and governance with regard to local control, rates and costs in combination, and financial risks including debt and infrastructure. Additional topics unique to the CWD workshop included reasons for combination, union/employees, water sharing, water quality, water rights, and bureaucracy. Items unique to SSWD's workshop include infrastructure conditions of each district, approval process, the status of combination discussion, governance, and CWD's perceptions on combination.

CWD and SSWD's communication's consultant, IN Communications, developed the attached Summary Report, Public Outreach and Engagement, which described the questions and comments received at the workshops and outlined the public engagement efforts to date.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss feedbacks received from the workshops. Review and approve the Summary Report, Public Outreach and Engagement, Carmichael Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District Combination Workshops, January 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

1) Summary Report, Public Outreach and Engagement, Carmichael Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District Combination Workshops, January 2024, draft – February 26, 2024.

ATTACHMENT 1



Public Outreach and Engagement

Carmichael Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District Combination Workshops January 2024

DRAFT—February 27, 2024



Public Outreach Community Involvement Strategic Communication

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SECTION ONE:

Major Themes from the CWD and SSWD Workshops: January 2024

Major Themes from CWD and SSWD Public Information Workshops: January 2024

The following section highlights the major themes identified during public workshops hosted in January 2024.

COMMON THEMES RAISED AT BOTH WORKSHOPS

Potential Benefits to Combination

Attendees from CWD expressed concerns and sought clarity regarding the specific benefits identified in the combination studies. Their emphasis was on understanding the tangible advantages and requested demonstrable evidence to support the perceived benefits of the combination. In contrast, several attendees from SSWD demonstrated favorable perceptions towards the combination. They highlighted potential benefits, such as the combination of groundwater and surface water resources for greater reliability, increased negotiation power, and enhanced opportunities for employees.

Representation, Local Control and Governance

Attendees from CWD expressed concerns about fair representation, highlighting the significant size disparity between SSWD and CWD. Worries were voiced about the potential loss of local control through a combination. Concerns were expressed about losing the Carmichael Water District name and its significance to the community identity. Attendees at the SSWD meeting asked about the number of directors in a combined district and how divisions would be identified.

Rates and Costs in Combination

Attendees from CWD raised questions about the proposed reduction in water rates as a justification for the combination. Participants from SSWD raised concerns about the short-term costs associated with the combination. Questions were also raised about potential cost savings from the combination, particularly related to capital improvement projects.

Financial Risks, Debt, and Infrastructure

Attendees from CWD raised questions about the combination process concerning debts. Specifically, they inquired whether the combination could only take place after each district's debts are paid off.

Attendees also expressed concerns about potential financial risks for CWD. Participants from the SSWD workshop inquired about the condition of infrastructure and the equitable distribution of costs. They indicated a concern for the long-term sustainability of the combined systems and a desire for fairness and transparency in the financial aspects of the combination.

Public Input and Approval Processes

Attendees from CWD expressed a desire for public input through a survey of Carmichael Water District customers. Desire was expressed for the combination to be brought to a public vote. Participants from SSWD also raised questions about whether the combination process would require ratepayer approval. Attendees also sought clarification on the decision-making process through LAFCo (Local Agency Formation Commission).

THEMES UNIQUE TO THE CWD WORKSHOP

Reason for Combination: Inquiries were made about external drivers prompting combination and the role of the State Water Board.

Water Sharing: Questions were raised about how the sharing of surface water rights would work after combination while also ensuring Carmichael Water District customers continue to receive surface water.

Water Quality: Emphasis was placed on the excellent water quality in Carmichael, with concerns raised about potential impacts of combination on water quality.

Bureaucracy: Concerns were raised that combination might lead to a larger bureaucracy, potentially resulting in higher long-term costs.

Water Rights: Questions were asked about CWD's historical water rights and how they would be protected, transferred, diluted, or enhanced by combination.

Union/Employees: Attendees sought information on the position of the union and other employees regarding the combination.

Other:

- Questions were raised about the growth factor in SSWD and whether costs for growth were factored into the combination analysis.
- A request was made for a study comparing the projected benefits of the proposed CWD-SSWD merger with the outcomes of the Arcade-Northridge merger.
- Inquiries were made about the sale of CWD surface water to downstream users and the percentage of water rights for the water sold.
- Concerns were expressed about external entities posing a threat to the Sacramento region's water supplies, suggesting that an analysis of these risks should be added to the Further Analysis Report.

THEMES UNIQUE TO THE SSWD WORKSHOP

Status of Discussions: Attendees sought information on the current status of the decision process and whether joint meetings of CWD and SSWD Boards of Directors had occurred.

CWD Perceptions on Combination: An attendee shared perceptions from a CWD workshop, suggesting resistance to combination among attendees and the CWD Board. Questions were raised about the rationale for discussing combination if there is uncertainty about CWD's interest.



SECTION TWO:

Summary: Key Themes and Discussion Points
Carmichael Water District Public Information Workshop

Summary: Key Themes and Discussion Points

Carmichael Water District Public Information Workshop Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

56 people attended the meeting in person with 11 online.

Carmichael Water District Meeting: Major Themes Expressed by Attendees

The following summary captures the main themes and viewpoints expressed by the public during the Public Information Session hosted by Carmichael Water District on January 24, 2024. It aims to condense the information while maintaining the essence of the discussions.

Benefits: Attendees sought clarity on the specific benefits identified in the combination studies. Attendees asked for demonstrable evidence regarding the perceived benefits of combination, considering potential associated expenses.

Reason for Combination: Inquiries were made about external drivers prompting combination and the role of the State Water Board.

Representation and Local Control: Attendees expressed concerns about fair representation, particularly when SSWD is significantly larger than CWD. Worries were voiced about losing local control through a merger, and questions were raised about achieving economies of scale through cooperative agreements instead of combination. Concerns were expressed about losing the Carmichael Water District name and its significance to the community identity.

Water Sharing: Questions were raised about how the sharing of surface water rights would work after combination while also ensuring Carmichael Water District customers continue to receive surface water.

Water Quality: Emphasis was placed on the excellent water quality in Carmichael, with concerns raised about potential impacts of combination on water quality.

Rates and Costs: Attendees questioned the proposed reduction in water rates as a reason for combination, expressing historical evidence that rates may not decrease.

Financial Risks/Debt: Questions were asked about the combination process in relation to debts, specifically whether combination can only occur after each district's debts are paid off. Concerns were raised about potential financial risks for CWD.

Bureaucracy: Concerns were raised that combination might lead to a larger bureaucracy, potentially resulting in higher long-term costs.

Water Rights: Questions were asked about CWD's historical water rights and how they would be protected, transferred, diluted, or enhanced by combination.

Public Survey/Vote: Suggestions were made for a survey of Carmichael Water District customers to gather valuable insights into their opinions about combination. Desire was expressed for the combination to be brought to a public vote.

Union/Employees: Attendees sought information on the position of the union and other employees regarding the combination.

Other:

- Questions were raised about the growth factor in SSWD and whether costs for growth were factored into the combination analysis.
- A request was made for a study comparing the projected benefits of the proposed CWD-SSWD merger with the outcomes of the Arcade-Northridge merger.
- Inquiries were made about the sale of CWD surface water to downstream users and the percentage of water rights for the water sold.
- Concerns were expressed about external entities posing a threat to the Sacramento region's water supplies, suggesting that an analysis of these risks should be added to the Further Analysis Report.

Detailed Discussion Points

One attendee commented on the pros and cons outlined in the Initial Study as follows:

- Scale Efficiency: He expressed concerns about the ability to maintain greater scale efficiency after combination, emphasizing the need for proper management.
- Water Resource Sharing: He highlighted the potential for increased access to water through resource sharing, suggesting it could be a positive aspect.
- Political Advocacy: He dismissed the idea of political advocacy as a pro, stating that all
 water providers in the region are already engaged in political activities.
- Customer Service: He expressed concerns that larger entities could lead to more bureaucracy, potentially affecting the quality of customer service.
- Rate Stability: While acknowledging the desire for rate stability, he pointed out that achieving it might come at a higher cost. He also mentioned potential expenses associated with addressing water rights through a state process.
- Upward Mobility for Staff: He noted that if combination hindered upward mobility opportunities for staff it would be considered a drawback.
- Bureaucracy and Long-term Costs: He concluded by expressing the fear that combination could result in a larger bureaucracy, ultimately costing more in the long run.

One attendee raised concerns about a potential Prop 218 protest vote, indicating that a vote of all customers from CWD and SSWD would dilute Carmichael's vote. He suggested that a survey

of CWD customers would provide valuable insights into their opinions about the combination. He also expressed concerns about fair representation. He pointed out the difficulty of ensuring fair representation when one entity is significantly larger than the others.

One attendee questioned the underlying reason for the combination, expressing skepticism that such a significant endeavor would be undertaken solely for cost savings or financial reasons. She sought clarity on the primary motivation. She also questioned the specific benefits identified in the collaboration study that prompted the consideration of working together. Additionally, she expressed the desire to put the process on hold for a year, suggesting to observe other mergers before making a decision and stating the preference for Carmichael to remain as it is.

 Director Nelson and General Manager York clarified that the combination discussions originated from a broader regional initiative. Seven water districts commissioned a collaboration study to explore the potential benefits of working together. The study identified synergistic resources between SSWD and CWD, prompting both districts to jointly explore the combination.

One attendee sought information on the position of the union and other employees regarding the combination. Specifically, she was interested in understanding how both the union and the employees perceive or stand on the combination proposal.

- Director Nelson explained that an internal survey of staff is being conducted, with the
 results expected to be available in the later part of February. The survey aims to gather
 feedback from employees, providing insights into their perspectives on the potential
 combination.
- Director Selsky mentioned that he was not aware of a specific union position at this time

One attendee expressed concerns about representation and the quality of service. She emphasized the excellent service she has received from CWD and expressed reluctance towards change. Her major concern was related to surface water rights. She questioned how the sharing of surface water rights would work, particularly after combination. She noted the government's preference for district consolidation and voiced her observation that combining districts seems to be encouraged.

• Director Selsky responded to the concern about surface water rights, mentioning that there are options being considered that would add assurances to any combination agreement. Currently, the use of surface water is limited to CWD boundaries, requiring a petition to the state for any changes.

One attendee expressed the following:

Water Supplies: With wide-ranging comments, she expressed skepticism that a
combination is needed to increase water reliability, raising concerns between building
the Bajamont Water Treatment Plant and reducing the number of groundwater wells.
Questions included: whether it is more cost effective to rehabilitate an older well or
build a new one; whether there are the limitations on using American River water,
especially during droughts, and if it is related to the number of wells; whether more

- frequent curtailments are expected with climate change and if CWD has factored these considerations into its plans; whether groundwater supplies are sufficient for CWD, and if Sacramento County agrees with the district's plans for building.
- Water Quality: She emphasized that the water quality in Carmichael is excellent. She raised concerns that changes due to combination might impact this. She also asked about groundwater contamination at McClellan Park and whether it affects the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Rates: She raised concerns that CWD water rates have increased, questioned expenditures such as those to increase lobby security, and expressed skepticism about rates getting lower with combination.
- Consolidation Costs and Decision: She inquired about the amount of money spent so far on exploring the combination and sought clarification on whether a decision had been made regarding combination.
- Meeting Access: She recommended better utilization of online platforms, such as YouTube, for public information and meeting accessibility.

Directors and General Manager Lee provided responses, addressing questions about well optimization, water quality, American River water limitations, climate change planning, and coordination with the county. They emphasized efforts to ensure water supply reliability, including groundwater wells and the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, and noted ongoing considerations regarding climate change impacts.

One attendee expressed skepticism about the benefits of combination. Especially in the context of a severe drought, he wondered if surface water would be shared with SSWD if groundwater supplies are depleted. He raised concerns about the potential financial risks for CWD, particularly if SSWD defaults on its debt service. He shared his concerns about the quality of water and sought a comparison with SSWD's water quality. He expressed the sentiment that if the current system is not broken, there might not be a need to fix it.

One attendee expressed skepticism about the perceived benefits of combination. He sought demonstrable evidence that supports the idea of the change being beneficial, especially considering the potential expenses associated with such a large-scale change.

 Directors Selsky and Nelson acknowledged the need for demonstrable evidence to support the idea of combination. They highlighted ongoing efforts to assess the benefits, including an exploration of the economy of scale demonstrated by larger water agencies with comparable rates. Director Nelson mentioned a two-year-long process of evaluating benefits, protecting water rights, and considering various aspects to ensure that the potential advantages outweigh the costs.

One attendee inquired about the possibility of receiving water from other areas and questioned whether other water providers test for PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in the water. She also asked if there are plans to conduct PFAS testing if it's not currently done.

- Director Emmerson, drawing from his experience as a former employee of the State
 Water Resources Control Board, assured that all water systems regularly test for 142
 contaminants. These tests are reported to the state and are available online. He
 mentioned that CWD customers have received water from other districts like FOWD and
 SJWD via the river, and reciprocal arrangements exist.
- Regarding PFAS, Director Emmerson explained that there is an ongoing aggressive testing program to identify impacted water systems. While PFAS testing is not currently a contaminant for CWD, he anticipates that there might be a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) defined for PFAS in the future.

One attendee sought information on the current state of water supplies and the costs associated with different sources so that she could more fully understand the motivation for considering combination. She expressed concerns about the potential merging of water sources and the impacts on water quality and sought assurances about the commitment to continue providing surface water to CWD customers. She also raised questions about the growth factor in SSWD and whether the costs for growth have been factored into the combination analysis. She also emphasized exploring conservation measures within the district before considering a change.

- General Manager Lee explained that historically, there hasn't been a situation where
 they ran out of water but sometimes had to curtail usage from the river. During those
 times, groundwater was used, which is not significantly more expensive. Surface water
 is a bit pricier, but CWD also purchased surface water from SJWD as a backup supply.
 She noted that CWD has received \$20 million in state grants to help offset costs.
- Director Selsky acknowledged the need to drive down demand, and Director Nelson explained increased conservation often results in decreased water use (and, consequently, revenue), leading to the need for rate increases. They discussed emerging state regulations on urban water use, which would require decreased demand irrespective of combination discussions.

One attendee expressed pride in the quality of water in her area and questioned the proposed reduction in water rates as a reason for combination, stating that historical evidence suggests rates won't go down. She requested a study comparing the projected benefits of the proposed merger with the actual outcomes of the 2002 merger of Arden Arcade and Northridge Water District as a way to understand whether the promises of cost savings and employee benefits materialized. She also mentioned that the combination could be brought to a public vote and expressed her desire for the community to have a say through a public vote.

General Manager York shared his experience with the Arcade-Northridge merger. He
explained that although rates remained similar for three years, the consolidation
eventually led to improved infrastructure, conjunctive use water management (shifting
between surface water and groundwater according to availability), and better services.
General Manager York noted that combining the rate base was a significant factor in the
overall benefits.

- General Manager York clarified that the decision to consolidate would go through a LAFCo process, including a potential public vote.
- Director Nelson added that the expectation is not a decrease in rates but a more equitable distribution of rate increases and the potential for economies of scale with SSWD. He emphasized the consideration of cost per ratepayer.

One attendee sought clarification about SSWD's access to surface water at Folsom Lake and whether the water CWD sources from the American River could potentially be sent to SSWD in the future. He also expressed concern about losing local control through a combination and questioned whether economies of scale could be achieved through cooperative agreements rather than combination.

• Director Selsky mentioned that stipulations about water resource sharing could be built into combination agreements.

One attendee asked about the combination process in relation to debts; specifically, whether combination can only occur after each district's debts are paid off. He also asked whether ongoing rate increases would finish prior to combination. He asked whether CWD surface water is sold to downstream users and the percentage of water rights for the water sold. He also expressed concern about inheriting liabilities related to groundwater contamination at McClellan Park.

General Manager Lee explained that rates and financial accounting can't be merged until the debt is retired. She mentioned that the completion of rate increases would depend on how the board proceeds with the combination.

- She also provided information on the temporary transfer of surface water, the evaluation of available groundwater during curtailment, and the financial and water-related aspects of selling surface water.
- General Manager York addressed the questions related to the handling of groundwater contamination at McClellan Park, explaining that groundwater pollution is contained to the area and that the Park is served by surrounding wells.

One attendee asked whether increased future costs for filtration would be reflected in the rates. Specifically, whether the cost distribution would be equal across all areas or vary by region.

 General Manager Lee responded that the specifics about how increased filtration costs would be reflected in the rates, and whether they would be distributed equally or vary by area, are not known at the moment. She mentioned that this information would be part of a future rate analysis.

One attendee asked a question about CWD's historical water rights and how they would be protected, transferred, diluted, or enhanced by combination.

CWD Legal Counsel Ferguson explained that the district holds three surface water rights
with varying levels of seniority, allowing the diversion of water from the Lower
American River. The rights have conditions specifying diversion rate and place of use.
Currently, these rights only allow water use within the CWD service area. Any

- modification, such as serving water beyond the area, would require a petition to the State Water Board. Even with a combined district, the water could only be served within the specific area.
- There were discussions about potential assurances that could be incorporated into the LAFCo (Local Agency Formation Commission) process to address Carmichael's concerns.
 General Manager York also mentioned the possibility of Carmichael remaining its own service area even in the context of combination.

One attendee raised concerns about the potential impact of combination on water quality and expressed skepticism about potential assurances regarding water quality.

One attendee expressed concern about external entities (larger water providers and users) who may pose a threat to the Sacramento region's water supplies. The attendee emphasized the need for larger, collective agreements and legal strength to protect water rights against those attempting to acquire or influence Sacramento's water resources.

One attendee expressed concern about losing the Carmichael Water District name, emphasizing the significance of the name to the identity of the Carmichael community. He also inquired about the role of the State Water Board in the combination process and if there are external drivers prompting combination. He sought clarification on whether rates will remain the same until both districts retire their debt.

- Directors mentioned that the State Water Board is not directly involved in their efforts but does encourage combinations of smaller disadvantaged water districts.
- The response clarified that each district cannot transfer its debt to the other, so rates will remain separate until debt retirement.

One attendee asked about the status of SSWD combination discussions with Del Paso Manor Water District (DPMWD).

 General Manager York mentioned that the discussions with DPMWD have ended, adding that the SSWD Board made it clear that SSWD would not assume responsibility for improving the DPMWD water system should combination ever occur in the future.

SECTION THREE:

Summary: Key Themes and Discussion Points
Sacramento Suburban Water District Public Information Workshop

Summary: Key Themes and Discussion Points

Sacramento Suburban Water District Public Information Workshop Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting in person with 13 online.

Sacramento Suburban Water District Workshop: Major Themes Expressed by Attendees

The following summary captures the main themes and viewpoints expressed by the public during the Public Information Session hosted by Sacramento Suburban Water District on January 31, 2024. It aims to condense the information while maintaining the essence of the discussions.

Condition of Infrastructure: Participants inquired about the condition of CWD and SSWD systems and whether they are comparable, the rate of return on infrastructure projects and whether SSWD's infrastructure is aging faster than improvements are made.

Equitable Distribution of Infrastructure Costs: Attendees questioned potential subsidization of infrastructure costs in one area by residents of another. Clarification was sought on how the combination evaluation would achieve a fair split in costs among residents.

Rates and Costs: Questions were raised about the short-term costs of combination and whether these costs would be passed on to ratepayers. Participants questioned potential cost savings from combination related to capital improvement projects. Questions were raised about the rate difference between CWD and SSWD.

Favorable to Combination: Several attendees shared favorable perceptions on combination, including potential benefits of combining groundwater and surface water resources for greater reliability, increased negotiation power and enhanced opportunities for employees.

CWD Perceptions on Combination: An attendee shared perceptions from a CWD workshop, suggesting resistance to combination among attendees and the CWD Board. Questions were raised about the rationale for discussing combination if there is uncertainty about CWD's interest.

Status of Discussions: Attendees sought information on the current status of the decision process and whether joint meetings of CWD and SSWD Boards of Directors had occurred.

Governance: Questions were asked about the number of directors in a combined district and how divisions would be identified.

Approval Process and Public Vote: Questions were raised about whether the combination process would require ratepayer approval and a public vote. Attendees also sought clarification on the decision-making process through LAFCo.

Detailed Discussion Points

One attendee who resides in Arden/Alta Arcade questioned whether everyone in every water district or division pays the same maintenance rate for infrastructure, regardless of their location. Additionally, he asked about potential subsidization of infrastructure costs in one area by residents of another. He sought clarification on how the combination evaluation would be conducted, with a focus on achieving an even or fair split in the combined district's costs among the residents.

- General Manager York explained that all ratepayers within a specific division pay the same fixed rate. He mentioned a "pay as you go" program as part of Capital Improvements (CIP) and emphasized that the rates are designed to cover the costs of infrastructure maintenance and improvements. He also highlighted asset management plans to determine the allocation of funding based on priority projects.
- Director Locke added that, during the combination study, it was found that CWD and SSWD generally invest in infrastructure at a similar rate and budget percentage. He emphasized that decisions about funding CIP projects are made based on the district as a whole, prioritizing projects with the biggest return on investment and the greatest need, without considering which specific area the projects are located in.

One attendee asked about the rate of return on infrastructure projects, asking whether SSWD's infrastructure is aging faster than the District is able to improve it. He also asked about the age of the water mains.

- Director Locke responded that SSWD does a better job at replacing infrastructure than most districts, but the issue of infrastructure aging faster than can be replaced is prevalent statewide. He mentioned that the oldest mains are around 60 to 70 years old.
- General Manager York emphasized the prioritization of addressing leaky mains.
- Director Locke explained that the state has mandated a focus on non-revenue water, prompting the examination of leaks within the water system. The changing regulatory environment necessitated an effort to stay ahead of increasing regulatory costs.
- Director Wichert added that SSWD has a condition assessment program that looks at the District as a whole, identifying areas that need work regardless of age. He expressed the belief that, in the combined districts, a similar program would be established to address infrastructure needs effectively.

One attendee, a CWD customer, shared her perceptions and thoughts on combination, noting that she attended the January 24, 2024, CWD Public Information Workshop. One perception was that the CWD Workshop attendees were against the potential combination and that the CWD Board of Directors mentioned that there are no compelling reasons to move forward with combination. She questioned whether combination would produce cost savings in the area of capital improvements. She also expressed her opinion that one of the top benefits of combination would be greater power to negotiate and increased opportunities for employees.

• Director Wichert suggested that the CWD Board might have been reacting to their constituents, listening to the room, and avoiding conflict.

- Director Thomas clarified that there are compelling reasons to combine related to the region's resources and their management.
- As an example of a compelling reason, Director Locke emphasized the importance of using all the region's surface water rights. He highlighted the need to protect water rights by putting more water to beneficial use, thus safeguarding those rights for use in the Sacramento region.
- Regarding power of negotiations, Director Wichert noted how SSWD, as a larger entity,
 was able to address a consistent contractor shortage that has been prevalent over the
 past several years. As a larger entity, SSWD was able to negotiate an exclusive contract
 with a groundwater pump company at a cost-effective rate to ensure reliable service.
- Director Locke provided an example for how employees could benefit from combination, highlighting the advantage of having a larger department, such as IT, which ensures more institutional knowledge and resilience to individual departures.

One attendee raised several questions, including the current status of the decision process and whether there have been joint meetings of the CWD and SSWD Boards of Directors. She also asked how the SSWD and CWD system boundaries were determined, noting that she lives in Carmichael but is a SSWD customer, whether the condition of the CWD and SSWD systems are similar and if short-term combination costs would be passed on to ratepayers. Later, she expressed her opinion that the water quality in SSWD is better than in CWD.

- Director Wichert provided information about the joint Board meeting held October 24, 2023, mentioning the voting outcomes on matters like the number of board members and the decision to become a County Water District. He clarified that there will eventually be a vote by both CWD and SSWD Boards on whether to proceed with the combination.
- Director Locke addressed the question about the water systems, stating that they are fairly similar.
- Director Wichert responded by mentioning that he lives in Citrus Heights and receives SSWD water. SSWD legal counsel Horowitz added that the boundaries were drawn in a somewhat arbitrary manner during the development of suburban areas, leading to the establishment of separate water districts.
- Regarding start-up costs, it was explained that such costs would likely come from reserves and not from rates.

One attendee, a SSWD customer, observed that there hasn't been significant backlash from her community (Fulton-Marconi) regarding the potential combination. She mentioned that one individual who attends SSWD meetings was fairly okay with the idea of combination, which had an impact on her perspective. She also expressed appreciation for the detailed information provided at the SSWD meeting and mentioned her intention to submit a request for a speaker to attend her Neighborhood Watch group or community group to discuss the potential combination.

One attendee raised a question about the expected lifetime of new pipes, presuming that modern replacements last longer than those installed 50 years ago. He inquired about how the expected lifespan of pipes impacts the average cost for capital projects. He also asked whether the fact that the CWD and SSWD service areas are more fully developed makes it easier to plan for capital improvements compared to those experiencing growth or contraction.

- Assistant General Manager Underwood responded that SSWD is currently installing irontype pipes with a lifetime expectancy of 100 years. Additionally, when the audience asked about water meters, he mentioned that water meters have a different track with a lifespan of 20 to 25 years due to the technology involved.
- Another response indicated agreement with the attendee's observation that the areas served by the districts are built out, meaning there is little room for additional development.
- Director Locke noted that when a district is growing, developers typically contribute to new infrastructure, and that increasing costs for projects and materials, such as fire hydrants, make planning more challenging.

One attendee, a SSWD customer, asked about the rate comparison information in the presentation, noting that CWD's average monthly payments are slightly higher than SSWD's. He wondered whether the rate difference would persist in the event of a combination.

- Director Locke responded that predicting future rates after combination is challenging. He mentioned that the data showed SSWD's slightly lower costs because it is a larger district, which brings about efficiency.
- General Manager York added that differences in meter sizes also contribute to rate variations, and he provided an example of a customer in CWD downsizing their meter to reduce monthly rates.

One attendee, a renter in the SSWD area, questioned where her voice could be heard in the discussions. She expressed uncertainty about the base rate for water and that her water bill underwent a significant increase, from \$55 to \$75. She suggested that SSWD should mandate that renters be told how much they are paying for water.

• Director Thomas emphasized that Lois's opinion should be considered and suggested that she contact her rental agency to obtain information about rates.

One attendee asked whether the combination process would require the approval of ratepayers and a public vote.

- Director Locke explained that the process depends on the LAFCo (Local Agency Formation Commission) regulations.
- SSWD Legal Counsel Horowitz further clarified that the districts would file an application
 with LAFCo, and if they agree to move forward, there would be a public comment
 period during which ratepayers and property owners could voice their opinions. If 25 to
 50 percent of the affected individuals protest, it could trigger a vote. He mentioned the
 possibility of a special election in the county with mailed ballots in such a scenario.

One attendee questioned whether the Board's favorable stance on combination aligns with the sentiments of ratepayers and if there is hope of bringing CWD along in the process.

• Director Wichert emphasized the importance of closely monitoring the next CWD-SSWD joint board meeting, scheduled for March 4, 2024.

One attendee sought clarification on the voting process and whether constituents could express dissatisfaction with the combination through voting. They also asked about the number of directors in a combined district and how divisions would be identified.

• Director Wichert explained that they would draw up seven divisions within the combined district and that the process requires public input and oversight by the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters.

One attendee asked what would happen if CWD doesn't want combination, but SSWD does. She sought clarification on how the decision-making process would unfold through LAFCo in such a scenario.

 SSWD legal counsel Horowitz clarified that nothing would happen unless both districts apply for combination. Both boards would need to adopt similar resolutions in favor of combination. LAFCO's role would come into play when they file the application. LAFCO processes the application, reviews maps and other information provided.

An attendee from CWD expressed concern about the lack of notice for the Public Information Workshops and suggested that a notice be sent to everyone to increase awareness. The attendee mentioned that people might not know about the meetings and, in her case, didn't know to attend.

 It was mentioned that postcards were mailed to all SSWD and CWD customers, and the meetings were also noticed on KCRA 3, Inside Arden, the Carmichael Times, and other platforms.

Other Questions and Comments

- One attendee expressed that the most compelling reason for consolidation would be the combination of groundwater and surface water resources, emphasizing the potential for conjunctive use as a significant benefit.
- A question was raised was about the current interest rate for debt. The response provided was that the interest rate for debt is approximately 2.2 percent.
- One attendee questioned the rationale behind discussing combination if there is no assurance that the CWD Board is interested in pursuing it.
- An attendee raised a question, suggesting that a count should be taken among the people present to determine how many are in favor and how many are against the combination.

APPENDIX:

Outreach Activities to Date and Planned
As of February 26, 2024

Outreach Activities to Date and Planned

As of February 26, 2024

Both Carmichael Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District

Board of Directors and 2x2 Meetings

- Public updates at Board meetings and through the CWD-SSWD 2x2 committee since July 2021
- Draft PowerPoint/summary of initial study delivered to SSWD and CWD on September 14, 2022
- Full draft study provided to SSWD and CWD on September 23, 2022
- Draft study delivered to the public via the 2x2 meeting on October 13, 2022
- Study accepted with amendments at the 2x2 meeting on February 8, 2023
- Vote to move forward with discussions and host public information workshops at a joint CWD-SSWD board meeting on April 10, 2023

Foundational Materials

- Created comprehensive CWD-SSWD stakeholder list for outreach to elected officials, business groups, neighboring and partnering water providers, homeowners associations and others.
- Created fact sheets, messages and materials to communicate with the public about combination discussions, including:
 - Postcard for the public information sessions: Invites the public to an
 information session to learn about combination discussions and the findings of
 the initial study, ask questions and provide input.
 - Road map/milestones for the outreach process: Outlines the steps and overall approach for the public outreach/engagement process.
 - Summary: Exploring the Combination of CWD and SSWD: Provides a one-page document highlighting the opportunities, process, and ways to learn more.
 - Fact Sheet: Perceived Advantages and Disadvantages to Combination:
 Highlights perceived advantages and disadvantages to combination.
 - Overview: About the Combination Study and Process: Provides an overview of why the districts are discussing combination, activities to date and how the public can learn more.
 - Fact Sheet: Study: A Business Case for a Potential Combination: Provides an overview of the initial study findings and seeks to anticipate/answer likely questions.
 - Map of voting divisions: Shows the CWD and SSWD service areas and divisions for the Boards of Directors.
 - Comment Sheet: Invites the public to provide written comments on combination discussions.

- Key messages (external/internal audiences and on special topics): Provides a concise means for communicating the status of combination discussions; addresses frequently asked questions about fluoride.
- o **PowerPoint presentation** for the Public Information Workshops.

Additional Outreach: Sacramento Suburban Water District

External Communications

- Website updated/link added to home page—central location for all audiences to find information.
- September 15, 2022: Included in fall 2022 newsletter.
- October 6, 2022: Slide included at the monitor during Open House.
- October 7, 2022: Direct mail postcard with QR code mailed to 45,000 SSWD customers (property owners).
- October 10-November 10, 2022: Advertising on Facebook and the Google Display Network.
- October and November 2022: Included in bill inserts.
- October 2022: Slide included on the Customer Service monitor PowerPoint.
- October 13, 2022: SSWD posted to Facebook page.
- October 20, 2022: Outreach to SSWD stakeholders with postcard distributed electronically.
- July 2023: Bill insert article.
- January 2024: Bill insert article.

SSWD Internal Outreach:

- 2022 (July, August, September, October, November December: Employee Meeting/staff update.
- September 15, 2022: Internal information hub for information and questions created.
- October 19, 2022: Email from the GM to SSWD team, inviting questions and providing link to key messages and FAQs.
- Ongoing: Internal key messages and Frequently Asked Questions provided to SSWD staff and Board members.
- Ongoing: Update at Managers Meetings.
- 2023 (January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September October, November, December): Employee Meeting/staff update

Additional Outreach: Carmichael Water District

External Communications

- Website updated/link added to home page—central location for all audiences to find information.
- May 2023: Bill insert article.
- May 19, 2023: Carmichael Times article.

CWD Staff Outreach

- October 14, 2022: Employee Meeting/staff update on study and Q&A with GM.
- October 31, 2022: The SSWD General Manager attended a Carmichael Water District staff meeting to discuss his experience with consolidations.
- April 21, 2023: Employee Meeting/staff update and Q&A with two CWD Directors.
- Internal information hub created for staff members to submit questions.
- June 23, 2023: Employee Meeting and Q&A opportunity with two CWD Directors.

Promotion for Public Information Workshops (June 2023)

Outreach Activities:

- May 11 (early deadlines) and June 5, 2023: Press release distributed to media outlets.
- May 17, 2023: CWD postcard received in mailboxes.
- May 18, 2023: Letter to HOAs/Neighborhood Associations into the mail.
- Outreach to elected officials and other influencers on the stakeholder list starting May 22 (ongoing).
- May 24, 2023: SSWD postcard received in mailboxes.
- May and June 2023: Outreach via existing CWD and SSWD communication channels, including websites, bill inserts bill messages, etc.
- May 18, 2023: Social media post and monitoring (ongoing) and outreach.
- May 27-June 21, 2023: Digital Advertising (Facebook and news/weather sites via the Google Display Network).
- June 9, 2023: Print ads in Carmichael Times and Arden-Carmichael News (both workshops).
- June 16, 2023: Print ad in Carmichael Times on (SSWD only).

Note: Mailing List for Postcard

- SSWD's list included 80,785 landlords, tenants, and apartment/mobile home residents by individual unit.
- CWD's list included 10,887 owners, landlords, tenants, multi-family and commercial accounts.

Public Information Workshops:

- Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Carmichael Water District
- Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.: Sacramento Suburban Water District

Media and Public Exposure Secured:

- May 18, 2023: Carmichael Times story on upcoming information sessions.
- May 19 and June 21, 2023: Carmichael Creek Neighborhood Association email to members.
- May 23, 2023: Advocates for Arden-Arcade email to members.
- June 13, 2023: Email from Supervisor Rich Desmond to constituents.

- June 15, 2023: KCRA (interview with CWD Director Jeff Nelson).
- June 13 and 21, 2023: NextDoor: Customer post promoting information session.
- June 21, 2023: Carmichael Times coverage of CWD information session.
- July 2023 Issue: Inside Arden mention of workshops.

Stakeholder Briefings:

- April 30, 2023: Carmichael Colony Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting: CWD invited the public to upcoming workshops.
- May 30, 2023: LAFCO Special Districts Advisory Committee: SSWD provided an overview and current status of the CWD-SSWD Combination discussions.
- June 13, 2023: SSWD presentation to the Women's Group at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento).
- July 13, 2023: SSWD briefing for Sacramento City Councilmember Lisa Kaplan.
- July 14, 2023: CWD-SSWD briefing for Assemblymember Josh Hoover.
- July 18, 2023: CWD-SSWD briefing with McClellan Park.
- July 19, 2023: Presentation to the Carmichael Kiwanis Club.
- July 26, 2023: CWD-SSWD briefing for Assemblymember Kevin McCarty.
- July 26, 2023: CWD-SSWD briefing for Supervisor Sacramento Supervisor Sue Frost.
- August 8, 2023: CWD-SSWD briefing for Assemblymember Roger Niello.

Promotion for Joint Board Meetings (October 2023)

Digital Advertising (Facebook and news/weather sites via the Google Display Network)
 October 17-24, 2023.

Materials for Public Information Workshops (January 2024):

- NEW: Extended Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document: addresses questions raised by customers during June 2023 Public Information Workshops and over the course of combination discussions. The FAQ also incorporates responses suggested by CWD and SSWD Board members.
- NEW: Key Benefits document: outlines benefits to combination uncovered during combination discussions and with the Further Analysis Report.
- NEW: PowerPoint presentation for the Public Information Workshops: consistent for both districts with some minor customization.
- UPDATED: Summary: Exploring the Combination of CWD and SSWD.
- NO UPDATES: Map of voting divisions.
- NO UPDATES: Comment sheet.

<u>Held:</u>

- NEW: Fact Sheet: Highlights of the Further Analysis Report: provides a content snapshot to make it easy for the public to understand the report's content and findings.
- NEW: LAFCo process graphic.

Promotion for Public Information Workshops:

- December 1, 2023: Press release distributed to media outlets December 1 (early deadlines).
- December, 2023: CWD and SSWD website updated with information about the Public Information Workshops and final Further Analysis Report.
- Outreach via existing CWD and SSWD communication channels, including websites, bill inserts bill messages, etc. in December and January.
- Social media post and monitoring (ongoing) and outreach in December 2023 and January 2024.
- December 30, 2023: CWD postcard received in mailboxes.
- January 2024: SSWD bill insert.
- January 2, 2024: Letter to HOAs/Neighborhood Associations into the mail.
- January 3, 2024: Outreach/tool kit distributed to electeds and other stakeholders with a request to distribute to constituents.
- January 3, 2024: Second distribution of press release to local and regional media.
- January 3, 2024: SSWD postcard received in mailboxes.
- January 10, 2024: Digital Advertising (Facebook and news/weather sites via the Google Display Network) began.
- January 19, 2024: Print ad in the Carmichael Times (both workshops).
- January 22, 2024: Third distribution of press release to local and regional media.
- January 23, 2024: Second distribution of tool kit for electeds and other stakeholders with a request to distribute to constituents.
- January 26, 2024: Print ad in Carmichael Times (SSWD only).

Public Information Workshops

- Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.: Carmichael Water District
- Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.: Sacramento Suburban Water District

Media and Public Exposure Secured:

- January 2024: Calendar story in <u>Inside Arden</u> (page 13)
- January 23, 2024: Advocates for Arden-Arcade email to members.
- January 23, 2024: Email from Supervisor Rich Desmond to constituents.
- January 24, 2024: Story on KCRA3 (afternoon news).
- February 16, 2024: Carmichael Times story.

Stakeholder Briefings:

- February 6, 2024: Rotary Club of Arden Arcade
- February 21, 2024: Rotary Club of East Sacramento
- March 5, 2024: Rotary Club of Carmichael
- March 22, 2024: Rotary Club, Point West
- April 22, 2024: Rotary Club, Foothills

APPENDIX:

Samples of Outreach Materials Developed and Secured for the January 2024 Workshops



PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024, AT 6:30 P.M. Carmichael Water District Boardroom 7837 Fair Oaks Blvd

Carmichael, CA 95608

A virtual option for the presentation only will also be available.

Visit carmichaelwd.org to find:

- · A copy of the Further Analysis Report
- Fact sheet and Frequently Asked Questions
- Details about the upcoming Public Information Workshop, including access for a virtual option



(916) 483-2452 mail@carmichaelwd.org carmichaelwd.org

Scan the QR code with the camera app on your phone.

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YOU'RE INVITED!

Public Information Workshop and Open House on Potential Combination with Sacramento Suburban Water District

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.



Carmichael Water District (CWD) and Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD)

are exploring combination opportunities between the two neighboring water utilities to improve efficiencies, reduce costs, increase water supply reliability, and enhance customer service.

Join us for an update on combination discussions and the results of a new Further Analysis Report, which provides a detailed look at combination opportunities and in-depth responses to questions posed through the process.

The Public Information Workshop will include a brief presentation and the opportunity for you to ask questions and share your thoughts with our team of CWD technical experts, managers, and Board members.



3701 Marconi Ave. Sacramento, CA 95821

PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024, AT 6:30 P.M. Sacramento Suburban Water District Boardroom 3701 Marconi Ave Sacramento, CA 95821

A virtual option for the presentation only will also be available.

Visit sswd.org to find:

- A copy of the Further Analysis Report
- Fact sheet and Frequently Asked Questions
- Details about the upcoming Public Information Workshop, including access for a virtual option



(916) 972-7171 feedback@sswd.org

camera app on your phone.

sswd ora Scan the QR code with the

PRSRT STD. US POSTAGE PAID Sacramento, CA Permit No. 516

YOU'RE INVITED!

Public Information Workshop and Open House on Potential Combination with Carmichael Water District

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.



Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) and Carmichael Water District (CWD) are

exploring combination opportunities between the two neighboring water utilities to improve efficiencies, reduce costs, increase water supply reliability, and enhance customer service.

Join us for an update on combination discussions and the results of a new Further Analysis Report, which provides a detailed look at combination opportunities and in-depth responses to questions posed through the process.

The Public Information Workshop will include a brief presentation and the opportunity for you to ask questions and share your thoughts with our team of SSWD technical experts, managers, and Board members.



Sacramento Suburban Water District

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Please join us to learn the lat... See more

PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOPS ON COMBINATION EXPLORATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, AT 6:30 P.M.

Carmichael Water District Boardroom 7837 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael, CA 95608

carmichaelwd.org

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, AT 6:30 P.M.

Sacramento Suburban Water District Boardroom 3701 Marconi Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821

sswd.org





sswd.org

January Workshops on Combination Exploration

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for Financial Literacy Programs





Carmichael Water District nd Sacramento Suburban workshops on combination discussions and to discuss he results of a new Further Analysis Report.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, AT 6:30 P.M sted by Carmichael Water District

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, AT 6:30 P.M







I W Arden Arcade

Water District Merger Meetings 1/24 and 1/31 - January 23, 2024

The Sacramento Suburban Water District and the Carmichael Water District are moving along with their talks about a possible merger. On January 24th, and again on January 31st, they will be holding public workshops to update people on the status of their discussions and to provide results of a "Further Analysis Report" - a detailed assessment of combination opportunities and responses to questions posed during the process. The public is invited to the meetings, which will be held in Carmichael and Arden Arcade as follows:

- January 24, 2024, Carmichael Water District Board Room, 7837 Fair Oaks Blvd., 6:30pm
- January 31, 2024, Sacramento Suburban Water District Board Room, 3701 Marconi Ave., 6:30pm





Supervisor Rich Desmond

You are subscribed to News updates from District 3 - Rich Desmond for Sacramento County. District 3 - Rich Desmond

Dear Friends,

Carmichael Water District (CWD) and Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) are exploring combination opportunities between the two

neighboring water utilities to improve efficiencies, reduce costs, increase water supply reliability, and enhance customer service.

The public is invited to hear an update on combination discussions and the results of a new Further Analysis Report, which provides a detailed look at combination opportunities and in-depth responses to questions posed through the process.

The workshops will include a brief presentation and the opportunity for attendees to ask questions and share their thoughts with CWD and SSWD technical experts, managers, and board members. The dates and times are listed below:

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24, 2024, AT 6:30 P.M. Hosted by Carmichael Water District

CWD Boardroom

7837 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael, CA 95608

Info: (916) 483-2452 or mail@carmichaelwd.org

carmichaelwd.org

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31, AT 6:30 P.M. Hosted by Sacramento Suburban Water District

SSWD Boardroom

3701 Marconi Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821 Info: 916.972.7171 or feedback@sswd.org

sswd.org

Detailed information is available online on the CWD website and the SSWD website.

RICH DESMOND Supervisor, Third District

700 H Street, Suite 2450 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 874-5471 richdesmond@saccounty.gov Follow us on Facebook

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District General Manager

Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District General Manager

RE: Draft LAFCo Resolution Review

DATE: February 27, 2024

BACKGROUND

At the October 24, 2023 Carmichael Water District (CWD)/Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) joint Board meeting, the Boards agreed to further review the draft LAFCo Resolution with each individual boards, their legal counsels, and LAFCo to ensure both districts are agreeable to the terms and conditions stated in the draft resolution.

SUMMARY

CWD reviewed the draft resolution presented at the October 24, 2023 joint Board and December 13, 2023 2x2 Ad Hoc Committee meetings and prepared comments in the following areas:

- CWD's water rights licenses and usage within CWD's service area,
- flexibility for consolidated board to adjust rates consistent with current law,
- CWD's union employee contract, and
- CWD and SSWD Boards separate approvals for the LAFCo resolution and application package.

CWD and SSWD Board of Directors continues to discuss combination efforts at its regular Board meetings and may provide additional updates and comments to the Draft LAFCo resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

Review draft resolution to LAFCo and provide feedback to respective boards.

ATTACHMENTS

1) Draft LAFCo Resolution

ATTACHMENT 1

DRAFT

SACRAMENTO SUBURBAN WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 24-XX

A RESOLUTION MAKING APPLICATION TO THE SACRAMENTO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION FOR CONSOLIDATION WITH CARMICHAEL WATER DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) was formed and is operating under the County Water District Law (Water Code sections 30000 and following), and supports the consideration of consolidation with another water district, provided that both districts consent to the consolidation, and the consolidation would be in the best interest of the customers of each district;

WHEREAS, SSWD has negotiated and reached a decision with the Carmichael Water District (CWD), which was formed and is operating under the Irrigation District Law (Water Code sections 20500 and following), to consolidate the two districts as provided in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (California Government Code sections 56000 and following; the "LAFCo Law");

WHEREAS, SSWD and CWD have conducted an evaluation of the feasibility of consolidating SSWD and CWD through a process that has involved (1) formation of a joint 2x2 Committee, (2) nineteen meetings of the joint 2x2 Committee that have been open to the public, and conducted over the course of two years, (3) retention of a consulting firm to conduct an evaluation of the practices, policies, procedures, rates, financial situation and other factors that would be important to policymakers as they consider the benefits and risks of a consolidation of SSWD and CWD, (4) mailing of information on the proposed consolidation to each customer of SSWD and CWD, (5) holding three joint meetings of the Boards of Directors of SSWD and CWD to present information on the consolidation proposal and receive public comment on it, (6) SSWD and CWD holding two separate public information workshop meetings to present information on the consolidation proposal and to receive their respective ratepayers' input on the proposal, (7) regular discussion of the consolidation proposal during meetings of the Boards of Directors of SSWD and CWD, (8) responding in writing to written questions received from the public concerning the consolidation proposal, (9) briefings on the proposed consolidation for elected officials, other public agencies, and interested parties, and (10) meetings with the respective employees of SSWD and CWD to discuss the consolidation proposal;

WHEREAS, the SSWD and CWD General Managers jointly prepared a report, Further Analysis of Combining Carmichael Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District (Further Analysis Report), that details major aspects of both districts regarding governance, policies and regulations, finance, water rates, employee benefits, water supplies, and that both districts provide the same core service with similar operating criteria and principles which verified that the consolidation would be feasible and provide beneficial opportunities to weald be in the

best interests of the customers of SSWD and CWD; and

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Page 1 of 7

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of SSWD and CWD have reviewed the Further Analysis Report and other information that has been developed during the consolidation investigation process that is referred to above, and approved the Further Analysis Report at the October 24, 2023 Joint Board meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of SSWD as follows:

- The foregoing recitals are true, represent the findings and independent judgment of the SSWD Board of Directors, and are hereby incorporated by reference.
- Application is hereby made under the LAFCo Law to the Sacramento Local Agency
 Formation Commission for the consolidation of SSWD and CWD into a single successor
 district that shall include the territory presently included within the boundaries of each
 existing district.
- The President of the SSWD Board of Directors and the General Manager of SSWD are hereby authorized and directed to complete and execute all documents required in connection with this application, and to do and perform every action necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution.
- 4. This application is expressly made subject to the following special terms and conditions, which SSWD requests that LAFCO include within the order approving this consolidation application, the terms and conditions specified in subsections (c) and (d) being made under subdivisions (c), (h), (i), (l), (l), (m), (p), (t), and (v) of Government Code section 56886:
 - a. The effective date of the consolidation shall be following official certification by LAFCo, or as soon as possible thereafter.
 - b. The name of the consolidated district shall be determined by the effective date of the consolidation following official certification by LAFCo and shall be deemed to be formed and to operate under the County Water District Law.
 - c. Upon and after the consolidation, the following conditions shall apply to and bind the Board of Directors of the consolidated district:
 - the following contracts, debts and contingent liabilities of the respective districts, although to be assigned to the consolidated district shall, nonetheless, continue to be the exclusive responsibility of the ratepayers within the respective service areas of SSWD and CWD until paid in full:

 all bonds, certificates of participation and similar indebtedness, including any refunding thereof,
 - (ii) any other debt respecting real estate (including office buildings and other structures, pump stations and well sites), exclusive of such other debt respecting transmission and distribution system facilities, easements and

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rights-of-way,

- (iii) liability respecting any claims that have not been asserted in writing as of the effective date of the consolidation, and
- (iv) any contracts, debts or liabilities, contingent or otherwise, specified in essentially parallel resolutions adopted by the Boards of Directors of both districts prior to the effective date of the consolidation; and
- the following assets of the respective districts, although to be assigned to the consolidated district shall, nonetheless, permanently inure to the exclusive benefit of the ratepayers within the respective service areas of SSWD and CWD water right Licenses 1387 (A000138) and 8731 (A004743), the equity in real estate (including office buildings and other structures, pump stations and well sites), exclusive of transmission and distribution system facilities, easements and rights-of-way held by the respective districts as of the effective date of the consolidation except for all cash and investments, water sales receivable, and accrued interest receivable attributes to each respective districts; and
- (3) the territory and customers within CWD as of the effective date of the consolidation shall have the exclusive right to the surface water supply made available by and diverted pursuant to the following appropriative water rights: License 1387 (A000138). License 8731 (A004743), and the consolidated district shall not petition to change these rights; and
- 4) the territory and customers within CWD as of the effective date of the consolidation shall have the first priority to the surface water supply made available by and diverted pursuant to the following appropriative water right: Permit 7356 (A012367), and the consolidated district shall prevent surface water made available by Permit 7356 from flowing out of the territory within CWD and into the territory within SSWD, unless and until all demands of the customers within CWD that can be met with this surface water have been met, and
- (5) the water production and distribution facilities shall be operated to maximize the use of surface water made available by License 1387, License 8731, and Permit 7356 within the territory in CWD.
- d. Upon the consolidation and for a period of three years following the effective date of the consolidation, and for so long thereafter as the Board of Directors of the consolidated district shall determine, the following conditions shall apply to and bind the Board of Directors of the consolidated district:
 - (1) all contracts, debts, and liabilities of the respective districts, including contingent liabilities, other than those identified in or pursuant to section

Commented [AF1]: Consider whether these conditions are ones that CWD wants, and if so, whether the three year time horizon for these conditions is appropriate.

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4(c), although to be assigned to the consolidated district shall, nonetheless, continue to be the exclusive responsibility of the ratepayers within the respective service areas of SSWD and CWD as of the effective date of the consolidation rather than the consolidated district,

- (2) previously authorized charges, fees, assessments and taxes of SSWD and CWD, which have been determined by the Boards of Directors of each respective district to properly allocate the costs incurred among its ratepayers, shall continue to be applied within the affected territory of each district, and any changes made to such charges, fees, assessments and taxes shall be governed by the same principles determined by the Board of Directors of each respective district, unless the Board of Directors of the consolidated district specifically determines that different principles shall apply;
- the funds derived from their respective water systems of SSWD and CWD.

 tespectively. be accounted for separately, so that the ratepayers benefitting from a water system bear the cost of operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, improvement, and bond debt service of that water system,

Commented [AF2]: Deleted to provide consolidated board flexibility to adjust rates consistent with current law.

 $\label{lem:commented [AF3]: I suggest deleting this phrase so that there is no conflict with 4c(1)(i), which states that bond debt remain each service area's obligation until paid.}$

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- (4)(3) the territory within CWD as of the effective date of the consolidation shall be designated the "Carmichael Service Area" following the consolidation;
- (5)(4) the territory within SSWD as of the effective date of the consolidation shall be designated the "Sacramento Suburban Service Area" following the consolidation; and
- (6)(5) the Board of Directors of the consolidated district shall determine from time to time which funds derived from the operation of the Carmichael Service Area water system and the Sacramento Suburban Service Area water system shall be used to pay the cost of administration of the consolidated district, and other costs of activities of the consolidated district that benefit the consolidated district as a whole.
- e. Subject to the foregoing, all assets, revenues, funds on deposit, rights and liabilities under contracts, liabilities for payment of principal and interest on contractual obligations for real property, furnishings and equipment, operating expenses, supplies, licenses and permits, and any contingent liabilities for existing civil litigation shall accrue to the consolidated district.
- f. The Board of Directors of the consolidated district shall appoint a permanent General Manager under an employment agreement approved by the Board of Directors of the consolidated district as promptly as possible after LAFCo records the Certificate of Completion finalizing the consolidation.
- As of the effective date of the consolidation, all of the respective employees of g. SSWD and CWD shall become employees of the consolidated district. To the extent practical, every attempt will be made to maintain such employees in the same or similar positions of authority and responsibility with the consolidated district. The compensation, benefits and other terms and conditions of employment of all of the respective employees of SSWD and CWD shall not be reduced by virtue of their becoming employees of the consolidated district. These provisions shall not limit the authority of the General Manager of the consolidated district to exercise his/her discretion with respect to rights of assignment, transfer, discipline, and discharge of employees in accordance with the County Water District Law and other provisions of law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, SSWD and CWD agree that the consolidated district will honor any remaining term in the union contract for the existing unionized employees of CWD. Once any remaining term expires, the existing unionized employees of CWD are not guaranteed to remain unionized, and any determination as to whether the consolidated district will have union employees will be subject to a post-consolidation vote of all rank and file employees who might potentially be part of a represented class of employees.

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- h. As of the effective date of the consolidation, the current employees of SSWD shall continue to be covered by the SSWD CalPERS retirement program and the current employees of CWD shall continue to be covered by the CWD CalPERS retirement program unless CalPERS requires otherwise. The Board of Directors of the consolidated district may propose a unified retirement plan to all employees, subject to compliance with all applicable legal requirements governing any change in public employee retirement plans.
- In accordance with the provisions of Water Code sections 21552.1 and 30500.1 and subsection_(n) of Government Code 56886, the composition and election of the Board of Directors of the consolidated district shall be as follows:
 - (1) The initial Board of Directors of the consolidated district shall consist of eleven members, composed of the existing five members of the Board of Directors of SSWD and the existing five members of the Board of Directors of CWD, each of whom shall serve the same term of office that they were serving as of the effective date of the consolidation. The eleventh seat on the Board of Directors of the consolidated district will be vacant. The Board of Directors of SSWD and CWD recommends that the Board of Directors of the consolidated district vote to eliminate the eleventh seat on the Board as provided in subdivision (c) of both Water Code sections 21552.1 and 30500.1. Board of Directors of the consolidated district shall be elected by and from divisions, as set forth below.
 - (2) Consistent with Water Code section 30500.1, subdivision (b). Fihe number of seats on the Board of Directors shall be reduced to the permanent size of seven in the general district election of the consolidated district to be held in November 2026.
 - The Board of Directors of the consolidated district shall be elected by and from divisions within the consolidated district without an incumbent at the general district election in 2026 provided that, if in the event that there is a delay in the effective date of the consolidation that prevents the Board of Directors of the consolidated district from establishing the boundaries of divisions in time to provide the notice required by Elections Code section 10522 (125 days prior to the general district election), then and the general district election in 2028.
- Adoption of this resolution of application shall be subject to the adoption of a resolution in substantially the same form by the Board of Directors of CWD.
- This Resolution shall take effect as of TBD.
- 5.6. This resolution stands as part of the application package for consolidation made under LAFCo law. SSWD and CWD will prepare an application for consolidation that is

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consistent with the terms of this resolution. The Board of Directors of SSWD and CWD will separately consider approval of this application package prior to submittal to LAFCo.

District on the XXth day of MAYES: NOES:		
ABSENT:		
	By:	
		Kevin Thomas
		President, Board of Directors
		C C L L W D' L'
, ,	, ,	Sacramento Suburban Water District ************* duly and regularly adopted and passed by District at a regular meeting hereof held or
Board of Directors of Sacram	going resolution was	duly and regularly adopted and passed by
Board of Directors of Sacram	going resolution was ento Suburban Water	duly and regularly adopted and passed by
Board of Directors of Sacram XXth day of MONTH, 2024.	going resolution was	duly and regularly adopted and passed by District at a regular meeting hereof held or
Board of Directors of Sacram	going resolution was ento Suburban Water	duly and regularly adopted and passed by District at a regular meeting hereof held or
Board of Directors of Sacram XXth day of MONTH, 2024.	going resolution was ento Suburban Water	duly and regularly adopted and passed by District at a regular meeting hereof held or

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