

# Norcal Water Works

## *Public Meeting*

January 13, 2022

6:00 p.m.



CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

SAFER PROGRAM



## **Water Board's Mission Statement**

*Preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.*

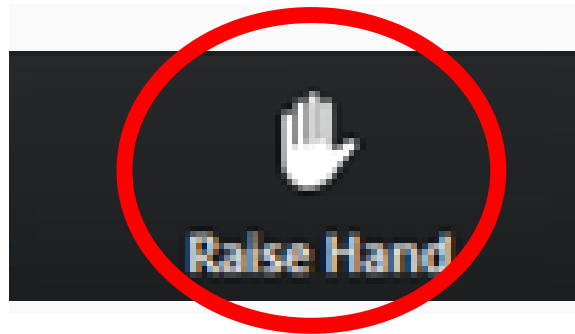
# Meeting Overview and Logistics

Elizabeth Herrera  
Office of Public Participation

# Meeting Guidelines

- Everyone will be muted, until public comment

## Computer Commands



## Phone Commands

- \*9 to raise hand
- \*6 to mute/unmute



**Technical Assistance:** [SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov)

# Meeting Agenda

- Background of Norcal Water Works
- Overview of Mandatory Consolidation
- Community Involvement
- Next Steps
- Public Comments/Questions



# SAFER Drinking Water Program

SAFER = Safe and Affordable Fund for Equity and Resilience



*systems*



*funding*



*communities*



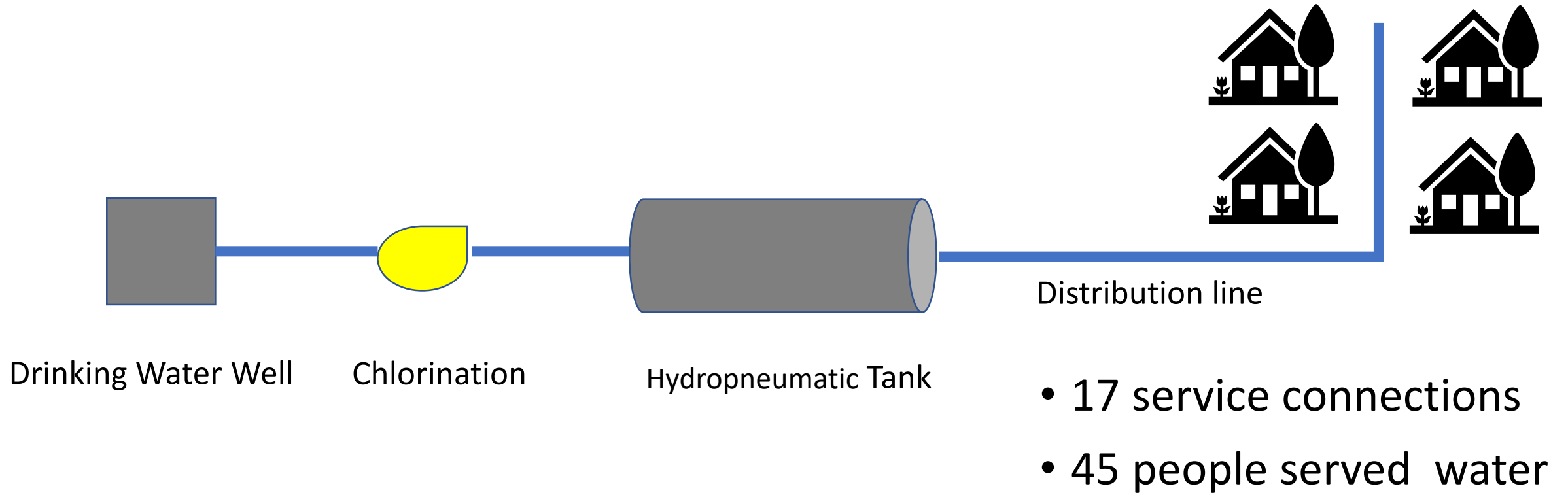
*local expertise*

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer)

# Water System Background Norcal Water Works

Ariel Chavez  
Water Resource Control Engineer  
Division of Drinking Water, SAFER

# Water System Basics

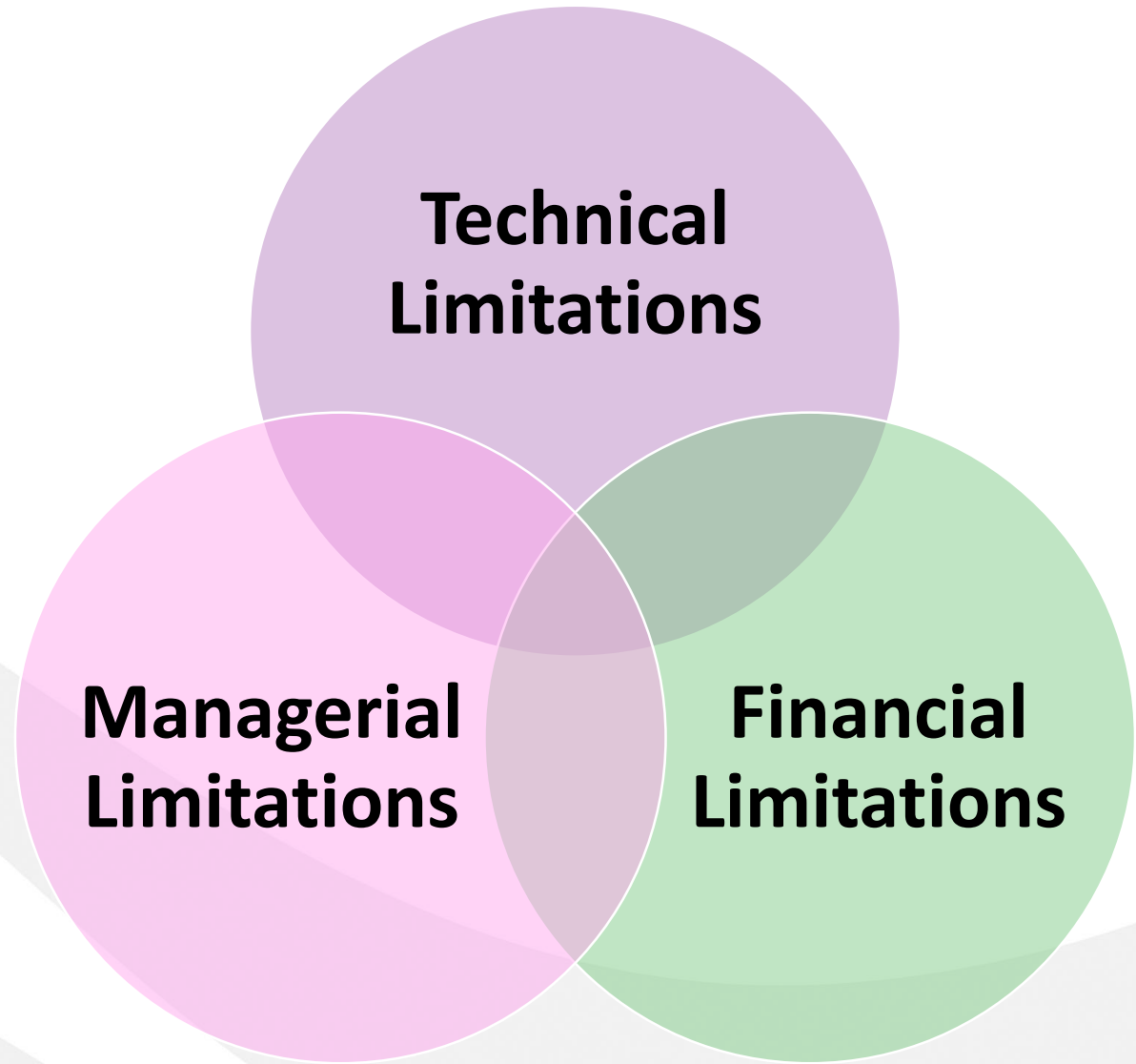


Required to have a certified distribution operator





**Concerns**



# Technical Limitations

## Water Quality

- Bacteriological samples were not taken from September 2019 to present
  - A boil water order was issued March 13, 2020
- Effects of potential bacteriological contamination are:
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Cramps
  - Nausea,
  - Fever, etc.



# Technical Limitations

## Enforcement Actions and Violations



- Enforcement Action issued for missed bacteriological samples from December 2019 and March 2020
- Other violations include:
  - Failure to employ a chief and shift distribution operator that meets the necessary requirements
  - Failure to submit an electronic annual report for reporting year 2019 and 2020, and failure to provide reliable contact information in the 2018 report
  - Failure to distribute the 2019 and 2020 Consumer Confidence Report to consumers and the Tehama County LPA by July 1, 2020
  - Failure to report a free chlorine residual on the chain of custody for the routine bacteriological sample collected in July 2020
  - Failure to provide a second source of domestic water, or storage, capable of meeting the maximum day demand

# Managerial Limitations

- Lack of staff – No certified distribution operator
  - The operation and maintenance of the water system is put at risk without an operator to oversee the water system and chlorinator
  - The necessary water quality testing is performed
- Lack of communication from the water system
  - He only occasionally responds to emails
  - He does not respond to phone calls
  - Mail sent to his address is often returned to sender



# Financial Limitations

- Payment is due to Cranmer Engineering for sampling and operator fees
  - \$1,175 past due
- Payment is due to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)
  - Water system stated it is withholding payment to PG&E until they are paid restitution from the PG&E lawsuit settlement for the Camp Fire
- Payment is owed to the State Water Board



# Mandatory Consolidation Overview

Brian Kidwell, P.E.  
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer  
Division of Drinking Water, SAFER

## Mandatory Consolidation – What Does It Mean?

- State law requires mandatory consolidation be between two public water systems.
- Norcal Water Works would be owned and operated by Del Oro Water Company – Larkspur Meadows.



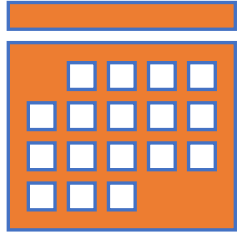
# Why is the State Board Taking This Action?

- Water Quality Issues
  - Managerial Issues
  - Financial Concerns
- 
- **State Board has determined that Norcal Water Works cannot reliably provide safe and affordable water to its customers.**





# Consolidation Process



Six-months for voluntary consolidation agreement.



Public Meeting



Appoint a **Full-Scope Administrator** to take legal control of the water system.

# Consolidation Process



Second Public Meeting



State Board will determine fair market value of water system



Transfer of Water System to Del Oro

Complete Necessary Improvements

# What is a Full Scope Administrator?

- A person or entity who is appointed and/or authorized to exercise total and complete managerial control over a designated water system
  - Public meeting was held on December 10, 2020
  - Shall have sufficient experience for scope of appointment
  - Shall be subject to a background check.



# Mandatory Consolidation Funding

**State Water Board will provide funding as necessary and appropriate from:**

- Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program (SAFER)
- Monies made available from the emergency drought relief package

**Funding may be used for:**

- Infrastructure improvements
- Bringing the water system up to current standards

# Stakeholder and Community Input



Community members may present oral or written comments



Must be received by the State Board within 1 week of this meeting



State Board will review comments received



# Goals

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



# Norcal Water Works *Public Comments/Questions*

Elizabeth Herrera  
Office of Public Participation

# Online Participation

## Public Comments or Questions:

- Raise your virtual hand,
- Add it to the Chat function,

**OR**

- Email the following to [SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov)
  - Your name and affiliation,
  - If you'd like to read your comment yourself,
  - Subject: "Norcal Public Comment"



# Phone Call-in Participation

## Public Comments or Questions:

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

**OR**

- Email the following to [SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov)
  - Your name and affiliation,
  - If you'd like to read your comment yourself,
  - Subject: "Norcal Public Comment"



# Participation Instructions

When your name is called, share your...

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

# Comments? Questions?

- First and last name
- Affiliation
- Where you are calling from
- Concise question or comment



# Next Steps and Closing

# Next Steps

- Public Comment Deadline - January 20, 2022
- Written comments and questions can be mailed or emailed to:

Brian Kidwell  
State Water Resources Control Board  
31 E Channel Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

**OR**

[SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov)

**OR** (209) 948-3963

- Consolidation Info – visit the Water Board website at:  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/compliance/index.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/compliance/index.html)

# Thank you!

Questions or comments please contact us:

**[SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov)**