

West Water Company Public Meeting

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State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water

Meeting Purpose

- Explain the West Water Company consolidation and change of ownership with the Fitch Mountain CSA-41.
- Receive feedback.
- Answer questions.

Meeting Logistics



Presentation with slides



Documents and presentation online



Everyone will be muted

Meeting Logistics (continued)



Email questions during the meeting to
NorCalEngagement@Waterboards.ca.gov



We will also open it up to comments and questions at the end of the meeting. You can raise your Zoom hand if you have a question or comment.

How To Raise Hand – Via Computer



Step 1: Click the 'Participants' button at the bottom of the screen. This brings up several options to choose from to provide nonverbal feedback.



Step 2: Select the 'Raise Hand' option.

The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top right, there is a "Gallery View" button and a full-screen icon. In the top left corner of the meeting area, there are icons for information and a lock, and a timer showing "00:00:32". The main area is a blurred video feed. A red circle with the number "1" is positioned above a red arrow that points down to the "Participants" icon in the bottom toolbar. The bottom toolbar contains icons for "Join Audio", "Start Video", "Participants" (with a "2" next to it), "Chat", "Share Screen", "Record", "Reactions", and a red "Leave Meeting" button.

The image shows the "Participants (2)" list in a Zoom meeting. The list is currently empty. Below the list, there are two buttons: "Invite" and "Raise Hand". A red circle with the number "2" is positioned above a red arrow that points down to the "Raise Hand" button.

Zoom Meeting

Beti.Girma

Gallery View

Participants (2)

Beti.Girma (Me)

Raise Hand

yes no go slower go faster more

Invite Mute Me

Zoom Group Chat

To: Everyone

Type message here...

Mute Start Video Participants Chat Share Screen Reactions Leave

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface. The main window shows a dark background with the name 'Beti.Girma' at the top. A large black rectangle is centered on the screen. The bottom toolbar contains icons for Mute, Start Video, Participants (2), Chat, Share Screen, Reactions, and a red 'Leave' button. On the right, a sidebar shows the 'Participants (2)' list with 'Beti.Girma (Me)' and a microphone icon. Below this is a row of interaction buttons: 'Raise Hand' (circled in red), 'yes', 'no', 'go slower', 'go faster', and 'more'. Underneath are 'Invite' and 'Mute Me' buttons. The bottom of the sidebar shows the 'Zoom Group Chat' section with a 'To: Everyone' dropdown and a text input field 'Type message here...'. The top of the window shows a Windows taskbar with 'Zoom Meeting' and 'Girma, Beti@Waterboards'.

How To Raise Hand – Via Phone

- Dial *9



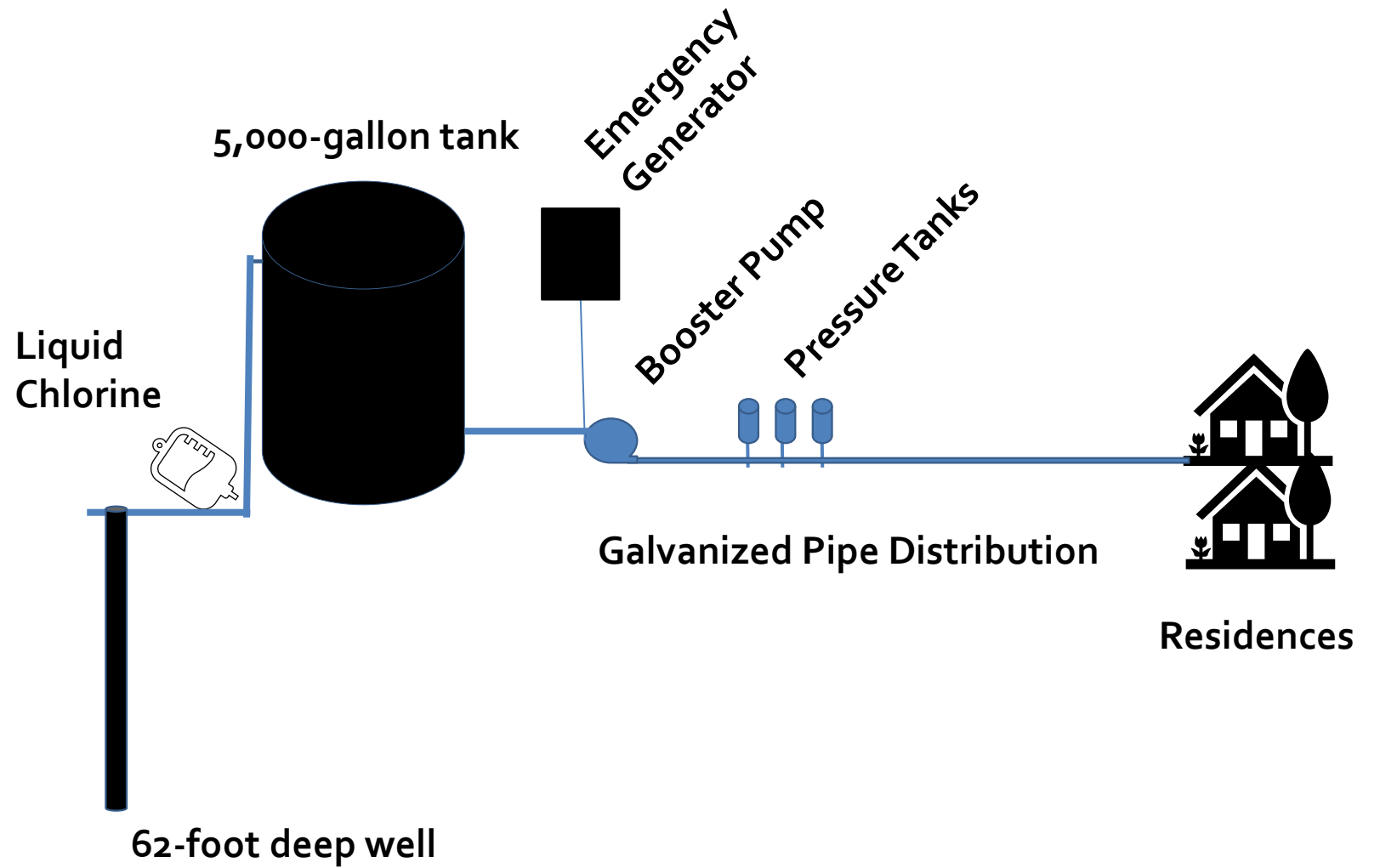
Lets Practice Raising
and Lowering Hands!



Meeting Outline

- **Meeting Outline:**
 - Overview of the West Water System
 - Proposed State Water Board action
 - Reasons for action
 - State Water Board goals
 - Process
 - Community input
 - Question/Answer

Water System Basics



Consolidation

What Does It Really Mean?

- The West Water System would be owned and operated by Sonoma County.
- The West Water System would become the West Water District in Sonoma County Service Area (CSA) 41.
- The West Water System will be operated and regulated as an independent public water system with no physical connection to another water system or any legal ties to any other public water system, including Fitch Mountain.

Why is the State Board Taking Action?

Physical Condition/Deficiencies of the System

- Physical condition of well – Well casing is in poor condition. Failure of this well would leave the community without water.
- Lack of adequate storage – Additional storage is needed to provide water to customers when the system is out of service for short periods of time.
- Inadequate water rights
- Distribution system - Pipes are going on 65 years. Leaks and corrosion that have reduced the flow of water are likely.

Why is the State Board Taking Action? (continued)

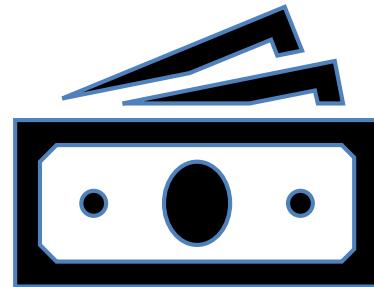
Potentially serious water quality problem

- Historically, the well produced water with coliform bacteria.
- Chlorine disinfection installed in 1999.
- Bacterial contamination found in February 2019.
- Bacterial contamination seems to occur when the river is high in the winter since the well is only 62 feet deep. When the river is high, river water has the potential to enter the well more easily.

Why is the State Board Taking Action? (continued)

Current ownership limitations

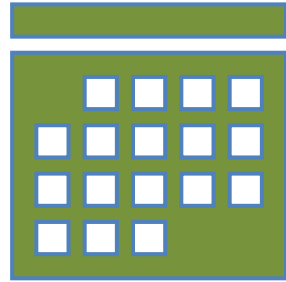
- Cannot afford for necessary improvements.
- Cannot qualify for private financing.
- Cannot qualify for State Water Board funding.
- Cannot serve residents on Riverside Drive



Ultimate Goals

- Change to a sustainable public entity (managerial consolidation).
- Complete improvements to make the system sustainable: new well, adequate storage, new distribution system, remote monitoring equipment, and customer meters.
- Provide service to customers on Riverside Drive who wish to receive it.
- Ensure safe and reliable drinking water is provided to customers for the foreseeable future.

Process Major Steps



Six-months for voluntary consolidation agreement.



Public Meeting (original public meeting postponed).
Six-months restarted from the date of this meeting.



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

Administrator

Takes legal control of the water system:

- Oversees consolidation process.
- Applies for State Water Board funding to make necessary water system improvements.
- Deals with water rights issues.
- Coordinates analysis to determine necessary rates to operate the rebuilt water system.
- Informs customers of consolidation and improvement project status on a regular basis.

Proposed administrator qualifications will be available once the selection is made but before the order is issued to give you time to review and give us your comments. More information on the administrator process will be provided soon.

Process

- Improvement Project: new source well, adequate storage, new distribution system, remote monitoring equipment, customer water meters
- State Board will contact property owners on Riverside Drive
- State Board will determine fair market value of water system
- State Board makes required findings

Process (Continued)

Second public meeting

Consolidation Order issued

Compensation to owners

Transfer of water system to Sonoma County

Complete necessary improvements

Comments
/Questions?

Water system
owners

Sonoma County

Rate Payers,
Renters,
Property Owners

Members of the
Public

Conclusion

Written comments and questions can be mailed or emailed to:

Beti Girma

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street, 17th Floor

Sacramento, CA

OR

NorCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov

Notifications of future developments