San Lucas County Water District (San Lucas CWD)

Public Meeting



CALIFORNIA Water Boards

SAFER Program – November 05, 2026

Meeting Agreements



Please hold off on questions or comments until we reach the public comment section.



You may fill out a comment card during the presentation or raise your hand after.



Everyone will have a chance to speak during the public comment period.



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 Agenda

- Welcome
- Administrator Appointment
  What it means for San Lucas?
- Water System Updates
- Public Comments / Q&A



Administrator Appointment



Chad Fischer
Supervising Engineer

DDW SAFER Section
State Water Board

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Why We Are Here:

- What is a drinking water Administrator? How are they appointed?
- The potential Administrator (Cal Water) and why State Water Board has selected them
- What is the process to appoint an Administrator
- How the administrator process is community-driven and accountable to the community
- How this Administrator appointment will support managerial consolidation and long-term infrastructure improvements
- Updates in our work to improve San Lucas drinking water

What is an Administrator?

- A person or entity who is appointed and/or authorized to exercise total and complete managerial control (Full-Scope) or for a specific purpose (Limited-Scope) over a designated water system
  - Shall have all necessary licenses and certifications for scope of appointment
  - Shall have sufficient experience for scope of appointment
  - Shall be subject to a background check



Why is the State Board Taking This Action?

- Physical Deficiencies
- Emergency Repair Costs
- Water Quality Issues
- Managerial Issues





- **State Board has determined that San Lucas CWD cannot reliably provide safe and affordable water to its customers.**

ADMINISTRATORS



Administrator Authority

- Applicability:
  - A public water system or state small water system that serves a disadvantaged community and that the state board finds consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.
- Policy Handbook:
  - **https://bit.ly/AdminPolicy_Handbook**

Administrator Appointment Process

Public Comment Period Starts

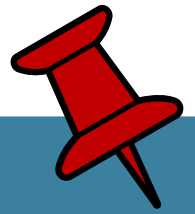
October 6, 2026

Public Notice

October 6, 2026

Designation Letter

October 7, 2026



Public Meeting

November 5, 2026

Public Comment Period Ends

November 12, 2026

Next Step:

Legal Appointment of Administrator

Potential Administrator for San Lucas CWD

California Water Service King City District ("Cal Water")

Qualifications:

- 100 years of experience in operating and maintaining community water systems
- Successfully incorporated several water systems into existing operations, including several systems in Monterey County
- Technical and managerial staff necessary to implement and maintain infrastructure solutions

Administrator: Scope of Work



Accept full administrative and managerial control of the water system



Address financial limitations and manage the State Water Board funding to resolve operations and maintenance deficiencies



Address regulatory compliance issues and operate system sustainably



Keep customers regularly informed of the status of improvement projects

Community Accountability and Engagement Plan

- Administrator develops plan **within 120 days**
- Public meetings at least **once every three (3) months**
  - Provide **10-day notice**
  - Opportunity for **public comment**
- Community involvement
- Public access to records



Post-Administrator Drinking Water Service Plan

1. **Identify** and evaluate technical, managerial, and financial capacity issues
2. **Operate** water system sustainably
3. **Identify** and address any infrastructure issues
4. **Execute** system improvements
5. **Execute** managerial consolidation



Administrator Funding

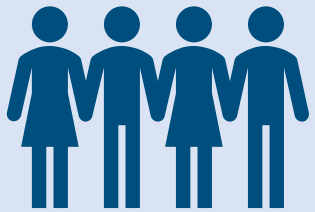
State Water Board will be responsible for:

- Salary and benefits for Administrator
- Administrative costs attributed solely to Administrator
- Cost associated with administrator scope of work

Funding made available for:

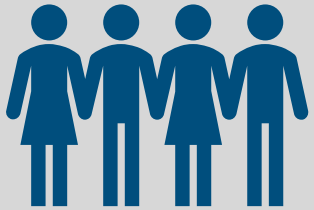
- Construction and planning projects

Stakeholder and Community Input



Any ratepayer, renter, or property owner who receives water from a designated system that receives services from an Administrator may submit a petition to the State Water Board for the reversal or modification of a decision of an Administrator or substitution of the Administrator.

Stakeholder and Community Input

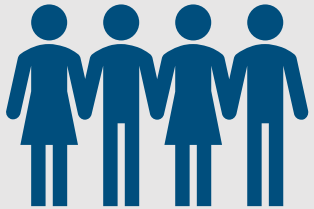




A petition seeking modification or reversal of an Administrator decision must be received by the State Water Board within 30 days of the date of the Administrator's decision.

A petition seeking substitution of an Administrator may be submitted at any time.

Stakeholder and Community Input







State Board will review and act on the petition

Expectations for Administrator



- Safe and reliable drinking water for the San Lucas community
- Meaningful engagement with community
- Oversee implementation of water infrastructure improvements and managerial consolidation

Water System Updates

Ileana Wald
Engineer

DDW SAFER Section
State Water Board



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Committed Resources and Partners

Support	Source	Amount
Iron and Manganese Treatment Repair (P&P)	State	$424,605
New Groundwater Sources & New Water Treatment	US EPA	$2,051,752
	State	$4,000,000
Legal Assistance for Nitrate (UCD)	State	$187,474
Community Outreach & Grant Assistance (RCAC)	State	$168,424
Engineering and Technical Studies (UEI)	State	$485,753

Total Committed Funds to date: ***$7.3 Million***

Plus additional funding *for this Administrator Appointment!*

Water System Updates

- **Iron and Manganese Treatment Repair**
  - Groundbreaking January 2027
  - Construction completes June 2027
  - Early Summer 2027: Once repaired existing plant will deliver safe drinking water and Administrator will be in place

Water System Updates

- **New Groundwater Sources & New Water Treatment**
  - Funding in place for planning/design of long-term solution
  - Notice to proceed for design work expected <u>early November 2026</u>

Public Comment / Q&A

Johannus Reijnders

Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs

State Water Board



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Ways To Participate

- Raise your hand and we'll come by with a microphone
- Fill out a comment sheet:
  - Raise your hand and one of us will read the comment for you
  - Or leave your comment sheet behind for us to collect
- Send us a public comment after this meeting (*Deadline is November 12, 2026*)

How to send a Public Comment

Deadline is November 12, 2026

- **By mail:** San Lucas Drinking Water Project c/o Ileana Wald
  State Water Resources Control Board – DDW
  1001 I Street, 17th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

- **By email:**
  SAFER@Waterboards.ca.gov

- **By online form:**
  https://bit.ly/sanlucaswatercomment

Thank you!

SAFER@waterboards.ca.gov



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Resources



Send us questions or public comments:

- By email: **SAFER@Waterboards.ca.gov**
- By online form: **https://bit.ly/sanlucaswatercomment**

More Info: San Lucas CWD

- SAFER Program website: **https://bit.ly/sanlucaswater**

Resources



More Info: Water System Administrators

- State Water Board Administrator website: **https://bit.ly/DDW_AdminWebsite**
- Administrator Policy Handbook: **https://bit.ly/AdminPolicy_Handbook**
- Administrator Policy Frequently Asked Questions: **https://bit.ly/DDW_AdminFAQ**