



State Water Resources Control Board

Virtual and Teleconference Meeting During COVID-19 Emergency

This meeting will occur via <u>remote presence only</u> as a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing.

Notice of Public Meeting

Identification of an Administrator for East Orosi Community Services District April 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) invites you to attend a meeting to learn about Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) as a potential administrator to the East Orosi Community Services District (District). An administrator is a person or entity that is appointed to manage a designated water system partially or completely to provide an adequate supply of safe and affordable drinking water. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the following:

- Current status of drinking water in the East Orosi Community Services District.
- Purpose and role of an administrator.
- Administrator qualifications, conflicts of interest, and scope of work.

The meeting will also include an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments. The public can submit questions and comments through **April 14, 2021.** Below the Meeting Logistics section is background information on the process and the proposed administrator.

MEETING LOGISTICS

- To participate in this public meeting in ENGLISH:
 - To participate in English via phone, call: 1 (669) 900-9128; Enter Meeting ID when prompted: Meeting ID: 990 2912 5591
 - If you wish to join the meeting in English via Zoom (advance registration is not required to join meeting): http://bit.ly/SWRCB EastOrosi
- To participate in this public meeting in **SPANISH**:
 - o To participate in Spanish via phone, call: (916) 255-4069; No code needed
 - If you wish to join the meeting in Spanish via Zoom (advance registration is not required to join meeting): http://bit.ly/SWRCB EastOrosi
 - Choose Spanish interpretation channel under the interpretation menu marked by a globe icon.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

This meeting will offer Spanish language interpretation services. For questions regarding language services, or to request language interpretation in a language other than Spanish, please contact Marina Pérez at (916) 322-4265.

ACCESSIBILITY

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

MEETING MATERIALS

To receive meeting materials before the meeting, please register.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

• To register for this meeting: http://bit.ly/Updates EastOrosi

Meeting materials and details on remote participation will be emailed to **registered** participants before the meeting and are also available at https://bit.ly/DDW_AdminWebsite.

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mail: Caitlin Juarez

State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water

265 W Bullard Avenue Suite 101 Fresno, CA 93704

Email: DDW-Administrator@Waterboards.ca.gov

BACKGROUND

On September 10, 2020, the State Water Board took the first step to designate the District as a water system in need of an administrator because it has not consistently provided an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water to its customers. The District was issued a compliance order in 2015 for exceeding the Nitrate maximum contaminant level (MCL). The District struggles with technical, managerial, and financial capacity to adequately run a public water system. Additionally, the State Water Board issued a mandatory consolidation order on October 27, 2020 to ensure that the District receives compliant drinking water.

The State Water Board proposes appointing an administrator for the District to manage the water system. All actions taken by an administrator are required to be in the best interest of the community served by the water system and include the following:

- Developing access to an adequate supply of safe and affordable drinking water.
- Holding public meetings at least every three months.

Any ratepayer, renter, or property owner who receives water from a designated water system can submit a petition to the State Water Board to reverse or modify an administrator decision or to replace an administrator.

Information on Proposed Administrator

NAME OF ADMINISTRATOR: Tulare County RMA has been identified as a viable candidate to be appointed as an administrator of the East Orosi Community Services District. Their qualifications include:

- Experience in design, operations, and maintenance of community water and wastewater systems for nearly thirty years.
- Successfully managing several drinking water projects and consolidations. Consolidations
 included connecting small community water systems and private domestic wells to large
 community water systems.
- Staff include 13 licensed Professional Engineers, 3 Professional Land Surveyors, and 3 licensed water distribution operators.

SCOPE OF APPOINTMENT & SERVICES PROVIDED: This administrator will be a Full-Scope Administrator as defined in the Administrator Policy Handbook available online at http://bit.lv/SAFER administrator handbook.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: No conflict of interest has been found by the State Water Board or reported by Tulare County RMA at this time. If at any time a proposed action would create a conflict of interest, an administrator is required to provide written notice the State Water Board in addition to all ratepayers, renters and property owners, who receive water service from the designated water system 30 days prior to taking the action.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Caitlin Juarez at (559) 447-3395 or caitlin.juarez@waterboards.ca.gov or visit the Water Board website at: https://bit.lv/DDW_AdminWebsite