

# Cutler Public Utility District

Public Meeting



SAFER Program - November 12, 2025

# 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.

# Meeting Agenda

- Cutler PUD Background
- Consolidation Overview
- Mandatory Consolidation Process
- Public Comment / Q&A





# Cutler PUD Background

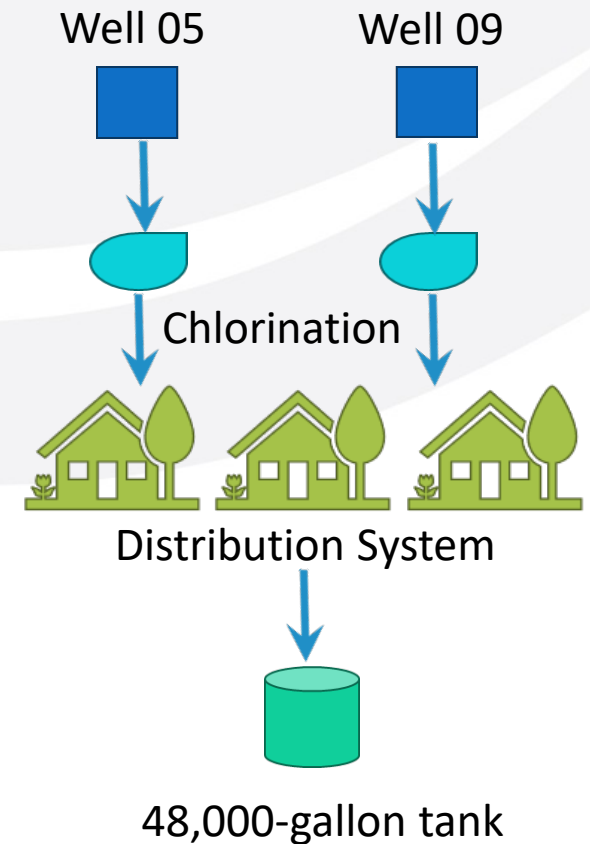
Caitlin Juarez - DDW



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# Cutler PUD Infrastructure

- 2 active wells: Well 05 & 09
- 1 well under construction: Well 10
- 3 *inactive wells*: Well 03, Well 04, and Well 06
- Well 05 is out of compliance for 1,2,3-TCP and nitrate
- Unmetered service connections





# Water Quality: 1,2,3-Trichloropropane

- Cutler PUD in violation of the 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP) maximum contaminant level (MCL) since August 2022
  - 1,2,3-TCP MCL: 0.005  $\mu\text{g/L}$
- Health effect
  - Increased cancer risk



# Water Quality: Nitrate

- Cutler PUD in violation of the Nitrate maximum contaminant level (MCL) since September 2023
  - Nitrate MCL: 10 mg/L
- Potential health impacts
  - Drinking water with high nitrate over time can reduce oxygen in blood
  - Infants and pregnant women most at risk



# Consolidation Overview

Caitlin Juarez - DDW



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# Consolidation Goals



# Consolidation Efforts

Voluntary  
consolidation  
efforts began in  
May 2023

SHE contracted  
with Provost &  
Pritchard to  
prepare a  
consolidation  
feasibility study

Self Help  
Enterprises (SHE)  
was assigned as  
technical  
assistance  
provider in 2024

CPUD and OPUD  
have submitted  
draft consolidation  
agreements and  
DDW has  
provided feedback



# Consolidation Feasibility Study

- **Alternative 1:** Physical consolidation as a single special district
  - **Alternative 2:** Physical consolidation under a joint powers authority (JPA)
  - **Alternative 3:** No Project
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- Drafted in January 2025 and finalized in October 2025
  - DDW & DFA provided feedback to Provost & Pritchard on the study in May 2025
  - No written comments received from Cutler PUD or Orosi PUD before finalization in October 2025.

# Mandatory Consolidation Process

Bryan Potter - DDW



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# Mandatory Consolidation – What Does It Mean?

The state has the authority to order consolidation if the following criteria is met:

**Subsuming water system is disadvantaged:** Cutler PUD median household income <\$77,067

**Documented history of water quality/quantity issue:** failing 1,2,3-TCP and Nitrate MCLs

**Adequate and sustainable nearby receiving water system to take over ownership and operation:** Orosi PUD

# Why is the State Board Taking This Action?

- Water Quality Issues
- Physical Infrastructure Deficiencies
- Technical, Managerial, and Financial Issues



**The State Board has determined that Cutler PUD has not reliably provided safe and affordable water to their customers.**



# Statutory Findings

1. The potentially subsumed water system has consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.
2. Reasonable efforts to negotiate consolidation or extension of service were made.
3. Consolidation of the receiving water system and subsumed water system or extension of service is appropriate and technically and economically feasible.
4. There is no pending local agency formation commission process that is likely to resolve the problem in a reasonable amount of time.

# Statutory Findings cont.

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5. Concerns regarding water rights and water contracts of the subsumed and receiving water systems have been adequately addressed.

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  6. Consolidation or extension of service is an effective and cost-effective means to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

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  7. The capacity of the proposed interconnection needed to accomplish the consolidation is limited to serving the current customers of the subsumed water system.

# Mandatory Consolidation Process





# Consolidation Funding

## What costs are covered?

- Technical Assistance
- Upfront cost to implement the project

## Funding may be available for:

- Planning & Construction
- Reimbursement for time spent on the project
- Legal Services

# Public Comment Q&A

Icelyn Yepez  
Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal  
Affairs



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# Public Comment

- Speak your comment:
  - Raise your hand and we will come by with a microphone.
- Submit a comment via Zoom:
  - Select the “raise hand” option in Zoom or type your comment into the chat.
- Written comments can be addressed by mail, email, or phone (**Deadline Wednesday, November 19, 2025**):
  - Caitlin Juarez, State Water Resources Control Board 265 W. Bullard Avenue, Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93706
  - Email: [DDW-SoCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DDW-SoCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov)
  - Phone number: (559) 447-3395



# Thank you!

[DDW-SoCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DDW-SoCalEngagement@waterboards.ca.gov)



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