# South Kern & Old River MWC Community Meeting

ADMINISTRATOR PROGRAM

MAY 8, 2024

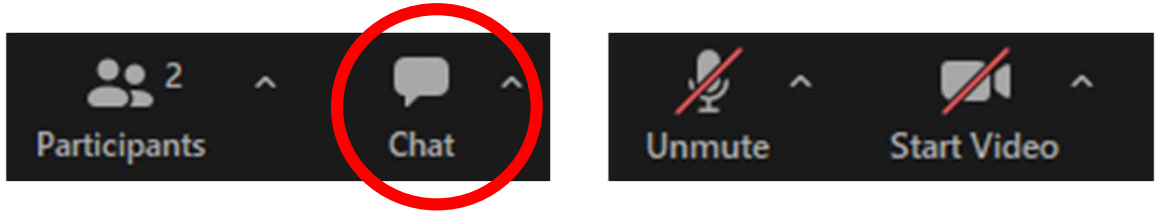
PROVOST&PRITCHARD

# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Administrator Program overview
   i. Administrator Functions
   ii. Administrator Appointment
   iii. Goals of the Administrator Program
   iv. Post-Administrator Plan
3. Work Completed
4. Work Underway
5. Community Accountability and Engagement Plan
6. Water System Performance
7. Emergency Response
8. Billing and Water Rates
9. Financial Health
10. Upcoming Activities and Looking Ahead

# Housekeeping

- Please keep phones on silent or take calls outside
- Restrooms
- Zoom: Use the Chat feature for comments, questions, or Zoom technical assistance
    - The meeting is being recorded
    - To participate in public comment via dial-in, press *6 to mute and unmute
    - To participate within Zoom, click the microphone icon on the bottom left corner of your screen



# Introductions – *Provost & Pritchard*

Steve Spencer
*Principal Engineer*

Clarissa Johnson
*Accounting*

Becca Quist
*Public Affairs*

Hamish Kellam
*Project Manager*

Kristen Bitsberger
*Environmental Specialist*

HK0

# About Provost & Pritchard

- Established Engineering and Consulting Firm with ten office locations
  - Contracted with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as a Technical Assistance Provider and water system Administrator
- Diverse and specialized team
  - Civil and Agricultural Engineers
  - Hydrogeologists
  - Environmental Specialists
  - Planners and Land Surveyors
  - Construction Managers
  - Field Representatives
  - Support Personnel

Slide 5

HK0 @Becca, can we insert a picture showing our office locations on a map?

Hamish Kellam, 2024-05-01T19:53:22.079

# Introductions – *Subconsultants*

Golden State Water Company

Dawn White, *Water Quality Manager*

- Provides regulatory and billing services support

MCMOR WATER SERVICES COMPANY

Dennis Gatson, *Contract Operator*

- Manages water system operations for the MWCs
- Previously oversaw operations of both syste

belden blaine raytis
Business Lawyers for Business Owners

Dan Raytis, *Legal Counsel*

- Provides legal assistance to P&P, specializing in water law

# Administrator Program Overview

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# What is the Administrator Program?

Grant funded through the California's Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program

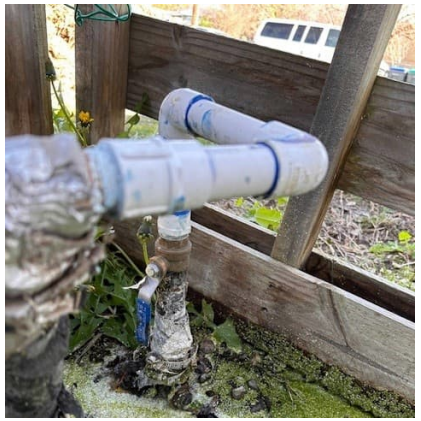
Focused on small communities in need of assistance, experiencing long-term challenges

Appointed by the State Water Resources Control Board

Administrators may be individual persons, businesses, non-profit organizations, local agencies, and other entities

# Administrator Functions

- Water system assessment
- Governance and management
- Financial management
- Emergency response
- Operations and maintenance
- Rate study
- Community engagement
- Post Administrator Plan



# Administrator Appointment for South Kern & Old River MWC

- Drinking water standards & Human Right to Water
  - South Kern:
    - Since 2018, water supply in violation of maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for uranium and 1, 2, 3-trichloropropane (TCP). Exceeds California State drinking water standards of 30 µg/L for uranium and 0.005 µg/L for TCP.
  - Old River:
    - Since 2009, water supply in violation of uranium MCL and suspended by Franchise Tax Board since February 2015.

# Administrator Appointment for South Kern & Old River MWC (cont.)

- Mandatory consolidation order in 2018 to consolidate with the City of Bakersfield
  - Systems did not have a board to see the consolidation through
- Administrative Order issued February 2, 2024
  - Order authorizes P&P to oversee all operations and management of the water systems
- No presently known board members or representatives for either MWC
  - Per SWRCB, both Boards do not *need* to be re-elected

# Goals of Administrator Program

| | |
|---|---|
| Regulatory Compliance | Improve operations and maintenance while developing a path to meeting all water quality standards |
| Financial Stability | Develop a financial strategy to ensure viability of the water systems, while managing supplemental grant funding |
| Public Engagement | Establish and maintain public engagement with water system customers |
| Long-term Solution | Consolidation with City of Bakersfield |

South Kern well head

Old River well head

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# Post-Administrator Plan

*Creating a pathway for water system operations without Administrative support*

- Evaluate technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) issues
- Plan for developing TMF competencies
- Evaluate future issues and steps needed to complete consolidation with City of Bakersfield
- Identify financial and managerial resources needed to implement the Post-Administrator Plan

# Work Completed

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# Initial Assessment

- Completed and submitted to SWRCB in January 2023
- Assessment included review of:
  - Water system infrastructure
  - Water quality
  - Operations and maintenance
  - Managerial structure and practices
  - Financial status

# Work Underway

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# Community Accountability and Engagement Plan (CAEP)

- CAEP draft was submitted to the SWRCB on April 25th, 2024, to be finalized by May 15th
- Plan outlines public outreach activities for the Administrator (P&P), including:
  - Public comment opportunities
  - Community meetings
  - Email notifications and updates
  - Dedicated webpage at: www.admin.provostandpritchard.com/south-kern-old-river
  - Project fact sheet
  - Survey for communication preferences
  - Public comment and responses tracking on the website
- Surveys were sent out with meeting notices on April 23rd
- Please fill out your community surveys!

# Other Administrator Plans

- Community Accountability and Engagement Plan (CAEP)
- Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
  - Drafted and submitted to Division of Drinking Water (DDW) on May 3, 2024
- Governance Plan
  - Draft in progress
- Financial Management Plan
  - Draft in progress

# Water System Performance

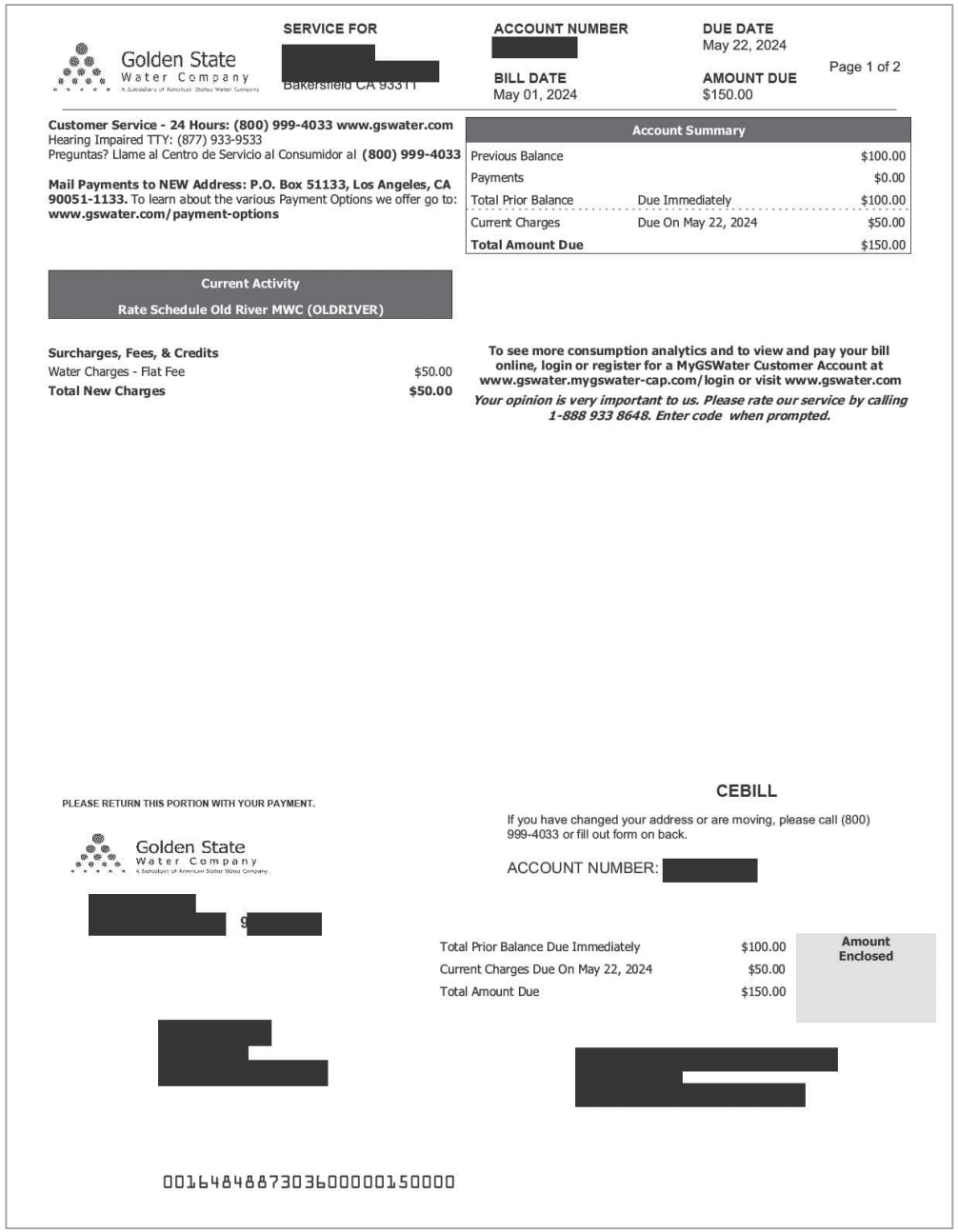
- McMor Water Services, *Certified Operator*
- Water sampling continuing on schedule for Old River; restarted for South Kern
- Water quality samples indicate contaminants remain above the maximum levels allowed by State Water Board
  - South Kern: Uranium and 1,2,3-TCP
  - Old River: Uranium
  - Results publicly accessible at: https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/
- P&P currently prioritizing system deficiencies and implementing maintenance program

# Emergency Response

- Emergency Response Plans underway
- Once approved the plan shall be added to the webpage
- Status of water is Unsafe - “Do Not Drink”
- In case of emergency, contact Golden State Water Company:
  - Call: 800-999-0403
  - Email: customerservice@gswater.com

# Billing & Water Rates

- Customer accounts set up with Golden State Water Company to access billing and customer services in February 2024. McMor ceased managing billing services in January.
  - Bills (at previous flat rate of $50 per month) for Old River covering February and March were sent by GSWC on April 15. April bills will be mailed out after May 1
  - Bills (at previous flat rate of $50 per month) for South Kern will be reinitiated beginning with April (to be mailed out in early May)



Golden State Water Company

SERVICE FOR [redacted]
Bakersfield CA 93311

ACCOUNT NUMBER [redacted]

DUE DATE
May 22, 2024

BILL DATE
May 01, 2024

AMOUNT DUE
$150.00

Page 1 of 2

**Customer Service - 24 Hours: (800) 999-4033 www.gswater.com**
Hearing Impaired TTY: (877) 933-9533
Preguntas? Llame al Centro de Servicio al Consumidor al **(800) 999-4033**

**Mail Payments to NEW Address: P.O. Box 51133, Los Angeles, CA 90051-1133.** To learn about the various Payment Options we offer go to: **www.gswater.com/payment-options**

**Account Summary**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Previous Balance | | $100.00 |
| Payments | | $0.00 |
| Total Prior Balance | Due Immediately | $100.00 |
| Current Charges | Due On May 22, 2024 | $50.00 |
| **Total Amount Due** | | $150.00 |

**Current Activity**

**Rate Schedule Old River MWC (OLDRIVER)**

**Surcharges, Fees, & Credits**

| | |
|---|---|
| Water Charges - Flat Fee | $50.00 |
| **Total New Charges** | **$50.00** |

**To see more consumption analytics and to view and pay your bill online, login or register for a MyGSWater Customer Account at www.gswater.mygswater-cap.com/login or visit www.gswater.com**

***Your opinion is very important to us. Please rate our service by calling 1-888 933 8648. Enter code when prompted.***

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT.

Golden State Water Company

[redacted]

CEBILL

If you have changed your address or are moving, please call (800) 999-4033 or fill out form on back.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: [redacted]

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Prior Balance Due Immediately | $100.00 |
| Current Charges Due On May 22, 2024 | $50.00 |
| Total Amount Due | $150.00 |

**Amount Enclosed**

[redacted]

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# Billing & Water Rates (cont.)

- Funds are to provide operation and maintenance to the water system
  - P&P not funded by any system O&M funds
- Rate Study
  - P&P will be conducting a rate study to assess true cost of water system operations and future rate with the City of Bakersfield

# Financial Health

- P&P has set up individual bank accounts for South Kern and Old River to process payments and grant funding
- Future quarterly meetings will provide snapshot of financial health for both systems, including:
  - Revenue
  - Expenses
  - Grant funding

# Upcoming Activities & Look Ahead

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# Major Projects or Plans

- Technical Assistance is underway
  - Randy Marx, Sacramento State University – Office of Water Projects
    - Long-term consolidation assistance
  - Robert Mullaney, UC Davis Aoki Water Justice Clinic
    - Legal assistance for consolidation with City of Bakersfield
- Routine maintenance, upgrades to water system planned under operations and maintenance funding
  - Screen casing vent, install flow meter, check valve, disconnect abandoned well (OR)

# Community Engagement

- Quarterly public meetings
- Your community surveys help us identify the best form of contact for water system emergencies and public meetings
- Join our email list (add your email on the sign-in sheet or submit survey) and receive community meeting notices over email
- For more info visit:
  www.admin.provostandpritchard.com/south-kern-old-river

# Contact Us

For technical questions about your water system, contact Golden State Water Company's 24-hour hotline at 1-800-999-4033 OR email customerservice@gswater.com

# Public Comment

Write on the comment card provided to you and turn it in before you go

Call 559-449-2700

Email southkernoldriver@ppeng.com

Mail us your comment card to Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, 455 W Fir Ave., Clovis, CA 93611