PROVOST&PRITCHARD
CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700
www.provostandpritchard.com

ADMINISTRATOR FOR LAS DELTAS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING SUMMARY JANUARY 28, 2025, AT 5:30 PM

The second quarterly community meeting for the Las Deltas Mutual Water Company (MWC) was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Firebaugh Community Center. In attendance were 11 community members, along with Stacey Claros, Ryan Jensen, and Amanda De Anda in-person from Provost & Pritchard (P&P). Hamish Kellam from P&P attended remotely. Ryan provided Spanish translation to accommodate community language needs.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Stacey Claros opened the meeting by introducing Provost & Pritchard as a trusted and established engineering consulting firm. She explained that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has contracted P&P to serve as the Administrator of the Las Deltas water system. She also introduced the subconsultants:

- Central Cal Waterworks, Inc. – Contract operator
- Bakman Water Company – Regulatory support
- Del Oro Water Company – Billing service provider

As part of the program overview, Stacey introduced the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program, explaining its structure and purpose in assisting small communities facing long-term water system challenges. She provided details about the Las Deltas MWC system, highlighting its estimated 375 residents and aging infrastructure.

Las Deltas MWC has been out of compliance with State standards for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), a byproduct contaminant, since 2017. Additionally, the system fails to meet required pressure levels and faces managerial and financial inefficiencies. Due to these issues, the SWRCB issued an Administrator Order on June 26, 2024, granting P&P authority to serve as the official system representative.

WORK COMPLETED & UNDERWAY

P&P reported that an initial system assessment was completed and submitted to the SWRCB in 2024. Water quality sampling indicates that TTHMs remain above the maximum levels allowed by the State. Results from December 10, 2024, showed 130 ug/L, while bacteriological constituents were absent. Lead and copper sampling, completed in September 2024, revealed no exceedances of action levels.

P&P provided an overview of system incidents reported since assuming administrative duties. Between August 2024 and January 2025, eight incidents were recorded, including main breaks, non-emergency leaks, and outages.

Stacey also provided summaries of the Post-Administrator Plan, Community Accountability and Engagement Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Governance Plan, and Financial Management Plan. Additionally, she outlined emergency reporting procedures, providing contact information for Hamish, herself, and Central Cal Waterworks.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

P&P reviewed the billing system with Del Oro Water Company and water rates. Residential connections are charged $100 per connection while commercial connections are charged $240. Stacey emphasized that billing funds system operations and maintenance, not P&P's work as an Administrator, which funded separately by SAFER program funding. In the interest of financial transparency, P&P announced that the Las Deltas water system bank account is now fully managed by P&P. Future quarterly meetings will include updates on revenue, expenses, and grant funding.

Community members raised concerns about recent federal legislative actions and whether they would impact Administrator functions. Hamish, attending via Zoom, clarified that the SAFER program is State funded, not federally funded. The SWRCB Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) confirmed earlier that day that they did not anticipate the SAFER program to be hindered by any federal funding freezes.

MONTHLY BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING

In December 2024, Las Deltas MWC received a monitoring violation due to an internal miscommunication within the operator team, resulting in a missed sample. Moving forward, P&P has implemented a double-check system with Central Cal Waterworks to prevent future missed samples. Notices were mailed to customers regarding the missed sample, and regular sampling has since resumed.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND LOOKING AHEAD

Self-Help Enterprises is providing technical assistance and overseeing the long-term consolidation with the City of Firebaugh, as well as the construction of a new HUD tank and transmission line. P&P urged residents not to touch or adjust any water system infrastructure.

The HUD tank and transmission line project is underway and is scheduled for completion in February 2026. P&P is contracted to serve as Administrator for 24 months, unless construction and consolidation are completed earlier.

Regarding community engagement, P&P described various outreach channels available to Las Deltas customers including the Las Deltas MWC website, survey, and future public meetings. Attendees were encouraged to join the contact list to receive Admin Alerts via text. Residents were informed that explicit consent is required to comply with anti-spam laws.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:10 PM, after which the P&P team remained available to answer questions and assist with contact list enrollment.