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# ADMINISTRATOR FOR LAS DELTAS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING SUMMARY JULY 22, 2025, AT 5:30 PM

The community meeting for the third quarter of 2025 for the Las Deltas Mutual Water Company (MWC) was held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Firebaugh Community Center. In attendance were 6 community members, along with Hamish Kellam, Stacey Claros, Ryan Jensen, Clarissa Johnson, and Amanda De Anda in-person from Provost & Pritchard (P&P). Ryan provided Spanish translation to accommodate community language needs.

## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Hamish opened the meeting by introducing Provost & Pritchard and explained that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has contracted P&P to serve as the Administrator of the Las Deltas water system.

Utility Management Services (UMS) was introduced as the newest subconsultant, providing billing and customer support services to Las Deltas customers. Their contact number is (530) 717-2603. Clarissa, the bookkeeper at P&P, is also available to answer billing questions.

## QUARTERLY UPDATES

Key updates included:

- May 15, 2025: Water service was lost due to a power surge and later restored.
- May 23, 2025: Booster pump malfunctions led to a Boil Water Notice, which was lifted on June 10.
- July 7, 2025: An interconnection changeover with the HUD tank was completed.

The system's booster pump will be replaced due to a failing check valve. Emergency funding for the replacement was secured by Self-Help Enterprises, and the work will be completed by subcontractor Central Cal Waterworks.

Hamish shared recent water usage trends, noting a significant increase in consumption:

- April to May: 37% increase
- May to June: 25% increase

The system may benefit from installing meters to track usage and implement usage-based rates. The current flat rate structure strains operations and provides no incentive for conservation during high-use months.

Hamish asked attendees what might explain the spike in usage. Responses included dairies, Gargiulo, an old recycling gin, Simplot, or local leaks. He also mentioned discussion of installing backflows on commercial connections.

## WATER SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Water quality sampling results showed that Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) continue to exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 80 µg/L. April 23, 2025 samples measured 130 µg/L. However,

bacteriological contaminants were absent, and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) remain within limit. Quarterly exceedance notices will continue to be mailed to residents even if no status changes occur.

## WORK UPDATES

P&P submitted the Lead Service Line Inventory to the State and completed a Cross Connection Control survey, which informed the Cross Connection Control Plan submitted ahead of the July 2025 deadline.

## BILLING & FINANCIAL HEALTH

Hamish clarified that customers were back-billed for January through May 2025 due to the system transition. He emphasized that late fees will not be imposed, responding to a question from a customer who had not received bills for June and July. Ryan and Clarissa met with this customer after the meeting to address his concerns.

Hamish introduced a new process for account changes, which now requires a submitted form. He asked whether attendees were able to access and pay their bills; attendees indicated they were paying by check. Hamish explained that all customer payments received are used for the benefit of the water system and do not pay P&P staff, who are funded by a separate State Water Board grant.

A profit and loss report for Las Deltas from August 2023 through June 2025 was shared. Hamish noted that $104,455.00 in reimbursements from the State is still pending. Clarissa explained the delay is on the State's side and that funds are expected by the end of July. Hamish further clarified that the large expense under professional services is due to emergency repairs.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND LOOKING AHEAD

P&P provided a project recap of the potential long-term solution of consolidating the Las Deltas MWC system with the City of Firebaugh's system. The proposed project includes about 7 miles of new distribution lines, 150,000 gallons of storage, a treatment system, meters for every service connection, and other infrastructure. P&P also mentioned that the plan is being updated to address the higher-than-expected TTHM levels for treatment.

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.

A community member asked about maintaining the well site and managing weeds. She suggested a local landscaper who may be able to help.

The meeting concluded at approximately 6:30 PM, after which the P&P team remained available to answer questions.