



**County Administrative
Office
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One
PETE VANDER POEL
District Two
AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three
EDDIE VALERO
District Four
DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: February 11, 2020

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Public Hearing Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Published Notice Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advertised Published Notice | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Meet & Confer Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Electronic file(s) has been sent | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Personnel Resolution attached | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s) | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CONTACT PERSON: Denise England PHONE: 559-636-5005 | | | | |

SUBJECT: Letter Supporting the Annexation of the East Orosi Community Services District into the Orosi Public Utilities District

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve sending a letter supporting the annexation of the East Orosi Community Services District into the Orosi Public Utilities District as the way to achieve consolidation between the two water systems.

SUMMARY:

On July 13, 2018 the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB) issued a letter directing the East Orosi Community Services District (CSD) and the Orosi Public Utilities District (PUD) to negotiate a consolidation no later than January 9, 2019. The Districts failed to reach an agreement and on February 11, 2019 the SWRCB issued a mandatory consolidation pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (a).

The East Orosi CSD and the East Orosi community expressed their desire for annexation into the Orosi PUD. Orosi PUD denied the annexation request and offered a Joint Powers Agreement to form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) instead. Under a JPA the East Orosi CSD would remain the governing body of the East Orosi community. This arrangement poses significant problems for the community.

The East Orosi CSD has challenges seating a full board of directors to carry out the District's business. Small communities often lack the resources and personnel to run water systems effectively, which leads to operational deficiencies, ultimately threatening the health of the system and the residents it serves. If the Districts were

SUBJECT: Letter Supporting the Annexation of the East Orosi Community Services District into the Orosi Public Utilities District
DATE: February 11, 2020

to form a JPA, the JPA would provide water and sewer service, respectively up to the boundary of the East Orosi CSD. The East Orosi CSD would still be responsible for the distribution and collection systems within their boundary. This arrangement has proven unsustainable and is part of the root cause for East Orosi's non-compliance.

In recent years, and through current projects, the SWRCB has invested significant dollars to improve the infrastructure in East Orosi. Through the consolidation process, Orosi PUD is also able to negotiate additional upgrades and capacity for the system. It is important for the ongoing sustainability of the community that a full annexation occur and the East Orosi CSD be dissolved. The attached letter addresses these concerns and expresses the desire for annexation.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no cost to the County to approve the letter.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's Strategic Plan includes an initiative to provide for the safety and security of the public, which includes the goal of providing an adequate and safe water supply.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Denise England
Water Resources Director

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Letter

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF LETTER SUPPORTING)
THE ANNEXATION OF THE EAST OROSI) Resolution No. _____
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT INTO) Agreement No. _____
THE OROSI PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT)
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

Approved sending a letter supporting the annexation of the East Orosi Community Services District into the Orosi Public Utilities District as the way to achieve consolidation between the two water systems.



County of Tulare

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kuyler Crocker
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Amy Shuklian
District Three

Eddie Valero
District Four

Dennis Townsend
District Five

✱

BOARD STAFF

Julieta Martinez
Carrie Monteiro
Samantha Ferrero

✱

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Melinda Benton
Chief Clerk

✱

Administration Bldg.
2800 West Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291

TEL: (559) 636-5000
FAX: (559) 733-6898

February 11, 2020

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Subject: Annexation of East Orsi Community Services District into the Orsi Public Utilities District

To Whom it May Concern:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors supports the annexation of East Orsi Community Services District into the Orsi Public Utilities District in order to provide the most viable consolidated governance structure for the residents of East Orsi. While the Districts are working on a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), we are concerned a JPA will not provide enough stability and resiliency for East Orsi. The community of East Orsi desires a full annexation into the Orsi Public Utilities District and doing so will provide East Orsi with a stronger governance structure, which can deliver clean, safe, and affordable drinking water well into the future. Furthermore, the East Orsi Community Services District receives wastewater treatment services from the Cutler-Orsi JPA. Thus, an annexation will provide a more linear governance structure for wastewater, as well.

Substantial investment in recent years and in current projects by the State Water Resources Control Board have addressed many of the infrastructure and maintenance challenges faced by East Orsi. This investment should be protected by a strong organization that is able to provide efficient operation, ongoing maintenance, and oversight of the water system. Perpetuating multiple small districts in close proximity is not in the best interest of our communities from both a fiscal and practical approach. It is our recommendation and request that the Orsi Public Utility District pursue an annexation of East Orsi. An annexation will provide the best solution for governance of the consolidated water system.

Sincerely,

Pete Vander Poel, Chair
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Amy Shuklian, Vice Chair
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Kuyler Crocker, District One
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Eddie Valero, District Four
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Dennis Townsend, District Five
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

CC: Senator Melissa Hurtado
Shaw Yoder Antwih Smith