



**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: September 15, 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 Consolidation of the East Orosi Community Services District and the Orosi Public Utilities District Water Systems

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:
Approve sending a letter supporting the consolidation of the East Orosi Community Services District and the Orosi Public Utilities District 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 began a mandatory consolidation process 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 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

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threatening the health of the system and the residents it serves.

The SWRCB has not made progress on the mandatory consolidation effort over the past 18 months. Meanwhile, the community of East Orosi continues to struggle to deliver a safe drinking water supply. It is important that the SWRCB utilizes all authorities it has to bring this water system into sustainability.

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 viability of the community that a consolidation occur expeditiously. The attached letter expresses these concerns and requests answers to important questions regarding the consolidation authorities and process by the SWRCB.

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

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 CONSOLIDATION OF THE EAST) Resolution No. _____
OROSI COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT) Agreement No. _____
AND THE OROSI PUBLIC UTILITIES)
DISTRICT WATER SYSTEMS)

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 consolidation of the East Orosi Community Services District and the Orosi Public Utilities District water systems.



County of Tulare

August 27, 2020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kuyler Crocker
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Amy Shuklian
District Three

Eddie Valero
District Four

Dennis Townsend
District Five

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BOARD STAFF

Tammie Weyker-Adkins
Chief of Staff

Samantha Ferrer
Alicia Balderas

*

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Melinda Benton
Chief Clerk

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Administration Bldg.
2800 West Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291

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

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

Subject: East Orosi Community Services District consolidation with the Orosi Public Utilities District

To Whom it May Concern:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors supports the consolidation of East Orosi Community Services District into the Orosi Public Utilities District in order to provide the most viable drinking water delivery system for the residents of East Orosi. The community of East Orosi desires a consolidation with the Orosi Public Utilities District, which can deliver clean, safe, and affordable drinking water well into the future. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) began an SB 88 Consolidation process for the East Orosi water system in 2018. Unfortunately, the SB 88 Consolidation process has cooled considerably.

We would like to know the following:

What is the SWRCB's plan to ensure East Orosi residents have access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water now and into the future?

What are the SWRCB's milestones to ensure East Orosi residents have access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water now and into the future?

Why has the SWRCB not pursued an SB 88 Mandatory Consolidation Order?

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors has supported the consolidation efforts to date and pledge our support going forward. East Orosi residents and the Board of Directors have also exhibited support for a consolidation. Self Help Enterprises and Community Water Center, which are technical assistance providers and local partners, have also shown their support for the SWRCB to utilize the SB 88 Consolidation authority. We are asking the SWRCB to continue to pursue a consolidation under the authority given by the Legislature.

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 Schmelzer & Lange