

A Letter from your Citizens Advisory Committee to District 19 Rate Payers

We support you.

Your Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) [1] is the gate way between Ventura County Waterworks (VCWW) District 19 and the community. As citizens of District 19, your CAC members are privy to the needs, purpose, and state of our rural community and the challenges that it presents to the District which serves us.

Your CAC applauds the citizens of our tiny Somis community who for decades have maintained the fight to successfully protect their rural environment against powerful developers. We all owe them for saving the Las Posas Valley from becoming a smog filled, traffic snarled nightmare.

Through ensuing actions of community leaders and Supervisor Linda Parks, District 19 became part of an effective *green belt* for the County, preserving open space and agricultural zoning. This designation, implemented by SOAR through a vote of all Ventura County citizens, will remain in effect until at least *2050*.

Putting D19 on a path to sustainability: the new approach for 2020

The protected rural and virtually *no growth* status of our community does present VCWW major challenges in delivering *affordable water* to residents and small farms through an infrastructure that spans exceptionally large distances. District 19 is truly unique among the numerous other Districts managed by Ventura County Waterworks.

The new VCWW Director, Joseph Pope, has listened to your CAC and other community leaders. He has worked in concert with us, providing transparency regarding the financials of our District. Our common goal was to put this unique District on a path toward fiscal sustainability *without using the chronic water rate hike.*

To strengthen this effort, your CAC created a new Financial Subcommittee [2] which, in cooperation with District staff, diligently poured over the District 19 finances in detail. Altogether we have explored outside-the-box methods for 1) financing the *long overdue capital projects for infrastructure repairs and upgrades* and 2) rebuilding the Cash Reserve.

The new plan resulting from this extraordinary effort, proposes a meter surcharge, *earmarked* specifically for 1) each capital project or for 2) each large, unforeseen expense. The surcharge funds can be used *only for the targeted project or expense*. Each surcharge has a *specific cut off date* and will end sooner, if the obligation is paid in full.

There will be no water rate increase this year.

Your CAC members UNANIMOUSLY agree that the surcharge approach is the best avenue to place District 19 in shape financially to meet its needed objectives.

We urge you to support the surcharges proposed in the Proposition 218 Notice.

Our regards to all in our beautiful, peaceful, and safe community,
Your Citizens Advisory Committee for VCWW District 19

Footnotes

[1]. These are your CAC members.

Lynette Buchanan-Roth, Committee Chair.

Physicist with 25 years experience in high technology research
Currently farmer of certified organic blackberries, avocados, and olives with D19 water
and Somis homeowner

David Hutter, Committee Vice Chair

Homeowner, avocado grower, and retired telephone company executive

Diana Enos

Human resources professional and Somis homeowner.

Kathy Janowski

Healthcare Executive Director of Finance
Somis homeowner, avocado and grape grower.

Kirby Thomas

Somis homeowner, avocado farmer, and lawyer

[2]. The Financial Subcommittee members are Kathy Janowski, David Hutter, and Diana Enos.