



County of Yolo

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DON SAYLOR Supervisor, Second District

March 23, 2018

RE: Water System Consolidation Project Proposition 218 Outcomes and Next Steps

Dear North Davis Meadows Residents:

On March 20, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the North Davis Meadows Water System Consolidation Project and the fees to support this project. This vote followed a public hearing to receive comment and tabulate the results of the North Davis Meadows County Service Area (CSA) Proposition 218 proceedings to increase the CSA's water fee to fund the proposed Water System Consolidation Project. The new water fee will repay a low-interest loan over 30 years to consolidate the CSA with the City of Davis Public Water System in order to provide potable water and fire protection to your homes.

Per the Proposition 218 process, one written protest per parcel (or household) of the proposed fee increase could be submitted prior to the closing of the public hearing. If a majority of parcels submitted protests, the County could not adopt the proposed rates to support the project. 48 valid protest ballots from among the 95 parcels would overturn the proposed fees.

Following the close of the public hearing, and tabulation of the protests with an observer from the community present, the Clerk of the Board confirmed that 46 valid protests were received, thus the protest did not reach the 48 majority protest threshold. A majority of the parcels within the neighborhood did not file protests. Based on this sense of direction from the community, the Board of Supervisors then approved by a 5-0 vote the water fee increase.

Since 2008, North Davis Meadows community members and County staff have worked to find a permanent solution to provide safe drinking water to the residents of the CSA that meets State of California water quality requirements. Currently, North Davis Meadows CSA's water supply is sourced from two wells and provided by a municipal water system governed by state water quality standards. The water provided by this system is out of compliance for safe levels of nitrates, iron and aluminum contaminants, and therefore is in violation for these three contaminants. State law provides for fines of up to \$1,000 per day per contaminant.

This has been a difficult decision for the community and, clearly, there are remaining questions and concerns. I have journeyed with you, your CSA Advisory Committee and County staff through the many iterations of this process. Discernment and discussion from community members in Advisory Committee and Community meetings, and from surveys, led to this Proposition 218 proposal. Based on all this effort, staff and the community concluded that there is not an alternative, permanent solution to meet state-mandated drinking water quality standards for the current standalone municipal system, as well as adequate fire protection other than the project to consolidate with the City of Davis water system. Ultimately, the decision to move forward was up to the neighborhood.

At the March 20 meeting, the Board of Supervisors heard both voices of support and concern for the water consolidation project. Some residents requested a “pause” in the Proposition 218 proceedings to re-evaluate options and address various questions. Rather than intervening and pausing the process, the Board of Supervisors moved forward with tabulating the ballots to let the decision remain with the residents of North Davis Meadows.

Pausing in order to continue to deliberate and evaluate has a financial cost associated with engineering studies and staff time, and ultimately, if the community returned to the City of Davis consolidation plan, it would have pushed out the timeline into a new and likely higher interest rate, and increased construction costs. Many of the questions raised in the public hearing have been extensively evaluated and are addressed in the “Frequently Asked Questions” document available on the CSA’s website (www.YoloCounty.org/North-Davis-Meadows-CSA select Water Quality link). We will continue to work with the NDM CSA Advisory Committee to update this material in response to additional questions neighbors may have.

In the absence of a majority protest, staff have now submitted an application for a low-interest State Revolving Fund loan on behalf of the North Davis Meadows Water System Consolidation Project. The State has projected six to eight months for their review process. During this time, County staff and my office will continue to work with the neighborhood to clarify issues raised during this process and to work to reduce project costs in any way possible. As part of this process, we will work with the CSA Advisory Committee to conduct a community meeting in the near future.

Thank you to the many community members who have helped explore various options and who engaged in this planning process and discussion over the past ten years and within the past few weeks. We are committed to working in partnership with you to bring safe drinking water and fire protection to the North Davis Meadows community.

In shared service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Saylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Saylor
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