

PROVOST&PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

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KEELER COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY APRIL 21, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

The Keeler Community Meeting began at 6:03 PM on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. This meeting was attended by Hamish Kellam and Tonia Holmes from Provost & Pritchard (P&P), Tammy Jo Hursell, Bailey McRoberts, Karen Riggs, Andrew Forbes from the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), and Noah Bricker. Amanda De Anda and Breanna Hardy from P&P, Alice Robertson, and Theona Wasson attended online.

Hamish led initial introductions before reviewing the meeting agenda and housekeeping items.

The Quarterly Water Quality Records showed continued fluctuations in arsenic and manganese levels. Hamish noted that the arsenic result was approximately eight times higher than the applicable limit.

The group discussed incidents recorded during March, with additional attention given to a septic overflow leak. Hamish noted that meter data has shown that approximately half of the system's water use is associated with roughly a dozen service lines. The Board may later determine whether changes to billing processes or rate structures are warranted based on high-usage reports.

Hamish also discussed repairs made to the distribution system during meter installation. He stated that repairs on the water system's distribution system side have been addressed. Once additional water-use data is collected over the coming months, notices may be provided to high-use customers.

Hamish updated the group that there are approximately 10 to 12 pipes that need repair, along with the financial challenges associated with completing those repairs. While acknowledging the need for the work, Hamish explained the State funding cycle and noted that repairs would likely need to wait until the funding freeze period ends.

During the Technical Assistance update regarding the potential placement of a new well on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, the group discussed whether the land falls within the Ridgecrest BLM or Bishop BLM boundaries. Alice Robertson also raised concerns about particulates in the water and requested that the system be flushed.

Attendees also asked about a water shutoff that occurred the week before the meeting and why residents were not notified in advance. Hamish explained that McMor serviced the system and shut it down before P&P was able to notify residents. P&P has since communicated to McMor the importance of advance notification so P&P can alert residents prior to future shutoffs.

The Bottled Water Program is currently on hold due to the State's distinction between contaminants classified as "chronic" versus "acute." The arsenic levels present in Keeler are considered a chronic issue, which affects eligibility for bottled water funding. P&P is working with the State to extend the bottled water contract, given the elevated arsenic levels. Keeler also has the option to fund bottled water distribution in the meantime.

Based on the discussion regarding financial health, Keeler is operating under budget and may be able to support bottled water distribution. The meeting ended at 7:40 PM. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2026.