

# PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700  
www.provostandpritchard.com

## MEETING NOTES

<b>Date:</b> 10/17/2023	<b>Time:</b> 6:00PM – 7:00PM
<b>Called by:</b> Keeler CSD	<b>Location:</b> Keeler, CA
<b>Subject:</b> Q4 Keeler CSD Public Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b> Tonia Holmes, Hamish Kellam, Karen Riggs, Sherry Cosgrove, Bailey McRoberts, Myrna Tew, Lucette Poulin, Robert Spry. Online: Steve Spencer, Breanna Hardy, Carole Puryear, Sharon Cummings	

- Meeting slides are attached for reference.
- **Community Accountability and Engagement Plan (CAEP)**
  - The CAEP is proceeding as planned, with the continuation of quarterly community meetings as required.
- **Emergency Response**
  - We are in the process of updating the emergency contact list.
  - Additional notification sign-up forms have been made available at Keeler Fire Station.
- **Water System Performance**
  - During the week of 8/14/23, a pump failure and subsequent loss of water pressure occurred due to the over-tightening of electrical wiring in the aftermath of a lightning strike. John Bowden, along with a local electrician from D&D, resolved the wiring issue.
  - JM Electric has provided a cost estimate of approximately \$40,000 for repairing the electrical wiring from the well to the tank. P&P has been in discussions with an electrical engineer regarding alternative solutions. A more cost-effective option, a radio transmitter, has been suggested, though concerns were raised about signal interference in the area.
  - Following the pump failure, three samples taken at the site yielded a positive coliform result. The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) issued a Do Not Drink notice for the system. Subsequent follow-up samples over two weeks tested negative. The cause of the initial positive test remains uncertain, and it may have been a sampling error.
  - The notification process involves notifying P&P/Golden State Water Company (GSWC) and DDW of a positive result. DDW issues a Do Not Drink Order, which is relayed to the community. Upon two negative samples, GSWC notifies DDW, which then rescinds the order, and GSWC/P&P can inform the community.
  - This process has previously been unclear and needs to be made more efficient.
  - After the positive test, the chlorine residual was increased. Residents noticed the change but were not formally notified. They expressed the need for future notifications of any changes in chlorination.
  - P&P is in the process of procuring a tank diver to inspect the storage tank, a task that hasn't been performed for approximately 10 years.
  - Debris in alleyways has been a concern for Ben Magana, the operator, in accessing service connections. In one incident, clearing the area required the use of a backhoe. This should not be common practice, as it could result in more expensive and delayed response times. It will be

\\ppeng.com\pzdata\clients\CA SWRCB-4011\Administrator\Work Plans\401122007-KeelerWorkPlan\600 Deliverables\T08 CAEP\Working\Outreach\Public meetings\Summaries\20231017 Meeting Notes.docx

discussed with legal assistance whether the CSD is responsible for clearing alleys obstructed by weeds and other debris, especially if it's on the owner's side of the meter.

- **Project & Planning Updates**

- CAPII Grant Update from John Bowden:
  - Despite setbacks and expenditures caused by Caltrans, along with significant changes to the project scope and budget, several accomplishments have been made towards project completion.
  - On 10-2-23, the staging of sand at the Keeler wellsite began and continued for three days, with John Bowden staging 240 yards for removal by subcontractor Faith Trucking.
  - On 10-5-23, hauling commenced at 0700, with loads transported to the Lone Pine landfill. Sand was also delivered to Theona Wasson's property for fill, enabling cost recovery. After delivering and leveling the property, sand was hauled for Caltrans use at the pullout ½ mile north of Keeler on Highway 136, saving time and funds.
  - By 10-13-23, 423 yards (1,184 tons) of sand had been removed from the Keeler well site.
  - On 10-16-23, delivery of crushed dolomite and a Bobcat Loader, as well as site preparation for dolomite placement, began at the well site and C-train site.
  - Dolomite was purchased and placed on the C-train property while remaining under budget on the well site project.
- Technical Assistance (TA)
  - GHD has been assigned to complete the engineering report, plans and specifications, and funding application for infrastructure improvements for Keeler CSD. P&P cannot complete the work due to a conflict of interest mandated by the SWRCB.
  - A kickoff call was hosted on 9/12, and a site visit took place on 9/21.
  - GHD will explore multiple alternative solutions in the report, with feedback from Keeler CSD on the alternatives. These are likely to involve treatment and consolidation options, aiming for a long-term sustainable project.
- Bottled Water Delivery
  - The next delivery is scheduled for October 26th.
  - Considerations are being made to potentially move to a monthly delivery schedule, with the understanding that moving a large amount of water at once might be challenging for residents.
  - Improvements are needed in the notification system for deliveries, and P&P will discuss this with RCAC.
- Northwind Group Water Purchase
  - Northwind has been informed of the cost of buying bulk water but has been unresponsive. They will need to submit a more detailed proposal before any agreement is addressed by the board.

- **Water Rates & Billing**

- Delinquent accounts are still following the same process, with consistently overdue accounts filed with their tax roll by Inyo County after notification.
- A rate study is currently underway by Lechowicz & Tseng Municipal Consultants. Initial rate study estimates are expected by the next community meeting in January.
- Cerro Gordo has been hauling water but potentially not recording their usage. They have not provided information for billing any water. P&P will follow up with the owner and potentially negotiate a new contract with more stringent terms, if necessary.

- **Financial Health**

- P&P plans to provide financial summaries to the community that identify expected grant fund reimbursements to separate more clearly the “cash on hand” reserve kept for Keeler CSD funds.
  - For additional details, please refer to the attached slides.
- **Board/Public Comments**
  - GSWC has not been returning calls from residents. Their call service and public notification need improvement.
  - Mr. Spry requested that rates for each ratepayer be made open access to the public. P&P will follow up on the legality of this issue.
  - The issue of blockage of alleyways needs resolution, and determining responsibility for keeping them clear is required.
  
- Next Community Meeting: January 16th, 2024.