

Transition into New Water Agency for SCV Takes Major Step Forward

For Immediate Release

Santa Clarita, Calif. (November 14, 2017) – Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) and Newhall County Water District (NCWD) released the following statement today after the second of three planned joint board meetings regarding transition planning for the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water). The two agencies have been working on transition plans since the passage of Senate Bill 634 (Wilk), which reorganizes the two agencies into the new SCV Water.

On Monday, November 13, the boards of directors of NCWD and CLWA reached consensus on the future executive management of the new Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water). While the current boards could not take formal action, they agreed in principle to appoint Matt Stone as the inaugural general manager of SCV Water when it is officially formed in January. Mr. Stone is currently the General Manager of CLWA. Steve Cole, General Manager for Newhall County Water District, will serve the new SCV Water as an Assistant General Manager and a key part of the management team.

Additionally, the boards reached broad consensus on a bold new organizational structure for the new agency. Mr. Stone presented the new functional organization design, which was the product of a collaborative team process. This proposed structure integrates the extraordinary talent of each existing agency, including NCWD, CLWA, Santa Clarita Water Division and Valencia Water Company, into their future and integral roles with SCV Water.

“I am excited to have such an array of talented and dedicated professionals coming together to pursue our goal of providing our customers with excellent service and reliable, safe and affordable water,” Stone said. “Every employee is committed to the idea building a best in class utility to serve our community.”

In addition to retaining the skilled men and women that currently serve the Valley, the boards found immediate cost savings through the elimination of five positions, including three management level positions, through retirement and attrition.

Formal action on the general manager, organizational chart, and other personnel matters will be completed by the SCV Water Board of Directors after the new agency’s official formation. But Monday’s preliminary decisions will enable the staff to hit the ground running in their new roles, and help accomplish a key priority of the boards of directors to insure a seamless transition for customers in January.

About SCV Water

The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) will be formed on January 1, 2018. It is the product of two years of negotiations and public outreach and recently signed state legislation led by Senator Scott Wilk, CLWA and NCWD to unify water governance and service in the region. It will create a new full-service water agency out of the existing service areas of the two agencies. Shortly afterwards, the Valencia Water Company will be integrated into the new agency. A comprehensive economics and efficiencies study found that the new agency will generate millions of dollars of savings in its first 10 years, create a new, more accessible governance structure, enhance environmental and watershed protections, and lead to stronger local water reliability, including the development of recycled water. More information can be found at www.YourSCVWater.com.

