

Governor's Signature Creates New Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Historic legislation marks "proud moment" in SCV history.

For Immediate Release

Santa Clarita, Calif. (October 15, 2017) – A new water district for the Santa Clarita Valley will become reality, thanks to Gov. Jerry Brown's approval of Sen. Scott Wilk's Senate Bill 634 on Sunday.

The legislation reorganizes Newhall County Water District and Castaic Lake Water Agency into the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, which will launch Jan. 1, 2018.

"This is a historic day for the Santa Clarita Valley," said Maria Gutzeit, NCWD board president. "We have worked tirelessly with Senator Wilk, our customers, environmental organizations, local government and businesses over the last two years to create something special for our community. We are grateful that the Governor saw the wisdom in creating a new, modern era of water management in the Valley."

SCV Water will unify a fragmented system of small water providers into a modern and collaborative model. It was created as part of a nearly two-year public engagement process that included stakeholders from across the region.

"The creation of SCV Water is a testament to the extraordinary achievements we can accomplish when we work together," said Bob DiPrimio, CLWA board president. "SCV Water puts us firmly on the path of unified water management. This is a proud moment for our region."

The new agency is expected to save \$14 million in its first 10 years and result in enhanced water reliability, including growth of a recycled water supply, better groundwater management and environmental and watershed protections. Three evenly sized electoral divisions will provide equal voting rights and representation to all corners of the Santa Clarita Valley for the first time in the region's history.

Leaders from CLWA and NCWD will hold public meetings to develop an operational framework and policies. The meetings begin at 6 p.m. on Oct. 24 at NCWD, Nov. 13 at CLWA, and Dec. 4 at a location to be determined.

"As the legislative process of forming the new agency comes to a close, the work of building it has just begun," Gutzeit said. "This will be an ongoing and methodical process that will engage the public as much as possible."

More information is available online at www.YourSCVWater.com.

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**NEWHALL COUNTY
WATER DISTRICT**