

Public Comment to Sweetwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting
June 26, 2019

Good evening. My name is Dave Schlesinger. I am a Board Member of the Sweetwater Authority Ratepayers Association (SARPA). Most of you are familiar with our organization. This is the 9th time in the past 4 years I have addressed you on the subject of forming a Citizens Advisory Committee(CAC) for your Board of Directors. Your agenda today calls attention to an award given to SWA for Communication, Outreach, and Transparency. We believe that the addition of this Citizen Advisory Committee will enhance your future awards in this area.

SARPA has been very encouraged by recent actions of your Board. Credit is especially due to all members of this new Board. There are 5 issues that I would like to comment on tonight...all of which are positive....you can all bask in congratulations which is not always the case in public comment sessions!

First – the Board work to accelerate the formation of the CAC is most appreciated. The memo developed by the Board Chairman to define the organization, issues, and schedule of formation is most helpful. We look forward to rapid Board approval of this document.

Second – stopping the January 1, 2020 water rate increases approved by a previous Board deserves special attention by all 33,000 SWA ratepayer accounts. This long overdue action will benefit all rate payers regardless of their water usage.

Third – selecting a new consultant to recommend new tiered water rates is paramount. It is long past time to bring new vision to an issue that has been of major concern to SARPA. Enacting a water rate structure that is fair, legal, and transparent is key to the future survival of the Sweetwater Authority.

Fourth – Staff assistance to the newly formed Citizen Advisory Group will be key to their ability to properly advise the Board on a myriad of engineering, environmental, operational, and organizational issues. The CAC has the opportunity to save the Authority millions of \$ if they are provided timely, accurate, and complete minutes of all SWA Committee and Board meetings. The Citizen group will consist of pro bono volunteers whose time should be beneficially maximized as they provide advice directly to your Board of Directors.

Fifth – it is noted that your GM provides good news email communications from rate payers as a part of scheduled committee meetings. It is suggested that written communications that are not in the agenda, and presented in a Board meeting, such as this communication, be made available to the public at the same time the writing is distributed to the Board and posted for public review on the SWA website with the Board agenda. That way citizen rate payers who cannot participate on the CAC can at least see what their fellow rate payers are communicating to your Board.

Thank you for your attention tonight.