

Public Comment to Sweetwater Authority Board of Directors
July 10, 2019

Good evening. I am Dave Schlesinger. I am here tonight representing SARPA President Mike Seiler who was not able to attend this meeting.

As most of you know SARPA was formed shortly after the draconian 2010 water rates were imposed. The new water rates essentially doubled the water bills for high water users. SARPA also believed the new rates were not Proposition 218 compliant. Seeing no other alternative to get the SWA Board's attention, and bring the water rates into legal compliance, SARPA filed a lawsuit. The lawsuit was ultimately settled out of court.

Over the years since, SARPA has continued to monitor the actions and especially the spending by SWA. After all, we ultimately pay the bills as rate payers of SWA. We have also continued to discuss actions we might take to encourage more efficient utilization of rate payer money. Some of those discussions included the possibility of another lawsuit. The apparent philosophy espoused by previous Boards, to allow SWA to spend almost without limit, and then demand that higher water users bear the burden, must end.

Fast forward to 2019. The election of a more cost conscious Board, your Board, and with the imminent formation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee, has led SARPA to re-evaluate its position and relationship. We have decided to place our faith in the CAC, to see what the rate payers have to say, and not consider any legal actions at this time. There may be some start up problems with the CAC. However we believe that long term the Citizen Advisory Committee can be a valuable resource to the Board and benefit all Sweetwater Authority rate payers. We strongly support your proposed Policy 522 – formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee.

There is much to be accomplished in the area of cost cutting and SARPA encourages all parties to support and move forward expeditiously with the formation of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Thank you.