



Santa Nella County Water District

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February 20, 2025

Dear Valued Customers in Santa Nella and Volta,

RE: Volta Community Services District Consolidation with
Santa Nella County Water District

My name is Amy Montgomery and I am the General Manager of the Santa Nella County Water District (SNCWD).

The Volta Community Services District (VCSD) will be consolidating with the Santa Nella County Water District (SNCWD). This means that SNCWD will be providing drinking water not only to Santa Nella customers, but also to Volta customers that are connected to the VCSD public water system.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water (DDW) recommended that VCSD consolidate with SNCWD because VCSD Well 1, at one time, violated drinking water standards by exceeding the maximum contaminate level for Hexavalent Chrome VI (CR 6). SNCWD also violated drinking water standards by exceeding Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). SNCWD applied for grant funding through the SWRCB and it was determined through a planning grant that the TTHMs could be reduced by blending the surface water supply with groundwater. The planning project resulted in additional funding to drill a groundwater well near Volta and pump the water west, to Santa Nella, to be blended with SNCWD surface water. Additionally, the state mandated that VCSD consolidate with SNCWD so that the new well that does not contain CR 6 could also provide drinking water to VCSD, which would eliminate the water quality issue for Volta customers. Both districts decided to “voluntarily” consolidate, making the project eligible for full grant funding. Under the consolidation, VCSD dissolves and SNCWD becomes the water purveyor for the community of Volta upon project completion.

The project is called the Santa Nella/Volta Water Quality Improvement Project and consists of top side improvements at the well site, storage and water treatment for Volta customers, connection to the existing Volta system, installation of meters in Volta, an 8-inch 5-mile water transmission line to Santa Nella, and storage and blending facilities for Santa Nella. The project is estimated to cost \$21,552,175.00 and is fully funded by the SWRCB. The existing Volta well will be decommissioned and abandoned. SNCWD will absorb all VCSD assets as part of the consolidation agreement.

SNCWD is a county water district that provides drinking water and sewer services to the community of Santa Nella. SNCWD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors and the seats are filled by election for four-year terms. Candidates must be 18 years of age, a US citizen, live and be registered to vote within the SNCWD service area boundaries.

If you are receiving this letter, you either live or have a property located within the SNCWD boundaries where Volta was annexed, or you are an existing SNCWD customer in Santa Nella. Volta customers that live within the boundaries will be able to run for open seats in upcoming elections once the consolidation is complete and SNCWD is providing drinking water to Volta customers.

In the near future, SNCWD will have a public meeting where customers can engage with staff and ask questions as both districts move closer to consolidation. In the meantime, see "More Information" below. I look forward to serving you safe and reliable drinking water!

Sincerely,


Amy Montgomery
General Manager

More Information:

1. Upon project completion, the VCSD will be dissolved and SNCWD will take over the water system and provide drinking water to the community of Volta.
2. The project includes a storage tank for the community of Volta.
3. The groundwater will be disinfected prior to being distributed to Volta customers and will meet all drinking water quality standards, primary and secondary.
4. Meters will be installed on all water services. The meters will be read monthly and customers will be billed for the prior 30 days of usage and will have 30 days to pay the bill.
5. Customers will be required to sign up for water service with SNCWD after consolidation.
6. Customer deposits will be required. Currently, residential deposit rates are \$245.00.
7. Customers water bills will likely increase due to a different rate schedule than the one VCSD uses. Customers will know how much water they are using on a monthly basis and this will help customers manage water usage and conserve water.
8. SNCWD rate schedule consists of a fixed/variable method for residential homes. All customers pay a fixed rate for the service and a variable rate for the amount of water recorded through the meter. The current fixed rate for residential connections is \$46.37 per month, per connection. The variable rate is \$1.61 per 100 cubic feet. 100 cubic feet equals 748 gallons.
9. Commercial rates are different from residential. There are approximately four commercial businesses in the community that will be charged the commercial rate.
10. Existing Volta customers with an active irrigation well will be able to keep their wells for irrigation usage only, but a backflow preventer will have to be installed to protect the public water system. Once an active well runs dry, it must be abandoned, and the customer will be required to use the public water system for irrigation water. Irrigation wells will not be charged water rates.
11. Customers with irrigation wells will be required to register the well with the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency and (CDM GSA) and report water usage. Customers with irrigation wells may be required to install a meter to record the usage, as required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part under the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which may include capitalization funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the foregoing, nor does mention of tradenames or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.