



**CALAVERAS
COUNTY
WATER
DISTRICT**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steve Hutchings, District Engineer (209) 754-3170

Subject: **Residents Vote Yes to Safe and Reliable Water Supply –
*Property Owners with Failing Wells Find Relief Through
Assessment District***

SAN ANDREAS, CA - Anxious residents awaited the tabulation of ballots to determine if their neighborhood would connect to a regional water system. At the July 14 Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) board meeting, concerned homeowners of an area south of Valley Springs along DaLee Road, Cassidy Road, DaLee Court and Ricky Court, filled the room to see if the proposal to form an assessment district would pass.

The voting process, which started 45 days ago, culminated in a much anticipated ballot counting at the end of the public hearing period. Of the 56 parcels located in the proposed assessment district, 41 property owners sent in their ballots. A majority vote in favor of the assessment brought sigh of relief from many who were in attendance. Of the 41 ballots, 31 were in favor and 10 opposed the formation. "Our goal was to help these residents in any way that we could," said Board Vice President Jeff Davidson, representing Division 5 which includes Valley Springs, "We made every effort to support and guide them through this process, and we are pleased to see their reaction."

In recent years several wells in the area went dry and additional wells have started to fail, causing residents to transport water to their homes, some back and forth from the area's CCWD plant. In early 2010, desperate residents approached CCWD to see what could be done to ensure safe and reliable delivery of water to their homes. Many residents were concerned about the impact of failing wells on their property values as well as fire protection, threatening their ability to sell the land in the future and to obtain homeowners insurance. While CCWD has the water supply available, the financing of the infrastructure necessary for distribution was the dilemma. After much discussion, forming an assessment district to fund the construction was identified as the most viable option.

According to CCWD's District Engineer Steve Hutchings, "Much of the upfront cost was absorbed by the District because staff worked on the preliminary studies required for the assessment district formation. We knew how important this was to those residents."

Some of the residents at the meeting voiced concerns about the financial impact of the assessment. While they agreed on the need for the assessment district, they didn't know if they could meet their financial responsibility. Joone Lopez, the general manager of CCWD, responded, "We know that times are tough, and we feel for the people who are hard-pressed financially. However, the result of the vote was clear and residents need water. The financial burden is shared equally by all of the 56 property owners, and in the end, the ability to have clean water come out of the faucet is something they couldn't afford to ignore."

Construction of the pipeline is scheduled to start as early as August 2010 with completion targeted for November 2010.

Calaveras County Water District is a public agency committed to meeting the diverse needs of the historical gold country that spans 1,100 square miles. CCWD is responsible for potable water delivery, wastewater collection, recycled water distribution and hydroelectric power operation within Calaveras County. Through responsible management and innovative planning, CCWD strives to protect the region's rich resources and advance its mission to serve the public.