



**JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM NCWD AND CLWA BOARD PRESIDENTS  
REGARDING SB 634 and LA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT No. 36**

We are aware of recent speculation that the proposed SB 634, a bill creating the Santa Clarita Valley Water District, would result in a "takeover" of LA County Waterworks District No. 36 (WW36), which serves about 5,000 residents in the Val Verde area. This is not the case. The new Santa Clarita Valley Water District proposed in SB 634 will continue to be WW36's water wholesaler and cooperative regional partner. WW36 would continue as it is now, and provide retail service to its customers.

Newhall County Water District's Board voted 4-1 and Castaic Lake Water Agency voted 10-0 to support pursuing this legislation, which combines their agencies into a successor district and settles litigation between them, after nearly two years of negotiation, study and public meetings. If there is mutual interest to consider inclusion of Waterworks District No. 36 at a future date, it would be done through discussion and negotiation with the County (as the owner and operator of Waterworks District No. 36), and, if there is agreement on a joint proposal, consideration and deliberations through the Local Agency Formation Commission with appropriate public input. We have submitted a clarifying bill amendment to Senator Wilk to make that more clear.

Despite the rumors, this legislation doesn't force anything on Waterworks District No. 36, and offers a set of principles that are protective to WW36 retail customers (and all retail customers) should there be future consideration of integrating WW36's retail service into the new water district. These include assuring that no other retail service area will pay for the legacy debt liabilities of another.

The WW36 service area is currently approximately 1,350 service connections out of nearly 72,000 service connections in the greater Santa Clarita Valley. While there may be benefits to WW36 customers through a future change in service delivery, particularly in economies of scale, backup reliability and emergency response and repairs, there would be a separate process of deliberations and public review prior to any change in service.

We hope this helps to clarify our position with respect to LA County's Waterworks District No. 36. We appreciate the concerns voiced by some in the community and wish to take this opportunity to clarify this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Gutzeit'.

Maria Gutzeit  
President  
Newhall County Water District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert DiPrimio'.

Robert DiPrimio  
President  
Castaic Lake Water Agency