



## Letters to the **EDITOR**

### **Positive talks on the future of water governance**

Last Monday night was good government at work. The boards of both the Newhall County Water District and Castaic Lake Water Agency gathered to analyze how a potential merger could enhance regional water project collaboration, integrate water resource management, reduce costs and (finally) ensure every water ratepayer in the SCV has an elected water representative.

The essence of this concept is to build a new public water agency using the best elements of our local water providers. The result could provide an opportunity for our region's water governance to evolve in a way that better reflects the changes in our communities, now and in the future.

At Monday night's meeting, the boards and public were presented a "division-based" system, which would represent a new

form of governance in our region.

Alternative geographic divisions for the new agencies' elected water representatives, related maps and other information were also presented for discussion.

Finally, options and perspectives on the "right size" of a potential future board were also discussed. (This information is available for review at [www.YourSCVWater.com](http://www.YourSCVWater.com).)

The public offered insightful feedback and asked thoughtful questions. Some did not agree with exploring a merger, but most of these individuals voiced their ideas respectfully and constructively.

Many expressed optimism, inferring the process could improve governance and efficiencies for the region's patchwork of water providers.

It was a strong display of government transparency, collaboration and open dialogue. We are grateful for all who participated.

In the coming weeks and

months, these two boards will continue to explore whether or not a merger makes sense.

This includes analyzing financial, water resource management, customer service and governance structure considerations — all of which will be made available to the public.

Our aim is to continue this constructive and positive dialogue with the local community. We're not yet certain a merger will go forward, but we believe it's worth exploring. We have more to gain by working together as a community.

So please join us on this journey and help us determine if we can create something special for Santa Clarita Valley's water future.

Please visit [www.YourSCVWater.com](http://www.YourSCVWater.com) to review the maps and learn more about this process.

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