

# North Edwards Water District General Meeting February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 Minutes

PLACE: 13525 Fran Street

North Edwards, CA

TIME: 5:00 PM

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## ATTENDEES

### Directors

Gary Westmoreland, President  
Mark Swann, Vice President  
Shelley Thurman, Secretary  
Susan Galloway, Treasurer

### Administrator

### Staff

Dan Demoss  
Erin Bachara, Secretary  
Estevan Garibay, Regional Manager

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- 1) CALL TO ORDER
  - a. Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by President Gary Westmoreland.
  
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  
- 3) DIRECTORS' ROLL CALL:
  - Directors Present:
  - a. Gary Westmoreland, President
  - b. Susan Galloway, Board Member
  - c. Mark Swann, Board Member
  - d. Shelley Thurman, Board Member (Zoom)
  
- 4) PUBLIC time:
  - N/A
  
- 5) BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

- a. Director Galloway 1<sup>st</sup> a motion to accept January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes, Director Swann 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion approved.

6) FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. Director Galloway said district has paid too much for audits. Erin will get a break down of charges.
- b. Director Galloway asked why Spectrum bill is so high and why there are two bills. Erin explained it is a business account and there are two services, one on Davenport and one in office.
- c. Director Galloway asked why so much gas was used in work truck. Erin explained the work truck uses a lot of gas, about 10 miles to the gallon. There was also a trip to BSK in Bakerfield and a trip to California City.
- d. Director Galloway 1<sup>st</sup> a motion to accept December, 2025 Financials, Director Swann 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion approved.

7) GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT:

- a. Dan, still working on Rate Study for new connection fee.
- b. Dan & Lisa, are working on getting a grant to finish storage tank through Stantec.

8) MAINTENANCE & DISTRIBUTION REPORT:

**NEWD Operations Report**

**January 2026**

**Customer complaints**

0 customer complaints.

**Customer Shut offs**

- a. 9 Shut off letters sent out.
- b. 0 Customers were shut off and locked off.
- c. 2 shut off were performed, for customer side water leaks

**No Main Leaks    3 Service line leak**

- a. 1 leak on Gilbert St. McLain's called out. Replaced polyline to corp stop.
- b. 1 Leak on 13100 Lamel St. at meter box. Tightened shut off valve.
- c. 1 Leak on 13101 Lamel St. McLain's Called out. Repaired. Pot holed asphalt repaired copper line. Clamped.

**Others**

- a. 2 new accounts.
- b. 1 account closed.
- c. Continued weed abatement.

**Production:** 1.334 MG

**Sold:** 1.328 MG

Loss: 1%

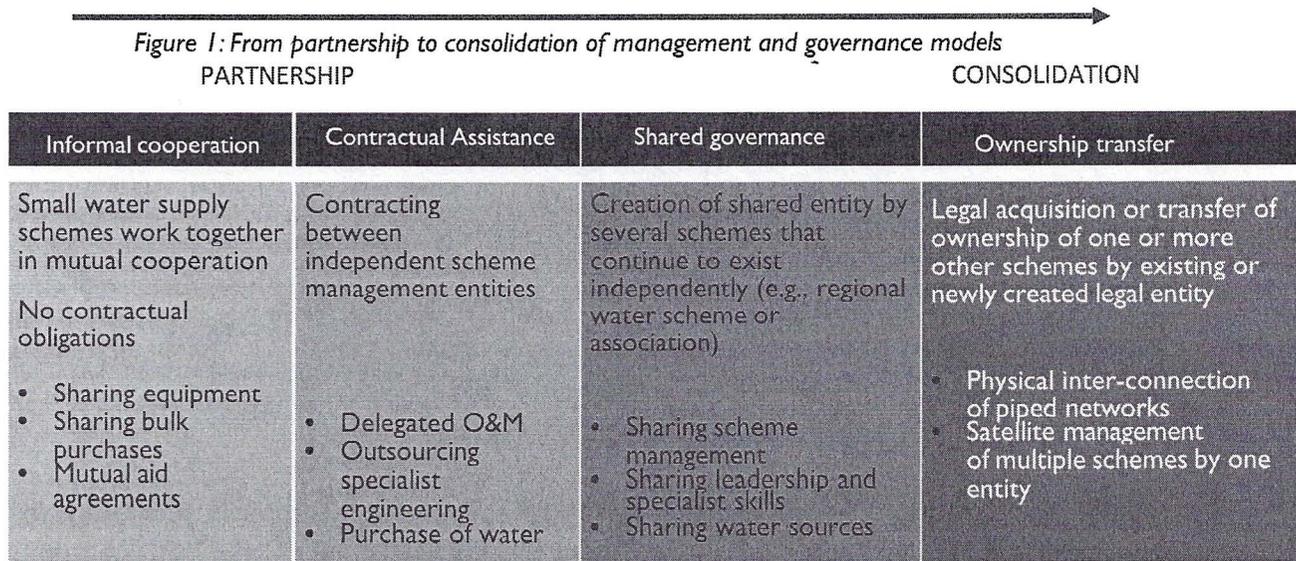
9/10) MAINTENANCE & DISTRIBUTION REPORT/ MANAGERIAL CONSOLIDATION ASSESSMENT  
QUESTIONNAIRE:

- a. Ryan Mahoney, Talked about merging NEWD and Edgemont Acres water districts.
- b. Mr. Mahoney went over a questionnaire with Board Members. (Attachment 1). Board Member discussed pros and cons of merger and different types of mergers.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Director Swann motions to adjourn meeting, President Westmoreland 2nds motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.

COMMUNITY OF NORTH EDWARDS  
 Water Services Partnership Study  
 ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE  
 February 2026

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) have expressed interest in the consolidation of small water systems. In general, there are several advantages to consolidating services such as improving access to safe, clean water and increased operational and purchasing efficiency. There are multiple ways for small water systems to work together. Following are some of the options.



Increasing level of formalization and transfer of (legal) responsibility

Source: adapted from Landes, 2021

Also see [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/waterpartnership.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/waterpartnership.html)

Stantec has been asked by the State Board to confer with the North Muroc MWC and the North Edwards Water District (NEWD) to assess the feasibility of managerial consolidation. Following are a list of factors that can either support or inhibit a partnership or consolidation effort. We are meeting with the systems to learn their views of each of the factors.

#	FACTOR	STATUS
1.	Geography or topography – How possible is to physically integrate piped networks?	

#	FACTOR	STATUS
2.	<p>Governance and institutional barriers – What are the benefits, concerns and/or issues the systems perceive in combining a mutual water system and a special district water system?</p>	
3.	<p>Change in control over the system – How much concern is there about losing control or power over decision making if a consolidation occurred?</p>	
4.	<p>Changes in costs of service or fiscal obligations – To what extent are the people paying for their current system concerned about the costs that might be caused by putting together North Edwards and North Muroc services? How concerned are the systems about legacy debts?</p> <p>Special districts, as units of government, are often eligible for grants and funding assistance that is not available to other water systems. For example, NEWD was able to receive financial assistance to cover customer arrearages because of COVID shutdowns. What are potential financial benefits to joining assets?</p>	
5.	<p>Time and Resources -How much more time and effort would be required to communicate with and manage the added people and services if the systems were to merge? To what extent is this type of effort a barrier to moving forward? To what extent could this type of merger support increased civic engagement and leadership opportunities?</p>	

## **OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

In addition to consolidation there are a variety of ways for small water systems to work together. The following questions explore those options.

### *1. Cooperation*

Small water systems have worked together to share equipment, make bulk purchases and develop mutual aid agreements (back up supply for fire protection, localized service interruption, etc.). To what extent is there interest in finding ways to work together for mutual benefit? What types of agreements would the leadership of your system be interested in discussing more?

### *2. Contractual Arrangements*

Small water systems have worked together to increase efficiency by sharing operational and maintenance duties, contracting for specialized services and engineering, and purchasing water, among other things. For example:

- **Service Contracts:** An entity company may contract out management, engineering, or billing services, sharing operational control with a larger agency or private firm.
- **Physical Interties:** Neighboring systems may create physical interties (connecting pipes) to share water supplies during droughts or emergencies.

To what extent is there interest in finding ways to work together for mutual benefit? What types of agreements would the leadership of your system be interested in discussing more?

### *3. Shared Powers*

Small water systems can retain their independence and have shared powers through joint powers agreements, regional water authorities, and other affiliations. Some of the benefits of these arrangements include being able to share, leadership, management and specialist skills and sharing resources. This type of arrangement also protects the financial interests of the original systems. To what extent is there an interest in exploring this type of arrangement?