



August 5, 2020

Mr. Ted Costa – Board President  
San Juan Water District  
P.O. Box 2157  
Granite Bay, CA 95746

**Re: SJWD CVRA Response – New Division Maps  
August 5, 2020 SJWD Public Hearing Comments**

Dear Mr. Costa:

Please instruct the Board Secretary to read these written comments during the public hearing at the appropriate time. Also, please direct the Board Secretary to include this letter in the Board approved minutes for the August 5, 2020 SJWD Public Hearing.

I am in the unique position of working with the Fair Oaks Water District Board of Directors to provide a voice to over 37,000 of your wholesale ratepayers while also being a San Juan Water District (SJWD) retail ratepayer. As such, I have been monitoring the SJWD Board of Directors response to the lawsuit against the SJWD for violating the California Voters Rights Act very closely.

The San Juan Water District Notice of the August 5, 2020 Public Hearing contained this information. *“PARTICIPATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: Due to State guidelines on physical distancing in public gatherings, the Boardroom can accommodate a maximum of 10 members of the public at one time. The District recommends that members of the public participate in Board meetings via videoconference per the instructions below. Persons who do plan to attend the meeting in person are urged to contact the Board Secretary prior to the meeting. For members of the public interested in viewing and having the ability to comment at the public meeting via GoToWebinar, an internet-enabled computer equipped with a microphone and speaker or a mobile device with a data plan is required. There will be no call-in line to the hearing, so please make sure that your device provides audio for you, or plan to attend in person.”*

1. The timing and restrictions placed on this meeting disenfranchise a significant number of SJWD Wholesale Customers from participating in the hearing and providing comments to the SJWD Board of Directors for consideration.
  - a. Due to many social economic factors, it is not reasonable to expect a majority of SJWD Wholesale Customers to have the equipment required to participate in the meeting.
  - b. Due to location of the meeting, and the limited capacity for public attendance, it is not reasonable to expect a majority of SJWD Wholesale Customers to attend the meeting in person due to State mandated COVID-19 restrictions.

- c. Due to the 4:00 PM Public Hearing starting time, it is not reasonable to expect a majority of SJWD Wholesale Customers, **especially essential workers**, to be able to participate in the meeting.

At a minimum, the above could be solved by adding a call-in line to the meeting process, locating the meetings in larger spaces that could accommodate more members of the public under COVID-19 guidelines, holding a hearing in each of the communities directly impacted, and holding all meetings after normal business hours.

When the SJWD Board of Directors is reformed to be elected by divisions representing the wholesale service area, please provide the SJWD Retail Service Area our own Water District with a completely separate Board of Directors elected from within the SJWD Retail Service Area. SJWD retail ratepayers do not want new SJWD Wholesale Board representatives from Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights and Orangevale setting our water rates and making decisions relative to our local water system operations.

It is requested that you consider taking immediate action on the above; thereby providing the leadership required to give a voice to the diverse population that you were elected to serve.

Sincerely,  
Tom R. Gray

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom R. Gray", enclosed in a blue oval.

FOWD General Manager  
SJWD-R Ratepayer

- c: Jennifer Buckman, BKS  
Robert Donlan, ES&K  
Teri Grant, SJWD Board Secretary