



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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County Supervisor
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LOMPICO/SLV WATER MERGER OFFICIAL

Backed by a water infrastructure bond approved by Lompico property owners, officials from the Lompico County Water District on Wednesday filed paperwork at the County Governmental Building to officially record the dissolution of the district.

Lompico County Water District customers recently voted overwhelmingly to spend \$2.75 million on water system improvements and repairs, a move that allowed a proposed merger with the San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD) to go forward. Wednesday's action formalized the merger.

"It took a lot of work by a lot of people to get to this day," said Lois Henry, a longtime board member at Lompico County Water District. "Now that our long journey is finally complete, we're very happy that Lompico's water supplies are no longer in doubt."

"San Lorenzo Valley Water District is to be commended for going forward in good faith and as good neighbors to make sure the people of Lompico have a secure source of water," said Pat McCormick, executive officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County, which oversees water agency mergers.

After helping facilitate the community vote, McCormick, County Supervisor Bruce McPherson and SLVWD Manager Brian Lee were on hand for Wednesday's event. County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello, former County Auditor-Controller Mary Jo Walker and County Clerk Gail Pellerin all provided support allowing the vote to go forward.



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“I am very appreciative that County staff devoted their time and talent to support the Lompico merger. Without their dedication and the work of both water districts and Lompico residents, this never would have come to fruition,” McPherson said.

Operating since 1963 and serving approximately 500 homes, Lompico County Water District had struggled with infrastructure, management and financial difficulties. In 2014, California’s drought pushed the district onto a list of rural water suppliers that could run out of water.

In May, 79.5 percent of District customers voted in favor of a merger.

The San Lorenzo Valley Water District is seeking customers of the former Lompico County Water District to serve on the five-member Lompico Oversight Committee. Applications are due by July 7, and should be mailed to the District Secretary, 13060 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, Calif., 95006, or emailed to to hmorrison@slvwd.com. The application can be found at <http://www.slvwd.com/lompico/Lompico%20Oversight%20Committee%20Application.pdf>.