

PUBLIC COMMENT --- for CVWD Board from Shelley Powsner

RE: CVWD Community Advisory Committee

I look forward to staying involved with the Crescenta Valley Water District while the Community Advisory Committee is on hiatus.

The CAC has only 5 active members and was only putting forward individual opinions to the board. I expect that the active members will stay involved.

In my past experience with being on a community advisory committee, there were three main objectives. 1) To have the committee more deeply informed than would be generally possible for the larger community; 2) based on that education, to clarify points of agreement, disagreement, and concern within this representative group; 3) and to suggest how best to communicate with the community at large.

When the CAC is reactivated, I would suggest that it be a larger group of active participants so it can better represent the community (three people at a meeting is not representative). It would also be helpful to clarify the role of the committee and perhaps have a facilitator. The most useful advisory committees represent a range of opinions - a diverse group, while sometimes challenging, is essential.

I have been impressed with CVWD's efforts to educate this small group about infrastructure and funding issues and that they allocated staff, engineering, and the outside consultant's time for separate meetings with the CAC.

I am very aware that CVWD is not a private water company and is not run for profit. This is at a time when many utilities are not only

privately owned but are increasingly owned by foreign interests and by mega corporations.

We are all interested in transparency and trust around difficult infrastructure, budgeting, and rate decisions. It is important that questions be asked and answered. But I am profoundly uncomfortable with the accusations and assumptions one CAC member has made and broadcast to the community. Although some members expressed concerns about presenting a group CAC document to the board, the letter posted by the CAC member to the CAC, board, and community implies that the CAC is in accord with this letter and the accompanying post on NextDoor. I am not.

I deeply admire active citizenship, advocacy for the public good before profit, and persistent questioning. I do hope current community members stay involved and that more join.

I want to thank Christy and the staff for their consistent helpfulness and diplomacy.

Sincerely,
Shelley Powsner