

ARCADE, NORTHRIDGE MERGE SACRAMENTO SUBURBAN WATER DISTRICT CREATED

Leaders from the Arcade and Northridge water districts have put the finishing touches on their agreement to merge. On Feb. 1 they finalized plans for the largest water district merger in Northern California.

Customers of the new Sacramento Suburban Water District can look forward to better efficiency and organization in the operation and even lower rates over time.

“We’ll save about \$6 million in the first 10 years, and by the end of the 10th year we’ll be able to save a million dollars each year thereafter,” said Steve Eggert, former president of the Arcade Water District. In January, the Local Agency Formation Commission gave its final seal of approval for the merge.

“A big district like this is better able to handle some of the big issues that we never dreamed of when these smaller districts were formed,” Eggert said. Leaders of the newly formed water district believe they will be better equipped to handle tough water issues such as new quality standards and groundwater depletion.

While one of the goals of the new district is to make administrative tasks more efficient, Sacramento Suburban will continue to provide jobs for each person who was previously employed at either Arcade or Northridge.

“We will keep the same number of employees, and nobody will lose their job or get a cut in pay or benefits,” said Dewight Kramer, general manager of Sacramento Suburban.

Arcade and Northridge were two of the largest water districts in the capital city. Under Sacramento Suburban, the two agencies will serve a combined 45,000 residential and commercial customers and an estimated population of 180,000. The Sacramento Suburban Water District delivers water to clients from the American River to the Placer County line.

The two districts were able to merge because they are similar in size and have comparable customers. In addition, they share the same groundwater basin.

“We’re really two equal districts,” Eggert said. “This was a good match.” Full transition to the consolidated district will take place during the next three years.

THE WATERING WHOLE



TIPS ON USING YOUR WATER WISELY

Spring is here and soon you’ll want to start up your sprinkler system. Here are a few tips for getting your irrigation system in tip-top shape for the season.

1. FLUSH THE SYSTEM.

In winter, critters may take up residence in your sprinklers, emitters, tubes and pipes. Flush the system by opening the ends of the drip tubes and flushing them out by turning on the water.

2. CHECK THE SYSTEM.

After flushing, run the system. Look for clogged emitters or nozzles and replace them if needed. Cleaning them will leave small scratches that can disrupt the spray pattern and leave dry spots in your landscaping. Calcium buildup, however, can be removed using a calcium remover product from the kitchen. Also check for leaking valves. Flexible seals sometimes dry out over the winter and leak when the water is turned back on.

3. SET THE CONTROLLER.

Make sure you’ve set the proper run times for each station. If the controller has a back-up alkaline battery, replace it with a fresh one. (The battery on some controllers is located behind a faceplate where you can’t see it, so if you don’t see a battery, remove the wiring compartment cover and look for it there.) Some controllers now come with non-volatile program memory and don’t need batteries.

Source: www.irigationtutorials.com

WATER LEADERS CELEBRATE CONSOLIDATION

More than 150 water leaders from around the region came together to celebrate the union of the Arcade and Northridge water districts.

Industry supporters gathered at the North Ridge Country Club to help kick off the Sacramento Suburban Water District.

"We've combined two of the finest districts we have," said Joe Sullivan, a board member of the new water district.

Local leaders applauded the two water agencies for tackling the daunting task of consolidating the large districts.

"You've proved that this kind of cooperation is possible in this region," said Muriel Johnson, who serves on the Sacramento Board of Supervisors. "This whole board (of directors) is to be commended."

Supervisor Roger Niello presented the new board of directors with a resolution recognizing the new district and congratulated them for all of their diligent efforts.

To make the new name official, General Manager and secretary of the board Dewight Kramer and district treasurer Paula Hodge, unveiled the water district's new blue logo.

The inaugural event also gave board members the opportunity to honor leaders, including the Board of Supervisors, who had helped make the consolidation possible.

Board President Steve Eggert honored fellow board member Byron Buck for his exhausting efforts in making the consolidation a success.

"It was really a team effort," Buck said. "I'm just proud to serve with the staff of this new district."



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MESSAGE

BY DEWIGHT E. KRAMER, SR.,
GENERAL MANAGER



A NEW ERA

As we enter a new era as the Sacramento Suburban Water District, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made the consolidation a success. We have accomplished an unprecedented feat in Northern California - consolidating two of the largest water districts in Sacramento.

Sacramento Suburban has a strong history and the tremendous resources necessary to carry it into the future. The Arcade and Northridge Water Districts have a combined 160-year history in the Sacramento region. Both districts contributed state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure, as well as a wealth of personnel resources, to the consolidation.

Our newly formed water district is dedicated to providing consumers with the reliable water resources they need at home and work. As always, we'll be there when you turn on the tap, providing you clearly refreshing service. Over time our consolidation of offices and operations will lead to millions of dollars in savings. We'll pass those savings on to our customers.

As you read through the first edition of our newsletter, you'll find important information about the consolidation, Arcade and Northridge, and some useful tips on conserving our most precious natural resource - water. We'll continue to keep you posted on our progress. Feel free to contact us if you ever need more information or have any questions.

Again, I thank all of our staff and numerous supporters who have helped make Sacramento Suburban Water District a reality and a success.



BOARD MEMBERS SWORN IN

The Arcade and Northridge board of directors joined forces to create a single, new group. On Feb. 20 retired Judge Alan Fields swore in the 10 board members who will serve on the new board of the Sacramento Suburban Water District. At the same time, former board president Joseph Sullivan passed his gavel on to Steven Eggert, elected the first president of the new board of directors.

"I wish I was 35 years of age, because this is going to be really exciting (in years to come)," Sullivan said. "I think it's going to be a lot of fun. I'd like to stick around and see it."

The newly formed water district, a consolidation of Arcade and Northridge Water Districts, combined each original district's board of directors into a new board. Sacramento Suburban's Board of Directors is comprised of the following ten members:

Steven L. Eggert, President	Ronald Bachman, Vice President
Ron W. Britting	Byron M. Buck
Stephen R. Hanson	David G. Houston
Roy A. Kimura	William E. Porter
Joseph H. Sullivan	Jamie B. Williams

During the swearing in ceremony, Ronald Bachman was elected vice president of the board, Dewight Kramer, Sr. was appointed secretary and Paula Hodge was named treasurer.

THANK YOU SSWD CUSTOMERS!

As we merge offices and streamline operations, changes are occurring and we really appreciate your patience! Some changes related to billing statements are listed below:

Arcade Service Area

Former Arcade customers received statements for a monthly period throughout the month. All statements for flat rate customers are now mailed at the beginning of each month for the current period.

Northridge Service Area

Former Northridge customers on a flat rate received statements for a two month period. Customers now receive monthly bills. Many of you have asked for monthly billings because it makes household budgeting easier.

Many customers ask why billings are in advance of the service period. This practice is very common for water utilities with flat rate schedules and is permissible per the Government Code.



ARCADE HISTORY: ALWAYS GROWING 65 WELLS IN 62 YEARS

The Arcade Water District has delivered water to its customers since 1954. However, the district's foundation was laid back in the 1930s.

Arcade was originally formed to take over a private water system, the Ben Ali Water Company, which emerged in 1939. Ben Ali served 326 customers with three wells in the vicinity of Marconi Avenue and Bell Street.

The company had a hard time keeping up with the area's population growth. One well became three. Twenty customers skyrocketed to more than 320.

By the 1950s, a change was needed. Pioneer developer Jere Strizek purchased the system, watching the district grow along with the exploding population, eventually served nearly 12,000 customers.

In 1954, a group of spirited public residents stepped in with the production stability and solid financing needed by the rapidly growing area. Together, they formed the Arcade Water District.

Arcade was able to keep up with the region's growth. By the early 1960s the district delivered water to more than 16,000 customers. By 2001, the district had acquired over 65 wells and 100,000 customers in Sacramento, Carmichael and North Highlands.



NORTHRIDGE HISTORY: IT STARTED WITH A DAIRYMAN 4,000 TO 12,000 ACRES

The Northridge Water District has been serving its water users since the 1950s thanks to a dairyman and several innovative citizens.

In 1956, dairyman Robert Gibbon and a handful of other residents who were interested in subdividing their land, pushed for the approval of a new water district. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved the Northridge Park County Water District, but not without some objections from other residents. Hundreds of landowners (nearly one-third of the new district) excluded themselves from the new water system. They opposed its creation due to concerns about using general obligation bonds for its formation.

Selling general obligation bonds in the 1950s and 60s, the district was able to finance pipeline construction and expand its facilities.

The district's delivery systems grew to include the McClellan Industrial Park, the Arcade Oaks Terrace Water Maintenance District, Arvin Water District, Capehart Housing Area, the McClellan Air Force Base and other subdivisions - all the way to the Placer County line.

In all, the district has grown in size from 4,001 acres in 1958 to 12,001 acres in 2000. By 2001, the Northridge Water District was serving about 22,000 customers, using state-of-the-art technology and service.

check out our new website: www.sswd.org



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