

## Inquiries and Responses

Communication with SSWD may be made by telephone, email, or in writing. Text messages are only accepted with the permission of District staff. Depending on the topic or issue, communications may be placed on Board agendas or discussed within ad-hoc meetings for the purpose of providing input to the Watermaster or to develop a response.

### Contact Us

Administrative Office: 530-331-1369, opt. 0

Watermaster: 530-605-6763

E-mail: [manager@sswatermaster.org](mailto:manager@sswatermaster.org)

Website: [sswatermaster.org](http://sswatermaster.org)

### Mailing Address:

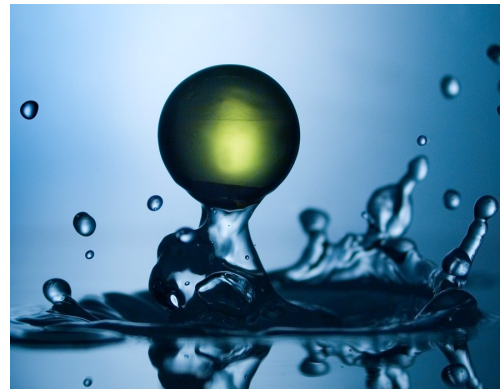
PO Box 1441  
Yreka, CA 96097

To keep overhead costs down the District's Administrative Office is not regularly attended. Please call to make an appointment.



## Scott Valley & Shasta Valley Watermaster District

# Powers & Duties of the District



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Refer to *District By-Laws* for full content.

**Primary Telephone: 530-331-1369**

## Board of Directors

**Composition.** *The Board of Directors of the District shall consist of:*

*Two members who shall be voters holding water rights whose places of use under a decree are appointed or contracted parcels within the Scott Valley Service Area. These members shall be elected at large from the Scott Valley Service Area.*

*Three members who shall be voters holding water rights whose places of use are appointed or contracted parcels within the Shasta Valley Service Area. These members shall be elected at large from the Shasta Valley Service Area.*

*Two members appointed by the county board of supervisors. These members shall be residents of the county and shall not be voters holding water rights.*

**Elections.** *The Uniform District Election Law shall apply to elections of the District. The District shall function as a landowner voting district, except that each voter (water rights holder) shall have one vote. For water rights that have multiple holders, the District shall establish a deadline before each election for the water rights holders to designate in writing to the District one voter for voting purposes.*

**Term of Office.** *The normal term of office for directors shall be four years. The Uniform District Election for special districts is conducted in every odd-numbered year. Upon formation of the initial board of directors, terms of office were staggered into two classes. Three elective seats shall be subject to election in a Uniform District Election, and two elective seats shall be subject to election in the subsequent Uniform District Election. Board members serving in appointive positions shall assume office and leave office on the same dates as members serving in elective positions. Prior to taking office, each director shall take the official oath and execute any bond that may be set by the board.*

### IN SUMMARY...

The District is a public entity with a combination of elected and appointed Board of Directors who are 100% volunteer and request no reimbursement for expenses.

The duties of Watermaster are carried out through a professional services contract with GEI Consultants, Inc. out of Rancho Cordova, CA.

Administrative services are provided through a professional services contract with Rhonda L. Muse, an Independent Consultant in Fort Jones, CA.

# General Authority

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The District shall serve as the Deputy Watermaster for any appointed decree, including, but not limited to, taking specific actions ordered by the Siskiyou County Superior Court in the administration of any such decree.<sup>1</sup>

## Watermaster District Act

Under the Watermaster District Act, the District is specifically granted the power to:<sup>2</sup>

- a. Adopt ordinances in accordance with Article 7 (commencing with Section 25120) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code.
- b. Adopt and enforce rules and regulations for the administration, operation, use, and maintenance of the District's facilities and property.
- c. Sue and be sued in its own name.
- d. Acquire any real or personal property within the District, by contract or otherwise, to hold, manage, occupy, dispose of, convey and encumber the property, and to create a leasehold interest in the property for the benefit of the District. The District does not have the power of eminent domain.
- e. Appoint employees, define their qualifications and duties, and provide a schedule of compensation for performance of their duties.
- f. Engage counsel and other professional services.
- g. Enter into and perform all contracts. The District must follow the procedures that apply to Siskiyou County, including, but not limited to, the requirements of Article 3.6 (commencing with Section 20150) of Chapter 1 of Part 3 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code.
- h. Adopt a seal and alter it.
- i. Take any and all actions necessary for, or incidental to, the powers expressed or implied by the Watermaster District Act.

## California Water Code

In carrying out its duties as Deputy Watermaster, the District shall have the same powers as are granted to the California Department of Water Resources under Part 4 of Division 2 of the Water Code, except as those powers have been modified by the Siskiyou County Superior Court.<sup>3</sup> Under the Water Code, among other things the District is granted the power to:

- a. Make reasonable regulations to secure distribution of water in accordance with determined rights.<sup>4</sup>
- b. Adjust or close the headgates of conduits and regulate controlling works of reservoirs to distribute water according to right.<sup>5</sup>
- c. Attach a signed and dated notice to a headgate or control structure indicating it has been properly regulated and is wholly under the control of the watermaster.
- d. Arrest and deliver to the sheriff any person who willfully and without authority opens, closes, changes, or interferes with any headgate, waterbox, or measuring device while it is under the control of the Watermaster, or who willfully takes or uses water which has been denied him by the Watermaster.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Watermaster District Act §501.

<sup>2</sup> Watermaster District Act §406.

<sup>3</sup> Watermaster District Act §502(a).

<sup>4</sup> Water Code §4150.

<sup>5</sup> Water Code §4151.

<sup>6</sup> Water Code §4178.

## District Policies

The board of directors shall adopt policies for the operation of the District. The provisions included in the bylaws shall constitute policies of the District and shall be self-executing as directed by the District, regardless of whether their basis is statutory, by order of the Siskiyou County Superior Court, or stated in the bylaws by the board of directors. The District may adopt additional policies from time to time as deemed necessary by the board of directors.

