



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**[Los Angeles County Public Works Department
Prepares to Take Over Sativa Water District](#)**

Acting on [a motion](#) by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Janice Hahn, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to authorize the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) to enter into an agreement with the California Water Resources Control Board to serve as interim administrator of the troubled Sativa Water District.

“Residents of Willowbrook and Compton have had to endure brown water coming out of their taps for years, because of Sativa’s mismanagement,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. “With DPW in charge, these customers will finally have the competent water service provider they deserve.”

He added DPW is well suited for the role of interim administrator, given its extensive experience operating systems across the County. It currently operates 68,000 service connections, serving approximately 245,000 people.

“This is a victory for the people,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn. “By putting the LA County Department of Public Works in charge, residents will finally have a capable, trustworthy water provider they can count on. There is a lot more work that needs to be done but we are in it for the long-haul for the customers of Sativa.”

Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán, who has held town hall meetings with Sativa customers who had brown water coming out of their taps, welcomed the vote.

“I wholeheartedly support the Board of Supervisors’ motion to authorize the LA County Department of Public Works as interim administrator for the Sativa Water District,” she said. “Federal, state and local government must work together to ensure that improvements to the water system are made, that all public funds that went to Sativa are accounted for, and that residents have clean water and are given sufficient information about their service provider.”

On Sept. 28, Governor Jerry Brown signed LA County-sponsored legislation, AB 1577 by Assemblymember Mike Gipson, empowering the Water Board to order Sativa to accept an interim administrator until a replacement water service provider can be identified for the long-term.

As interim administrator, DPW would assess the condition of the existing water facilities and identify any necessary and timely improvements to ensure safe drinking water is available to Sativa customers. It will also work closely with the Water Board to ensure that water quality meets all regulatory standards.

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