

San Geronio Pass Water Agency

DATE: August 23, 2021
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
BY: Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant
SUBJECT: ACWA Region 9 Election 2022-2023 Term

RECOMMENDATION

Staff has no recommendation.

Summary:

Every two years, ACWA elects a new Board of Directors, including a new Board for each ACWA region. ACWA has presented a slate for election to the Region 9 Board. The Agency's Board can either elect the slate as presented, or a portion of the slate, or none of the slate.

BACKGROUND

A copy of the Region 9 ballot is included in the agenda package. Also included is a letter from Rancho California Water District requesting that the Agency support one of its directors, Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady, who is on the slate.

The slate includes one nominee for Chair, one nominee for Vice Chair, and five candidates representing the two areas within the Region (Arid and West). The ballot includes one candidate each for Chair and Vice Chair, just as the slate does, but includes seven potential candidates for the other five positions.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for this action.

ACTION

The Board may either vote for the slate recommended by the Region 9 Nominating Committee or vote for individual region board members. The ballot deadline is September 30, 2021.

ACWA ADVISORY

REGION ELECTIONS

Aug. 3, 2021

ACWA Region Board Elections Open Through Sept. 30

ACWA's region nominating committees on Aug. 2 emailed an official ballot to all agency general managers and board presidents announcing recommended slates for ACWA's 10 region boards. Voting is now underway and ballots must be returned by Sept. 30.

Each ballot contains the recommended slate, candidates listed by position and voting instructions. Agencies are entitled to cast only one vote for their region board and must have an authorized person sign the ballot before it's returned to ACWA.

Each agency's vote is very important. Board members represent the issues, concerns and needs specific to their region. The region chair and vice chair will also serve on ACWA's Board of Directors for this two-year term of office. The newly elected chair will then communicate the region board's committee recommendations to the ACWA President for the 2022-'23 term. Additionally, either the chair or vice chair will serve on the ACWA Finance Committee.

The election results reflecting the new region boards for the 2022-'23 term will be announced Oct 4. Additional region election information is available [online](#).

Questions

For questions about the region election process, please call (916) 441-4545 or contact your ACWA regional affairs representative:

Regions 1, 3, 5: [Jennifer Rotz](#)

Regions 2, 6, 7: [Michael Cervantes](#)

Regions 8, 9, 10: [Augustine Han](#)

Region 4: [Ana Javaid](#)

OFFICIAL REGION 9 Board Ballot

2022-2023 TERM



Please return completed ballot by Sept. 30, 2021

E-mail: regionelections@acwa.com
Mail: ACWA
980 9th Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95814

General Voting Instructions:

- 1 You may either vote for the slate recommended by the Region 9 Nominating Committee or vote for individual region board members (please note rules & regulations for specific qualifications). Mark the appropriate box to indicate your decision.
- 2 Complete your agency information. The authorized representative is determined by your agency in accordance with your agency's policies and procedures.

Region 9 Rules & Regulations:

The chair and vice chair shall be elected, one from each area, and the positions shall be rotated between the Western and Arid areas of Region 9. For the 2022-'23 term, the chair shall be from the Western area.

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Nominating Committee's Recommended Slate

- I concur with the Region 9 Nominating Committee's recommended slate below.

CHAIR:

- **Harvey R. Ryan**, Board Member, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (Western)

VICE CHAIR:

- **G. Patrick O'Dowd**, Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority (Arid)

BOARD MEMBERS:

- **Luis Cetina**, Vice President, Cucamonga Valley Water District (Western)
- **Brenda Dennstedt**, President, Western Municipal Water District (Western)
- **Norma Sierra Galindo**, Board of Directors, Imperial Irrigation District (Arid)
- **Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady**, President, Rancho California Water District (Western)
- **James Morales Jr.**, Director, East Valley Water District (Western)

OR

Individual Board Candidate Nominations

(See Rules & Regulations before selecting)

- I do not concur with the Region 9 Nominating Committee's recommended slate. I will vote for individual candidates below as indicated.

CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR: (CHOOSE ONE)

- James Morales Jr.**, Director, East Valley Water District (Western)
- Harvey R. Ryan**, Board Member, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (Western)

CANDIDATES FOR VICE CHAIR: (CHOOSE ONE)

- G. Patrick O'Dowd**, Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority (Arid)

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS: (MAX OF 5 CHOICES)

- Luis Cetina**, Vice President, Cucamonga Valley Water District (Western)
- Brenda Dennstedt**, President, Western Municipal Water District (Western)
- Norma Sierra Galindo**, Board of Directors, Imperial Irrigation District (Arid)
- Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady**, President, Rancho California Water District (Western)
- James Morales Jr.**, Director, East Valley Water District (Western)
- G. Patrick O'Dowd**, Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority (Arid)
- Harvey R. Ryan**, Board Member, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (Western)

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AGENCY NAME

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE



REGION 9 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each region shall organize and adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and affairs not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation or bylaws of the Association (ACWA Bylaw V, 6.).

OFFICERS

The chair and vice chair shall be elected, one from each area, and the positions shall be rotated between the Western and Arid areas of Region 9.

The chair will appoint a secretary to the Board if one is deemed necessary.

When possible, alternates should be selected from the same Arid or Western regions as their corresponding chair or vice chair.

Western area which shall include:

- Beaumont-Cherry Valley WD (Beaumont)
- Chino Basin WCD (Montclair)
- Chino Basin Watermaster (Rancho Cucamonga)
- City of Corona Dept of Water and Power (Corona)
- Crestline Village WD (Crestline)
- Crestline-Lake Arrowhead WA (Crestline)
- Cucamonga Valley WD (Rancho Cucamonga)
- DWP, City of Big Bear (Big Bear Lake)
- East Valley WD (San Bernardino)
- Eastern MWD (Perris)
- Elsinore Valley MWD (Lake Elsinore)
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency (Chino)
- Jurupa CSD (Mira Loma)
- Lake Arrowhead CSD (Lake Arrowhead)
- Lake Hemet MWD (Hemet)
- Monte Vista WD (Montclair)
- Rancho California WD (Temecula)
- Riverside County FC & WCD (Riverside)
- Riverside Public Utilities (Riverside)
- San Bernardino Valley MWD (San Bernardino)
- San Bernardino Valley WCD (Redlands)
- San Gorgonio Pass WA (Beaumont)
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (Riverside)
- West Valley WD (Rialto)
- Western MWD (Riverside)

Arid area which shall include:

- Apple Valley Foothill CWD (Apple Valley)
- Apple Valley Heights CWD (Apple Valley)
- Bard WD (Winterhaven)
- Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (Big Bear City)
- Big Bear CSD (Big Bear City)
- Big Bear MWD (Big Bear City)
- Bighorn-Desert View WA (Yucca Valley)
- Cabazon WD (Cabazon)
- Coachella Valley WD (Coachella)
- County of San Bernardino, Special District D (Victorville)
- Desert Water Agency (Palm Springs)
- Heber PUD (Heber)
- Hi-Desert WD (Yucca Valley)
- Idyllwild WD (Idyllwild)
- Imperial ID (Imperial)
- Joshua Basin WD (Joshua Tree)
- Mariana Ranchos CWD (Apple Valley)
- Mission Springs WD (Desert Hot Springs)
- Mojave Water Agency (Apple Valley)
- Palo Verde ID (Blythe)
- Phelan Pinon Hills CSD (Phelan)
- Pinyon Pines CWD (Mountain Center)
- Twentynine Palms WD (Twentynine Palms)

MEETINGS

The region will hold at least quarterly meetings, including the ACWA spring and fall conferences.

The Region 9 board will set all region meetings.

Any member wanting to add an agenda item for consideration at any Region 9 meeting must submit the information to be discussed at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to the region chair to ensure that both sides of the issue will be present for consideration and understanding. However, a majority vote of those present, after a quorum is established, may provide for immediate consideration of an issue.

ATTENDANCE

If a region chair or vice chair is no longer allowed to serve on the Board of Directors due to his / her attendance, the region board shall appoint from the existing region board a new region officer. (ACWA Policy & Guideline Q, 1.) If a region chair or vice chair misses three consecutive region board / membership meetings, the same process shall be used to backfill the region officer position. (ACWA Policy & Guideline Q, 1.) If a region board member has three consecutive unexcused absences from a region board meeting or general membership business meeting, the region board will convene to discuss options for removal of the inactive board member. If the

vacancy causes the board to fail to meet the minimum requirement of five board members, the region must fill the vacancy according to its rules and regulations. (ACWA Policy & Guideline Q, 3.)

VACANCY

Should a vacancy occur in the region chair position, the alternate chair shall assume the position.

Should a vacancy occur in the region vice chair position, the alternate vice chair shall assume the position.

When filling a chair or vice chair vacancy, where possible the board will fill the position with a candidate from the correct Arid or Western regions.

Should a vacancy occur in either the alternate chair or the alternate vice chair positions, the region chair shall appoint a replacement from the remaining board members with concurrence from the region board.

Should a vacancy occur in any of the other three remaining board positions, the region chair shall appoint a replacement from a member agency within the appropriate designated area with concurrence from the region board.

ELECTIONS

All nominations received for the region chair, vice chair and board positions must be accompanied by a resolution of support from each sponsoring member agency, signed by an authorized representative of the Board of Directors. Only one individual may be nominated from a given agency to run for election to a region board. Agencies with representatives serving on the nominating committees should strive not to submit nominations for the region board from their agency. (ACWA Policy & Guideline P, 2.)

Election ballots will be e-mailed to ACWA member agency general managers and presidents.

The nominating committee shall consist of three to six individuals; and shall have the same number of members from each Western and Arid areas.

The nominating committee shall pursue qualified members within the region to run for the region board and consider geographic diversity, agency size and focus in selecting a slate.

See current region election timeline for specific dates.

ENDORSEMENTS

ACWA, as a statewide organization, may endorse potential nominees and nominees for appointment to local, regional, and statewide commissions and boards. ACWA's regions may submit a recommendation for consideration and action to the ACWA Board of Directors to endorse a potential nominee or nominee for appointment to a local, regional or statewide commission or board. (ACWA Policy & Guideline P, 3.)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS & REPRESENTATION

All regions are given equal opportunity to recommend representatives of the region for appointment to a standing or regular committee of the Association. If a region fails to provide full representation on all ACWA committees, those committee slots will be left open for the remainder of the term or until such time as the region designates a representative to complete the remainder of the term. (ACWA Policy & Guideline P, 4. A.)

At the first region board / membership meeting of the term, regions shall designate a representative serving on each of the standing and regular committees to serve as the official reporter to and from the committee on behalf of the region to facilitate input and communication. (ACWA Policy & Guideline P, 4. B.)

The chair and vice chair shall make all committee appointment recommendations to the ACWA committees, to be ratified by the region board prior to submission to the ACWA president for consideration.

TOURS

ACWA may develop and conduct various tours for the regions. All tour attendees must sign a “release and waiver” to attend any and all region tours. Attendees agree to follow environmental guidelines and regulations in accordance with direction from ACWA staff; and will respect the rights and privacy of other attendees. (ACWA Policy & Guideline P, 6.)

FINANCES

See “Financial Guidelines for ACWA Region Events” document.

AMENDING THE REGION RULES & REGULATIONS

ACWA policies and guidelines can be amended by approval of the ACWA Board of Directors.

The Region 9 Rules & Regulations can be amended by a majority vote at any region meeting following advance written notice to member agencies.

July 27, 2021

Steven Lehtonen
Board President
SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 922231506

Dear Mr. Lehtonen:

On behalf of Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water), it is with great honor that I am requesting your agency's support and vote for Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady for re-election to the Region 9 Board member position for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). We are fortunate to have such a qualified candidate in Director Gonzales-Brady, who has the Rancho Water Board's unanimous support for continuing to serve in this role.

As the President of the Rancho California Water District Board of Directors, Director Gonzales-Brady provides a key presence in our community. However, the breadth of her focus extends far beyond our service territory and encompasses the broader needs of Region 9 and the water community throughout the State. Director Gonzales-Brady has formed productive working relationships throughout our region, the water community and California, which allows her to champion Region 9's positions on water legislative issues.

Attached you will find a candidate's statement summarizing Director Gonzales-Brady's qualifications. She has a true passion for the water industry and would like to continue to serve the region. Director Gonzales-Brady is happy to meet with anyone to discuss her commitment to serving you and your district.

I encourage you to forward this information to your Board of Directors and consider supporting her for the ACWA Region 9 Board position. Rancho Water has the highest confidence in Director Gonzales-Brady and her proven leadership abilities can continue to help guide ACWA Region 9 to success. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information or if you would like her to contact your Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT



Robert S. Grantham
General Manager
granthamr@ranchowater.com

Enclosure



Board of Directors

Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady
President

John V. Rossi
Senior Vice President

Brian J. Brady

Angel Garcia

John E. Hoagland

William E. Plummer

Bill Wilson

Officers

Robert S. Grantham
General Manager

Eva Plajzer, P.E.
Assistant General Manager
Engineering and Operations

Richard R. Aragon, CPFO
Assistant General Manager
Chief Financial
Officer/Treasurer

Jason A. Martin
Director of Administration

Eileen Dienzo
Director of Human Resources

Kelli E. Garcia
District Secretary

James B. Gilpin
Best Best & Krieger LLP
General Counsel

Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady

Candidate Statement for ACWA Region 9 Board



As you review our Nominating Committee's recommended slate for the 2022-2023 term of the Region 9 Board, I am pleased to introduce myself and ask for your concurring vote of support.

Elected to the Rancho California Water District Board (Rancho Water/District) in 2017, I currently serve as the Board's President and previously served as Senior Vice President in 2020. I also currently serve on the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 9 Board and represent the District as the Alternate Representative to the ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority. Prior to joining Rancho Water's Board, I was appointed by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to the Board of Directors of the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District and worked with developers, California Fish and Wildlife, Corps of Engineers, County Flood Control and Bureau of Reclamation.

My professional career in procurement, manufacturing and construction has spanned a number of federally regulated industries including electric and water utilities. A native Californian and vineyard owner, I'm active in my community and associations such as Southwest California Legislative Council, an advocacy coalition and was recently elected to the Board of Trustees, Water Segment Southern California Water Coalition.

The Districts within our Region are dealing with many challenges, in addition to the critical issues facing our industry as a whole. Several of these concerns are shared across other industries, agencies and service entities, as articulated during ACWA conferences and in a number of other forums I've attended. There is general consensus that strengthening communication, evaluating problems from a broad perspective and thinking "outside the box" will be key as leaders work together to develop solutions.

I look forward to building upon the work of the past Boards in promoting and advancing the priorities, initiatives and interests of ACWA and Region 9. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to serving you.



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