

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** General Manager

**RE:** Conduct Interviews and Consider Filling the Division 3 Director Seat on the Board of Directors

**DATE:** February 28, 2022

### **Summary:**

Director Stephen Lehtonen resigned from the Board on January 24, 2022, thereby creating a Board vacancy. At the Board meeting on January 24, 2022, the Board took action to authorize the posting of a Notice of Vacancy and announced that the Board intends to fill the vacancy by appointment.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Board conduct interviews of those individuals interested in being appointed to the vacant Board seat; and
2. That the Board take action to fill the vacant Board seat.

### **Detailed Report:**

#### Letters Of Interest And Time Periods

Letters of interest and/or resumes were required to be delivered or mailed to the Agency so that they would be received no later than February 18, 2022. The letters of interest and/or resumes of individuals interested in the vacant Board seat are enclosed. A person appointed to the office of the Division 3 Director must be a resident of Division 3.

Under Government Code Section 1780, the Board may make an appointment within 60 days after the date of the vacancy. Therefore, the Board has until Friday, March 25, 2022 to fill the Board seat by appointment. If the Board does not reach a decision by the 60-day deadline, then under Government Code Section 1780, the County

Board of Supervisors may appoint a person within 90 days of the date of the vacancy. If the Board of Supervisors does not take up this matter, or cannot reach a decision, then the Agency Board would be required to call an election.

## DISCUSSION:

### Recommended Interview Procedures

1. Order Of Interviewees – The order of interviews was determined based on alphabetical order of the candidates' last names.

2. Candidates Observing Interviews - It is recommended that the Board ask candidates who are not currently being interviewed to not observe the interviews virtually until it is their turn. This is to avoid providing such candidates the advantage of knowing how previous interviews went, topics which were emphasized or de-emphasized, etc. Once a candidate's interview is done, the candidate is welcome to rejoin the meeting virtually and to observe the rest of the interviews. All candidates need to be virtually attending the meeting once the Board begins its deliberations.

3. Opening Statements - Prior to the beginning of questions, each candidate should be given the opportunity to make a brief opening statement.

4. Types Of Questions - The purpose of questions should be to inquire as to why the person feels he/she is qualified to sit on the Board and why that person is interested in the position. Questions should be framed in neutral form so as to not advocate a particular position. Solely as a suggestion, the following questions are commonly asked in such interviews. The Board may find these questions helpful in maintaining uniformity and to keep the process moving.

(a) The Board generally meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month. Pursuant to the 2022 Board Meeting/Workshop Calendar, Board meetings and Water Conservation & Education Workshop meetings are held at 1:30 pm. The

Finance & Engineering Workshop is held at 6:00 pm. Are you able to make these meetings on a regular basis?

(b) As a director you have a large constituency made up of stakeholders and agencies; both within your district and within the region. Will you be able to make stakeholder meetings on various days of the week on a regular basis?

(c) What is your knowledge about the Agency and the services it provides?

(d) Why do you feel you are qualified to sit on the Board?

(e) Why do you want to be a Board member and if appointed, what would you rank as your top priorities?

### Deliberation And Action By The Board

Following the interviews, the Board should hold a discussion among themselves to get an idea as to what their impressions are and how they are leaning. No written/secret ballots are allowed. The vote must be verbal so that the public knows how each Director has voted. Right after the Board appoints someone, that person should immediately take the oath of office and begin serving as a member of the Board. The oath and participation can be accomplished virtually.

As with other actions taken by the Board, the action to appoint someone to the vacant Board seat must be taken by at least 4 votes. It is within the discretion of the Board how the vote should take place.

One method is to do a roll call vote and have each Board member state their top two choices. Staff can keep track of the votes and announce the two top candidates. After the Board feels it has fully considered the matter, a roll call vote can be taken again with each Board member stating his one top choice.

**#1 David Castaldo**

David Castaldo

Mr. Lance Eckhart  
1210 Beaumont Avenue  
Beaumont CA 92223

Please accept this document demonstrating my intent and interest as consideration by the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency for appointment to the vacant director of Division 3 position. My residence address is 49 California Avenue, Beaumont, California.

I am a small business owner that believes in providing exceptional service to my customers at a fair price; as I have done for 42 years. As a director of this Agency I believe that our community deserves a fair return for the money they have invested and the fees they continue to pay into this Agency to receive a long term sustainable water supply at a fair cost. I believe in absolute fiscal transparency of the public's money.

My goal as a director is very simple; it is to continue the Agency's pursuit to attain any and all long term viable and sustainable water supplies that will meet our community's present needs and as well as those needs for the next 50 years, and beyond.

I possess an extensive knowledge of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency policies, operations, and procedures. I am well versed in the Agency's revenue, debt obligations, and fiscal expenditures. I have full understanding of the Agency's immediate challenges and of those challenges in the future. I am in favor in the Agency's participation in the Sites project and the Delta Conveyance plan.

Please consider my public service experience:

2016-2020 Director-at-large #1 San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

2010-2014 Beaumont City Council member

2 years as Mayor Pro

Appointed representative to the Beaumont Cheery Valley Water District 2004-2008

Beaumont City Planning Commission

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Life experience in Pass area:

Resident of the Pass area since 1974. (48 years)

Graduated from Yucaipa High School Class of 1979.

Owner of A.C. Propane Company established 1979.

Resident of San Geronio Pass Water Agency Division 3 since 2004 (18 years)

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Castaldo', with a stylized, flowing script.

(S) David Castaldo

# #2 Ron Fussell

Ronald W. Fussell Jr.

February 14, 2022

Dear Board of Directors;

I would like to express my interest in serving on the Board of San Geronimo Water Pass Agency.

My wife and I moved to Sun Lakes three years ago when I retired from Arrowhead Villas Mutual Water Company in Lake Arrowhead and with nearly 40 years of Water /Wastewater experience I believe I could be a valuable addition to the current Board if given the opportunity.

If you would kindly review my enclosed resume for a more in depth illustration of my work history.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my candidacy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Fussell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "F".

Ron Fussell



# Ron Fussell

## Work Experience:

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5/1981 - 5/2011

Lake Arrowhead Community Services District

Field Operations Manager

Supervised day to day operations of the water and wastewater systems, including providing direction, overseeing staff duties in various areas, providing training, motivation and evaluation of staff, assigning and scheduling work assignments and analyzing and making recommendations regarding procedures and policies.

Participated in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies and priorities for assigned programs; recommended and administered policies and procedures.

Planned, directed, and coordinated, and reviewed the work plan for the water and wastewater system; meetings with the staff to identify and resolve problems; assigned work activities, projects, and programs; monitored work flow; reviewed and evaluated work products, methods and procedures.

Assisted in the preparation of the maintenance department budget; monitored and controlled documents for equipment procurement; participated in bid processes for repair and construction projects.

Directed the inspection and troubleshooting of facilities to determine maintenance and repair needs; determined work to be completed and communicated with outside agencies or appropriate contractors.

Inspected new construction, and issued correction notices when necessary.

Insured that safe work methods were being used and made appropriate use of safety related equipment when necessary.

Answered inquiries from citizens regarding work performed and maintained accurate records of work performed.

Responded to after-hours emergencies.

11/2008-10/2010 Edgewater Shores Condominiums

Property Manager

Communicated effectively and professionally with homeowners, vendors and contractors.

Upon Board approval organized, implemented and directed repairs as needed.

Identified problems and presented recommendations to the Board.

Maintained accurate records and files of work performed.

Worked independently on priorities agreed upon by the Board and met critical deadlines.

Performed light electrical, landscape and other tasks to maintain the overall appearance of Edgewater Shores including emptying trash barrels prior to Burrtec pick up and cleaning the shoreline areas.

11/2011-7/2019 Arrowhead Villas Mutual Service Company

Operations Manager-Chief Plant Operator

Under minimal direction from AVMSC Board of Directors ensured the compliance with the by-laws and policies to provide services to the Shareholders of Arrowhead Villas.

Planned directed and managed the daily activities which includes refuse/recycle pick up, snow plowing, road repair paving and maintenance and provided safe drinking water from wells to tap.

Qualification Highlights:

Proven record of effectively managing multiple tasks without compromise to quality.

Recognized for strong work ethic, integrity, personal skills and the ability to resolve conflict.

Proficient in MS Word and Outlook. Understanding of Excel and other computer software programs.

Education:

Associates of Science Degree in Water Supply and Engineering Technology

Certificates:

Certificate in Value Based Project Management

Certificate in Advanced Management and Training

Certificate in Water Distribution Grade 3

Certificate in Water Treatment Grade 2

Personal references supplied upon request.

**#3 Kevin Walton**

# Kevin Douglas Walton

February 11, 2022

San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
1210 Beaumont Avenue  
Beaumont, CA 92223  
Attn: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

Subject: Letter of Interest for the Director seat vacancy

Greetings:

Please accept my letter of interest for the vacant Board of Directors seat for Division 3.

My residence address is 2365 Birdie Drive, Banning California 92220. This is within the Sun Lakes Country Club community.

I have enclosed a resume that describes more deeply my relevant history, background, and interest in the vacancy.

Here is an executive summary

- Retired Career Fire Captain Specialist from the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District after a 30-year career in both Law Enforcement and the Fire Service.
- Long-term assignments included community development and water system planning and review as the primary agency representative.
- Life-long resident of Southern California.
- Resident of the Inland Empire since 1988.
- Resident of Yucaipa for 20 years.
- Banning resident since 2020.
- Multiple college degrees, most recently near completion of a Bachelors degree in Fire Service Administration with a minor in Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- A life-long responsible outdoor recreation enthusiast.
- A passion for water quality and sustainability issues of California, today and tomorrow.

Thank-you in advance for your consideration for the appointment to the vacant Division 3 Director seat.

Respectfully,



Kevin Douglas Walton

# Kevin Douglas Walton

2365 Birdie Drive, Banning, California 92220 kevindalton@gmail.com 909-557-0103

## Biography/ Resume

Let me start off with this sincere statement, I'm passionate about water issues in California, past, present, and future.

I'm a multi-generation native Californian with a legacy back to the earliest migration of settler to what we now call the Los Angeles Basin. From its earliest days, water issues confronted LA and our family's interests with acquiring, storage, distribution, and use of potable water, as well as, protection against floodwater and erosion. These are part of our family history past down through the generations.

As a product of the Los Angeles Unified School District I learned about the history of Los Angeles with water being part of it. I learned about dam failures and diversion of water from the Owens Valley and Mono Lake. There were the Zanja Madre and the likes of Fred Eaton and William Mulholland that made Los Angeles possible with the availability of water.

My father operated a ski tour business from LA to Mammoth Mountain every weekend during ski season in the 1960's – 70's. We travelled along the route of the LA aqueduct and learned its jaded history in detail over the years. This experience left an indelible imprint about the tenuous relationship with water and living in southern California.

While living in the area now known as Eastvale in the 1990's, when dairy cows outnumber people, well water contamination was a constant issue due the nitrate levels. A human caused surface and groundwater contamination problem known as the Stringfellow Acid Pits also created issues with potable well water use. There were endless community meetings, lawsuits, and mitigation measures implemented to address the problem in my community.

I own property in Utah where water use is highly regulated and adjudicated under strict adherence water rights use laws. I have to provide the state documentation about water use with dire consequences for failure to comply with reporting cycles.

As a homeowner in Yucaipa, between 2001 and 2020, a flood control channel ran through my property that was subject to a variety of requirements for flood control, protected woodlands, and seasonal waterway with animal habitat conditions and constraints.

In my law enforcement tenure in the 1980's, I was Special Deputy Sheriff with primary responsibility for protecting reservoir systems, wetland habitat, and conservancy lands in southern Orange County from illegal activity and damage.

In my fire service career from 1988-2015, I was the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District agency representative to the City and County's technical review committees within the community development and building and safety departments. I was the fire district's resource to the collaborative plan check and approval process with the Cucamonga Valley Water District for all water systems where fire protection services were a component and included: public fire hydrants, distribution systems, reservoirs, and on-site fire service and systems, including fire pumps and reservoirs.

I was a fire district peace officer and a member of our hazardous materials response team that frequently responded to spills and discharges that threatened or compromised drainages, waterways, basins, flood control channels and facilities, as well as, the broad umbrella of the navigable waters of the US, which pretty much is anything that could make it to the ocean. I was to primary point of contact between an endless number of local, regional, state, tribal, and federal agencies on anything environmental where water was always a threat or consideration.

I participated in the budgetary process as the primary preparer for numerous account and cost centers of the annual comprehensive budget preparation, approval, and spending process for the fire district in these program areas: Fire Prevention, Hazardous Materials, Vegetation Management, Weed Abatement, and many smaller budget areas.

I am the author of many standard operating procedures and policies for a wide range of programs that included operations, prevention, workplace safety, personnel, and EOC operations.

I was a confidential employee that was assigned sensitive, confidential, and multi agency task force functions that routinely involved interaction at the executive and elected official levels, internal and external to the agency, frequently acting for the agency under considerable independence of action.

For many years, I was an elected officer of our labor union with frequent interaction with executive leadership and elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

I have 3 associate degrees and nearly done with a Bachelors in Fire Service Administration with a minor in homeland Security and Emergency Management.

In 2020, my wife and I relocated from our home in the foothills of Yucaipa for the past 20 years to a slower pace in the Sun Lakes Country Club community for several years now. Previously we lived in Mira Loma for 13 years, making our home in the Inland Empire for nearly 35 years.

I believe that my personal and professional experience, education, and interests gives me the knowledge, skills, and abilities to function at a leadership capacity in an organization and I believe that if given the opportunity to serve as the appointed to the vacant Director seat for Division 3, I would serve the public and the agency with a balanced perspective of reasonable institutional needs and responsibly represent the constituents values in the representative governance process.

In conclusion, California's water supply and delivery system is complicated and needs leadership that can navigate through the challenges to ensure that the served communities get what they need today and well into the future; I believe that I can contribute as part of the team that can make that happen at the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.