

# ***San Geronio Pass Water Agency***

**DATE:** August 21, 2023  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Lance Eckhart, General Manager  
**BY:** Cheryle Stiff, Executive Assistant  
**SUBJECT: ACWA Region 9 Election 2024-2025 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 cast its vote for an individual Region 9 chair, vice chair and three to five board members.

## **BACKGROUND**

Region 9 Board members are elected to represent the issues, concerns and needs of your region. The Region 9 chair and vice chair will serve on ACWA's Board of Directors for the next two-year term beginning January 1, 2024. Additionally, the newly elected chair and vice chair will make the Region 9 committee appointment recommendations to the ACWA president for the 2024-2025 term. Also, either the chair or vice chair will hold a seat on the ACWA Finance Committee.

The slate includes one nominee for Chair, one nominee for Vice Chair, and five candidates representing the two areas within the Region (Arid and Western). 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. A copy of the Region 9 ballot is included in the agenda package.

Director Letulle is not listed on the recommended slate but is on the ballot as a nominee. Included in the agenda packet is a letter from Rancho California Water District requesting that the Agency support one of its directors, Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There will be costs associated with travel and hotel accommodations in the event Director Letulle is appointed to ACWA's Region 9. There is no fiscal impact if Director Letulle is not appointed.

## **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 15, 2023, and is to be signed by the Agency's authorized representative, President Larry Smith.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Official Region 9 Board Ballot | 2024-205 Term

Request for support for Director Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady (Rancho California Water District Board Member)

# OFFICIAL REGION 9 Board Ballot

2024-2025 TERM



**Please return completed ballot  
by Sept. 15, 2023**

**E-mail:** [regionelections@acwa.com](mailto: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:

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 2024-2025 term, the chair shall be from the Arid area.

Submitted board candidate bios and headshots are available on [www.acwa.com/elections/2023-region-elections/](http://www.acwa.com/elections/2023-region-elections/).

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### Nominating Committee's Recommended Slate

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

#### CHAIR:

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

#### VICE CHAIR:

- **Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady**, Vice President, Rancho California Water District (Western)

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

- **Brenda Dennstedt**, Board Member, Western Municipal Water District (Western)
- **Gina Dockstader**, Director, Imperial Irrigation District (Arid)
- **James Morales Jr.**, Vice Chairman, East Valley Water District (Western)
- **Paul Ortega**, President of the Board of Directors, Desert Water Agency (Arid)
- **Harvey Ryan**, Board Member, Elsinore Valley Municipal 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)

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

#### CANDIDATES FOR VICE CHAIR: (CHOOSE ONE)

- Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady**, Vice President, Rancho California Water District (Western)

#### CANDIDATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS: (MAX OF 5 CHOICES)

- Amber Duff**, Director, Mission Springs Water District (Arid)
- Chander Letulle**, Director, San Geronio Pass Water Agency (Arid)
- David E. Raley**, Director, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (Western)
- G. Patrick O'Dowd**, Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority (Arid)
- Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady**, Vice President, Rancho California Water District (Western)
- Brenda Dennstedt**, Board Member, Western Municipal Water District (Western)
- Gina Dockstader**, Director, Imperial Irrigation District (Arid)
- James Morales Jr.**, Vice Chairman, East Valley Water District (Western)
- Paul Ortega**, President of the Board of Directors, Desert Water Agency (Arid)
- Harvey Ryan**, Board Member, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (Western)

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AGENCY NAME

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE



August 8, 2023

Larry Smith  
Board President  
San Geronio Pass Water Agency  
1210 Beaumont Ave  
Beaumont, CA 92223

**Re: Support for Director Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady - ACWA Region 9 Board Member**

Board of Directors

**John V. Rossi**  
President

**Brian J. Brady**  
Senior Vice President

**Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady**

**J. D. Harkey**

**John E. Hoagland**

**William E. Plummer**

**Bill Wilson**

Officers

**Robert S. Grantham**  
General Manager

**Jake Wiley, P.E.**  
Assistant General Manager  
Engineering and Operations

**Kathleen M. Naylor**  
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

**Kelli E. Garcia**  
District Secretary

**James B. Gilpin**  
Best Best & Krieger LLP  
General Counsel

Dear President Smith:

On behalf of the Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water/District), it is my pleasure to share our Board's unanimous support for Director Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 9 Board. Rancho Water is a water, wastewater, and recycled water provider serving the Temecula and Murrieta Valleys and surrounding unincorporated areas. Throughout Director Gonzales-Brady's time on the Rancho Water Board of Directors, she has provided exemplary leadership and clear direction, which she demonstrated with excellence as the immediate past president of the Rancho Water Board of Directors.

Enclosed is a candidate statement highlighting some of Director Gonzales-Brady's accomplishments. You will notice that Director Gonzales-Brady brings over 20 years of experience with water and conservation districts across the region, including her various leadership roles within ACWA. These positions include membership on the Communications Committee, Membership Committee, and the Agriculture Sub-Committee.

Director Gonzales-Brady's diverse background includes not only her professional experience in manufacturing and construction but also extensive experience with agriculture as she is a California vineyard owner. This gives her a truly unique and holistic perspective on water issues that we believe would be invaluable to this position.

In addition to supporting Director Gonzales-Brady for the Region Board, Rancho Water would like to encourage your vote for her as the Region 9 Board Vice Chair. As you share this information with your board colleagues, I hope you will join us in our strong support for Director Gonzales-Brady and her excellent work.

Sincerely,

**RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT**

John V. Rossi  
Board President

cc: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

**Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady**  
**Director, Rancho California Water District**



## Candidate Statement

Candidate Statement for ACWA Region 9 Board, Vice Chair

As you review the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 9 ballot and the Nominating Committee's recommended slate for the 2023-2024 term on our Board, I am pleased to introduce myself and ask for your concurring vote in support of my candidacy for Vice Chair.



Elected to the Rancho California Water District Board of Directors in 2017, I am the District's immediate past Board President (2021 and 2022) and previously served as Senior Vice President (2020) and Vice President (2017-2019). Prior to joining Rancho Water's Board, I was twice appointed by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to the Board of Directors of the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (TEAM RCD).

I have served on ACWA's Region 9 Board for two terms, represent our Region on the ACWA Election Committee, and chair our newly formed Engagement Work Group. For over 20 years I've been active in ACWA - most recently as a member of the Membership Committee, the Communications Committee, and the Ag Sub-Committee. I also am Rancho Water's representative to the ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA).

My professional career in procurement, manufacturing, and construction spans federally-regulated industries including electric and water utilities. A native Californian and vineyard owner, I give back to my community through charities and participation in advocacy groups such as the Temecula Winegrowers Association, Temecula Valley Horsemen's Association, and Southwest California Legislative Council. I am passionate about water issues, and in addition to my work at ACWA, I am also on other Boards such as the Urban Water Institute (UWI) Board of Directors and the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) Board of Trustees, where I am co-Chair of that organization's Legislative Task Force.

It has been my honor to serve alongside my dedicated colleagues on the Region 9 Board. I look forward to continuing to build upon the work of the past Boards to promote and advance the priorities, initiatives, and interests of ACWA and our Region 9 members. Thank you for your support.



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[RanchoWater.com](http://RanchoWater.com)