

San Geronio Pass Water Agency

DATE: April 1, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Lance Eckhart, General Manager
SUBJECT: LAFCO 2024 Special District Selection Committee Ballot

RECOMMENDATION

Staff has no recommendation.

BACKGROUND

The Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Board consists of commissioners and alternates. In Riverside County, commissioners represent either the eastern or western portion of the County. However, Special Districts participate in the election for Special District commissioners. The current election is for one commissioner representing the eastern half of the County, and one commissioner representing the western half of the County.

ANALYSIS

LAFCO, is the arm of the County government that deals with annexations, incorporation of new cities, changes in service areas, etc. It is governed by a board of directors that represents the County, cities, and special districts. The purpose of this proposed board action is for the Board to give direction to the President as to who it wishes to support for both a regular and alternate member of the LAFCO board representing Special Districts.

ACTION

One (1) LAFCO Regular Special District Member – Eastern Region: A total of two (2) eligible nominations were received for this position. Although candidates were restricted to the Eastern Region area of the County, all members of the SDSC may cast ballots for this position.

One (1) LAFCO Regular Special District Member – Countywide: A total of five (5) eligible nominations were received for this position. Candidates for the Alternate Special District Member are not restricted to a Region, and all members of the SDSC may cast ballots for this position.

The ballot is to be filled out by ranking each region’s nominees in the order of preference, using “1” for your first choice, “2” for your second choice, “3” for your third choice and so on. Please note ranking more than one candidate will not work against your first-choice candidate, however, voting for only one candidate is allowed.

Completed ballots must be delivered via electronic mail to rholtzclaw@lafco.org, or by regular mail or hand delivered to the LAFCO office at 6216 Brockton Avenue, Suite 111-B, Riverside CA 92506 **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024.**

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact to voting for LAFCO commissioners.

ATTACHMENTS

2024 LAFCO SDSC Official Election Ballot and Instructions
Candidates Statement and Letter of Support



February 15, 2024

via electronic mail

2024 BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE- ONE (1) EASTERN REGION REGULAR MEMBER AND ONE (1) COUNTYWIDE ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE RIVERSIDE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To the Special District Selection Committee (Presiding Officers of Independent Special Districts of Riverside County c/o District Clerks):

Please read these instructions carefully before completing your ballots.

As previously announced, a physical meeting of the Special District Selection Committee (SDSC) is not feasible at this time, therefore, the selection proceedings are being conducted by electronic mail or regular USPS mail. A nomination period for the positions in the title above was opened on December 15, 2023, and closed at 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2024.

Enclosed you will find an official election ballot for each position as follows:

One (1) LAFCO Regular Special District Member – Eastern Region: A total of two (2) eligible nominations were received for this position. Although candidates were restricted to the Eastern Region area of the County, all members of the SDSC may cast ballots for this position.

One (1) LAFCO Alternate Special District Member – Countywide: A total of five (5) eligible nominations were received for this position. Candidates for the Alternate Special District Member are not restricted to a Region, and all members of the SDSC may cast ballots for this position.

All members of the SDSC may cast a ballot for one (1) Regular member for the Eastern Region, and one (1) for the Alternate member Countywide.

Pursuant to procedures adopted by the Selection Committee in 2016, the election for a LAFCO regular member position will be conducted using Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). IRV eliminates the requirement for the expensive and lengthy process of sending out a second runoff ballot to achieve a majority. An example demonstrating how IRV works is attached.

Please fill out your ballot by ranking each region's nominees in the order of preference, using "1" for your first choice, "2" for your second choice, "3" for your third choice and so on. Please note ranking more than one candidate will not work against your first choice candidate, however, voting for only one candidate is allowed. Do not mark the same number beside more than one candidate and do not skip numbers.

General Instructions and Information:

- Completed ballots must be delivered via electronic mail to rholtzclaw@lafco.org, or by regular mail or hand delivered to the LAFCO office at 6216 Brockton Avenue, Suite 111-B, Riverside CA 92506 **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024.**
- Only the presiding officer or another board member authorized by your board of directors to vote, may cast the ballots. Board members designated by their district board to vote in place of the presiding officer must provide that authorization (in the form of a resolution or minute order) to LAFCO no later than the time the ballots are cast. District managers or other staff members may not vote.
- The voting member must print his or her name on the ballots as well as sign and date the certification indicating he or she is authorized to vote for the district.
- We must receive each ballot with an original signature. However, if you deliver your ballot via electronic mail, you may return a scanned copy of the signed ballot by email to rholtzclaw@lafco.org
- Failure to follow these instructions will invalidate the ballot not meeting these requirements.

Finally, these positions ensure special districts are appropriately represented on the LAFCO Commission. Appointments are only valid if ballots representing a quorum, from 29 of our 55 independent special districts, are returned. Please return your ballots in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (951) 369-0631.

Sincerely,



Gary Thompson
Executive Officer

cc: Special District Selection Committee - District Managers

Attachments:

2024 Special District Selection Committee – Official Election Ballots
Instant Runoff Voting Election Process (IRV)

February 15, 2024

via electronic mail

**SPECIAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEMBER
2024 BALLOT**

Name of District: _____
Print District Name Here (required)

Certification of voting member:

I, _____ hereby certify that I am (check one):
Print Name Here (required)

- The presiding officer of the above-named district.
- A member of the board of the above-named district authorized by the board to vote in place of the presiding officer. [Authorization previously transmitted attached]

Signature (required)

Date (required)

**Regular Special District Member of the
Local Agency Formation Commission – Eastern Region – Riverside County**
(Term running May 6, 2024 through May 1, 2028)

Please rank the candidates in preferential order, “1” being the first preference, “2” being the second.

	<i>Circle rank for each candidate</i>	
BRUCE UNDERWOOD, Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District	1	2
CÁSTULO ESTRADA, Coachella Valley Water District	1	2

Listed in random drawing order conducted on 2/14/2024 at 9:39 a.m.

Completed ballots must be delivered via electronic mail to rholtzclaw@lafco.org, or by regular mail or hand delivered to the LAFCO office at 6216 Brockton Avenue, Suite 111-B, Riverside CA 92506 **no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2024.**

February 15, 2024

via electronic mail

**SPECIAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE
ALTERNATE MEMBER
2024 BALLOT**

Name of District: _____
Print District Name Here (required)

Certification of voting member:

I, _____ hereby certify that I am (check one):
Print Name Here (required)

- The presiding officer of the above-named district.
- A member of the board of the above-named district authorized by the board to vote in place of the presiding officer. [Authorization previously transmitted attached]

Signature (required)

Date (required)

**Alternate Special District Member of the
Local Agency Formation Commission (Countywide)**
(Term running May 6, 2024 through May 1, 2028)

Please rank the candidates in preferential order, "1" being the first preference, "2" being the second, etc.:

	<i>Circle rank for each candidate</i>				
BERNARD MURPHY, Rubidoux Community Services District	1	2	3	4	5
STEVE PASTOR, Lake Hemet Municipal Water District	1	2	3	4	5
ANGELA LITTLE, Valley-Wide Recreation & Park District	1	2	3	4	5
HARVEY RYAN, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	1	2	3	4	5
RICHARD LAWHEAD, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation & Park District	1	2	3	4	5

Listed in random drawing order conducted on 2/14/2024 at 9:39 a.m.

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INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING (IRV) ELECTION PROCESS

Introduction

In 2016, the Special District Selection Committee voted to utilize instant runoff voting (IRV) for all future elections to select members to the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). IRV is a method of conducting elections with three or more candidates whereby a majority determines the winner without the need to have a second ballot/runoff proceeding. A separate runoff election could cause a delay of more than 90 days, as well as causing LAFCO additional expense.

The explanation below and example that follows illustrates how the instant runoff voting method will be used for determining the winner in a fictional election for the "Porcupine LAFCO" Special District Commissioner open seat. A process similar to the one explained below will be utilized to determine the Riverside LAFCO Special District Member.

Ballot Specifications and Directions to Voters

The ballot will allow a voter to rank candidates in order of preference. All nominated candidates are listed on the ballot. Voters will vote for candidates by indicating their first-choice candidate, their second-choice candidate, their third-choice candidate, and so on.

The voter will indicate his/her first choice by marking or circling the number "1" beside a candidate's name, the second choice by marking or circling the number "2" by that candidate's name, the third choice by marking the number "3," and so on, for as many choices as the voter wishes.

Voters are free to rank only one candidate, however, doing so does not offer any additional advantage to that candidate, as ranking additional candidates cannot help defeat a voter's first-choice candidate. Voters must not mark the same number beside more than one candidate or skip rank numbers.

Ballot Counting

The ballots cast will be tabulated and the result declared by the official responsible for conducting the election. Votes will be counted for each candidate using the following procedure:

- The first choice marked on each ballot shall be counted. If any candidate receives a majority of the first choices, that candidate shall be declared elected.
- A majority is a number of votes greater than half (50%+1) of the total number of ballots received.
- If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, the candidate who received the fewest first choices shall be eliminated and each vote cast for that candidate shall be transferred to the next-ranked candidate on that voter's ballot. If, after this transfer of votes, any candidate has a number of votes constituting a majority, that candidate shall be declared elected.

- If no candidate receives a majority of votes from the continuing ballots after a candidate has been eliminated and his/her votes have been transferred to the next-ranked candidate, the continuing candidate with the fewest votes from the continuing ballots shall be eliminated. All votes cast for that candidate shall be transferred to the next-ranked continuing candidate on each voter's ballot. This process of eliminating candidates and transferring their votes to the next-ranked continuing candidates shall be repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes from the continuing ballots. This candidate shall be declared elected.

Example:

Four candidates are running for the Porcupine LAFCO Special District Commissioner open seat: Paul Alto, Mort Bragg, Charlene Newberry, and Samantha Cruz. 60 ballots are cast, therefore a candidate needs a majority of 31 votes to win the election:

- Alto is ranked #1 on 10 ballots
- Bragg is ranked #1 on 25 ballots
- Newberry is ranked #1 on 5 ballots
- Cruz is ranked #1 on 20 ballots

In the first round no one receives the required majority of 31 votes. Newberry, as the candidate receiving the fewest first (#1) choice votes, is eliminated. Those 5 ballots that had Newberry ranked as their first (#1) choice are reviewed for their second (#2) choice. On those 5 ballots:

- Alto is ranked #2 on 3 of those 5 ballots
- Bragg is ranked #2 on 1 of those 5 ballots
- Cruz is ranked #2 on 1 of the 5 ballots.

These second (#2) choice votes, which are now first (#1) choice votes for the succeeding candidates, are added to the results of the first (#1) choice count in round one as follows:

- Alto has 10 plus 3 for a total of 13 votes
- Bragg has 25 plus 1 for a total of 26 votes
- Cruz has 20 plus 1 for a total of 21 votes

Thus, in the second round, no one receives the required majority of 31 votes. Alto, as the candidate receiving the fewest adjusted first (#1) choice votes in this round is eliminated. Those thirteen ballots that had Alto ranked as their adjusted first (#1) choice are reviewed for their second (#2) choice, or (third (#3) choice, if adjusted from the previous round). On those 13 ballots:

- Bragg is ranked #2 (plus one adjusted #1 from the first round) on 8 of those 13 ballots
- Cruz is ranked #2 (plus one adjusted #1 from the first round) on 4 of the 13 ballots.

These second (#2) choice or third (#3) choice votes, are now designated as first (#1) choice votes for the succeeding candidates, and are added to the results of the adjusted first (#1) choice count from the second round as follows:

- Bragg has 26 plus 8 for a total of 34 votes
- Cruz has 21 plus 4 for a total of 25 votes
- One of the ballots did not pick a second or third choice candidate.

Bragg wins with 34 votes (the required majority was 31) and Cruz is second with 25 votes.

Rubidoux Community Services District

Board of Directors

John Skerbelis, President
Hank Trueba Jr., Vice-President
Bernard Murphy
Armando Muniz
F. Forest Trowbridge

General Manager

Brian R. Laddusaw



Water Resource Management Refuse Collection Street Lights Fire / Emergency Services Weed Abatement

February 29, 2024

To Special District Board Presiding Officers and District Clerks

To Whom it May Concern:

The Rubidoux Community Services District (“Rubidoux”) is proud to endorse Bernard Murphy for the Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) of Riverside County Alternate Special District Member – Countywide seat.

Mr. Murphy brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this role, particularly in the realms of water and wastewater infrastructure. His tenure on the Rubidoux Board of Directors, which began with his appointment in April 2016 and subsequent election that same year, has been marked by dedicated service and exemplary leadership. Mr. Murphy has demonstrated his commitment to Rubidoux's mission through two terms as Board President, first in 2018 and most recently in 2023.

As California's first community services district, Rubidoux has a long history of providing essential services to its residents. From water and wastewater management to solid waste disposal, fire protection, weed abatement and street lighting, Rubidoux's contributions have been instrumental in the development and growth of the region, culminating in the incorporation of the City of Jurupa Valley in 2011.

Mr. Murphy's professional background spans over 25 years in the engineering industry, with notable positions at esteemed firms such as JF Davidson Associates, Inc., the Army Corps of Engineers, and Hewitt Zollars. His specialization in storm drains projects and his current role at the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District underscore his expertise in infrastructure development and water resource management. Given his extensive experience and proven track record of community engagement, Mr. Murphy is eminently qualified to serve on the LAFCO Board. His deep understanding of the complexities of local governance, coupled with his engineering acumen, make him an ideal candidate for this position.

Rubidoux wholeheartedly endorses Mr. Murphy's candidacy and urges your support for his election to the LAFCO Board. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Rubidoux at (951) 684-7580 or Mr. Murphy directly at (951) 790-2347.

Thank you for considering this endorsement.

Sincerely,



BRIAN R. LADDUSAW, CPA
General Manager

March 5, 2024

Morning Esteemed Colleagues and Leaders of Special Districts in Riverside County,

On behalf of Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD), I humbly request your district's support and vote for Director Harvey R. Ryan for the Alternate Special District Countywide seat on the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). I've attached his biography for reference.

Director Ryan has been serving the public for over 20 years as a member of the EVMWD Board of Directors. I feel Director Ryan is an ideal candidate and suitably qualified for this seat. As a long term resident of the region, he has seen the area grow, and understands the dynamics of all the moving parts that make a community effective and what it can be. He is extremely involved in the community and providing excellent public service, whether as a board member for EVMWD or through his numerous charitable and philanthropic work. He has a passion for education and helping young people succeed, which is admirable in today's society. Additionally, he brings a wealth of knowledge and a wide range of expertise in planning and development, where he has served on the Lake Elsinore City Planning Commission and the RDA, and is frequently sought out by local city council or county officials for advice and information. He is currently the Vice President of the Board, serving on several committees and as District representative for multiple organizations including Legislative, Conservation & Outreach Committee, Finance & Administration Committee, Engineering and Operations Committee, Water Planning Committee, Groundwater Advisory Committee, EMWD/EVMWD Group representative, Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce, and several others. In fact, he was recently the Chair of ACWA Region 9, where he was recognized for his leadership in advancing the aims and needs of the region at the state level. Lastly, he has made numerous trips to Sacramento and Washington DC over the 20 years working to advance the needs of the region, support or oppose legislation or regulations that impact the district and region, and obtain various funds that help lower costs to our ratepayers and improve the health of our customers.

I believe that Harvey will do an excellent job representing ALL special districts on LAFCO. With his extensive experience and passion for serving the region along with the support and resources of EVMWD, EVMWD has the upmost confidence he will add value and be a highly regarded member to the proceedings at Riverside County LAFCO.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,
Greg

Greg Thomas

General Manager

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

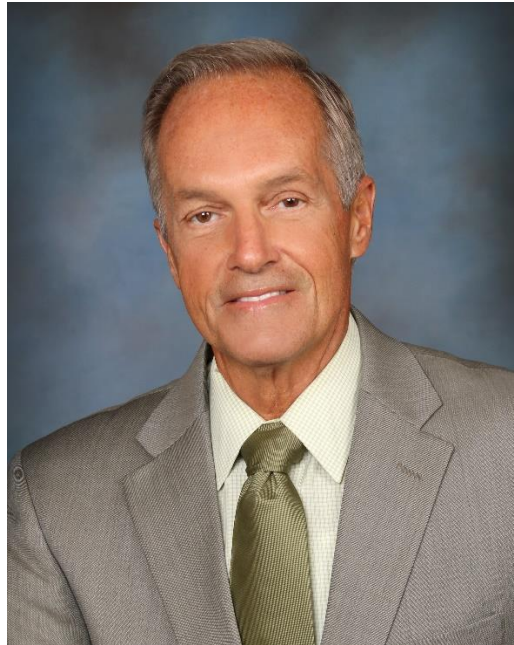
951-674-3146 Ext. 8243

31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530



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The Press-Enterprise • The Sun
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Elsinore Valley Municipal Water
District is a 2022 Top Workplace!
4 Years Running



Harvey Ryan

Candidate Statement

Hello, I'm Harvey Ryan, a Lake Elsinore resident for over 35 years. My wife and I have joyfully raised four kids in this wonderful community. Engaging with our neighbors and actively participating in local initiatives has been a fulfilling journey for us.

In my professional journey, I've thrived in the business sector, with a successful track record in the automobile industry—managing and owning businesses for over 25 years. My knack for objective thinking, honed through my experiences, is an asset that I believe is crucial in community service.

For more than three decades, my dedication to Lake Elsinore has taken various forms. I've actively contributed to local organizations, from serving as the vice president of Little League to being the president of the football boosters. My involvement extends to key roles in the Lake Elsinore RDA Committee, Planning Commission, and other local committees. Volunteering with HOPE, a local food distribution organization, and currently presiding as the board president of the Kennedie June Von Ryan Foundation, reflect my commitment to giving back. For the past 20 years, I've been a proud board member of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, consistently making a positive impact.

If chosen, I look forward to being a positive influence on the growth of our great county.