CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

2700 Foothill Boulevard
La Crescenta, California

Agenda for the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the Crescenta Valley Water District
to be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Posted: Friday, March 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. Members of the public may also participate virtually by using a touchtone phone. You may select any of the following phone numbers (there are more than one for increased reliability during this time of increased phone traffic)

(669) 900-6833	**(346) 248-7799**	**(929) 205-6099**
(253) 215-8782	**(301) 715-8592**	**(312) 626-6799**

Then, enter Access Code: 821 3491 0495

Those members of the public who are able to and would like to additionally participate through computer may access the Zoom audio & video conferencing tool available at the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82134910495

If there is a disruption of service, this meeting will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided as a convenience to the public and is not required.

Public comment may be made either by emailing comments ahead of the meeting or by speaking over the phone. Emailed comments will be sent to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting and posted on the District's website. Comments may be sent to customer service, at (818) 248-3925 or customerservice@cvwd.com by 3pm on March 12, 2024.

Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by contacting the District by phone or in writing at the above email address. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that District staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the District to provide the requested accommodation.

Any written materials distributed to the Board in connection with this agenda will be made available at the same time for public inspection at the District office located at the above address and posted on the District's website.

<u>Call to Order and Determination of Quorum</u>

<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>

<u>Adoption of Agenda</u>

<u>Public Comments</u>

At this time, the public shall have an opportunity to comment on any non-agenda item relevant to the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. This opportunity is non-transferable, and speakers are limited to one three-minute (3) comment. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the Board is prohibited from taking action on items not listed on the agenda, except under certain circumstances.

<u>Foothill Municipal Water District Report</u>

1. Report on activities at Foothill Municipal Water District.

<u>Consent Calendar</u>

1. Consideration and approval of the Minutes of the Adjourned Regular Board Meeting on February 27, 2024.
2. Consideration and approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on March 7, 2024.

<u>Action Calendar</u>

The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Board. This opportunity is non-transferable, and speakers are limited to one two-minute (2) comment.

1. **<u>Ballot for Special District LAFCO Voting Member</u>** – Consideration and motion to cast the District's ballot for the Special District LAFCO Voting Member.
2. **<u>Resolution No. 792 – Appointment of Board Secretary</u>** – Consideration and motion to adopt Resolution No. 792 appointing Arturo Montes, Interim Director of Finance and Administration, as Board Secretary.
3. **<u>Fleet Replacement</u>** – Consideration and motion to authorize the General Manager to purchase replacement vehicles for two dump trucks – Unit No. 25 and Unit No. 18.

<u>Information Items</u>

<u>Written Communications to District/Board of Directors</u>

<u>General Manager's Report</u>

<u>Attorney Report</u>

<u>Reports of Committees</u>

- **Engineering Committee**
- **Finance Committee**
- **Employee Relations Committee**
- **Policy Committee**
- **Community Relations/Water Conservation Committee**
- **Emergency Planning Committee**
- **Technology Committee**

Directors' Oral Reports – Reports on issues, meetings, or activities attended by Directors.

Board Members' Request for Future Agenda Items

Closed Session

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation -
(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

Name of case: *Plone Trust, et al. v. Kalousd Pandazos, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV19845; and *Perry Lazar, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV34822

Conference With Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation -

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One case (BKK landfill).

Public Employee Release

Adjournment

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 27, 2024

Pursuant to the order of the Board of Directors of the Crescenta Valley Water District made at the Regular Meeting on February 13, 2024, an Adjourned Regular Meeting was held on February 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office at 2700 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, California and through audio and video conference. A call-in number was clearly noted on the meeting Agenda, posted in accordance with the Brown Act, with President Sharon Raghavachary presiding.

At roll call, the following Directors and staff members were present or online:

Directors:	**James D. Bodnar** **Kerry D. Erickson (absent)** **Jeffery W. Johnson** **Sharon S. Raghavachary** **Jennifer T. Valdez**
Attorney:	**Thomas Bunn**
General Manager:	**James Lee**
Interim Director of Engineering and Operations:	**Brook Yared**
Interim Director of Finance and Administration:	**Arturo Montes**
Staff Members:	**Tessa Allmon, Customer Service Lead** **Patrick Atwater, Regulatory & Public Affairs Manager** **Kellen Boyce, System Operations Manager** **Adam Sutphin, Senior Management Analyst** **Darlene Telles, Operations & Maintenance Manager**
Guests:	**Frank Colcord, Foothill Municipal Water District**

<u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u>

Mr. Yared opened the meeting by leading the Directors and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

<u>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</u>

It was moved by Director Bodnar, seconded by Director Johnson, and carried by a 4-0 call vote that the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of February 3, 2024, be adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comments.

FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT REPORT – Director Colcord thanked the District for its participation in the Metropolitan Water District's (MWD) upper feeder repair shut down, and that although it was delayed because of the rain, the repairs were completed successfully. He noted that the State Water Project allocation was increased from 10% to 15%. Director Bodnar added that the allocation was based on February 1st runoff data which did not incorporate the multiple recent storms. Director Raghavachary added that the snowpack at the time was 75% and that the Sierras are expected to receive the biggest storm of the season the following weekend.

CONSENT CALENDAR
It was moved by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Raghavachary, and carried by a 4-0 vote to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on February 13, 2024, and to ratify the disbursements for January 2023 which consisted of:

Payment of demands against the Crescenta Valley Water District on or before January 31, 2023, the same having been approved by the General Manager, and heretofore paid, are to be ratified and approved subject to audit, in the aggregate sum of One-Million, Four-Hundred Seventy-Eight-Thousand, Five-Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents ($1,478,593.35), which is composed of the individual items set forth herein.

ACTION CALENDAR

Making Conservation a Way of Life – Mr. Lee informed the Board that this item was discussed in the Community Outreach and Water Conservation Committee. Mr. Atwater presented the regulations outlined by SB 606 and AB 1668 that assign a water budget to CA water agencies. The District is currently in compliance and uses approximately 78% of its allocation. Although there is currently no enforcement for agencies not in compliance, that is expected to change by 2027. Based on the District's current usage, the District is expected to be in compliance through 2035. Mr. Atwater stated that the District is working with the California Data Collaborative to collect and analyze the District's data.

Public Opinion Research Survey Update – Mr. Lee informed the Board that the survey has been completed and that it will be reviewed at the Board workshop to be held at the La Crescenta Library on Thursday, February 29th.

Discussion on Planning for Future Rate Increases and Rate Structures – Mr. Montes presented financial information showing the short-term and long-term effects of rate deferrals or increases on the District's finances and discussed possible measures to mitigate spikes in future expenses. Director Raghavachary stated a preference to defer a decision until after the Public Outreach Survey had been reviewed. Director Bodnar directed staff to provide further discussion and analysis as well.

Following discussion:

The Board agreed to continue the discussion on future rate deferrals or increases and rate structures during the upcoming Board workshop at the library.

Request for Proposals for General Counsel Legal Services – Mr. Lee stated that the Board created an ad hoc committee during the December 12, 2023, Board meeting. Subsequently, that committee met and directed staff to research RFPs for general counsel by other districts, under what circumstances they were issued, and what the terms of engagement were. Staff presented the ad hoc committee with its findings and a draft RFP which the committee directed staff to present to the full Board. Mr. Lee stated that the committee recommended issuing a closed RFP to 6 firms that were identified as leading providers for legal services in the water industry. The Board directed staff to release the RFP to the identified firms with a six-week window to respond.

Following discussion:

It was moved by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Raghavachary, and carried by a 4-0 vote to approve the RFP for general counsel legal services and allow for 6 weeks for a response from the candidates.

Development Job Administration Fee – Mr. Montes stated that the District currently does not have a fee to recover administrative costs for processing development jobs within the District's service area. He also stated that since development jobs are a passthrough service, it would most appropriately serve ratepayers to pass through the costs for administering the program to the developers benefiting from the program. Staff presented the analysis to the Finance Committee and the associated proposed policy to the Policy Committee. The development jobs are categorized into three classes that vary in complexity and directly affect staff involvement at various levels, with corresponding costs derived on a cost-of-service basis. Mr. Montes presented the Board with the methodology and associated fees for each class.

Following discussion:

It was moved by Director Bodnar, seconded by Director Raghavachary, and carried by a 4-0 vote to adopt an administrative fee for development jobs and adopt changes to the District's Rules and Regulations "Article 11: Rules Applicable To Developers and Subdividers" and "Appendix C: Miscellaneous Charges and District Forms".

Record Retention Policy – Mr. Montes stated that the last time the District's record retention policy was updated was in 2005. Since then, best practices and other considerations have shifted, due mostly in part to technology. An updated draft policy was presented to the Policy Committee, which directed staff to present the policy to the full Board. Mr. Montes stated that the updates to the policy include authorizing the Secretary-Treasurer to classify "required documents", allowing scanned documents as an acceptable document medium, and requiring a record of items that are destroyed including a description of the documents and the date destroyed. Any destruction of documents must be within the retention policy.

Following discussion:

It was moved by Director Bodnar, seconded by Director Valdes, and carried by a 4-0 vote to adopt changes to the District's Rules and Regulations "Appendix K: Record Retention Policy".

Board Compensable Activities – Mr. Montes stated that in recent years, there has been a greater burden on directors' time based on operational needs and community expectations. Staff requested that the Board consider expanding what the definition of compensable activities by the Board to ensure that Board members are compensated for their time spent advancing the District's agenda or providing their expertise to the District. Director Bodnar emphasized the importance of transparency with disclosing compensable activities, and Mr. Lee stated that summaries would be memorialized in Board packets. Various directors stated their belief in their role as directors as a public service and their desire to keep their compensation on the conservative side.

Following discussion:

It was moved by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Bodnar, and carried by a 4-0 vote to adopt changes to the District's Rules and Regulations "Article 4.04 Director Fees" updating compensable Board activities and striking the words "at the actual cost of the meal or" from Article 4.05.

INFORMATION ITEMS – None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO DISTRICT – None

GENERAL MANAGER – Mr. Lee announced the appointment of Mr. Montes to the role of Interim Director of Finance and Administration. Mr. Yared announced the successful installation of a 2019 Windows server to replace the District's 2016 Windows server. The new server will provide the District with more flexibility and compatibility with newer software. Mr. Yared also announced the District's award of a $150,000 grant from the State Water Resources Board for a scoping study at Two Strikes Park for a membrane bioreactor (MBR) wastewater treatment facility that includes skimming and injecting treated water back into the aquafer. An added benefit is that the study will revisit the groundwater model to confirm that no contaminants will make it back into the aquifer via treated water injection. Mr. Sutphin reported on "positive pay", one of the measures the District uses to prevent fraud. The system successfully caught a fraudulent check in the amount of $25,000. Mr. Lee announced the Board workshop to be held at the La Crescenta Library on Thursday, February 29th at 5:30 P.M. Ms. Telles provided highlights of the Field Operations and Maintenance Report and pointed out the District's hydrant rebuild program with $7,800 of savings in the month of January by rebuilding three hydrants. Mr. Yared provided highlights of the Engineering Report and announced the approval of a bypass permit for Well 2 to allow blending for nitrates and the near completion of project E-939 SCADA system conversion. Lastly, Mr. Lee announced the advancement of Mr. Jonathan Russo to Operations and Maintenance Worker III (crew leader). He highlighted that Mr. Russo is the first employee to have advanced through the O&M jobs ladder, which was recently created for mobility and to set clear expectations for advancement within the organization.

ATTORNEY REPORT – No report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Engineering and Operations Committee – Director Bodnar reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Finance Committee – Director Raghavachary reported that the Committee had met on February 20, 2024; the agenda is included in the Board packet, and a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Employee Relations Committee – Director Valdez reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Policy Committee – Director Bodnar reported that the Committee met on February 15, 2024; the agenda is included in the Board packet, and a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Community Relations/Water Conservation Committee – Director Raghavachary reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Emergency Planning Committee – Director Johnson reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Executive Committee – Director Raghavachary reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Technology Committee – Mr. Lee reported that the Committee had not met; however, a meeting will be scheduled as needed.

DIRECTORS' ORAL REPORTS

Director Bodnar – No Report

Director Erickson – No Report

Director Johnson – No report

Director Raghavachary – Reported on the extremely low water levels of the Colorado River at Bullhead City

Director Valdez – No report

BOARD MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – None

CLOSED SESSION –

The Board considered four matters on the agenda. For the litigation "In Re Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Prod. Liab. Litig. MDL 2873, D.S.C., No. 18-mn-02873", the Board voted unanimously to opt into the 3M Settlement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, at 9:51 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to March 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

<u>APPROVED</u>

________________________________	________________________________
Sharon S. Raghavachary	James Lee
President	General Manager

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 7, 2024

Pursuant to the order of the Board of Directors, a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors on planning for future rate increases, rate structures, and other global considerations was held on March 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the District office at 2700 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, California with President Sharon Raghavachary presiding.

At roll call, the following Directors and staff members were present or online:

Directors:	**James D. Bodnar** **Kerry D. Erickson** **Jeffery W. Johnson** **Sharon S. Raghavachary** **Jennifer T. Valdez**
Attorney:	**None**
General Manager:	**James Lee**
Staff Members:	**None**
Guests:	**None**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Director Johnson opened the meeting by leading the Directors and staff in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
It was moved by Director Bodnar, seconded by Director Valdez, and carried by a 5-0 call that the Agenda for the Special Meeting of March 7, 2024, be adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

ACTION CALENDAR
Following discussion, it was agreed that the Board will be deferring a rate increase at this time. It was also agreed that staff will continue to provide the Board with ongoing information about short and long-term financial and planning matters including, but not limited to, the acceleration of AMI, short and long-term planning for CIP, including considerations for CIP deferral, and a cost-benefit analysis of pursuing in-house pipeline replacement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, at 7:18 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED

Sharon S. Raghavachary	James Lee
President	General Manager

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - STAFF REPORT

Action Item No. 1
March 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors

From: James Lee – Interim General Manager

Subject: **Ballot for Special District LAFCO Voting Member**

ACTION ITEM:

Ballot for Special District LAFCO Representative – Consideration and motion to cast the District's ballot for the Special District LAFCO Voting Member.

BACKGROUND:

At the January 23, 2024 Board meeting, the Board supported Director Sharon S. Raghavachary's nomination as a candidate for the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Special District Voting Member for the term expiring in May 2028.

LAFCO has retained Mr. William Kruse of Lagerlof, LLP to conduct the election for the position. Mr. Kruse has informed the District that the seven (7) nominees for Special District LAFCO Voting Member are:

- Director Sharon Raghavachary – Crescenta Valley Water District, Water District Board President
- Steven Appleton – Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, Board of Directors
- Jonathan Beutler – Palos Verdes Library District, Board of Trustees
- Gary Burns – Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Board of Directors
- Donald Dear – West Basin Municipal Water District, Board of Directors
- Vera Robles De Witt – Water Replenishment District of Southern California, Board of Directors
- Dirk Marks – Santa Clarita Water Agency, Board of Directors

Included in this package are the ballot forms and the resumes for each nominee. Ballots must be received at the offices of Lagerlof, LLP no later than 5:00 pm on April 26, 2024.

Prepared and submitted by:

James Lee
General Manager

Attachment(s): Candidacies for LAFCO Special District Voting Member
g:\management\board meeting staff reports\2024\03-12 board memo - Ballot for LAFCO Special District Voting Member.docx

NOMINATION
OF
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT VOTING MEMBER
TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

Date: FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Name of Candidate: Steven Appleton

Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District is pleased to nominate Steven Appleton as a candidate for appointment as special district voting member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: BOARD OF TRUSTEE, LOS ANGELES CITY

Agency: GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Type of Agency: SPECIAL DISTRICT

Term Expires: N/A

Residence Address: 2825 BENEDICT STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90039

Telephone: (310) 740-7294 email stevenappleton.art@gmail.com

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
(Name of Agency)

By: [signature]

Its: Susanne Kluh

Steven Appleton

A citizen public servant with technical knowledge, interdisciplinary skill and a collaborative approach.

Mr. Appleton is the past President of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (2020), where he continues to serve as Trustee for the City of Los Angeles. Appointed in 2011, he has encouraged collaboration among public agencies in the planning of parklands, such as by assuring a place at the table for vector control experts in the design of engineered wetlands. He is a Board Member on the Los Angeles County Second District Consolidated Oversite Board and has served in a variety of capacities on watershed issues, including as a Technical Stakeholder to the yearly "State of the Watershed" report for the Los Angeles Region by the Council on Watershed Health.

Steve balances his role as a citizen public servant with his career in public art and education. He has taught at local institutions, including Otis College of Art and Design, USC, and California State University, Northridge. He recently founded the Water Institute of Science Policy that collaborates with California State University Northridge's Institute for Sustainability at California and Center for the Geospatial Science and Technology (CGST) in the creation of community service and educational programming.

As a public artist, he has created permanent and temporary public artworks in Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, Brazil, Denmark, and Finland. Americans for the Arts recognized his work "FaceTime" with a national award in 2007. Most recently, he collaborated with Artichoke Dance Company in a three-day series performances, sculptures and participatory workshops called "Future Currents," sponsored by the Soraya Performing Arts Center. His public art projects have often included internship opportunities for local youth, such as his Metro Green Line project in Watts.

His seasonal business LA River Kayak Safari, has been the leading vendor of kayaking in the Los Angeles river since 2013, bringing more than 12,000 people on a unique tour of the naturalized section of the river in Elysian Valley. His group has broadened the audience for nature recreation by sponsoring more than 20% of its offerings for at-risk youth and underserved communities. As part of the yearly permitting for this business, Appleton is in dialog with US Army Corp of Engineers and regional Park Authorities.

Appleton received his Bachelor of Arts in Sculpture at the University of California, Santa Cruz and studied for his Master of Fine Arts at University of Southern California. He is a resident of the "Frogtown" district of Los Angeles, where he lives with his wife Agnieszka and son Janis.

NOMINATION
OF
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT VOTING MEMBER
TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Palos Verdes Library District

Date: February 15, 2024

Name of Candidate: Jonathan Beutler

Palos Verdes Library District is pleased to nominate Jonathan Beutler as a candidate for appointment as special district voting member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Secretary, Board of Library Trustees

Agency: Palos Verdes Library District

Type of Agency: Library Special District

Term Expires: November 27, 2026

Residence Address: P.O. Box 101
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

Telephone: 310-699-9619

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Palos Verdes Library District
(Name of Agency)

By: Bob Parke

Bob Parke
Its: President, Board of Library Trustees

Candidate to Represent Special Districts on LAFCO

Jonathan Beutler

Trustee, Palos Verdes Library District

My passion for community service and love for our region lead me to respectfully seek your support for my candidacy to represent independent Special Districts on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). I take pride in serving my community and pledge to be eagerly engaged as a Commissioner to bring about fair oversight in ensuring the successful execution of LAFCO's mission. As a results-focused professional, I am dedicated to inclusive decision-making, building bridges and stakeholder engagement in order to reach mutually beneficial outcomes. This approach will guide me on LAFCO as your representative for Special Districts.

Because LAFCO's role is so crucial and its decisions have such long-lasting ramifications, it is imperative that Special Districts' voices be heard! The services of Special Districts transcend the boundaries of cities and touch the lives of people across various jurisdictions, so it is essential that we identify concerted ways to solve regional issues. As a trustee of a special district that serves communities in four unique cities plus other unincorporated areas, I understand that no special district can operate alone in a vacuum and that regional engagement is critical to ensure orderly growth and the balanced protection of public interest. As a LAFCO Commissioner, I will:

1. Advocate for policy outcomes that enhance special districts' capacity to serve effectively;
2. Strive to exercise good stewardship over agency resources;
3. Engage an inclusive range of voices and data and promote a cooperative environment;
4. Favor decisions that enhance the quality of life for communities throughout our region.

My Background

My varied experience has spanned the public, nonprofit and private sectors. In addition to my current service as an elected Trustee of the Palos Verdes Library District, my previous work as a U.S. diplomat has informed much of my approach to results-focused collaboration. Some other relevant highlights that prepare me for the opportunity to serve on LAFCO include:

- Former U.S. diplomat (Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State)
- Appointed twice as County Commissioner: Beaches & Harbors Commission; Library Commission
- Bond Oversight Committee member, Manhattan Beach Unified School District
- Local Control Accountability Plan Committee member, Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District
- Chairman of the Board, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
- President, Harbor City Chamber of Commerce
- Board of Governors, Japan America Society
- Graduate, Leadership Los Angeles; also alumnus of Leadership Torrance and Leadership Manhattan Beach
- Recognized by Empowerment Congress as "40 under 40" in L.A. County
- Co-Chair, International Trade, Los Angeles Business Federation
- Completed multiple CSDA trainings, including Leadership Academy
- Education: Master of Public Policy, UCLA; Master of Spanish Literature, University of Barcelona
- Personal: Married with four children; avid rare book collector; active In the Greek School of Redondo Beach.

Together, we can help LAFCO continue to be a driving force for positive change in our respective communities. As a Commissioner, I look forward to being a compelling voice and contributing in a meaningful way on behalf of independent Special Districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

NOMINATION
OF
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT **VOTING MEMBER**
TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Date: January 16, 2024

Name of Candidate: Gary Burns

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is pleased to nominate Gary Burns as a candidate for appointment as special district voting member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Director, Division 3

Agency: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Type of Agency: Water District

Term Expires: December 4, 2026

Residence Address: 22118 Dardenne Street
Calabasas, CA 91302

Telephone: (818) 222-4200

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
(Name of Agency)

By: [signature]

Its: General Manager

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO):

Nomination of Candidate for Special District Board Member

Gary Burns, Candidate for LAFCO Member Position 2024

I would like to thank each district board that voted for me last year. Although not chosen as an alternate, I am returning this year, asking for your vote, to become a full member of the LAFCO Board.

***It is time to add "fresh" ideas and excitement to how LAFCO communicates and operates*. To that end, please call me at 818 326 2000 to discuss your specific issues. I will listen intently, absorbing your insight.**

I hope to visit each of your Board Meetings via zoom or in person to introduce myself, listen to what is important to your district and provide the confidence that I can lead LAFCO into the future.

I desire to serve as a LAFCO Board Member to further serve the community, each of our districts and provide "new" and "environmental" input to the Los Angeles Region and the Supervisors we report to. Few citizens know what LAFCO accomplishes or what the initials stand for. I intend to change that.

As with the homeowners of Calabasas and the entire www.LVMWD.com area, I am available to advocate for or listen to constituents whenever needed. I pledge to do the same for ALL LAFCO Districts.

Gary Burns was elected to the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board in 2022. (Division 3, currently Secretary). He is the first Calabasas resident to serve on the District Water Board. **Since his time on the District Board, he has imbued his efforts with energy and the desire to effect change.** He has visited various local and state water facilities and Districts. **He is a member of ACWA, CASA, WateReuse and has attended their conventions throughout the year, attaining insight into District, State and Water Policy. He is serving on the Business Development Committee of ACWA Region 8. He is championing a Heli-Hydrant project with Los Angeles County Fire, the City of Calabasas and the local Council of Governments.**

In his efforts to search for new sources of water, Gary has visited the future SITES Reservoir Project, the San Joaquin Delta, and various Metropolitan Water District facilities, including the in-development Carson Pure Water Plant. His goal is to ensure there is a sufficient water supply for future generations, while preserving the environment we cherish in Southern California, the State of California, and the United States.

Growing up on the East Coast, Gary moved to California in 1989, watched the City of Calabasas incorporate in 1991 and has been a resident of Calabasas for the past 35 years. He attended Fairleigh Dickenson (FDU) and Hofstra University where he received a BA and Master's in Psychology and an MBA in Business and Finance.

Gary has been President of the Mulholland Heights Homeowners Association for the past 10 years. Currently, he is a Board Member of Community Associations Institute, 2018 - 2024 (CAI of Greater Los Angeles County), a Board Member of CAI International, National Homeowner Leaders Council 2021 – 2024 and recognized by CAI Los Angeles for Excellence in Community Leadership in 2021, 22 and 23.

He is also a founding member of EPIC, (Emergency Preparedness in Calabasas, www.epic-fsc.com), volunteers for many local community activities, is a partner in the snack foods company Just Pure Foods Distribution (www.justpurefoods.com) and a Life and Health Insurance Broker (https://garyburns.businsslinksolutions.net).

Thank You for your vote and consideration of Gary Burns for LAFCO Board Member (818 326 2000 mobile/text)

NOMINATION
OF
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT VOTING MEMBER
TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: West Basin Municipal Water District

Date: January 22, 2024

Name of Candidate: Donald L. Dear

West Basin Municipal Water District is pleased to nominate Donald L. Dear as a candidate for appointment as special district voting member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Division 5 Director

Agency: West Basin Municipal Water District

Type of Agency: Water Wholesaler

Term Expires: December 2024

Residence Address: 15433 Catalina Ave., Gardena, CA 90247

Telephone: (310) 704-0881

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

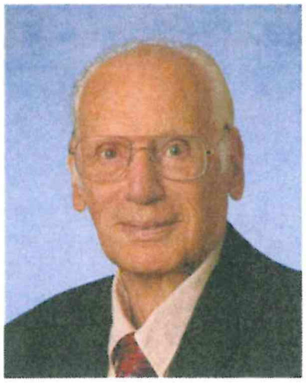
West Basin Municipal Water District
(Name of Agency)

By: E.J. Caldwell

Its: General Manager

Donald L. Dear

Secretary, West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors
Division V



Donald L. Dear was elected to the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Board of Directors in November 2000. He is currently serving his sixth term after being re-elected in November 2020. He represents the Division V cities of Lawndale, portions of Gardena and Hawthorne, and the unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of El Camino Village and Lenno.

Director Dear came to the Board with a vast array of experience in public service, serving on the Gardena City Council from 1970 to 1974 and again from 1978 to 1982, as well as serving as the Gardena mayor for nine consecutive terms from 1982 to 2001. He retired with 27 years of total service to the City of Gardena. Director Dear is currently serving as Secretary of the Board and Chair of the Ethics Committee. He previously served as one of two West Basin representatives on the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California from 2013 to 2018.

In 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016 and again in 2020, he was elected as one of the representatives for the Los Angeles County Independent Special Districts on the Local Agency Formation Commission, of which he currently serves as Chair. In October 2011, the West Basin Board paid tribute to Dear's distinguished public service by naming their Carson Headquarters the Donald L. Dear Building.

Director Dear's years of experience have given him a deep first-hand understanding of the roles, responsibilities and challenges facing local governmental institutions. He served for 24 years as a Trustee of the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District, and for 19 years on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 5. He also served as President of the South Bay Cities Association (now known as South Bay Cities Council of Governments), on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Cities Joint Powers Consortium and is a member of the Sierra Club.

As a former teacher at Stephen White Middle School in Carson for 38 years, he is well known and widely respected by his former students, colleagues and members of the community. In 1983 he was "Teacher of the Year" for Region A of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Dear's professional affiliations include his service as a member of the National Council for Social Studies, board member of the Political Action Council of Educators, and six terms of service as a member of the House of Representatives of the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA). His civic affiliations include the Association for Retarded Citizens – South Bay, El Nido Services, Gardena Elks, Gardena High School Booster Club, Gardena Jaycees, Gardena Valley Cultural Arts Corporation, Gardena Valley Friends of the Library, Gardena Valley Music Association, Gardena Valley Red Cross, Gardena-Carson Family YMCA, Hollypark and Gardena Valley Lions Club, Kiwanis Club of Gardena Valley, Serra High School Advisory Board, and the University of Southern California San Pedro Peninsula Trojan Club.

Director Dear has also distinguished himself through his outstanding work with youth, not only as a noteworthy educator, but also for his 30 years of unselfish dedication as a coach for more than 70 teams in three sports through the Gardena Recreation Department Youth Sports Leagues.

NOMINATION
OF
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT VOTING MEMBER
TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: The Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Date: January 16, 2024

Name of Candidate: Vera Robles DeWitt

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is pleased to nominate Vera Robles DeWitt as a candidate for appointment as special district voting member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Board Member, Division 5

Agency: Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Type of Agency: Special District

Term Expires: January 7, 2025

Residence Address: 24728 Panama Ave.
Carson, CA 90745-6430

Telephone: (310) 505-8353

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Water Replenishment District of Southern California
(Name of Agency)

By: John D.S. Allen

Its: Board President

CANDIDATE STATEMENT
Independent Special District Member
Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission

VERA ROBLES DEWITT

I currently serve as an elected representative on the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD). I have served continuously since 2018 and was overwhelmingly elected for a four-year term in November 2020.

Just like the special district you represent, WRD also plays a vital role that is unknown to most voters. And just like I brought more transparency to WRD, I want to bring transparency to LAFCO.

As your LAFCO representative I will report to you on all LAFCO actions via email at least quarterly and in-person at least annually so that you are no longer in the dark wondering what LAFCO is doing. And just as importantly, as the LAFCO representative for special districts, on all important LAFCO matters impacting special districts, I will seek your input – after all, I will be representing you.

I have a lot of experience in local government, including previously serving for 10 years as a Mayor and Councilmember. In those capacities I became very familiarized with LAFCO and now want to bring that wealth of experience for the benefit of all special districts.

In addition, for years I have been involved in many civic/non-profit programs. For example, I was the founding president of the Boys and Girls Club of Carson as well as a founding Board Member of Dominguez Family Shelter. I currently serve as Vice President of the Carson Kiwanis and for over 6 years have served on the Executive Board of South County Labor, AFL-CIO.

Moreover, as a small business owner for over 50 years, I also bring years of experience in budgets and fiscal matters.

I have one son who is a member of IBEW Local 47 and I raised a granddaughter who currently is an airline Captain flying charter jets.

I would be honored to serve on the LAFCO Board of Directors representing the best interests of the diverse Independent Special Districts.

NOMINATION
OF
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT VOTING MEMBER
TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Board of Directors

Date: February 20, 2024

Name of Candidate: Dirk Marks

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency is pleased to nominate Dirk Marks as a candidate for appointment as special district voting member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Division 2 Director

Agency: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Type of Agency: Special Act Water Agency

Term Expires: January 2027

Residence Address: 27633 Yardley Way, Valencia, CA 91354

Telephone: 661 713-8496

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
(Name of Agency)

By: Gary R. Martin

Its: President

LAFCO Nomination Attachment for Dirk Marks

Dirk Marks is a registered professional engineer with over 40 years of experience in water resource management and planning and is well qualified to support LAFCO's efforts to assure the orderly and efficient provision of public services. His qualifications include:

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Board Member

- Currently serving as Division 2 Director through 2026
- Member of Water Resources and Watershed Committee

Association of California Water Agencies

- Serving on Groundwater Committee

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

- Director representing SCV Water

SCV Water/Castaic Lake Water Agency Work Experience

- Participated in consolidation of three water agencies to form SCV Water
- Managed or oversaw preparation of key planning documents including:
  - 2010, 2015, and 2020 Urban Water Management Plan
  - Supply Reliability Report
  - Regional Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan
  - Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Santa Clara River East Subbasin
  - Annexation of Tesoro Del Val into SCV Water
- Represented SCV Water in several multi-agency organizations including:
  - Safe Clean Water Program Santa Clara River Watershed Steering Committee
  - State Water Contractors Operations and Maintenance Committee
  - State Water Contractors Delta Conveyance Contract Amendment Team
  - Sites Reservoir Committee
- Negotiated multiple bilateral water banking and water transfer agreements

Other Work Experience

- 21-years at Metropolitan Water District managing imported water supplies
- 7-years in private sector designing and inspecting water projects

Education

- Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering, CSU Long Beach
- Completed California Special District Leadership Academy

NOMINATION
OF
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT VOTING MEMBER
TO THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Crescenta Valley Water District Board of Directors

Date: January 23, 2024

Name of Candidate: Sharon S. Raghavachary

Crescenta Valley Water District Board of Directors is pleased to nominate Sharon S. Raghavachary as a candidate for appointment as special district voting member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Member of the Board of Directors

Agency: Crescenta Valley Water District

Type of Agency: Water and Wastewater

Term Expires: December 2024

Residence Address: 2209 Maurice Avenue
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Telephone: 818 248-3925

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Crescenta Valley Water District
(Name of Agency)

By: [signature]

Its: President of the Board of Directors

Sharon Raghavachary
President of the Board of Directors
Crescenta Valley Water District

Director Raghavachary has been active in the La Crescenta Community for over 20 years and has a background in accounting and computer systems.

Currently, Ms. Raghavachary is the President of the Board of Directors for the Crescenta Valley Water District. She has served on the Board since 2019 and has been a past President as well as Vice President.

Ms. Raghavachary is a founder of the Crescenta Valley Community Association. She served for seven years on the Crescenta Valley Town Council, during which time she was co-chair of the Foothill Design Committee that wrote design standards for Foothill Boulevard, the community's main thoroughfare, and was a member of Supervisor Michael Antonovich's Library Committee. She also served as Council Vice President and Land Use Committee Chair.

Additionally, Director Raghavachary served three years on the Parent Advisory Council for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, providing input for the new hospital tower. She has been a volunteer for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Treasurer of the Crescenta Valley Arts Council, as well as a Girl Scout troop leader for ten years. For over five years, she wrote a featured column for the Glendale News Press and the Crescenta Valley Weekly. She also served on the Clark Magnet High School's School Site Council for four years.

Ms. Raghavachary has two children, one currently studying at USC and the other who looks forward to studying abroad.

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - STAFF REPORT

Action Item No. 2
March 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors

From: James Lee – General Manager

Subject: **Resolution No. 792 – Appointment of Secretary to the Board of Directors**

ACTION ITEM:
Consideration and motion to adopt Resolution No. 792 appointing Arturo Montes, Interim Director of Finance and Administration, as Board Secretary.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:
California Water Code Section 30540 applies to county water districts and requires the Board of Directors to appoint a Secretary to the Board. The Secretary to the Board's duties include, but are not limited to, drafting Board agendas and reviewing Board minutes, preparing resolutions and attesting to them, preparing Board, committee, and other meetings, and posting public hearings, legal publications, and other notices. Additionally, the Secretary to the Board supports the General Manager by coordinating other matters between department heads and managers.

With the appointment to General Manager of James Lee, who previously served as the Board Secretary, the Board needs to appoint a succeeding Secretary to the Board. The Board is aware that as a part of the District's succession planning efforts, Arturo Montes, Interim Director of Finance and Administration, has been prepared to serve the Board in this capacity.

RECOMMENDATION:
It is staff's recommendation that the Board appoint Arturo Montes as Secretary to the Board through the adoption of Resolution No. 792.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:
N/A

FUNDING AVAILABILITY:
N/A

Prepared and submitted by:

James Lee
General Manager

Attachment(s):
1. Resolution No. 792

RESOLUTION NO. 792

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
APPOINTING A SECRETARY
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, Water Code section 30540 requires the Board of Directors to appoint a secretary and define the duties for such secretary; and

WHEREAS, the Board Policies and Procedures define the duties of the secretary; and

WHEREAS, the Board determines that Arturo Montes, Interim Director of Finance and Administration, is well qualified to hold the office of secretary,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Arturo Montes is appointed to the office of secretary to serve at the pleasure of the Board. This appointment does not alter Arturo Montes' status as a District employee.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, at a Regular Meeting of Board of Directors of Crescenta Valley Water District held on March 12, 2024, Resolution No. 792 was adopted by the following vote:

YES:
NOES:

ATTEST:

President, Board of Directors
Crescenta Valley Water District

Secretary of the Board of Directors
Crescenta Valley Water District

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, ARTURO MONTES, Secretary to the Board of the Crescenta Valley Water District, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 792 of the Board of Directors of Crescenta Valley Water District adopted at a Regular Meeting held on March 12, 2024, and that the same has not been amended or repealed.

Secretary of the Board of Directors of

Crescenta Valley Water District

DATED: March 12, 2024 **(S E A L)**

CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

Action Item No. 3
March 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Darlene Telles – Operations & Maintenance Manager

Subject: **Fleet Replacement – Two (2) Dump Trucks**

ACTION ITEM:

Consideration and motion to authorize the General Manager to purchase replacement vehicles for two dump trucks – Unit No. 25 and Unit No. 18.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the District's 2020 Strategic Plan goals, staff evaluated and categorized its fleet in order to complete a series of analyses and develop a long-term fleet asset management program to optimize the balance between the cost of repairs, trade-in value, and the current and future operational needs of the District. The categories of vehicles include; pickup trucks; heavy-duty vehicles; specialty trucks/equipment; emergency generators. Staff completed, and the Board approved, an asset management plan for pickup trucks, and staff was working on a plan for heavy-duty vehicles.

During the course of the fiscal year, Unit 25, one of the District's two dump trucks (2008 Ford F-650), a heavy-duty vehicle, developed a $20,000-$30,000 mechanical issue. The O&M team determined that operations could be shifted to manage repairs and emergencies with one dump truck on a short-term basis until the next fiscal year while staff prioritized finding a more fiscally responsible alternative to making the repair. Soon thereafter, Unit 18, the District's second dump truck (2000 Ford F-650) presented mechanical and maintenance issues, and a recent diagnosis shows a costly repair to continue operation of Unit 18. Staff has been able to make in-house repairs to keep the crew operational, but with one truck out and another not reliable, there is a more immediate concern with operational resiliency.

DISCUSSION:

The District's asset management plan analysis for the heavy-duty vehicle category is still ongoing. The replacement of these trucks is not included in the current budget. Circumstantially, an analysis would likely have called for replacement of the trucks based on the balance between useful life and trade-in value.

Staff reviewed quotes for a new dump truck, the lowest for which was $113,650 per truck. Upon discussion, it was agreed that pursuing newer and lightly used trucks would most appropriately serve the District's needs while keeping costs lower. Staff learned of an opportunity with United Rentals (UR), a national equipment rental company, that was selling used equipment at significant discounts due to over-purchasing during the recent pandemic. Upon negotiation, UR offered $78,000 for a 2019 truck with 25,973 miles and $86,000 for a second 2019 truck with 12,517 miles. Since the District needs two trucks, an offer was made for two trucks at $70,000 each, which was accepted. The quotes are summarized in the table below –

Year	Make/Model	Miles	Price	Lead-time
2024	Ford F-650	0	$113,650	6-8 weeks
2019	International	25,973	$70,000	Immediate
2019	International	12,517	$70,000	Immediate

The final offer of $70,000 per truck totals $140,000 or $154,350 including tax. Dump trucks are a basic necessity for operations, and staff believes that this package represents a remarkable pricing opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff's recommendation that the Board authorize the General Manager to purchase two used dump trucks for $154,350.00.

Prepared and submitted by:

Darlene Telles
Operations & Maintenance Manager

NEWS FROM THE CVWD

By CV Weekly on February 29, 2024 · 0 Comments

Crescenta Valley Water District has continued moving forward with its commitment to public outreach. Our first "State of the District" report was recently sent out to provide an update on where the District is operationally and financially. This report includes a look ahead to the efforts, challenges and opportunities involved with continuing to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater services. Also, a public opinion survey was recently conducted with the community by a professional polling firm. The purpose is to determine a representative understanding of what are the needs and perceptions of our customers, and we will incorporate these results into future planning and decision-making processes. Finally, we hosted our first "Office Hours" last month at the La Crescenta Library.

Thank you to those who took time out of their evenings to join and meet with our staff and board members. I know there was a lot of fruitful conversation including ideas shared and questions addressed. Two recurring points of input were: 1) what are we doing to pursue grant funding; 2) what are we doing to capture storm water, a timely question on the heels of the fourth-highest rain year on record last year (48.1") and the storms over the last several weeks.

Storm water capture is common sense. The last 22 years in California, other than the atmospheric rivers from last year, have been the driest in 12 centuries. Meanwhile, we collectively observe (and wince at) millions of gallons of storm water washing out to the ocean. However, we are in an environment where there are complicated downstream claims to water rights and challenges to completing even relatively basic projects – e.g. directing water from the storm channels into infiltration galleries under the ball fields at CV County Park. Though we continue to pursue these projects, we must consider alternatives in the interim.

One alternative we've followed up on is a partnership between our wholesale agency, Foothill Municipal Water District, and the City of Pasadena's Water & Power Dept., the City of Glendale's Water & Power Dept., the California Data Collaborative and NASA. This partnership has recently submitted a grant proposal to Metropolitan Water District. Winning the grant means being able to pursue low-cost, green infrastructure projects to capture storm water, including potential partnerships with LA County. And even if we don't receive grant funds, this collaboration demonstrates an entirely new level of partnership among our regional stakeholders, and that road can only lead to good things. Particular thanks to Nina Jazmadarian, general manager of Foothill MWD, and Patrick Atwater, Regulatory & Public Affairs manager, for quarterbacking this process through which we fed two birds with one pie (going after both storm water and grants).

We’ve submitted for other grants as well. One grant provides funding for a more robust Emergency Response Plan (ERP), one of the District’s highest priorities as a water purveyor. We were recently awarded a grant to supplement the cost of a sorely needed replacement for an excavator (heavy equipment digger) beyond its last legs. We were also recently awarded a grant to help pay for a study regarding the feasibility of treating wastewater collections to provide recycled water. These external grant moneys provide additional bang for our buck as a community.

Switching gears a bit, we recently completed financing of a bond as planned, with a very favorable credit rating from Standard & Poor’s (AA-) and a very favorable interest rate with the financing structured for the flexibility to refinance in five years. The bonds pair with the capital charge on the property tax roll by leveraging customers’ dollars to stretch costs over a few generations and allow pipeline to be replaced sooner rather than later. Since proactive maintenance costs several multiples less than reacting to emergency water main breaks or sewer overflows, we are also capturing significant savings over the long run. Meanwhile, construction costs continue to soar, and we are getting creative to control the rapidly rising cost of infrastructure (well over 50% over the last several years, which our rates can’t keep up with). We’re talking about the prospect of a continued focus on using our own skilled employees to replace pipelines as needed. Currently, we are conducting a pilot study to determine whether the savings from in-house replacement are significant enough to justify investing in the equipment and personnel needed to sustain a long-term effort in this area.

Speaking of personnel, our water and wastewater professionals are serving behind the scenes night and day. Thank you to Morgen DuRose, Systems Operator II, and Kellen Boyce, System Operations manager, for working closely with Jay Bobnes, Operations manager at Foothill MWD during Metropolitan’s weeklong shutdown of the main line feeding imported water to agencies such as us. Customers didn’t notice because we maintain abundant storage for emergency preparedness (up to 10 days, which is well above average), but that effort represents deft inter-agency planning and coordination. Thank you to Darlene Telles, Operations and Maintenance manager, Siaki Mortenson, crew lead, and Jonathan Russo, crew lead, for accelerating a hydrant inspection and maintenance program in coordination with local fire officials to ensure adequate pressure and operations during fire. And welcome to Avo Matsunyan, a local living within our service area who recently joined to maintain and protect the facilities customers' dollars pay for.

Lastly, you will recall that the board of directors recruited a replacement for director Judy Tejeda, who tendered her resignation after more than 30 years of service. I'm happy to share their selection of director Jennifer Valdez, who was sworn in earlier last month. Director Valdez represents customers not only as a homeowner who has adopted conservation-based landscaping but as an experienced engineering professional for Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power. From there, she brings the perspective of having worked with water rights, civil engineering, public outreach and conservation. Please join me in welcoming her to the District's board.

Thank you for taking the time to read and for continuing the dialogue. Our next Office Hours at the Library is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m.

James Lee, General Manager

Crescenta Valley Water District

NEWS FROM THE CVWD <<< JAMES LEE, GENERAL MANAGER added by **CV Weekly** *on February 29, 2024*

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CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

General Manager Report

GM Report
March 12, 2024

To: Honorable President and Members of the Board of Directors
From: James Lee, General Manager
Subject: **General Manager Report**

General Manager's Report Topics:

- No report topics

STAFFING

5 employees have a work anniversary in March: Raymond Dodge – 31 years; Pam Leddy – 22 years; Siaki Mortenson – 8 years; Tessa Allmon – 6 years; Ruben Hernandez – 2 years.

As of March 8th, the District has gone 81 days without a lost time accident.

GENERAL MANAGER ACTIVITIES

Meetings:

Managers Meeting(s)	- March 11th
Foothill MWD	- February 27th
Walnut Valley WD	- February 28th
Leadership Academy, 1st Session	- February 29th
Southern CA Water Coalition: Stormwater Task Force	- February 29th
Board Workshop	- February 29th
Glendale W&P	- March 5th
Valley County WD	- March 5th
Montrose Search & Rescue	- March 6th
PWAG Board Meeting	- March 6th
Foothill Agencies Workshop	- March 6th
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy	- March 7th
Leadership Circle, 2nd Meeting	- March 7th
Special Board Meeting	- March 7th
GM Workshop	- March 7th

Submitted by:

James Lee
General Manager