



San Diego County
Local Agency Formation Commission
 Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

CALL FOR BALLOTS

November 12, 2025

TO: Independent Special Districts in San Diego County

FROM: Erica Sellen, Commission Clerk

SUBJECT: **Call for Ballots |
 Election to Special Districts Advisory Committee**

On September 29, 2025, the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) solicited nominations pursuant to Government Code Section 56332 to fill seven open seats on the 15-member Special Districts Advisory Committee. A total of ten nominations were received following a 30-day filing period. All terms on the Special Districts Advisory Committee are four-years.

San Diego LAFCO is now issuing ballots to all 58 independent special districts in San Diego County and inviting each district to cast a ballot selecting up to seven eligible nominees. Write-in candidates are permitted, and spaces have been provided for that purpose. **Only cast one vote for each nominee on the ballot and vote certification form; a ballot that is cast for more than the indicated number of positions will be disregarded.** The ballot and vote certification form along with nominee resumes provided by the candidates are attached.

State Law specifies a district’s vote is to be cast by its presiding officer, or an alternate member designated by the board and a valid signature is required on the ballot. **A ballot received without a signature will be voided.** A minimum of **30** ballots must be received to certify that a legal election was conducted. A candidate for a special districts advisory committee member must receive at least a majority of the votes cast to be elected. The ballots will be kept on file in this office and will be made available upon request.

Ballots may be submitted by mail, courier, hand delivered, or via email to Erica.Sellen@sdcountry.ca.gov. The deadline for receipts of the ballots by LAFCO is **5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2025**, any ballots received after the deadline will be voided. All election materials are available on the website: www.sdlafco.org. Should you have any questions, please contact me by email or at (619) 321-3380.

Erica Sellen
 Commission Clerk

Attachments:

- A) Ballot and Vote Certification form
- B) Nominee Resumes

Administration Keene Simonds, Executive Officer 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103 T 619.321.3380 E.lafco@sdcountry.ca.gov www.sdlafco.org	Paloma Aguirre County of San Diego Joel Anderson County of San Diego Monica M. Steppe, Alt. County of San Diego	Kristi Becker City of Solana Beach Dane White City of Escondido John McCann Alt. City of Chula Vista	Chair Stephen Whitburn City of San Diego Marni von Wilpert, Alt. City of San Diego	Vice Chair Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation David Drake, Alt. Rincon del Diablo	Brigitte Browning General Public Eileen Delaney, Alt. General Public
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SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER
ELECTION BALLOT and VOTE CERTIFICATION

VOTE FOR ONLY SEVEN NOMINEES

- * **Mike Sims** (Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District) []
- * **James Gordon** (Deer Springs Fire Protection District) []
- Erica Wolski** (Ramona Municipal Water District) []
- * **Jack Bebee** (Fallbrook Public Utility District) []
- Kurt Worden** (Lower Sweetwater Fire Protection District) []
- Lindsay Leahy** (Valley Center Municipal Water District) []
- * **Albert C. Lau** (Santa Fe Irrigation District) []
- * **Kimberly Thorner** (Olivenhain Municipal Water District) []
- * **Dave McQuead** (Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District) []
- * **Mark Robak** (Otay Water District) []

Write-Ins

_____ []

_____ []

As presiding officer or his/her delegated alternate as provided by the governing board, I hereby certify that I cast the votes of the _____ for the Special Districts Advisory Committee election.
(Name of Independent Special District)

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Print Title)

(Date)

Please note: The order in which the candidates' names are listed was determined by random selection.

Return this Election Ballot and Vote Certification form to:
San Diego LAFCO
Erica Sellen
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725
San Diego, CA 92103
Email: Erica.Sellen@sdcounty.ca.gov

* Incumbent member

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Bio for Chief Mike Sims

I have been with Bonita FD for 30 years and in the Fire Service for 35 years

Promoted to Fire Chief at the Bonita Fire Protection District in 2018

Secretary for the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Districts Association

Chair of the Heartland Communications Facility Authority (our 911 dispatch center)

Chair of the Heartland Training Facility Authority (the training facility for all Central Zone FDs)

Advisory Committee member for San Diego LAFCO

Married for 30 years with 2 adult children

Hobbies include mountain biking, metal fabrication and working on classic cars

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James E. Gordon
Director, Deer Springs Fire Protection District
415.852.1086
Jegordon888@gmail.com

Professional History

- Director, Berkeley Research Group; October 2012 to 2014
- Managing Director, Navigant Consulting Asia; March 2005 to October 2012.
- Vice President of Pinkerton Consulting & Investigations; March 2001 to March 2005.
- Executive Vice President and CEO of Online Security; March 2000 to March 2001.
- Managing Director of Kroll Associates; March 1999 to March 2000.
- Managing Director of The Investigative Group, Inc.; June 1990 to March 1999.
- Partner, Philips & Gordon, Litigation Consulting Firm: May 1980 to June 1990.

Former Professional Associations

- American Bar Association (Associate Member)
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association
- High Technology Crime Investigator Association (HTCIA)

James Gordon retired in 2014 after a successful international consulting career and is serving his third term as a Director of the Deer Springs Fire Protection District. Mr. Gordon's professional career includes more than 25 years of experience and expertise advising clients faced with complex high stakes business disputes, litigation and investigations, especially in cross-border matters. Mr. Gordon has served as a consulting and testifying expert as well as a third-party neutral in a diverse range of business and discovery disputes.

Mr. Gordon was based in Hong Kong from 2009 to 2012 as Managing Partner for a global expert services and consulting firm. Mr. Gordon was the consulting expert and project lead on a diverse range of complex matters, including: special committee forensic investigations for Boards of U.S. listed Chinese companies; cross-border discovery; allegations of business fraud; undisclosed related third party asset transfers; Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) investigations; deep-dive M&A and FCPA due diligence; international arbitration; royalty disputes; intellectual property rights (IPR); and dumping/trade issues.

Mr. Gordon worked on many of the highest-profile regulatory and enforcement investigations in US history, including: the Wall Street IPO Securities Litigation; Tyco; WorldCom; Parmalat; HealthSouth; and Enron. His work involved matters throughout Asia, China, Canada, UK and the United States

advising clients and their counsel in responding to investigations by: U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ); Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE); NASDAQ; Federal Trade Commission (FTC); United States International Trade Counsel (USITC) and Congressional and Senate Investigations.

Mr. Gordon was a frequent presenter at In-House Corporate Counsel events, American Bar Association conferences and at the International Pacific Bar Association on topics critical to managing business risks

and resolving cross-border disputes including; *“Anti-Corruption and Fraud Investigations in Asia,” “Managing Counterparty Business Risk with Business Intelligence and Analytics,” “Developing Cost Effective Strategies for Managing Cross-Border Discovery,” “Electronic Discovery in Asia-U.S. Cross-Border Disputes,”* and *“Evidentiary Issues in CIETAC Arbitrations.”*

Representative Client Assignments

Special Committee Investigation for Chinese Board of US Listed Company

- For a US listed Chinese company, Mr. Gordon was retained by the Board of Directors to conduct an internal investigation in response to whistle blower allegations. Mr. Gordon led an extensive investigation throughout China to drill down on allegations of accounting irregularities; numerous dealings with related undisclosed third parties; and the sale of one of the company’s manufacturing facilities that was not an arm’s length transaction. Based on Mr. Gordon’s investigation, the company restated its financial statements, changed auditors and Mr. Gordon presented his team’s findings to US based regulatory agencies.

Audit Committee Internal Bank Investigation

- Mr. Gordon worked the bank’s general counsel and the auditors pertaining to a wide-ranging internal investigation which included: investigating whistle blower allegations; an in-depth information technology review; investigation of an external data breach; and investigation of internal misconduct. The summary of Mr. Gordon’s findings was provided to numerous regulatory and law enforcement agencies as well as the AMEX and NASDAQ stock exchanges resulting in no adverse impact to the client.

Major US Financial Institution – Breach of Contract Dispute

- Mr. Gordon was retained as the Court appointed Third-party Neutral Expert in a matter pertaining to allegations of a breach of an Insurance Recovery Agreement for thousands of real estate properties owned by the bank. Mr. Gordon led a team in analyzing hundreds of millions of fields of data from disparate sources including bank loan foreclosure and real estate owned (“REO”) property records, asset manager records, hazard insurance recovery provider data, and insurance claims. The case successfully resolved within a week of Mr. Gordon’s testimony.

ERICA WOLSKI

105 Earlham St | Ramona, CA 92065 | 760.877.9247 | ewolski@rmwd.org

EDUCATION

California State Polytechnic University Pomona, Pomona, CA B.S. Civil Engineering,
Environmental Option, December 2001

EXPERIENCE

General Manager

Ramona Municipal Water District | Ramona, CA

June 2022 – Present

Responsible for administrative activities of an agency that provides water, wastewater and parks and recreation services. Duties include budget development, contract negotiations, and oversight of day-to-day service delivery including of the above services. Implements vision and direction of the elected board of directors. Informs board of issues and opportunities. Interfaces with community organizations, government entities, and individuals on behalf of the organization. Items worked while at Ramona MWD that are related to LAFCO:

- Implementation of 2021 Municipal Service Review recommendations
- Fire/EMS Transfer from Ramona MWD to County Fire Protection District
- Out of Agency Service agreement to provide potable and recycled water to the Barona Reservation

Regional Manager

Woodard & Curran, San Diego, CA

September 2018 – June 2022

Managed a team of 23 people that included water resources/stormwater planners, engineers and hydrologists; environmental planners, and the software development team. Led or advised on technical completion for complex and challenging projects and performed technical tasks of significant difficulty or complexity in recycled water and regulatory work, primarily for potable reuse projects.

Associate Sanitary Engineer -

State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water, Multiple, CA

2002–2005 & 2010–2018

Worked in multiple field offices inspecting and permitting drinking water and recycled water systems throughout the state of California. Provided oversight of County Local Primacy Agency program for San Diego and Imperial County small water system programs.

MEMBERSHIPS/ACTIVITIES

- American Water Works Association – member since 2002
- American Water Works Association – Water Utility Council 2017-present
- California Special Districts Association, member
- WateReuse California, member
- Ramona Leadership Council – monthly gathering of local heads of governments and non-profits to discuss community needs

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SUMMARY: Over twenty years experience in all aspects of management and operation of public water and wastewater utilities. Oversee District operation with a staff of 68 FTE's with water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment, reclamation and collection services.

EXPERIENCE: **Fallbrook Public Utilities District** **9/2017-Present**
General Manager

Oversee all District functions including Finance, Customer Service, Public Relations, Human Resources, Operations, and Engineering. Responsible for establishing a productive and positive work environment. Facilitates development and implementation of the Board of Directors overall vision for the District. Communicates and Coordinates District operational needs with the Board of Directors.

EXPERIENCE: **Fallbrook Public Utilities District** **2009-2017**
Assistant General Manager/District Engineer

Oversee all operations, engineering and planning functions of the District including maintenance/construction, meter services, purchasing, water system operations and wastewater treatment/water reclamation. Responsible for Planning and setting goals for each department and monitoring performance. Responsible for developing and implementing all capital projects.

EXPERIENCE: **Palomar College** **2010-Present**
Instructor – Advanced Water Treatment and Water Reclamation

Instructor of the advanced water treatment and water reclamation course at Palomar College. Course is designed for operators seeking their Grade III or IV water treatment operator or advanced water treatment certifications and additional training in advanced water treatment concepts including ozonation, UV, membranes and water recycling. Course reviews advanced water treatment and water recycling concepts and calculations.

EXPERIENCE: **Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.** **2000-2009**
Environmental Engineering Consulting
Sr. Project Engineer/Project Manager

Served as project Manager and/or Design Manager on 5-10 projects at any time. Managed overall project budget and resources for projects. Coordinated design and start-up with operations staff. Responsible for technical quality on numerous design projects valued at \$6 to \$50 million dollars in construction. Developed planning studies for facilities or agencies to guide future improvements, detailed design drawings for civil and mechanical and instrumentation and control disciplines and oversee construction of facilities.

EDUCATION:	California State University – San Marcos	2005-2007
	Masters of Business Administration	
	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	1998-2000
	M.S. Environmental Engineering	
	Washington and Lee University	1994-1998
	B.S. Physics-Engineering	

LISCENCES:	Professional Civil Engineer, State of California.
	Grade 5 Water Distribution Operator California
	Grade 4 Water Treatment Operator California
	Grade 5 Wastewater Treatment Operator California
	Grade 4 Advanced Water Treatment Operator Certification
	Certified Special District Manager, California Special Districts

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/COMMITTEES:

San Diego California Special District Association Past Chair

San Diego LAFCO – Special District Advisory Group Vice Chair

American Water Works Association – Chair of Management and Leadership Technical Advisory Workgroup. Member Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to help establish legislative and policy priorities.

American Water Works Association CA/NV Section Trustee

ACWA, CSDA, WateReuse, California Water Environment Association - Member

Member of Fallbrook Village Rotary

Past Assignments

Chair of AWWA Management and Leadership Division. Chair and Vice chair of various CA-NV AWWA committees. Member of AWWA Technical and Education Council. Chair of San Diego Chapter of Water Reuse. Board member San Diego County Water Authority.

KURT WORDEN

(619) 245-4550
kworden0@gmail.com

Lincoln Acres
CA 91950-7748
United States

PROFILE

Special district board president with two decades of governance leadership, fiscal discipline, and intergovernmental collaboration. Experienced in advancing community safety, ensuring transparent operations, and representing small district interests in countywide planning and service delivery.

EXPERIENCE

Lower Sweetwater Fire Protection District (LSFPD) — Board President (2004 - Term Expiring December 6, 2028)

Led board oversight of fire protection and emergency medical services for Lincoln Acres through contract with National City Fire Department.

Chaired monthly public meetings, ensuring transparency, accountability, and meaningful community participation.

Maintained structurally balanced budgets, formal reserve policies, and timely audits; resolved historical compliance issues to strengthen fiscal accountability.

Coordinated with San Diego County Supervisors and departments to align fire protection priorities and support community risk reduction initiatives.

Represented Lincoln Acres residents in county-level forums and LAFCO processes, advocating for small district needs in regional service delivery and boundary planning.

Collaborated with regional agencies and service providers to ensure operational continuity, effective emergency response, and long-term service sustainability.

FISCAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Maintained structurally balanced budgets and formal reserve policies.

Ensured transparency through public posting of budgets and audits.

Resolved historical compliance issues, strengthening accountability.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partnered with San Diego County Supervisors and departments to secure funding, align fire protection priorities, and strengthen community risk reduction initiatives.

Represented Lincoln Acres residents in county-level discussions, ensuring small district needs were considered in broader service delivery planning.

Chaired open public meetings and maintained transparent communications, reinforcing trust and accountability between the district and the community.

Collaborated with regional agencies and service providers to maintain operational continuity and improve emergency response coordination.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

President, NDIA San Diego Chapter – Led board governance and industry-government collaboration initiatives.

Business Development Manager, Nova Power Solutions, Inc. (2006-Present)

Retired Master Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Navy (1981-2006)

EDUCATION

University of Redlands – Business Studies (coursework completed toward B.S., 2012)

AB1234 Ethics & Brown Act training (current)

SKILLS

Executive Advising & Policy Guidance – Principal advisor to senior leadership on workforce readiness, organizational policy, and community well-being.

Governance & Regulatory Oversight – Experienced in special district governance, compliance, and service delivery review.

Community & Stakeholder Engagement – Skilled in representing diverse groups, bridging leadership decisions with community impact.

Cross-Functional Collaboration – Adept at building consensus across agencies, partners, and stakeholders.

AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal – Recognized for executive-level leadership as Senior Enlisted Advisor to a U.S. Navy Carrier Strike Group and Senior Cryptologic Manager for Naval Surface Forces.

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5 awards) – Sustained excellence in leadership, policy advising, and workforce development.

NDIA Certificate of Recognition – Honored for fostering government-industry collaboration as Chair of the Navy Gold Coast Conference.

Lindsay Leahy, PE

General Manager – Valley Center Municipal Water District

SUMMARY

Accomplished water industry professional with over sixteen years of experience in the planning, design, construction, and operation of complex water, wastewater, and recycled water systems. Oversees comprehensive utility operations, including water distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, and water recycling programs serving 30,000 residents. Recognized for fostering collaboration, advancing innovation, and championing sustainable resource management within the public utilities sector.

EXPERIENCE

General Manager – Valley Center Municipal Water District

November 2025 – Present

Oversee all functions of the District, including Finance, Customer Service, Human Resources, Operations, and Engineering. Responsible for implementing Board directives, coordinating District operations, and maintaining an efficient, professional, and collaborative work environment.

Deputy General Manager – Santa Margarita Water District

February 2025 – October 2025

Oversaw all operations, engineering, and planning functions of the District, including maintenance and construction, water and recycled water treatment and distribution, and wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal serving over 200,000 residents and 74,000 customers. Directed capital project development and implementation while modernizing District policies and procedures.

Water Utilities Director / Principal Water Engineer – City of Oceanside

October 2018 – February 2025

Oversaw all water, wastewater, solid waste, and recycling services for the City, serving 180,000 residents and over 44,000 customers. Managed water, wastewater, recycled water, and advanced water treatment operations, including distribution, indirect potable reuse, and waste collection and disposal. Directed and managed a five-year, \$500 million Capital Improvements Program. Responsible for utility rate setting and for fostering a productive and positive work environment for more than 170 employees across the three utilities.

Senior / Associate / Assistant Engineer – City of Carlsbad

November 2015 – October 2018

Served as Project Manager overseeing up to five concurrent projects, managing budgets, contracts, and project delivery. Coordinated design, construction, and startup activities with consultants and Operations staff. Ensured technical quality for design projects valued up to \$15 million and mentored staff to enhance technical expertise and project execution efficiency.

Engineering Manager – Everest Solar System

November 2012 – November 2015

Established and managed the Engineering, Research & Development, and Project Management departments. Led the development of a commercial rooftop product line that reduced component costs and installation time.

Project Engineer – J.R. Filanc Construction Company, Inc.

June 2009 – November 2012

Managed construction of \$40–\$160M water and wastewater treatment plant projects, overseeing field operations including job cost control, scheduling, and safety compliance.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- Master of Public Administration, San Diego State University – 2019
- Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, California State University, Chico – 2009
- Water Management & Leadership Certificate, California State University, San Marcos – 2018
- Professional Engineer, CA – License No. M36974

LEADERSHIP & BOARD SERVICE

- San Diego County Water Authority Board - Director
 - Audit Committee
 - Engineering and Operations Committee
 - Administration and Finance Committee
 - Water Planning and Environmental Committee
 - Legislative and Public Outreach Committee
 - Board Governance Workgroup
- South Orange County Wastewater Authority Engineering Committee - Member
- LAFCO San Diego County Water Authority Municipal Service Review Working Group - Member

Albert C. Lau, P.E., MBA

Qualification Summary

Over 30 years of progressively responsible and successful utility management, engineering and planning experiences and including 25 years in leadership and senior management capacity overseeing in-house staff, consultants, and contractors. In my current position as the General Manager with Santa Fe Irrigation District, I am responsible for interfacing with elected officials, regulatory agencies, and other public agencies. I am also responsible for, under directions of the Board of Directors, plans, organizes, directs and reviews the overall activities and operations of the District. Receives policy direction from the Board of Directors and advises and assists the Board of Directors. Represents the District's interests at local, regional, State and Federal levels, and coordinates activities with outside agencies and the community.

Education

- ◆ M.B.A. (2004), San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- ◆ M.S. Civil Engineering (1994), University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- ◆ B.S., Civil Engineering (1992), California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, CA

Professional Experience

Position/Employer/Dates	Dates	Responsibilities
General Manager Santa Fe Irrigation District Rancho Santa Fe, CA	March 19' to present	Under policy direction from Board of Directors, directly responsible for plans, organizes, hires staff, directs and reviews the daily operations of the District to ensure District's mission is fulfilled.
Director of Engineering and Planning Padre Dam Municipal Water District Santee, CA	July 09' to March 19'	Member of the executive team for PDMWD. Successful re-organized the department to improved efficiency and effectiveness that has received numerous project awards.
Engineering Manager Padre Dam Municipal Water District Santee, CA	Sep '00 to July 09'	Directly responsible for capital project implementation and increased the quality, timeliness, responsiveness, efficiency, and overall production of my working group.
Senior Engineer Dudek & Associates Encinitas, CA	Apr '98 to Sep '00	Project manager/engineer consistently completed assignments/ projects on time and within budget. Maintained strong working relationships with public agencies and clients.
Project Manager/Engineer Tetra Tech, Inc. San Diego, CA	July '94 to Apr '98	Project engineer in charge of civil works for various projects.

Key Accomplishments

- Provide leadership, under policy directions from the Board of Directors, to develop a fair and equitable rate structure that would fit the unique and diverse consumption profile of Santa Fe Irrigation District.
- Key member of the senior executive team that developed a new strategic plan that focused on self-reliance and increased independence from imported water supply, more local control of wastewater treatment services, and strengthen financial position.
- Provided strategic leadership in updating the organization's strategy plan and champion for key initiatives of creating asset management plan and developing local water supply and resources.
- Act as the general manager in the absence of the general manager as required.
- Direct the implementation of the East County Advanced Water Purification Program, a partnership between Padre Dam, County of San Diego, Helix Water District and City of El Cajon. This is a \$500M surface water augmentation program, one of the first in the State of California. This regional water supply program will produce up to 30% of East San Diego County drinking water supply locally and provide long term price certainty and enhance local control for the program partners. To date, this program has received approximately \$40M in grants and over \$101M in State Revolving Fund and received regulatory approvals. Served as media spokesperson for interviews and conducted key elected official briefings.
- Served on the statewide advisory panel for the State Water Resources Control Board and Division of Drinking Water to investigate and report to the Legislature on the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse and reservoir augmentation.
- Member of Regional Advisory Committee for the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Work closely with Regional Water Management Group to develop criteria for prioritizing projects for IRWM grant programs for the region.
- Successfully negotiated multiple agreements with County of San Diego, City of El Cajon and Helix Water District to financially participate in determining the feasibility of the East County Advanced Water Purification Program.
- Directed and successfully negotiated Water Service Agreement in conjunction with the San Diego County Water Authority and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California with the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay, first water service agreement to the tribal government in San Diego.
- Served as the co-chair for the Technical Advisory Committee for the Metropolitan Wastewater Joint Power Authority. Review budgets and monitor progress to ensure the regional wastewater treatment and transportation facilities are operated in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- Successfully negotiated with the Regional Water Quality Control Board for the renewal of the NPDES permit(s) for the Stoyer Wastewater Treatment Facility (three cycles). This is the only remaining inland live stream discharge permit in San Diego County.
- Successfully negotiated \$16M of refund from the City of San Diego, Metropolitan Wastewater Department for overbilling of wastewater treatment.
- Directed the implementation of the Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Project. Received \$3M in Department of Water Resources grant (Prop. 50) in constructing an advanced water treatment demonstration facility. Project received state-wide recognitions and regulatory approvals for final implementation from the Division of Drinking Water.

Professional Memberships, Registration, and Certifications

- ◆ Registered Professional Engineer - Civil (CA 59053)
- ◆ Committee member, San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Special District Advisory Committee
- ◆ Past President, California Special District Association (CSDA), San Diego Section
- ◆ Member, American Water Works Association (AWWA)
- ◆ Committee member, CA-NV AWWA, Advanced Water Operator Certification Committee
- ◆ Member, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- ◆ Committee member, Water and Environment Committee, ASCE region 9
- ◆ Member, Water Reuse Association
- ◆ Member, Water Environment Federation & California Water Environmental Association

Recent Professional Recognitions, Publications, and Presentations

- 2016 Leadership Award, Water Environmental Federation, White House Water Summit.
- Lau, A., Huston, P. & Pecson, B., 2016. Padre Dam's Advanced Water Purification Program: Building a Better Future Inspired by Creativity from the Past. J. - Am. Water Works Assoc., 108:11:68.
- WateReuse California (2015) "Breaking IPR Boundaries at Padre Dam's Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Project" by Brian Pecson, Los Angeles, CA, in March, 2015.
- AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition (2015) "Pushing the Boundaries of IPR at Padre Dam's Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Project", Anaheim, CA, in June, 2015.
- IWA International Symposium: Potable Reuse (2016) "Reducing the Need for the Environmental Buffer: Results from Padre Dam's Advanced Water Purification Testing", Long Beach, CA, in January, 2016.
- WateReuse California (2016) "Dual Pursuit of Surface Water Augmentation and Groundwater Recharge at Padre Dam", Santa Rosa, CA, in March, 2016.
- WateReuse Symposium (2016) "Maximizing Product Water through Brine Minimization", Tampa, FL in September, 2016.
- AWWA California-Nevada Annual Fall Conference (2016) "Maximizing Product Water through Brine Minimization", San Diego, CA in October, 2016.
- WateReuse California (2017) "Maximizing Disinfection Infrastructure for Both Potable and Non-Potable Reuse", San Diego, CA, in March, 2017.
- IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse (2017) "Modifying Existing Infrastructure to Maximize Pathogen Control for Potable and Non-Potable Reuse", Long Beach, CA in July, 2017.
- WateReuse Symposium (2017) "Potable Reuse Case Study for Full-scale Predesign of RO with 95% Recovery", Phoenix, AZ in September, 2017.

Mr. Lau has served as the General Manager for Santa Fe Irrigation District since January, 2019. Mr. Lau holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly Pomona, a master's in civil engineering from the University of Colorado (Boulder), and an MBA from San Diego State University. Mr. Lau has over 30 years of experience in the water/wastewater industry. Previously, Mr. Lau served as Director of Engineering and Planning at Padre Dam MWD, where he was responsible for planning, engineering, capital improvements, and contract negotiations. Mr. Lau also oversaw the East County Advanced Water Purification Program, a new local and reliable water supply project for East San Diego County. Prior to Padre Dam, Mr. Lau worked at various private engineering consulting firms focusing on water and wastewater projects.

Mr. Lau currently serve on San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Special District Advisory Committee. Mr. Lau also serves on the American Society of Civil Engineers, region 9, Water and Environment Committee, member of the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Regional Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Advisory Group on Feasibility of Developing Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse and served as the vice-chair for the Technical Advisory Committee for the Metro Wastewater JPA. Mr. Lau also received leadership award in 2016 from Water Environmental Federation. He is also past president for San Diego chapter of California Special District Association.



Kimberly A. Thorner, Esq.
General Manager
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

October 30, 2025

It is with great interest that I submit the attached nomination for the Special District Representative for the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission Special District Advisory Committee. I am the General Manager of Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD) where I have served for the last 29 years. OMWD provides water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity, and park/recreation facilities on behalf of approximately 87,000 customers over 48 square miles in northern San Diego County.

I currently serve as Chair of the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission's Special Districts Advisory Committee (SDAC) and have served on the SDAC for the last 17 years where I have participated and provided input and guidance on dozens of important LAFCO issues during my tenure and have spoken at many LAFCO hearings on behalf of the SDAC.

I have served on WateReuse California's Board of Trustees for several past terms along with six terms as a member of the Association of California Water Agencies' Federal Affairs Committee. Previously, I was OMWD's representative to San Diego County Water Authority, serving on the Audit, Administrative and Finance, and Engineering and Operations committees. I also served as Project Manager for the David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant and the Olivenhain Water Storage Project.

Throughout my tenure in the water industry, I have proven to be thoughtful, forthright, solution-oriented, and collaborative when tackling complex issues that affect multiple stakeholders. It would be my honor to continue serving on LAFCO's SDAC and I respectfully ask for your support and vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly A. Thorner".

Kimberly A. Thorner, Esq.
General Manager
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Kimberly A. Thorner, Esq.
kthorner@olivenhain.com

PUBLIC AGENCY WORK EXPERIENCE

Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Encinitas, CA 2006- Current
General Manager - Under my tenure, OMWD became a AAA rated agency, with rates in the lower half in the county, a customer satisfaction survey rating of 92% in 2022, a Platinum Accreditation from Special Districts Leadership Foundation, and the employees have voted OMWD Best Place to Work several times.

Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Encinitas, CA 2002 - 2006
Assistant General Manager

Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Encinitas, CA 1996 - 2002
Project Manager - Constructed World's Largest Immersed Membrane Treatment Plant at that time; Served on Project Team for the Olivenhain Dam

EDUCATION

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, CA - Juris Doctorate, May 1995

Editor for "The Restater" Law School Newspaper - 1993-1995
Teaching Assistant, Legal Analysis -1993-1994
President-Student Bar Association -1994-1995
Academic Chairperson-Student Bar Association - 1993-1994
American Jurisprudence Award - Fall 1992
American Jurisprudence Award - Spring 1993
West Publishing "Corpus Juris Secundum Award" - 1992-1993

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO - Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, May 1992

Secondary Emphasis - German
Active member of CU Law Club; CU Election Poll Manager -1991
Interned with Former State Legislator and then County Commissioner, Sandy Hume - 1991

ACHIEVEMENTS & PROFESSIONAL BOARDS (Last 10 years)

- Certified Special District Administrator from the Special District Leadership Foundation (2007 – present)
- 2019 Special District Leadership Academy (Governance Foundations)
- Licensed Attorney
- WaterReuse California Board of Directors (2018–2024)
- 2015 California WaterReuse Advocate of the Year
- Founding member and lead for the North San Diego County WaterReuse Coalition (2010 to present)
- Association of California Water Agencies Federal Affairs Committee (2006 – 2021)
- San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission Special Districts Advisory Committee (2008 to present) & Chair (2014 to present)
- Board of Directors of the San Diego North Economic Development Council (2007 -2020)
- Integrated Regional Water Management Regional Advisory Committee (2008 to present)
- Kenneth Miller Founders Award Recipient – Water for People (2025)
- Countless presentations in the community, at Senate and Assembly hearings, & regulatory meetings
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Water for People (San Diego Core Committee) & Emcee at Annual Lunch (2013 to present)
- Lead Planner and Host for the North County Water Summit with the SDNEDC (2015)
- Board of Management – Magdalena Ecke YMCA (2007 - 2017)
- Board of Directors (President) – Arroyo Vista Homeowner's Association (2009 – 2023)
- Classroom Volunteer – Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary – 2012 to 2018
- Hands On San Diego Volunteer



David C. McQuead

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mcquead@rsf-fire.org

Dave McQuead, serving as the Fire Chief for the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District with currently 22 years of experience in the fire service and 10 years of experience as a self-employed licensed landscape contractor and designer for commercial and residential projects.

Education:

- Columbia Southern University - Bachelor's degree, Fire Administration. 2018
- Rio Hondo College - Associate's degree, Fire Science. 2009
- Palomar College - Fire Academy and Paramedic School. 2001

Professional Fire Experience:

- Fire Chief, Rancho Santa Fe FPD 2022 - Present
- Deputy Chief – Operations, Rancho Santa Fe FPD 2018 – 2021
- Battalion Chief, Rancho Santa Fe FPD 2015 – 2018
- Fire Captain, Rancho Santa Fe FPD 2010 – 2015
- Fire Engineer, Rancho Santa Fe FPD 2006 – 2009
- Firefighter/Paramedic, Rancho Santa Fe FPD 2003 – 2005

Professional Experience:

- Contractor, McQuead Landscaping (C-27 License # 750923) 1998 – 2003
- Contractor, McQuead and Gunn Landscaping 1995 – 1997

Professional Involvement:

- SANDAG – Public Safety Committee 2022 – Present
- LAFCO – Special Districts Advisory Committee 2022 – Present
- San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association -Vice President 2022 – 2023
- North Zone Coordinator – XSD Op Area 2023 – Present
- North Zone Chiefs Officers – Co-Chair 2023 – Present
- San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association – President 2024 – Present

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WATER INDUSTRY – ELECTED OFFICE

2005 - Present Otay Water District Spring Valley, CA

Board Member, Treasurer, Former President & Vice-President

- Oversee a public agency with \$150M annual budget, providing water and sewer and recycled water to 242,000 customers in a 126 square mile service area. Represent all of the District sewer ratepayers.
- Chair of Finance and Administration Committee. Provide guidance to finance department staff for annual budget cycle and instrumental in Board audits of District finances.
- Former Head of Labor Negotiations Committee.
- Former Chair of Engineering Committee. Fully engaged in oversight of key District CIP projects.
- Chief advocate at Board level for continuing development of District strategic plan and benchmarking study, including advocating for peer review as presented by AWWA.
- Instrumental in securing a feasibility study to bring recycled water to northern service area of the District. Public speaking on expansion of recycling water to the media, including local television.
- Represented District to Water Reuse Association, attending local, state and national level conferences.
- Was instrumental in the recent introduction of live streaming of Otay Board meetings.

1997 - Present San Diego Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority San Diego, CA

Board Member/Former Chair/Longest serving Board Member

- A joint-powers authority comprised of 15 other cities and districts that pay for 35% of the upkeep and capital costs of the City of San Diego's regional wastewater facilities, with 2.2 million customers in a 450 square mile service area, treating 180 million gallons a day.
- Former Member of the Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC) for City of San Diego.
- Former member of the Finance Committee, that reviewed and advised on City of San Diego Bond offerings affecting Municipal and Metro systems (approx. \$1.2B placed - May 2009)
- Former head of Strategic Ad-Hoc Committee charged with shaping vision and mission for the organization, along with a plan to achieve those goals.
- Assisted in development of a communications plan and design of organization website.
- Participant in American Assembly II process in 2005 that endorsed Indirect Potable Reuse.

2025 – Present San Diego County Water Authority San Diego, CA

Board Member

- A 34-member board representing 22 water agencies and cities with a \$1.8B budget for FY 24-25
- Member of the Engineering & Operations, and Water Planning & Environmental Committee's

2005 – 2025 Water Conservation Garden El Cajon, CA

President/Board Member

- Oversaw a joint-powers authority comprised of six public agencies creating an award winning five-acre display area that showcases water conservation to the general public and landscaping professionals.

1996 - 2001 Padre Dam Municipal Water District Santee, CA

President, Treasurer, Board Member

- Oversaw public agency with \$40M annual budget, providing water, sewer and recycled water to 135,000 customers in an 85 square mile area.
- While President of the Board the Board (1998), championed a Competitive Challenge program that was instituted comparing the agency to best management practices of the private sector. Has saved Padre Dam ratepayers \$1,800,000 annually to date.
- Represented Santee Lakes area and helped develop a Master Plan for 190-acre Santee Lakes Park & Campground, allowing it to become self-supporting and enhance recreational benefits for the community.
- Assisted in negotiations with employee bargaining unit in securing a new labor agreement.

WATER INDUSTRY

Council of Water Utilities – Former President

- Brought speakers on regional water issues to regular lunch meetings
- Combined it with local Chapter of the CSDA in 2024

Water Conservation Garden

- Led formation and recruitment of Board Members that led to creation of *Friends of the Garden* foundation to assist in fundraising for the operation of the facility. This entity became the management structure for the Garden effective January 2011, which was disbanded in 2024. Our goal when we formed it was to achieve at least half of our funding from outside the industry, which the Garden did achieve.
- Obtained signage on Jamacha Road through my political connection with former Senator Dennis Hollingsworth. The Garden had previously been rebuffed by Caltrans who has jurisdiction on road.
- Started and maintained their Facebook site, which I turned over to them, as well helping start other social media sites.

Water-Wise AA Degree program/Cuyamaca College

- During my tenure (4 years) as President of the Water Conservation Garden, I was the chief advocate getting a new Water-Wise AA Degree program implemented in conjunction with Horticulture Department at Cuyamaca College. Worked with the College and SDCWA staff to achieve it.
- The program is a model for junior colleges throughout the state.

YesToTap on Twitter

- Developed and maintain the leading Tap Water advocacy site in San Diego County.
- Averages 3,000+ impressions per month. Followers throughout U.S. and world.
- Developed a tapwater pledge for organizations.
- Goal is to develop website and other advocacy methods.

Otay Mark

- Have the leading water Twitter site (non SDCWA) in San Diego averaging approximately 30,000 views per month with a high of approximately 100,000+. Followed by opinion leaders throughout the state.
- Leading advocate of SDCWA's member agencies on their specific accomplishments.
- Also have a website, with Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Flickr.

Television & Media

- Have appeared in interview format on local news on water and wastewater issues
- Have relationships with local print, online and television reporters
- Was guest curator for a week on Voice of San Diego's Instagram page for water issues

Political

- Have advised locally elected officials on water issues, including current Supervisor Joel Anderson, when first elected to Padre Dam, prior to higher office.
- Have extensive connections with locally elected officials throughout San Diego County.
- Have helped develop social media strategy for locally elected officials.

Social Media Instruction

- Taught social media with a focus on Twitter to agencies at the San Diego Chapter of the California Special Districts Association. Analyzed all water agencies for their social media effectiveness.
- Started the Chapter's Facebook and Twitter sites.
- Advised agencies on areas of improvement including SDCWA.

Water & Wastewater Technology Program

- Completed Water Distribution Systems – WWTR 130 – Grade A
- Completed Wastewater Collection Systems – WWTR 132 – Grade A