

**AGENDA
SPECIAL
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS'
MEETING & CANDIDATE FORUM**

September 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL Directors Ferons, Reinhart, Swan, and President LaMar

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

This meeting will be held in-person at the District's headquarters located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California. The meeting will also be broadcasted via Webex for those wanting to observe the meeting virtually.

To observe this meeting virtually, please join online using the link and information below:

Via Web: <https://irwd.webex.com/irwd/j.php?MTID=m91d5253b8a5aa0650b05969e5f6e5a7e>

Meeting Number (Access Code): **2499 487 1409**

Meeting Password: **yKUnmPUH522**

PLEASE NOTE: Webex observers of the meeting will be placed into the Webex lobby when the Board enters closed session. Participants who remain in the "lobby" will automatically be returned to the open session of the Board once the closed session has concluded. Observers joining the meeting while the Board is in closed session will receive a notice that the meeting has been locked. They will be able to observe the meeting once the closed session has concluded.

Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker on each subject. If you wish to address the Board of Directors orally on any item, you may attend the meeting in person and submit a "speaker slip" to the Secretary. Forms are provided outside of IRWD's Board Room. If you wish to submit written comments to the Board, please submit your public comment in advance of the meeting by emailing comments@irwd.com before 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting, and your remarks will be added to the record at the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

1. Written:

2. Oral:

3. ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Recommendation: Determine the need to discuss and/or take immediate action on item(s).

WORKSHOP

4. CANDIDATE FORUM OF APPLICANTS FOR THE VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The purpose of this workshop is to hold a forum and conduct interviews of qualified candidates that have submitted letters of interest for the appointment to the vacancy in the Division 1 seat on the IRWD Board of Directors within the prescribed deadline.

Recommendation: That the Board conduct the candidate forum and board workshop as follows:

1. Introductory remarks by President LaMar;
2. District overview by General Manager Cook;
3. Candidates' self-introduction and statement regarding qualifications and interest in position (up to five minutes per candidate);
4. Questions to applicants from Board Members;
5. Discussion by the Board; and
6. Close the workshop (President LaMar)

ACTION CALENDAR

5. APPOINTMENT OF A DIVISION 1 DIRECTOR TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE IRWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Recommendation: That the Board receive and file the Affidavits of Postings and Proof of Publication of the "Notice of Vacancy" and adopt the following resolution by title:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 16

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT,
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA APPOINTING _____
TO THE OFFICE OF DIVISION ONE DIRECTOR OF SAID DISTRICT

OTHER BUSINESS

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, members of the Board of Directors or staff may ask questions for clarification, make brief announcements, and make brief reports on his/her own activities. The Board or a Board member may provide a reference to staff or other resources for information, request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Such matters may be brought up under the General Manager's Report or Directors' Comments. Pursuant to AB 1234 and Government Code Section 53232.3(d), a written draft report of the meetings that any Board member attended on behalf of IRWD since the last Board Meeting will be available at the table near the Board Room entrance, and will be amended verbally, if necessary, during Directors' Comments.

6. General Manager's Report
7. Receive oral update(s) from District liaison(s) regarding communities within IRWD's service area and interests.
8. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports
9. Adjournment

Availability of agenda materials: Agenda exhibits and other writings that are disclosable public records distributed to all or a majority of the members of the above-named Board in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at an open meeting of the Board are available for public inspection in the District's office, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California ("District Office"). If such writings are distributed to members of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, they will be available from the District Secretary of the District Office at the same time as they are distributed to Board Members, except that if such writings are distributed one hour prior to, or during, the meeting, they will be available electronically via the Webex meeting noted. Upon request, the District will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, and reasonable disability-related modification or accommodation to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to comments@irwd.com. Requests made by mail must be received at least two days before the meeting. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

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September 17, 2026
Prepared and
submitted by: C. Compton
Approved by: Paul A. Cook

WORKSHOP

CANDIDATE FORUM OF APPLICANTS FOR THE VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUMMARY:

On August 7, 2026, the Division 1 seat on the IRWD Board of Directors became vacant. On August 10, 2026, the IRWD Board determined that it would fill the vacancy by appointment, pursuant to California Government Code Section 1780. In its consideration of the process to undertake to fill the vacancy by appointment, the Board announced it would conduct a Board Workshop / Candidate Forum in mid-September.

The purpose of today's workshop is to hold a forum and conduct interviews of qualified candidates that have submitted letters of interest for the appointment to the vacancy in the Division 1 seat on the IRWD Board of Directors within the prescribed deadline.

BACKGROUND:

California Government Code section 1780 provides that a vacancy on the governing board of a special district may be filled by the remaining members of the governing board by appointment or by the calling of an election. IRWD has historically filled vacancy on the Board of Directors through an appointment process, and as part of its process has held a board workshop/candidates forum to interview potential candidates interested in the vacant seat.

In the past, the Board has considered the following criteria/qualifications in their interviews of candidates:

- Skills to complement the District's needs;
- Skills to set and support future District direction;
- Industry policy and technical knowledge;
- Credibility in representing District;
- Political acumen and abilities;
- Ability to be re-elected;
- Character qualities and compatibility;
- Ability to meet time commitments of serving on the Board;
- Potential conflicts of interest; and
- Ability to work with Board and staff

Process for Candidates Expressing Interest in the Vacant Seat:

Following the Board's August 10, 2026, determination that it would fill the vacancy by appointment, the District posted information about the vacancy and the process for candidates to apply in order to be considered for the seat.

Candidates were required to submit their resume and a letter of interest stating their qualifications and confirming that they meet the residency and voter registration requirements of the seat. The deadline for submitting letters of interest and resumes was August 31, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

The District received letters and resumes from four candidates. The letters and resumes are attached as Exhibit “A”.

RECOMMENDED WORKSHOP PROCEDURE:

Staff recommends that the Board conduct the candidate forum and board workshop as follows:

1. Introductory remarks (President LaMar);
2. District overview (General Manager);
3. Candidates’ self-introduction and statement regarding qualifications and interest in position (up to five minutes per candidate);
4. Questions to applicants from Board Members;
5. Discussion by the Board; and
6. Close the workshop (President LaMar)

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board hold a candidate forum and conduct interviews of the candidates that have submitted letters of interest for the appointment to the vacancy in the Division 1 seat on the IRWD Board of Directors.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit “A” – Candidate Letters of Interest and Resumes

SUSAN EMERY

[REDACTED], Irvine, CA 92618 | [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

August 24, 2026

Board of Directors
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine CA 92618

Dear President LaMar and Members of the Board:

I am writing to express my interest in serving as the District 1 Representative for the Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors. With extensive experience in local government, I believe my skills and background would be an asset to the Board and to the residents and businesses of District 1.

Throughout my career, I developed a strong understanding of local government policy and administration while working with city councils, boards, commissions, and federal, state, and county agencies. My responsibilities included managing program budgets, implementing major development projects, and developing policy initiatives for a department of more than 100 employees. I also led community wide engagement programs for public placingactivities, general plan updates, and green building codes.

As a longtime District 1 resident, including 18 years in Portola Springs and 10 years in Northwood Pointe, I am familiar with the distinct characteristics of District 1 including: the recent and continuing build out of Irvine's Northern Sphere communities, the older established areas in Foothill Ranch and Lake Forest, and the unique character of the rural canyon areas. I was Community Development Director for the City of Irvine and processed many development applications for Orchard Hills, Eastwood, Portola Springs, and Great Park neighborhoods. The protected open space expanse in District 1 presents challenges for conservation, wildfire threat, and community education. For some time, I served as a Naturalist with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy and took part in hikes and tours of the wildlands areas.

I have also served the community as a Paloma HOA board member, Girl Scout leader, and member of the National Charity League. In October 2024 I coordinated a Sustainable Living Fair with St. Mark

Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach and fifteen community organizations devoted to climate friendly policies, support for natural resources and sustainable lifestyles education.

I am interested in serving on the IRWD Board because responsible leadership is essential to protecting and managing one of our most important resources. In my career I managed the update to the Garden Grove General Plan including the Conservation Element which provides long-term goals and implementation measures to protect watersheds, reduce runoff pollution, and creates water conservation programs. Also, as part of larger development applications, I reviewed Water Quality Management Plans designed to minimize water runoff issues during construction. While employed with the City of Irvine I oversaw the Water Quality division and was able to visit several of the man-made wetlands and natural retention basins.

The IRWD Board and staff have a strong record of innovative water management, long-term sustainability, and responsible resource stewardship. I would be honored to serve the district as a board member and appreciate your consideration of my application and resume.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Emery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Emery

I confirm I both live and vote at [REDACTED] Irvine CA 92618.

SUSAN A. EMERY

Executive Leader in Community Development & Municipal Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Accomplished Community Development Executive with extensive municipal leadership experience overseeing large-scale urban planning, departmental operations, multi-million-dollar budgets, and cross-functional teams. Proven track record of guiding high-profile master-planned communities, advancing General Plan updates, revitalizing downtown commercial corridors, and fostering collaborative relationships across public, private, and civic stakeholders.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Interim Assistant Director | City of Costa Mesa

11/2020 – 09/2023

- **Leadership & Operations:** Provided interim executive leadership for affordable housing, planning and zoning, economic development, and administrative operations during management transition period.
- **Affordable Housing:** Updated Housing Element and developed draft Inclusionary Housing Program.
- **Development:** Facilitated large-scale development projects.
- **Mentorship:** Provided staff mentorship including recruitment and training.

Management Consultant | City of Huntington Beach

1/2018 – 06/2018

- **Organizational Consulting:** Provided interim executive community development consulting services including organizational assessment and analysis of department functions.
- **Interdepartmental Leadership:** Facilitated recruitment, training, mentorship services, and leadership for executive management team.

Community Development Director | City of Irvine

09/2015 – 09/2017

- **Leadership & Operations:** Served as Community Director for an award-winning master planned community, directing 123 full-time staff across Planning, Building, Code Enforcement, and Housing.
- **Budgetary Control:** Managed a annual departmental budget of \$36 million, including grant administration, while serving as primary staff support to the Planning Commission.
- **Master Planning:** Processed development applications for over 10,000 new residential units and two million square feet of office space in Orchard Hills, Portola Springs, the Great Park, Los Olivos, Irvine Business Center, and Spectrum Center.
- **Community Development:** Completed a comprehensive Park Master Plan and initiated key retail assessment and neighborhood park development initiatives for the Irvine Business Center.
- **Public Engagement:** Spearheaded the public outreach and engagement strategy for the 2045 General Plan Update.
- **Program Innovation:** Created a unified Neighborhood Services Division by merging Code Enforcement and Housing to better address aging village infrastructure, property maintenance, and neighborhood safety.
- **Operational Excellence:** Optimized Building Division operations and adjusted core contingency models to enhance customer service response and streamline wait times.

Assistant City Manager | City of Garden Grove

04/2004 – 09/2015

- **Executive Leadership:** Oversaw 55 full-time staff with a \$30 million budget. Served as Acting City Manager in the City Manager's absence.
- **Governance:** Provided staff leadership and guidance to the Planning Commission and Neighborhood Improvement Commission.

- **Strategic Planning:** Completed comprehensive updates to the General Plan and Mixed-Use Zoning Code; authored revitalization plans for major corridors, including the Harbor Boulevard Tourist District.
- **Downtown Visioning:** Pioneered the 'Re:Imagine Downtown/Garden Grove' campaign to transform the city core into a vibrant community hub.
- **Community Relations:** Established key regional partnerships with the Korean and Vietnamese Chambers of Commerce and acted as executive liaison to the development community.
- **Interdepartmental Leadership:** Collaborated with Central Management, Police, Fire, Public Works, and Economic Development to align municipal priorities; served on labor negotiation teams for police and general employee units.

Planning Services Manager | City of Garden Grove

02/2003 – 04/2004

- **Development Management:** Coordinated complex commercial and residential development projects and developed RFPs for new municipal initiatives.
- **Policy Development:** Drafted and implemented key municipal policies for accessory dwelling units (second units), telecommunications/cell towers, and density bonus projects.
- **Team Supervision:** Supervised professional and administrative staff, conducted performance evaluations, and mentored personnel.

Redevelopment Manager | City of Garden Grove

03/1998 – 02/2003

- **Community Outreach:** Facilitated community workshops, neighborhood events, and public hearings; represented the city before City Council, regional agencies, and professional boards.
- **Program Administration:** Supervised citywide code enforcement activities, housing programs, and neighborhood improvement initiatives.

Redevelopment Project Manager | City of Santa Ana

05/1991 – 03/1998

- **Strategic Planning:** Prepared the Midtown Specific Plan and Implementation Program; spearheaded the development of the downtown Artists Village project.
- **Capital Projects:** Served as Project Manager for the CSU Fullerton Grand Central Arts Center and the St. Joseph Ballet facility.
- **Contract Administration:** Managed the Downtown Development Division budget, prepared official Staff Reports, issued RFPs/RFQs, and administered multi-disciplinary consultant contracts.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Public Administration (Planning & Finance) — California State University, Fullerton

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Minor in Philosophy) — California State University, Long Beach

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Professional Affiliations:

- President, Planning Directors Association of Orange County
- Member, Placemaking Leadership Council, Project for Public Spaces

Volunteer Roles:

- National Charity League (Rancho Irvine Chapter)
- Girl Scouts of America
- Garden Grove Senior Meals & Services
- Family Promise
- Paloma Homeowners Association, Board Member

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Sean Joyce — City Manager, Irvine

Steve Jones — Former Mayor, Garden Grove

Grace Leung — Retired City Manager, Newport Beach

Dave Belmer — Retired Assistant City Manager, Anaheim and Lake Forest

CINDY L. MILLER, PE

Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 · Division 1

California PE No.

August 28, 2026

Board of Directors
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, California 92618

Re: Letter of Interest — Appointment to the Division 1 Seat, IRWD Board of Directors

Dear Members of the Board:

I respectfully request consideration for appointment to the vacant Division 1 seat on the Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors. I am a resident of Division 1 and a registered California voter living at the same residence for the past twenty (20) years, and I meet the statutory eligibility requirements for this office.

I am a licensed Professional Civil Engineer with 32 years of experience planning, designing, delivering, and overseeing water supply, treatment, storage, and conveyance projects throughout Southern California. I graduated from UC Irvine with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. I currently serve as Vice President and Operations Manager for Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen), a private engineering consulting firm with a sole focus on the water industry who primarily serve public agencies.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to have worked with many water and wastewater agencies on numerous planning and design projects, including IRWD, starting with my very first civil engineering project out of college (Northwood Water, Recycled Water, and Sewer Pipelines), and culminating with the Baker Water Treatment Plant, where my role was Project Manager and Engineer-of-Record. My most recent experience has been leading large groundwater supply and protection projects for various water agencies throughout Southern California, while simultaneously managing two offices of over fifty professionals, and being an integral part of the senior leadership of the firm's California operations.

I have previously served on two Boards, the first being the UC Irvine Civil and Environmental Engineering Affiliates Group, where I was active on the Board between 2002 and 2017, and served as President for two consecutive years, and the second being the ASCE Orange County Branch Board of Directors, where I served from 2012 – 2014.

This decades-long experience in the water industry has provided me with an in-depth understanding of the many challenges water agencies face, including water security, water quality, water supply reliability, and affordability. I have seen firsthand how bold and forward-thinking leadership of a strong Board through policy decisions can result in innovative solutions to these challenges. I believe my background and experience will contribute to that type of Board, committed to a bold and visionary purpose. That is why it would be my honor to serve with you as a member of the IRWD Board of Directors.

As a matter of disclosure, it is my intention to eventually transition from professional consulting to public service within the next five to six years. This Board appointment would enable me to begin this transition by allowing me to serve in a leadership position at an agency I know and respect, to continue contributing to the betterment of my community and industry, which I have served over my entire career.

I have enclosed my resume with this letter of interest for your consideration. Thank you for considering my request.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy L. Miller, PE
Vice President & Operations Manager
California Professional Civil Engineer No.

CINDY L. MILLER, PE

Candidate for Appointment · IRWD Board of Directors, Division 1

██████████ · Trabuco Canyon, California 92679 · Division 1 Resident & Registered Voter
██████████ · ██████████ · California Civil PE No. ██████████

Licensed civil engineer, Vice President, Program and Project Manager with 32 years of experience in drinking-water supply, treatment, recycled water, storage, pumping, and conveyance facility planning and design. Direct project experience with Irvine Ranch Water District, including the Baker Water Treatment Plant, Wells 21 and 22 Desalter, Northwood Zone 3 and Zone C Reservoirs and Pipelines, Whiting Ranch Zone 9 Reservoir and Pipeline, and numerous planning and design documents for water, recycled water, and wastewater facilities. Proven record managing large-scale multi-agency capital programs throughout Southern California; Prepared to contribute technical judgment, regional perspective, and fiduciary oversight to IRWD Board policy, reliability, and ratepayer decisions.

EDUCATION, LICENSURE & EXPERIENCE

Education	Professional Licenses	Years of Practice
B.S., Civil Engineering, 1994 University of California, Irvine	Civil Engineer, California PE No. 58116 (issued 1998)	32 years total (through 2026) RBF Consulting: 1994 – 2010 Michael Baker: 2010 - 2017 Hazen and Sawyer since 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Vice President & Irvine Operations Manager, Hazen and Sawyer

2017 – Present

Lead the Irvine operations office. Direct planning, design, program management, and construction-phase services for municipal water agencies across Southern California. Principal-in-Charge / Program Manager on groundwater supply, treatment, and conveyance programs.

South Coast Water District Doheny Desalination, *Principal-in-Charge* — Oversaw design team as part of a Progressive Design/Build Collaborative Delivery for Doheny Desal project, a 5 mgd (expandable to 15 mgd) ocean desalination facility, four high-capacity slant wells, raw water delivery system, brine discharge, and product water conveyance.

Chino Basin Desalter Authority Phase 3 Expansion. *Program Manager* — Directed the \$150 million final expansion producing more than 35,000 AFY of local drinking water: RO and ion-exchange additions, a concentrate-reduction facility raising recovery above 95%, three high-capacity wells, six-plus miles of raw-water pipeline, a 10-mgd product-water pump station, and a 10-mile delivery pipeline into WMWD's service area.

Sunset Gap Seawater Intrusion Barrier Feasibility Study, OCWD. *Project Manager* — Evaluating injection- and extraction-barrier alternatives (up to 34 injection wells at 13 mgd average and 3 extraction wells) to protect groundwater in Huntington Beach, Seal Beach, and Westminster; assessing GWRS, MWD Carson, deep-aquifer, and WRD supply sources.

La Brea Subarea Groundwater Supply Project, City of Beverly Hills. *Principal-in-Charge* — \$50 million local-supply program: three wells, four miles of raw-water transmission main through Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, and RO plant upgrades.

Groundwater treatment programs — Chino, Monte Vista WD, Jurupa CSD. *Principal-in-Charge* — Preliminary and final design for facilities treating 1,2,3-TCP, nitrate, perchlorate, TCE, PFAS, and related constituents (Chino I Desalter VOC facilities; Eastside Facility expansions; MVWD Plant 30, 5.8–8.7 mgd GAC + IX). Water-quality alternatives studies balancing near-term well-outage risk and future regulations.

Water and recycled-water master plans. *Principal-in-Charge* — Chino Hills Water and Recycled Water Master Plan (InfoWater model, condition assessment, UWMP/WSCP, CIP to 2045); City of Chino Water Master Plan and AWIA risk and resiliency assessment; Beverly Hills Integrated Water Resources Master Plan (\$1.5 million; potable, recycled, sewer, storm, SCADA); Indio Water Authority master plan and model update.

Project Manager / Design Manager, RBF Consulting / Michael Baker International

1994 – 2017

More than two decades of Southern California water infrastructure delivery for IRWD and neighboring agencies, including treatment plants, wellfields, reservoirs, pump stations, and more than 100 miles of pipeline (DIP, CML&C steel, PVC, HDPE).

Baker Water Treatment Plant, Lake Forest (IRWD and partner agencies). *Project Manager, 2010–2017* — Planning and design of the 28-mgd microfiltration / UV plant now owned and operated by IRWD for five South County agencies. Scope included redundant sleeve-valve flow control, raw-water pump stations from Irvine Lake and TCWD, MWD turnout upgrades to 100 cfs, 14 membrane racks, UV, chlorine contact, nine-chemical facility, solids handling, retrofit of two 16-MG prestressed reservoirs, product-water pump station, and connection to MWD's South County Pipeline.

Portola Parkway Water, Sewer and Recycled Water Improvements, IRWD. *Design lead* — More than five miles of domestic water, recycled water, and sewer facilities (6- to 24-inch) in the IRWD service area.

Chino I Expansion and Chino II Desalter, CDA. *Project Manager* — Expanded Chino I from 9 to 14 mgd (RO, IX for nitrate, VOC treatment, on-site hypochlorite); designed the new 10-mgd Chino II Desalter; eight new wells; ~54,000 LF of raw- and product-water pipeline; and booster stations serving JCSD, Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, SARWC, and Norco.

Mojave Water Agency Regional Recharge and Recovery (R3). *Project Manager* — Phase I of a high-desert supply program: six recovery wells (15,000 AFY), 16-plus miles of 12- to 48-inch pipe, 2.65-MG steel reservoir, 40,000-gpm recharge/flow-control facility, 25,000-gpm pump station, and four agency turnouts.

City of Beverly Hills RO Plant (DBOF). *Program Manager* — Design-build-operate-finance delivery of a 3-mgd RO plant, five production wells, transmission main, and public-works facilities; oversaw contract documents, preliminary design, CM, and inspection.

IRWD Wells 21 & 22 wellhead facilities and pipelines, Tustin. *Project Manager* — Wellhead equipping (3,300 and 1,600 gpm), 7,000 ft of 24-inch untreated, 13,000 ft of 36-inch product, and 1,700 LF HDPE brine line, including jack-and-bores under Metrolink, BNSF, and flood-control channels and multi-agency permitting.

IRWD AND ORANGE COUNTY RELEVANCE

Lived and practiced in Orange County throughout a 32-year career. Baker WTP and Portola Parkway provide first-hand knowledge of IRWD facilities, partner-agency agreements, and South County reliability strategy. Ongoing work with OCWD, SAWPA/CDA, and retail agencies on seawater intrusion, brackish-groundwater recovery, recycled-water supply, and contaminant treatment aligns with IRWD’s priorities: local supply, recycled water, financial discipline, and interagency collaboration (OCWD, MWDOC, OC San, MWD).

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

UC Irvine Civil and Environmental Engineering Affiliates Group: 2002 – 2017

ASCE Orange County Branch: 2012 – 2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Water Works Association (AWWA) · California-Nevada Section AWWA · American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) · American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA) · Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) · WateReuse California (California Water Reuse Association)

BOARD SERVICE COMMITMENT

Prepared to devote average of 10–20 hours per month to IRWD Board, committee, ad hoc, and regional meetings, and to represent Division 1 residents of Irvine, Lake Forest, Orange, and unincorporated Orange County. Comfortable with Engineering & Operations, Water Resources Policy, Finance & Personnel, and Supply Reliability subject matter. Understands public-meeting, conflict-of-interest, and fiduciary obligations of a special-district director.

Jeffry S. Rice

Orange, California

Irvine Ranch Water District

15600 Sand Canyon Ave.

Irvine, CA 92618

Re: IRWD Board of Directors — Candidate Statement

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors. With more than four decades of experience in public-sector planning, environmental policy, water-resource permitting, and regional infrastructure development, I have dedicated my career to helping communities make sound, sustainable, and defensible resource-management decisions.

My professional background aligns directly with IRWD's mission. I have led CEQA/NEPA environmental reviews, watershed and flood-control planning, stormwater compliance programs, and multi-agency permitting efforts involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, California Coastal Commission, and numerous cities and counties throughout California. Throughout these projects, I used my strategic judgment, technical understanding, and the ability to coordinate across agencies to deliver reliable, long-term public-infrastructure outcomes.

Beyond my professional work, I bring governance experience as a board member of Custos Terrae, a nonprofit dedicated to open-space preservation of over 1,000 acres in the Orange County canyonlands. Further, I also have 15 years of leadership experience with the Knights of Columbus, where, as Orange County Chapter President and Grand Knight, I have helped guide community programs, charitable initiatives, and organizational development.

IRWD plays a critical role in ensuring water reliability, environmental stewardship, and long-term infrastructure planning for the region. I am very interested in supporting IRWD's diverse management of water in planning, conservation, socio-economic responsibility while protecting a scarce commodity, and environmental sensitivity. I would be honored to contribute my experience, judgment, and commitment to public service to support the District's continued success.

I look forward to continuing the conversation.

Sincerely,

Jeffry S. Rice

JEFFRY S. RICE

Public Agency Planning Executive •
Environmental Policy & Infrastructure Permitting •
Governance & Community Leadership

Orange, California 92869
Cell [REDACTED]

Baker Canyon, Silverado, California • 40+ Years Public-Sector & Consulting Leadership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public-sector planning executive with more than 40 years of experience guiding complex environmental, land-use, water-resource, and infrastructure policy decisions for cities, counties, and major utilities across California. Former Vice President at AECOM and URS, responsible for regional environmental planning, CEQA/NEPA compliance, multi-agency permitting strategy, and large-scale infrastructure development.

Mr. Rice's extensive leadership in flood control, watershed planning, stormwater compliance, rail and utility infrastructure, renewable energy, and major land-use entitlement programs is shown in projects such as the Santa Ana River Wash project, Desert Knolls Wash design, SONGS temporary spent nuclear containment strategy, and the Westminster Watershed planning project, to name a few. Known for strategic judgment, regulatory expertise, and the ability to coordinate across federal, state, and local agencies to deliver defensible, community-aligned outcomes.

Active community leader and nonprofit board member with a strong commitment to stewardship, public service, and long-term resource sustainability.

BOARD & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors, Custos Terrae (501c3)

Stewardship of protected open-space lands in the Orange County canyonlands. Oversight of land-use policy, conservation strategy, and partnership development with the Santiago Retreat Center for conferences, retreats, and youth programs.

Knights of Columbus — 17 Years of Leadership Roles

Local and Countywide organizational leadership, community engagement, event coordination, and service-based governance supporting parish, regional, and charitable initiatives.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- CEQA / NEPA Leadership
- Water-Resource & Flood-Control Planning
- Multi-Agency Permitting Strategy
- Land-Use Policy, General Plans, Specific Plans
- Environmental Impact Analysis
- Stormwater / NPDES / WQMP Compliance
- Public-Sector Governance & Community Engagement

- Infrastructure Planning (Rail, Energy, Utilities)
- Executive Management & Organizational Leadership
- Stakeholder Outreach & Consensus Building

SELECTED LEADERSHIP & POLICY EXPERIENCE

Water, Flood Control & Watershed Planning

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District — Santa Ana River Wash EIS

Project Manager for strategic planning for a major land-exchange and resource management plan involving BLM, habitat conservation planning, and regional water-resource coordination.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Westminster Watershed Feasibility Study

Project Manager for environmental evaluations for flood-control alternatives affecting downstream ecological preserves, including Bolsa Chica Bay.

County of San Bernardino — Desert Knolls Wash Improvements

Program Manager for a design-alternative analysis and environmental review for flood-control improvements protecting residential neighborhoods from storm-event flooding.

Union Pacific Railroad — Stormwater Construction Permitting (Tehachapi Pass)

Project Manager for stormwater compliance and permitting for major rail-capacity improvements.

Land-Use Policy, General Plans & Major Entitlement Programs

County of San Bernardino — General Plan Update

Assistant Project Director for the largest county in the U.S. Led visioning, community planning, development code rewrite, and multi-jurisdictional sphere-of-influence analysis.

City of Santa Ana — Multiple General Plan & Specific Plan Programs

Principal Planner and Administrative Manager overseeing land-use, circulation, urban design, redevelopment, and CEQA compliance for major corridor and downtown revitalization efforts.

City of Merced — South Merced Specific Plan

Project Manager for a 1,800-acre master-planned community effort funded by a Caltrans Social Justice Grant requiring extensive public outreach and community visioning.

Infrastructure, Rail & Utility-Scale Energy

BNSF Railway — Tehachapi Pass & Cajon Pass EIR/EIS Programs

Program Manager for multi-year rail-capacity expansion involving NEPA/CEQA compliance, endangered species, hydrology, cultural resources, and complex interagency coordination.

City of San Diego — Stadium Reconstruction EIR

Project Manager for the environmental review for a fast-track NFL-capable stadium project requiring aggressive scheduling and multi-disciplinary technical oversight.

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) — ISFSI Permitting Strategy

Task Leader for permitting strategy for independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; contributed to the Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report.

Granite Mountain Wind Energy Project — EIS/EIR

Project Manager for environmental review and permitting for a 62-MW utility-scale wind project involving BLM, County of San Bernardino, and multiple high-desert communities.

EDUCATION

MBA, Business Administration — California State University, Long Beach

BS, Urban & Regional Planning — California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Planning Association (APA)

Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP)

American Rail Development Association (ARDA)

TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

OSHA Mine Safety

CPR Training

URS Certified Project Manager

City of Santa Ana Management & Leadership Programs

U.S.DOE/FBI Safe Cities Training — Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

2018–Present — Jeffery S. Rice Consulting Services

2018– HDR, Senior Project Manager

2015–2017 — AECOM, Vice President, Environmental Planning

2003–2015 — URS Corporation, Vice President / Manager, Planning & Environmental

2002–2003 — City of Orange, Planning Manager

1998–2002 — City of Santa Ana, Principal Planner / Administrative Manager

1996–1998 — City of Santa Ana, Principal Planner

1989–1996 — City of Santa Ana, Senior Planner

1987–1989 — City of Santa Ana, Associate Planner / Administrative Manager

1981–1987 — City of Lakewood, Associate / Assistant Planner

1979–1981 — City of Lakewood, Planning Intern

Honorable Irvine Ranch Water District Board Members:

First, I would like to thank each of you for the important work you do providing high-quality, reliable, and affordable water to our community.

As you know, I have had the privilege of serving on the Lake Forest City Council for the past 16 years, including five terms as Mayor. My public service experience also includes six years as District Director for State Assemblyman and former Irvine Mayor Don Wagner, three years as Executive Assistant to Mayor Wagner, and eight years as District Director and Executive Assistant to Orange County Supervisor Don Wagner.

Throughout my years in public service, I have developed extensive experience in local government, community relations, constituent services, and working collaboratively with elected officials, government staff, community leaders, and residents to accomplish goals for the common good. I have also been actively involved with numerous state and local organizations and have worked hard over the years to build strong relationships and a reputation for integrity, goodwill, and getting things done.

With the vacancy in the Division 1 representative position, I respectfully ask to be considered to serve the remainder of that term. I believe my experience in local government, established relationships throughout the community, and understanding of the challenges facing Orange County would allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the Irvine Ranch Water District and its Board of Directors.

I believe that water will be one of the most important issues facing Southern California in the coming years. Ensuring a reliable, high-quality, and affordable water supply will be critical to the future of our families, businesses, and communities. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my experience and perspective to the Board and work collaboratively toward responsible, fiscally sound, and long-term solutions.

Thank you for your consideration. It would be a great honor to serve the Irvine Ranch Water District and the residents of IRWD as the Division 1 Director. I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from the Board members and staff whose years of experience and dedication have helped make the District a trusted and vital part of our community.

Respectfully,

Scott Voigts

Lake Forest City Councilmember

District Director

Orange County Supervisor Don Wagner

Scott Voigts

██████████ | Lake Forest, CA 92630 | ██████████

EXPERIENCE

Lake Forest City Councilmember

December 2010 – Present

Lake Forest, California

- Served as a member of the Lake Forest City Council.
- Served five terms as Mayor.
- Vice Chair, Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency.
- Member, Orange County Sheriff's Department Local Remote Access Network Board.
- Member, Orange County Vector Control Committee.
- Member, Upper Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee.
- Member, South Orange County Watershed Committee.
- Member, Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACCOC) Legislative Committee.
- Member, California League of Cities Revenue & Taxation Committee.
- Orange County Division, California League of Cities, Third District Representative.

District Director

July 2019 – Present

Orange County Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, Third District

Orange County, California

- Represented Supervisor Wagner throughout Orange County at community events, presenting certificates and proclamations and delivering remarks on his behalf.
- Collaborated with the Chief of Staff to coordinate the day-to-day operations of the County Office and ensure effective communication and constituent services.
- Conducted legislative policy research, review, and analysis to support the Supervisor on policy matters and legislative initiatives.

Executive Assistant / Chief of Staff

January 2017 – June 2019

Mayor Donald P. Wagner, City of Irvine

Irvine, California

- Represented Mayor Wagner throughout the City of Irvine at community events, presenting certificates and proclamations and delivering remarks on his behalf.
- Collaborated with city staff across departments, including Public Works, Community Services, and the Building Counter, to review City Council agenda items, upcoming projects, and community requests.
- Prepared and coordinated certificates and proclamations for community events, organizations, and special occasions.

District Director

January 2011 – December 2016

Assemblymember Donald P. Wagner, 70th Assembly District

California State Assembly

- Represented Assemblymember Wagner throughout the district at community events, presenting certificates and proclamations and delivering remarks on his behalf.
- Collaborated with the Republican Caucus to review proposed legislation and legislative matters.
- Recruited, interviewed, and coordinated interns for the District Office.
- Assisted with managing the Assemblymember's calendar, including scheduling meetings, events, and speaking engagements.
- Coordinated operations and communications between the District Office and the State Capitol Office.

Campaign Manager

August 2009 – December 2010

Donald P. Wagner for Assembly, 70th Assembly District

- Helped recruit and encourage Don Wagner to enter the 70th Assembly District race based on his leadership qualities and policy principles.
- Oversaw day-to-day campaign operations and activities.
- Developed, secured, and maintained endorsements from key individuals and organizations.
- Recruited, trained, and managed campaign volunteers and grassroots activists.

- Organized precinct walks, phone banking, and other voter-contact efforts.
- Coordinated the distribution of campaign literature and yard signs.
- Managed the placement of campaign signs along major streets and other strategic locations.
- Assisted with fundraising efforts, including organizing fundraising events, identifying prospective donors, conducting donor outreach, and arranging meetings with potential contributors.

California Field Representative

March 2008 – 2014

Americans for Prosperity (AFP)

California

- Assisted the State Director with the planning and execution of 25 media events and 10 training seminars.
- Raised approximately \$15,000 for AFP through fundraising events.
- Secured approximately 100 attendees for AFP Day at the State Capitol in Sacramento.
- Assisted with recruiting attendees for the “Defending the American Dream Summit” in Washington, D.C.
- Recruited and managed approximately 1,250 activists for AFP rallies, events, and volunteer activities.

Chairman

1992 – 2012

Christian Coalition of Orange County

Orange County, California

- Advocated for and promoted Judeo-Christian values within the community.
- Identified churches throughout Orange County and assisted in establishing civic concerns and “Salt & Light” committees.
- Recruited neighborhood coordinators to identify pro-family households, provide voter information, and mobilize voters.
- Recruited and assisted in training individuals interested in seeking public office.
- Organized voter-registration programs through local churches.
- Coordinated the development, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and distribution of more than 500,000 voter guides to local churches and communities throughout Orange County.
- Recruited and managed activists throughout California.

Orange County Field Representative

2001 – 2002

Proposition 38 School Vouchers

Orange County, California

- Served as an Orange County field representative supporting the Proposition 38 school voucher initiative.
- Represented the school voucher initiative at public events and throughout Orange County.
- Secured endorsements from elected officials and community leaders.
- Recruited, trained, and coordinated campaign activists and volunteers.
- Organized precinct walks, grassroots outreach, and literature distribution.
- Managed day-to-day campaign operations and volunteer activities.
- Directed grassroots campaign efforts throughout Orange County.
- Assisted with community engagement and voter outreach initiatives.

Orange County Field Representative

1999 – 2000

Proposition 22

Orange County, California

- Represented Proposition 22 at public events and community functions throughout Orange County.
- Spoke at public events in support of traditional marriage.
- Secured endorsements from elected officials.
- Recruited, trained, and managed campaign activists and volunteers.
- Organized precinct walks, literature drops, and grassroots outreach.
- Coordinated grassroots campaign activities throughout Orange County.
- Managed the distribution of more than 600,000 campaign signs.

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SERVICE

City of Lake Forest — City Councilmember Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency — Vice Chair Orange County Sheriff's Department Local Remote Access Network Board — Board Member Orange County Vector Control Committee — Committee Member Upper Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee — Committee Member South Orange County Watershed Committee — Committee Member Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACCOC) — Legislative Committee California League of Cities — Revenue & Taxation Committee California League of Cities, Orange County Division — Third District Representative

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September 17, 2026
Prepared and
Submitted by: C. Compton
Approved by: Paul A. Cook

ACTION CALENDAR

APPOINTMENT OF A DIVISION 1 DIRECTOR TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE IRWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUMMARY:

On August 7, 2026, the Division 1 seat on the IRWD Board of Directors became vacant due to resignation. On August 10, 2026, the Board accepted the resignation, and it declared the District's intent to fill the vacancy by an appointment within the statutory deadline for an appointment. The District has conducted the statutorily required steps to appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy.

After holding a Board workshop to interview candidates interested in being appointed to the Division 1 seat on the Board, staff recommends that the Board receive the affidavits of posting of the Notice of Vacancy, and that the Board select a candidate and adopt a resolution making the appointment of the selected candidate to the vacant seat.

BACKGROUND:

California Government Code section 1780 provides that a vacancy on the governing board of a special district may be filled by the remaining members of the governing board by appointment or by the calling of an election. IRWD has historically filled vacancy on the Board of Directors through an appointment process.

To fill this vacancy by appointment, the Board of Directors must make the appointment within 60 days after the date on which the Board is notified of the vacancy or the effective date of the vacancy, whichever is later. The District must also:

- Post a notice of the vacancy in three or more conspicuous places in the District at least 15 days before the Board makes the appointment, and
- Notify the county elections official of the appointment no later than 15 days after the appointment.

IRWD's Process for Filling the Vacancy:

To fill the vacancy via appointment, the District has undertaken the following steps:

- The District Secretary posted notice of the vacancy with postings at three or more conspicuous public places within the District in / or serving Division 1. These sites included posting the notice at the Katie Wheeler Library in Irvine on August 12, the Hitch'n Post Feed & Tack in Orange Park Acres on August 11, the Library of the Canyons in Silverado Canyon on August 11, and the Foothill Ranch Library in Lake Forest on August 13. The notice was also posted at IRWD's Sand Canyon office on

August 11, on IRWD.com on August 11, and was published in the *Orange County Register* on August 16 and August 23;

- The District Secretary provided notice to the Registrar of Voters of the vacancy and the District's intent to fill the vacancy by appointment on August 11, 2026;
- Candidates interested in being appointed to the vacant seat submit their resumes along with a letter of interest stating their qualifications and that they meet the residency and voter registration requirements of the seat by 5:00 p.m., August 31, 2026 to BoardMail@irwd.com;
- The District received letters of interest from four candidates stating that they meet the residency and voter registration requirements and indicating their interests being appointed to the Division 1 Director seat on the IRWD Board;
- The IRWD Board held a Board Workshop / Candidate Forum on September 17, 2026, for the Board to interview and gather more information on each candidate and potentially fill the vacancy of the Division 1 Director by making the appointment at the end of the Workshop; and
- The Board must select the candidate and make the appointment before the appointment statutory deadline of October 6, 2026 (the 60th day after the vacancy).

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board receive and file the Affidavits of Postings and Proof of Publication of the "Notice of Vacancy" and adopt the following resolution by title:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 16

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT,
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA APPOINTING _____
TO THE OFFICE OF DIVISION ONE DIRECTOR OF SAID DISTRICT

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Resolution

Exhibit "A"

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT, APPOINTING _____
TO THE DIVISION 1 SEAT ON THE IRWD BOARD

The Division 1 seat on the IRWD Board of Directors became vacant on August 7, 2026, due to a resignation; and

Pursuant to California Government Code section 1780, the remaining members of the Board decided to fill the vacancy by appointment, as has been the historically practice by the District; and

_____ is qualified to hold the office of the Division 1 Director of the Irvine Ranch Water District.

The Board of Directors of Irvine Ranch Water District does hereby resolve, determine and order as follows:

Section 1. Effective September 17, 2026, _____ is appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of the Division 1 Director of the Irvine Ranch Water District for a term of office ending November 30, 2028.

Section 2. That the Secretary mail a certified copy of the resolution and Oath of Office to the Registrar of Voters, mail a revised Registry of Public Agencies form to the Secretary of State; and provide a copy of said Registry of Public Agencies form to the Orange County Clerk-Recorder.

ADOPTED, SIGNED and APPROVED on September 17, 2026.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
and of the Board of Directors thereof

Secretary, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
and of the Board of Directors thereof

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Hanson Bridgett LLP

By: _____
District Counsel

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Exhibit "A"

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT, APPOINTING _____
TO THE DIVISION 1 SEAT ON THE IRWD BOARD

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Pursuant to California Government Code section 1780, the remaining members of the Board decided to fill the vacancy by appointment, as has been the historically practice by the District; and

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ADOPTED, SIGNED and APPROVED on September 17, 2026.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
and of the Board of Directors thereof

Secretary, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
and of the Board of Directors thereof

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Hanson Bridgett LLP

By: _____
District Counsel

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