

BALLOT

SPECIAL DISTRICT LAFCO VOTING MEMBER

Please vote for no more than one candidate.

STEVEN APPLETON

Occupation: Board of Trustees

Sponsor: Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

JONATHAN BEUTLER

Occupation: Board of Trustees

Sponsor: Palos Verdes Library District

GARY BURNS

Occupation: Board of Directors

Sponsor: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

DONALD L. DEAR

Occupation: Board of Directors

Sponsor: West Basin Municipal Water District

VERA ROBLES DeWITT

Occupation: Board of Directors

Sponsor: Water Replenishment District of Southern California

DIRK MARKS

Occupation: Board of Directors

Sponsor: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

SHARON S. RAGHAVACHARY

Occupation: Board of Directors

Sponsor: Crescenta Valley Water District

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

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District

Date: FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Name of Candidate: Steven Appleton

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

Elective office: BOARD OF TRUSTEE, LOS ANGELES CITY

Agency: GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Type of Agency: SPECIAL DISTRICT

Term Expires: N/A

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

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

By: [Signature]

Its: Susanne Kuhn



Steven Appleton

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Palos Verdes Library District

Date: February 15, 2024

Name of Candidate: Jonathan Beutler

Palos Verdes Library District is pleased to nominate
Jonathan Beutler as a candidate for appointment as special district voting

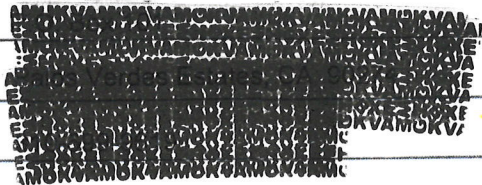
member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.


Elective office: Secretary, Board of Library Trustees

Agency: Palos Verdes Library District

Type of Agency: Library Special District

Term Expires: November 27, 2026

Residence Address: 

Telephone: 

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Palos Verdes Library District

(Name of Agency)

By: 

Its: Bob Parke
President, Board of Library Trustees

Candidate to Represent Special Districts on LAFCO



Jonathan Beutler

Trustee, Palos Verdes Library District

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

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

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

My Background

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

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

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Date: January 16, 2024

Name of Candidate: Gary Burns

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

Elective office: Director, Division 3

Agency: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Type of Agency: Water District

Term Expires: December 4, 2026

Residence Address:

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PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

(Name of Agency)

By:



Its: General Manager

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO):
Nomination of Candidate for Special District Board Member
Gary Burns, Candidate for LAFCO Member Position 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: West Basin Municipal Water District

Date: January 22, 2024

Name of Candidate: Donald L. Dear

West Basin Municipal Water District is pleased to nominate
Donald L. Dear as a candidate for appointment as special district **voting**

member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Division 5 Director

Agency: West Basin Municipal Water District

Type of Agency: Water Wholesaler

Term Expires: December 2024

Residence Address: _____

Telephone: _____

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

West Basin Municipal Water District

(Name of Agency)

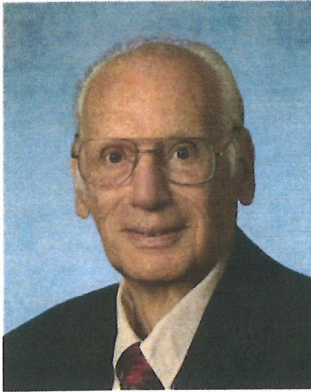
By: E.J. Caldwell

Its: General Manager



Donald L. Dear

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



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

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

Southern California from 2013 to 2018.

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

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

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

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

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

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: The Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Date: January 16, 2024

Name of Candidate: Vera Robles DeWitt

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is pleased to nominate

Vera Robles DeWitt as a candidate for appointment as special district **voting**

member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Board Member, Division 5

Agency: Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Type of Agency: Special District

Term Expires: January 7, 2025

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

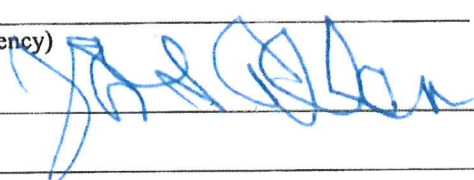
PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Water Replenishment District of Southern California

(Name of Agency)

By: John D.S. Allen

Its: Board President





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

VERA ROBLES DEWITT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Board of Directors

Date: February 20, 2024

Name of Candidate: Dirk Marks

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency is pleased to nominate
Dirk Marks as a candidate for appointment as special district **voting**

member to the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission. The nominee is an elected official or a member of the board of an independent special district appointed for a fixed term. For your consideration, we submit the following additional information together with a resume of the candidate's qualifications.

Elective office: Division 2 Director

Agency: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Type of Agency: Special Act Water Agency

Term Expires: January 2027

Residence Address:



Telephone:

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

(Name of Agency)

By: 

Its: President

LAFCO Nomination Attachment for Dirk Marks

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

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Board Member

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

Association of California Water Agencies

- Serving on Groundwater Committee

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

- Director representing SCV Water

SCV Water/Castaic Lake Water Agency Work Experience

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

Other Work Experience

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

Education

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

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

To: Independent Special District Selection Committee

From: Crescenta Valley Water District Board of Directors

Date: January 23, 2024

Name of Candidate: Sharon S. Raghavachary

Crescenta Valley Water District Board of Directors is pleased to nominate

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

Elective office: Member of the Board of Directors

Agency: Crescenta Valley Water District

Type of Agency: Water and Wastewater

Term Expires: December 2024

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OR CANDIDATE STATEMENT (limit one page)

Crescenta Valley Water District

(Name of Agency)

By: 

Its: President of the Board of Directors



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

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

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

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

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

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