Inland Empire Water Leader Joins Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors

Longtime Western Board Member Donald D. Galleano brings 30 years of experience to post; pledges to continue focus on local reliability projects during drought

Riverside, Calif. – Don Galleano, a longtime Western Municipal Water District board member and current board president, has been named as the Western representative on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors. He was sworn in Monday, May 11.

“Metropolitan is at the forefront of the state’s water issues, and I feel privileged to have a front-row seat in discussions and decisions that will affect water policy for the region,” said President Galleano. “With the ongoing drought plaguing California, agency collaboration on regional water solutions is fundamental to the success of navigating today’s water challenges.”

Mr. Galleano is replacing Western’s Division 2 Board Member Tom Evans, who is transitioning off the Metropolitan Board. “In shifting off the Metropolitan Board at this time, I felt strongly that our new representative should be in place on the ground floor as this historic drought continues, and other issues that need critical attention like the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the Integrated Water Resource Plan,” explained Mr. Evans.

During his six year tenure on the Metropolitan Board, Mr. Evans worked hard to hold the line on rate increases from Metropolitan, which directly impact Western customers. He will be taking over Mr. Galleano’s commission seat at the Santa Ana Water Project Authority (SAWPA). Western Board Member Brenda Dennstedt will serve as the alternate for SAWPA.

Mr. Galleano served for eight years at SAWPA where he was an integral part of the successful settlement of ongoing disputes with the Orange County Sanitation District. He has played a key role in SAWPA’s efforts to help secure integrated resource funding for regional water supply projects via Proposition 84 grant applications. He was also instrumental in the recent success of SAWPA to market the Inland Empire Brine Line, a sanitary sewer disposal pipeline that removes salt from the region and ultimately for release into the ocean.

Mr. Galleano has been actively involved in the Southern California water community for three decades. He represents Division 4 on the Western Board of Directors, which includes the communities of Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Norco and the communities of Mira Loma, Rubidoux and Glen Avon. He joined the Western Board of Directors in 2004 and has served three terms after serving nearly 25 years on the Jurupa Community Services District’s Board of Directors.

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In addition to now serving on the Metropolitan Board of Directors, Mr. Galleano represents Western’s interests on the board for the Chino Basin Watermaster, which is charged with managing the Chino Basin (one of the largest basins in Southern California).

A third generation winegrower at Cantu-Galleano Ranch in Mira Loma, he is committed to using water wisely and practices dry farming at his Galleano Winery, saving upwards of 100 million gallons of water annually by eliminating irrigation. A partner in the community he serves, Mr. Galleano is past president of the Western Riverside County Businessman’s Association and the Jurupa Chamber of Commerce. He currently serves on the National Orange Show Board in San Bernardino and is chairman of the Pacific Rim Wine Competition.

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Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.