

“The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) truly represents the nexus of knowledge and leadership in water for California. As the current Vice-President of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), I am most proud of the thought, energy and collaboration that went into developing the 2025-’29 Strategic Plan. I want to be the next ACWA President to continue the momentum we have built focusing on four primary goals of Advocacy, Connections, Education and Organizational Effectiveness. This Strategic Plan is about finding new ways to benefit the members of ACWA as we navigate the shifts in water policy at the state and federal level. My commitment is to unify our collective efforts and better assert ACWA’s leadership in shaping California’s water policy.”

– Ernesto (Ernie) Avila, P.E.

ACWA LEADERSHIP

- Vice-President
- Executive Committee of the ACWA Board of Directors
- ACWA Strategic Plan Task Force Chair
- ACWA Region 5 Board of Directors
- ACWA JPIA Executive Committee

ACWA COMMITTEES

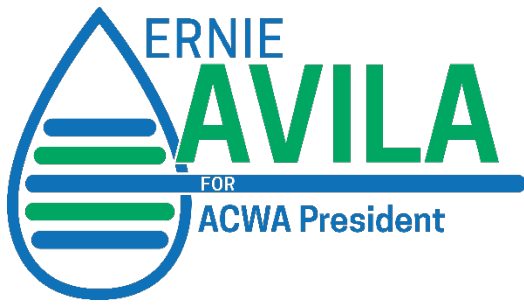
- Local Government Committee, Chair
 - Property Tax Working Group
 - Housing Densification Working Group
 - Paving Standards Working Group
- Federal Affairs Committee
- Foundation Fundraising Working Group

CONTRA COSTA WATER DISTRICT

- Contra Costa Water District, Board President
- Operations & Engineering, Committee Chair
- East Bay Leadership Council, Director

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Vice-President, Avila and Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, General Manager
- Director of Engineering, Contra Costa Water District
- California Urban Water Agencies, Executive Director



Ernesto (Ernie) Avila, PE
Board President
Contra Costa Water District

Recent ACWA and Regional Water Coalition Experience

Association of CA Water Agencies (ACWA). I have had the honor of supporting ACWA over twenty years at the regional, state and federal level. My recent ACWA experience has included serving on ACWA's:

- Vice President
- Executive Committee of the ACWA Board of Directors
- Strategic Plan Task Force Chair
- Region 5 Board of Directors
- ACWA JPIA Executive Committee of the Board
- Local Government Committee (Chair)
 - Property Tax Working Group
 - Housing Densification Working Group
 - Paving Standards Working Group
- Federal Affairs Committee
- Foundation Steering Committee
 - Foundation Fundraising Working Group



Most recently, I led ACWA's effort to develop the 2025 – 2029 Five-Year Strategic Plan. This work included revising ACWA's mission, vision and values followed by identifying four primary goals: Advocacy, Connections, Education and Organizational Effectiveness. This Plan will provide a framework to unify the ACWA community and better assert our leadership in shaping California Water Policy.

I led ACWA's assessment of potential water industry impacts associated with Sacramento-based housing initiatives including Auxiliary Dwelling Units, Commercial Properties and Transit Center Hubs and led a workshop to consider potential ACWA next steps associated with these new initiatives and their related changes to water agency fees and charges. I also participated in the ACWA Foundation Steering Committee including several related Ad Hoc committees and contributed to Federal Affairs Committee work groups associated with the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

Multi-State Salinity Coalition (MSSC). For over 20 years, I have served as Program Director and Board member of MSSC which consists over 30+ water agencies from New Mexico, northern and southern California, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona and Texas. The MSSC mission is to promote advancements in technologies for desalination, reuse, salinity control strategies (watersheds and agriculture), water/energy efficiencies and related policies that will assist communities in meeting their water needs. I also helped to establish relationships regarding salinity management and desalination with water agencies in Australia, Mexico and Israel. In February 2023, the MSSC awarded me with the **MSSC "Salt of**

the Earth” National Award for outstanding commitment, leadership, vision and dedication to our water industry.

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). As President of CCWD, I am focused on the investments needed in infrastructure to serve our community and improve water supply reliability today and into the future. The aging Contra Costa Canal, built by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1930s, is the backbone of CCWD’s water system and essential to water system reliability for the region. In order to move forward with plans to replace the aging canal with a pipeline, I worked closely with federal legislators to secure needed legislation to transfer title of the facility from Reclamation to CCWD.

California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA). As Executive Director, I led CUWA’s effort in the development of Department of Water Resources (DWR) Methodologies for Calculating Baseline and Compliance Urban Per Capita Water Use as part of the Water Conservation Act of 2009 (Senate Bill X7-7) with our southern and northern California water agency members. I also made certain that CUWA’s finances and practices were sound and transparent.

Northern California Salinity Coalition. As Executive Director, I led a coalition of ten San Francisco Bay Area water agencies in crafting grant application strategies and DWR outreach that would demonstrate the value of supporting watershed management, brackish desalination and groundwater project associated with salinity management. Working with the Coalition agencies, we secured the largest Proposition 50 grant funding for our region.

Professional Work Experience (40 years)

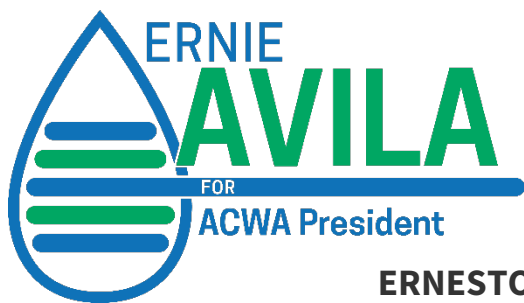
- Vice-President, Avila and Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- General Manager, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
- Director of Engineering, Contra Costa Water District
- Associate Engineer, East Bay Municipal Water District
- Construction Manager, CH2M Hill
- Professional Civil Engineer (California – C41727)

Community Service Experience

- Contra Costa Water District, President of the Board
- John Muir Community Health Fund Board of Directors (Treasurer)
- Association of California Engineering Companies – Chair of the Healthcare Trust (non-profit)
- Knights of Columbus, Scholarship Chair
- St. Francis of Assisi School Board, President
- City of Concord, CA – Planning Commission, Chair
- City of Concord, CA – Design Review Board
- City of Walnut Creek, CA – Transportation Commission, Vice-Chair

Education and Related Credentials

- B.S. – Civil Engineering, Santa Clara University
- M.B.A. – St. Mary’s College of California
- Professional Civil Engineer (California – C41727)
- California Farm Bureau Member



ERNESTO (ERNIE) AVILA | BIOGRAPHY AND QUALIFICATIONS

Ernesto (Ernie) A. Avila, P.E., was appointed in March 2016 to represent Division 3 for the Contra Costa Water District, which includes eastern Concord, Clayton, and part of Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill. He began serving as President in May 2022.

Mr. Avila has over 42 years of professional experience in planning, environmental compliance, regulation, design, and construction of water, wastewater and recycled water works and municipal facilities in excess of \$10 Billion in value. He is currently Vice-President of a private civil and environmental engineering firm.

Mr. Avila has been involved with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) for over twenty years at the regional, state and federal level. He currently serves as Vice President. He has also represented ACWA members on the Executive Committee of the ACWA Board of Directors, Region 5 Board, Local Government Committee (Chair), Federal Affairs Committee, ACWA Foundation Steering Committee and the ACWA JPIA Executive Committee of the Board.

Over his first year as Vice President, Mr. Avila led ACWA's effort to develop the 2025-'29 Strategic Plan which identifies four primary goals of Advocacy, Connections, Education and Organizational Effectiveness. This Plan provides clearly defined strategies and objectives to achieve each goal and 50 key performance indicators to gauge progress. The aim of this effort is to unify our collective efforts and better assert ACWA's leadership in shaping California's water policy

For the community, Mr. Avila has volunteered for many citizen-based committees / organizations including the Walnut Creek Transportation Commission, the Concord Planning Commission, the John Muir/Mount Diablo Community Health Fund, the Knights of Columbus, the East Bay Leadership Council, and the St. Francis of Assisi School Board. While working full time, he has made volunteering in the community a priority, representing his neighbors and family on important issues that affect their everyday life.

Mr. Avila is passionate about water issues in his professional life, working on a variety of issues statewide during his career. Among several relevant positions, he served as Director of Engineering at Contra Costa Water District before moving on to become General Manager of Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. He also served as Executive Director for the California Urban Water Agencies, Program Director for the Multi-State Salinity Coalition, and

is on the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Board of Directors and ACWA JPIA. He has experience on water projects of all shapes and sizes, including water treatment plant improvements, dam retrofits, and watershed management and habitat conservation projects. In recognition of his work, Mr. Avila recently received the 2023 ***“Salt of Earth” Award*** by the Multi State Salinity Coalition for his commitment, leadership, vision and dedication to the water industry by promoting advancements in technologies for desalination, reuse, salinity control strategies, water/energy efficiencies, and related public policies that assist communities in meeting water needs.

Mr. Avila lives in Clayton with his family and is a licensed civil engineer with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Santa Clara University and a master’s degree in Business Administration from St. Mary’s College of California. He is also a proud member of the California Farm Bureau.



D. Redd-
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Brenda Dennstedt | Secretary/Treasurer

An experienced water education advocate, Brenda Dennstedt joined Western's Board of Directors in January 2007 and was subsequently re-elected in 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022. Director Dennstedt represents Division 3, which includes Lake Mathews, properties located south of Cajalco Road and west of the 215 Freeway, Rainbow, and the Cities of Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Temecula, and Wildomar.

Director Dennstedt is committed to maintaining a standard of excellence by consistently demonstrating active engagement in all of her many roles throughout the region. She was first elected to the Murrieta County Water District board in 2003, which merged with Western in November 2005.

As Western's representative on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board (MWD), which spans 6 counties and serves 19 million people in Southern California, Director Dennstedt is responsible for acting on behalf of the interests of the Western's nearly one million customers who receive their water both directly and indirectly from Western.

Director Dennstedt is an elected member of the Association of California Water Agencies Region 9 Board and she is also the current Chair of the Western Riverside Council of Governments Executive Committee.

She also serves on Western's Community and Government Affairs and Finance committees. In addition, Director Dennstedt currently represents Western as an alternate on the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Board and is a member of SAWPA's One Water, One Watershed committee.

Director Dennstedt has dedicated her service to the region through her consistent support of water education and regional representation. She serves on the joint committees of Elsinore Valley, Rancho California, and Eastern Municipal Water Districts.

Director Dennstedt is the representative for the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority. She also serves as Western's a representative for the Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council and the Association of the California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

Director Dennstedt is a Riverside County native and resides in Murrieta.

Director Dennstedt's current term on the Western Board of Directors expires in December 2026.



ELECT CAROL LEE GONZALES-BRADY ACWA VICE PRESIDENT

PROTECTING OUR WATER, TODAY AND TOMORROW

BACKGROUND

As an elected Director of Rancho California Water District in Temecula, I understand that water issues are complex and we sometimes have different opinions on solutions. I serve as Vice-Chair for ACWA's Region 9, representing members - desert, coastal, residential, commercial, and agricultural - with diverse priorities and perspectives. ACWA's Regions statewide may be different, but we can agree on one thing - that the need for prudent, sustainable water management in California is critical.

I've served as a member on several Standing Committees, Sub-committees, Task Forces and Work Groups. My experience on our ACWA Board, on our Executive Committee, and on our Strategic Planning and Water Policy Task Forces has prepared me for our next steps as we execute the initiatives of our recently streamlined strategic plan. It will provide us with a clear, focused framework as we address water issues and position ACWA in its continued role as a strong, vital industry leader.

I earned my Bachelor of Science degree (magna cum laude) in Business Management from Pepperdine University. My professional career in procurement, contracts and strategic management has spanned federally regulated industries including water and electric utilities. I am committed to building relationships, partnerships and alliances with other water, business and community leaders. In addition to my work at ACWA, I serve on the Boards of Southern California Water Coalition and Urban Water Institute, and was twice appointed by our Board of Supervisors as a Director of a Resource Conservation District.

I'm a grower for local wineries, and my husband and I have lived on our family vineyard for over 20 years. I support important causes and my community through participation and memberships in charities, churches, associations, and advocacy groups such as the Farm Bureau and Southwest California Legislative Council.

You can learn more about me by visiting RanchoWater.com/ACWAVP. Thank you for your support.

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT (RCWD)

Vice President, Board of Directors
Elected 2017; Re-elected 2022
Past Board President (2021 & 2022)

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES (ACWA)

Executive Committee (2024-2025)
Board of Directors (2024-2025)
Region 9 Vice Chair (2024-2025)
Region 9 Board Member (2019-2025)
Committees: Membership, Communications, Election (past)
Task Forces: Strategic Planning, Water Policy (Vice Chair)

ACWA/JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY (JPIA)

JPIA Director, representing Rancho Water (2022-2024)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COALITION (SCWC)

Board of Trustees, Water Segment (2021-present)
Co-Chair, Legislative Task Force (2021-present)

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE (UWI)

Board Member (2023-present)



**CAROL LEE
GONZALES-BRADY**
FOR ACWA VICE PRESIDENT

RanchoWater.com/ACWAVP

The ACWA Election Committee has formally endorsed and recommended Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady as the preferred candidate for ACWA Vice President for the 2026-2027 term.

**CAROL LEE GONZALES-BRADY IS PROUD TO BE
ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES**

ACWA ELECTION COMMITTEE

**CHINO BASIN WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

DESERT WATER AGENCY

EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

**ELSINORE VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER
DISTRICT**

FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

HELIX WATER DISTRICT

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY

IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

**LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER
DISTRICT**

MESA WATER DISTRICT

MONTE VISTA WATER DISTRICT

MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT

MOULTON NIGUEL WATER DISTRICT

**MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE
COUNTY**

OLIVENHAIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

SANTA FE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT

**VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER
DISTRICT**

VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

WESTERN CANAL WATER DISTRICT

WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

YUIMA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT



Biography and Qualifications

Candidate for ACWA Vice President

Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady was elected to the Rancho California Water District (RCWD) Board of Directors in 2017 and re-elected in 2022, serving as Board President for two terms. Rancho Water is a Special District that provides water and wastewater services to residential, commercial, and agricultural customers. It is the 10th largest retail water district in California (based on water sales), serves more than 150,000 people, and covers 100,000 acres of service area.



Director Gonzales-Brady has been a member of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) since 2017. She joined the Region 9 Board in 2019 and currently serves as Vice Chair, representing the Region on ACWA's Board of Directors. In 2024, she was elected by the Board to the Executive Committee.

She has been active on standing committees and task forces in volunteer and appointed roles such as the Membership and Communications Committees, Communications Ag Sub-Committee, Election Committee, Region 9 Membership Engagement Work Group (Chair), Strategic Planning Task Force, and Water Policy Task Force (Vice Chair). Sound water policy, aligned with the guiding principles of ACWA's Strategic Plan, will be key as ACWA navigates complex water issues and advocates on behalf of its members.

Dedicated to building alliances and cultivating partnerships, Director Gonzales-Brady serves on the Board of Trustees of Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) and is co-Chair of their Legislative Task Force. She is also on the Board of Directors of Urban Water Institute (UWI) and is a past Director of ACWA/JPIA, representing RCWD. Prior to her election to Rancho Water's Board, she was twice appointed by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to the Board of Directors of their Resource Conservation District.

Director Gonzales-Brady earned her Bachelor of Science degree (*magna cum laude*) from Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business and Management. Her international professional experience, with an emphasis in procurement, contracts, and strategic management includes federally regulated industries such as water and electric utilities, nuclear procurement, geothermal power plant design/engineering/construction, and medical device manufacturing.

A native Californian and winegrape grower in Temecula's Wine Country, Director Gonzales-Brady and her husband have lived on their vineyard for over 20 years. She is immersed in her community and supports the outreach and assistance provided by local organizations, charities, and advocacy groups. Her volunteer efforts and memberships include Temecula Winegrowers' Association, Riverside County Farm Bureau, Temecula Valley Horsemen's Association, and Southwest California Legislative Council.



Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady

Director, Rancho California Water District

Candidate Statement

Candidate for ACWA Vice President

I am pleased to offer my Statement of Qualifications as a Candidate for ACWA Vice President. I'm passionate about delivering prudent fiscal and environmental stewardship and advocating for sound policy. My philosophy: Protect our water, today and tomorrow, with a diversified portfolio of both immediate and long-range strategies and solutions.

I was elected to the Rancho California Water District (RCWD)'s Board of Directors in 2017 and re-elected in 2022, serving two terms as Board President. I joined ACWA in 2017 and became a Region 9 Director in 2019, serving as Vice Chair for the 2024-25 term. I represent the Region on ACWA's Board of Directors, and in 2024 was honored to be elected by the Board to the Executive Committee.

Other committees and task forces include:

- Water Policy Task Force - Vice Chair
- Membership and Communications Committees
- Region 9 Membership Engagement Work Group - Chair
- Strategic Planning Task Force (past)
- Election Committee (past)

Committed to building alliances and cultivating partnerships, I also am a past Director of ACWA/JPIA and serve on other industry Boards including Urban Water Institute (UWI) and Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) - Legislative Task Force co-Chair.

I earned my BS (magna cum laude) in Business Management from Pepperdine University. My professional career in procurement, contracts, and strategic management has spanned federally regulated industries including water and electric utilities. A native Californian and vineyard owner, I have given back to my community as an appointed Director on a Resource Conservation District Board and through charities, associations, and local advocacy groups such as the Southwest California Legislative Council.

It has been my honor to serve alongside my dedicated colleagues on the ACWA Board. I look forward to continuing to build upon ACWA's work to promote and advance the priorities, initiatives, and interests of our members.

Please visit RanchoWater.com/ACWAVP. Thank you for your support.



42135 Winchester Road, Temecula, CA
(951) 296-6900 RanchoWater.com



Candidate Statement: Harvey Ryan Vice Chair, ACWA Region 9

After proudly serving in the United States Air Force, I spent over 27 years building and leading a successful company before transitioning to semi-retirement. Since then, I've devoted myself to water policies and public service.

For more than 21 years, I've served on the Board of Directors at Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, where I have championed sound infrastructure investments, regional collaboration, and customer-focused solutions in one of California's fastest-growing service areas. At EVMWD, I have led initiatives to control construction costs, launch a low-income rate assistance program, and invest in major treatment upgrades to address PFAS and other contaminants. I also work closely with neighboring agencies through a regional water resilience partnership, ensuring projects benefit from shared resources and regional scale.

As a longtime active member of ACWA's Federal Affairs Committee and EVMWD's Legislative Committee, I've advocated in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento to secure vital resources and support for both the State of California and our local region, helping to advance sustainable water solutions for the future, and shape sound water policy. These opportunities have reinforced one of my core beliefs: that relationships and collaboration are essential to solving California's water challenges. I believe lasting solutions come through partnership, not partisanship.

As Vice Chair of Region 9, I will continue championing fixed and reliable water supplies, independent of snowpack and rainfall. I support:

- Expanding desalination and water reuse
- Streamlining permitting and regulatory approvals
- Advancing regional conveyance solutions to serve inland communities
- Protecting California agriculture as a national security priority

California's water future demands bold thinking and strong leadership. It is critical for ACWA to take a leading role in the future of California. I bring a practical, forward-thinking vision to ACWA, grounded in decades of experience and an unwavering commitment to water reliability, economic stability, and statewide collaboration. I'm committed to advocating for infrastructure, innovation, and partnerships that ensure a resilient water future not just for today, but for decades to come.

Harvey Ryan
Candidate for ACWA Region 9 Vice Chair

James Morales Jr Biography 2025

James Morales, Jr. was elected to the East Valley Water District Governing Board in April 2008 and was appointed to Chairman of the Board in December 2023. Wanting to serve as a role model for his family and inspired by his sense of civic duty and community pride, Director Morales decided to become a leader of East Valley Water District.

Maintaining a quality water supply within a reliable water delivery system remains a priority for Director Morales. Since becoming a board member, the District has implemented additional efforts to provide transparent and accountable information regarding finances and operations to our community.

James has proudly served on the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 9 Board of Directors since 2013. ACWA brings together over 440 water agencies, which provide 90% of water deliveries in California, to work together and solve legislative and regulatory requirement issues.

Beyond his responsibilities as a Board Member, James has spent most of his career as a public servant in a wide range of program management and administration responsibilities including: real estate, legislative affairs, budget oversight; and special revenue funds.

Director Morales' educational background includes a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from California State University, San Bernardino.



G. Patrick O'Dowd

G. Patrick O'Dowd is the Executive Director and General Manager of the Salton Sea Authority, where he oversees that agency's vital efforts to protect human health and revitalize the environment and economy of the Sea and region. Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, O'Dowd earned a bachelor's degree in Construction from Louisiana State University and has diverse executive-level experience in business and finance, real estate, development, and media.



Prior to joining the Authority, Patrick served as a Board Member of the Coachella Valley Water District, originally elected in November 2014 and reelected in 2018. As a representative thereof he served on the Salton Sea Authority Board and is an Authority Past President. Patrick is also on the Board of Directors of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), where he was elected to serve as Chair for Region 9, representing all of Riverside, Imperial, and San Bernardino Counties. Through ACWA (and previously by extension, the National Water Resources Association) he is actively engaged in a broad range of water policy matters at the federal and state levels, dealing in policy and program issues including government funding, agriculture, disadvantaged communities, and protection of California's and our nation's important forested headwaters, to name a few.

Patrick also serves on the International Boundary and Water Commission Colorado River Forum as co-Chair, the Advancement Board for Cal State University San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus, the Boards of Directors of Dudley Ridge Water District (as Vice President, serving as a landowner representative for Irvine Ranch Water District), Kern Water Bank, and Chiriaco Summit Water District, and provides leadership and direction to a host of other municipal, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations.

A resident of the Coachella Valley for over two decades, Patrick lives in Indio, California with his wife, Kathy O'Dowd – an 8th grade teacher at Palm Desert Charter Middle School, has two adult children and two dogs.

ACWA REGION BOARD CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM 2025

I am a lifelong Californian who grew up in, and who has lived through, droughts. However, my interest in water really began when I moved to Palm Springs in 2002, which coincided with a career change to become a landscape designer. Recognizing the challenges of designing landscapes in a desert environment quickly led to my involvement with local water agencies, to learn about what they were doing to increase public awareness about the importance of using water wisely in our local landscapes.

As a part of this, in 2005 I co-founded the Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley which focused on providing opportunities for residents to visit local area, low water use landscapes, and learn from their friends, their neighbors and local experts in the landscape and water industries. This then led to a six-year appointment with the Architectural Advisory Committee for the City of Palm Springs as a community landscape expert, reviewing landscape plans for proposed new build projects. When the state of California initiated a major update to its Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance in 2009, the Desert Water Agency's then conservation manager asked me to help review the proposed ordinance and suggest changes appropriate to our local conditions.

In 2017 I was a member of the initial class of the Water Counts Academy, an educational program jointly offered by the Valley's water districts. This included four 3-hour classroom sessions, and one all-day field trip, to learn about the various aspects of water in the Coachella Valley. This gave me a solid base from which to start in my role as a Desert Water Agency Board member, where I am currently in my fifth year, three of which I have also served as board president.

Russ Martin

Board Member since November 2010. Current term expires in December 2028

Chair: Human Relations Committee ~ Chair: Engineering Committee

Director Martin grew up in Long Beach, California, where he attended Wilson High School, Long Beach Community College, and Cal State Long Beach, majoring in art history. In 1968, he started a career in law enforcement with the Santa Monica Police Department. For the next three decades, President Martin worked on a wide range of assignments, including Narcotics, Robbery-Homicide, Communications, Crime Prevention, Community Relations, and Special Enforcement. His last assignment was to command the police substation in the busy downtown Third Street Promenade. He retired from the Santa Monica PD in 2000 and was recognized for his service by the Governor of California and the President of the United States.

Director Martin has previously served on the board of directors or advisory boards of 10 organizations including the United Way, Urban Water Institute Board of Directors Westside Shelter Coalition, Claire Foundation for Substance Abuse, National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Bay Area Hotel Security Association and the City of Desert Hot Springs Public Safety Commission.

He currently serves on the Urban Water Institute Board of Directors, Riverside County Wide Oversight Board, is a member of the Agua Caliente Tribal Water Authority Board, and a Member of the Priority One Coachella Valley Advisory Committee's effort to bring a 4-year College Campus to the Coachella Valley.

Director Martin brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of leadership in the water industry. With a deep commitment to sustainable water management and community engagement, Russ is dedicated to advancing the goals of ACWA Region 9. His strategic vision and collaborative approach make him an ideal candidate for the board, where he aims to contribute to innovative solutions and effective policies that address the region's water challenges. Russ looks forward to the opportunity to serve and make a meaningful impact on the future of water resources in the community.