

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT HONORING ARDEN WALLUM FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Arden Wallum has served as the General Manager of the Mission Springs Water District since 2005, and throughout his tenure has demonstrated unwavering dedication, exemplary leadership, and an unsurpassed commitment to the District and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, as General Manager of the District, Arden Wallum steadfastly guided the District through extraordinary times and difficult challenges, and consistently moved the District forward to become a recognized leader among state water and wastewater providers, garnering millions of dollars of federal and state grants for projects that include without limitation, the District's Groundwater Quality Protection Project that has resulted in the elimination of thousands of septic tanks, and the construction of the nearly completed Nancy Wright Regional Water Reclamation Facility; and

WHEREAS, Wallum has also been at the forefront of major projects which have significantly improved and enhanced water and wastewater service within the District, including the formation of assessment districts to bring service into previously underserved neighborhoods, spearheading a District-wide water meter replacement program, and continuously providing for the maintenance and upgrade of the District's otherwise aging systems; and

WHEREAS, Wallum has made it his mission to educate and empower the community with knowledge and understanding of the District's function and role in their lives through the "Water 101 Program" presented dozens of times for community officials and leaders, and other organized programs and events for the District's customers, to provide a clear understanding of how the District's water and wastewater systems work and are managed, and provide high quality water to its customers and at the same time protect the groundwater on which the District relies for its service; and

WHEREAS, Wallum has worked tirelessly to make the District financially independent, through the preparation of a financial strategic plan and the formation of a diverse Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to formulate a plan to achieve financial stability for the District, which recommended a rate structure that was fair and equitable to all customers; by actively pursuing the formation of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), with the goal of funding major cooperative water and wastewater projects in the Coachella Valley; and by seizing every opportunity to obtain state and federal funding and support for the District's programs and projects; and in doing so, successfully brought tens of millions of dollars of grant funding into the community to improve water quality and service, and expand wastewater service and treatment capacity; and

WHEREAS, Wallum has been a forward-thinking and aggressive advocate for the District's customers and the community in which it operates water and wastewater service, has planned successfully for the future and leaves the District in a sound financial condition with the

lowest debt in decades, and has elevated the District to a prominent and respected position as a water and wastewater service provider in the state and Coachella Valley community; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2023, Arden Wallum announced, and the Board of Directors accepted his retirement with his last day at the District being August 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors wishes to recognize and express appreciation for the commitment and efforts of Arden Wallum, and outstanding service on behalf of the Mission Springs Water District; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Directors of Mission Springs Water District adopts this Resolution 2023-17 in honor of Arden Wallum, and directs that it be recorded in the permanent minutes of this Board.

ADOPTED this ____ day of July 2023, by the following vote:

Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

Russ Martin
President of Mission Springs Water District
and its Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Arden Wallum
Secretary of Mission Springs Water District
and its Board of Directors