

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

When Mr. Manbahal was hired, WVWD was in a state of financial and administrative turmoil. Under his leadership, WVWD enacted ten major reforms to resolve financial issues, address the numerous negative findings in a previous California State Controller's office audit and deliver greater accountability and savings for ratepayers, resulting in WVWD's receiving of the Special District Leadership Foundation Transparency Certificate of Excellence. As a result of his efforts, including the implementation of the Cal-Card purchasing card program to minimize fraud, WVWD's most recent state audit found no material deficiencies with WVWD's internal controls, management and records.

Even in the face of a decline in revenue due to COVID-19, Manbahal's strong leadership produced a responsible fiscal year 2020-2021 budget that generated \$416,000 in cost savings without raising rates for ratepayers. Recently, Manbahal led WVWD's effort to apply for and secure a U.S. Environmental and Protection Agency loan for capital improvements worth nearly \$25 million.

Before his tenure at WVWD, Manbahal served as director of finance, assistant financial services director and interim finance director for localities throughout California. Prior to that, Manbahal worked as an internal auditor for the County of Los Angeles. Manbahal earned his Master's degree in Public Administration from California State University Northridge and a bachelor's degree in accounting. He also serves as a part-time lecturer at UCLA Extension, leading intensive courses in auditing, accounting and business management.

Given his extensive experience in turning around municipal finances and management, we have no doubt Mr. Manbahal will be a valuable addition to CSDA leadership. Without any reservation, we strongly urge you to consider Mr. Manbahal for the position of CSDA Board of Director Seat A — Southern Network in the coming election. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Manbahal directly at [smanbahal@wvwd.org](mailto:smanbahal@wvwd.org) or (909) 820-3706.

*Rickey S. Manbahal, MPA  
Interim General Manager  
Chief Financial & Administrative Officer*