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Willard H. Murray Selected as WRD Board of Directors President

WRD Board of Directors Reorganizes Board Officers

LAKWOOD, CA – At Thursday’s Board of Directors meeting of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD), the board voted on new board officers, electing former Assemblymember and longtime WRD board member Willard H. Murray to take the helm as its new Board President. Murray has served on the board since 1998, including the past two years as the Board’s Vice President. In addition, the board elected Rob Katherman to serve as Vice President, John Allen as Board Secretary and Albert Robles as the board’s Treasurer. The newly elected board officers will assume their positions at the next board meeting scheduled for March 3, 2016.

“I’m deeply grateful and humbled to be elected by my colleagues to lead WRD’s Board of Directors, especially as we continue to forge long term solutions to drought-proof our region,” said President Murray. “I’m committed to continuing the course of WRD’s outstanding work and moving forward important projects that will ensure safe, clean and affordable drinking water for decades to come to the more than 4 million residents in the region.” Murray replaces board director Sergio Calderon who served as President since 2014.

John Allen, who was elected in November 2014, joins the list of board officers. “Being supported by my colleagues is something I regard with sincere gratitude,” stated Allen. “Since I’ve joined the board, we have been in high gear on projects that will have permanent positive impacts on the future of our water security. I’m looking forward to continuing that pace and achieving complete water independence of our groundwater basins.”

Newly elected Vice President Rob Katherman echoed the sentiment of his colleagues. “For the past 12 years that I’ve served on the board, we have hit many important milestones, but I’m most encouraged by current efforts to become the first set of groundwater basins in the state to become fully sustainable and independent of imported water,” said Katherman.

Last year WRD unveiled the design plans for its new advanced water treatment facility that will be located in the City of Pico Rivera and will provide an additional 21,000 acre feet (7 billion gallons) of water that is currently imported. Completion of the facility in 2018 will eliminate the need to import water from Northern California and the Colorado River for groundwater replenishment.

Albert Robles, WRD’s longest serving member, will continue his role on the board as treasurer. “Our fiscal stability and accountability remains unmatched. Even as we move ahead with building critical projects for our region’s future, we are mindful of our fiscal responsibilities to the public and our groundwater pumpers” Robles said. “We’re right on track to have one of our most successful years that will benefit the region for decades.”

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The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is the regional groundwater management agency that protects and preserves the quantity and quality of groundwater for two of the most utilized urban basins in the State of California. The service area is home to over ten percent of California’s population residing in 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County. WRD is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors which includes Willard H. Murray, Jr., Robert Katherman, John D. S. Allen, Sergio Calderon, and Albert Robles.