

Contact: Angelina Mancillas
Amancillas@wrd.org
(562) 275-4231

WRD Director Willard H. Murray Jr. Named Board President Emeritus

Lakewood (January 28, 2021) In honor of his work dedicated to the Water Replenishment District (WRD) and the over 4 million residents the agency serves, the WRD Board of Directors have named Director Willard H. Murray Jr. WRD Board President Emeritus.

First elected to the WRD Board of Directors in 1998, Willard H. Murray Jr. helped bring stability to the agency using his years of experience working on behalf of Los Angeles County residents. He has served the agency with distinction having been Board President for two terms over a four-year period. For a time, Director Murray was also a West Basin Municipal Water District appointee to the Metropolitan Water District Board.

During Murray’s tenure, the district launched the Water Independence Now (WIN) and WIN 4 ALL programs. These programs have had a monumental impact on Southern Los Angeles County’s water supply and have helped WRD reach its goal of eliminating the district’s need for imported water used for groundwater replenishment.

Director Murray’s storied career in public service began in the 1960s when he was an early and forceful civil rights advocate who became the first African American to serve in Mayor Sam Yorty’s administration. Prior to his election to the WRD Board of Directors, Director Murray served four terms in the California State Assembly.

In 2017, the WRD Board of Directors named the Board Room at its Lakewood Headquarters in honor of Director Murray. In addition, the Legislature honored his many contributions by naming a segment of the 91 Freeway after him.

“Director Murray has dedicated his life to improving the lives of countless Angelenos,” said Director Rob Katherman; “It was my honor to bring this motion to the board to recognize his countless contributions to the region.”

“No one is more deserving of this recognition,” said WRD Board President Vera Robles DeWitt; “Director Murray has served on the WRD Board of Directors with distinction and his work has ensured that we continue to protect one of our most precious resources.”

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) has managed and protected groundwater resources for 60 years. WRD manages two of the most utilized groundwater basins which provide half of the drinking water for over 4 million residents in 43 cities of southern Los Angeles County. Through WRD’s Water Independence Now (WIN) Program, the District has developed a resilient and locally sustainable source of water for groundwater replenishment.