



## Descanso Community Water District Board of Directors Newsletter March 2023

**Your Water District may soon be managed by the County of San Diego or another Water District. And with that scenario there is a good possibility that your water costs will be even higher than they are now, and you will have less autonomy.**

That is unless one or two individuals step up to join the Descanso Water District Board. This Water Board has been functioning with three board members, the lowest number of Board members allowable (3 Board members), for many years and thank goodness we have been able to hold it together and continue the work. But the bottom line is that as it stands, if we lose participation of just one member of the Board of Directors, financial decisions could not be approved and we would be in violation of California Community Service District law, jeopardizing the district's existence. The District could be taken over by the County or another Water District determined by the State.

Aside from that, a transfusion of new ideas and perspectives is sorely needed.

We are no longer the contentious water district board of the 1980's or even the 2000's. We are a collegial unit with a goal of keeping things moving forward. We have a vision and goal to continue to progress and provide the cleanest and safest water to this small community of 310 connections at a reasonable cost. Our financial condition is stable. Our district is well managed and functioning by the exemplary Operations team from SUSP.

We are not alone in this dilemma. Every volunteer board is facing the same situation. But the other volunteer boards don't directly affect your water quality or pocketbook.

Come to a meeting to observe our work. Ask questions. See for yourself and apply for a Board position. We are here to mentor and assist you in your transition.

**We recognize your time is valuable and appreciate any consideration. Descanso will too.**

**Next Regular Board Meeting: We hope to see you at our next meeting on March 21st at 7PM at the Town Hall.**

The Descanso Community Water District Board of Directors  
Maureen Phillips, President  
Gary Sanner, Vice President  
Lee Johnson, Finance Officer

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### ***Why is my participation so important?***

DCWD is a Community Service District or CSD and was formed by voters in Descanso many years ago. CSD's provide services and facilities within a defined boundary. They are governed by a board made up of local citizens and responsive to the community's unique character and needs. DCWD is no exception.

Water is becoming one of our country's most valuable diminishing resources. Your input in how our water is produced and its safety is vital to our community.

### ***What are the requirements to be considered as a member of the Board of Directors?***

You must be a registered voter, reside within the DCWD boundaries, and submit a letter of interest/intent providing relevant information to the DCWD Board of Directors for consideration.

### ***How is one approved as a Director?***

An individual can either be elected to the position if there are enough eligible candidates to participate in an election or appointed by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. (BOS) In recent years, the DCWD Board has reviewed the information provided and casually interviewed the prospective candidate. It then made a recommendation for appointment by the BOS. An individual may also petition our District 2 Supervisor directly.

Directors serve 4-year terms.

### ***What are the responsibilities of a Director?***

The Board is responsible for setting and approving policies for the operation, control, administration, and planning of the district's facilities and activities. As a Director you will be overseeing and working with our contractors; SUSP (Specialized Services Utility Program) for operations, Jason Kaminsky, our accountant, James Owens, our engineer with NV5, members of the legal team with Procopio, et al and others as needed.

A Director must report annually to the California Fair Political Practices Commission and attend Ethics and Brown Act Training.

### ***How frequently does the Board meet? How long are the meetings?***

Regular meetings are scheduled quarterly; usually the third week of March, June, September, and December. Special meetings are called when considerations requiring Board action occur, particularly those requiring district financial considerations, or when Regular meetings cannot be held at their regularly scheduled time. In the past 18 months we have had to have only 2 Special meetings and 2 Regular meetings.

Meeting length is entirely dependent on the meeting agenda and public input. We try to keep it under 2 hours.

### ***I have never served on a Board like this before. How will I be prepared?***

We have developed a Board Orientation program. It encompasses information about the district and its Administrative Code, history of the district, rules and laws governing district activities and meetings, and much more.

New directors are mentored by existing directors. We like to think we are open to all questions.

### ***Is there any compensation for serving as a Director?***

At the present time there is no compensation for service, but this has been a discussion in the past. Expenses incurred are reimbursed by the district with prior approval.