



NEWS RELEASE

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THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT APPOINTS WESTMINSTER MAYOR TRI TA TO FILL DIVISION FOUR VACANCY ON OCWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (September 7, 2018) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) voted on September 5, 2018 to appoint Tri Ta, mayor of the city of Westminster, to serve on its board of directors, to represent division 4. The seat became vacant upon the death of Philip L. Anthony in July, who served on the board for nearly 37 years. Division 4 includes the cities of Los Alamitos and Seal Beach and parts of Buena Park, Cypress, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton, and Westminster.

Director Ta was elected in November 2016 to serve his third term as mayor of Westminster. He was first elected to the city council in November 2006 and re-elected in 2010. In 2008, he was selected to serve as mayor pro tempore. In 2012, Director Ta became the first Vietnamese-American elected mayor in the United States. He was re-elected as mayor in November 2014.

“I would like to extend my appreciation to the board of directors for having confidence in me,” stated Director Ta. “I am honored and humbled to represent district 4 on the Orange County Water District. I am looking forward to working with the board and staff to maintain and protect the groundwater basin to provide quality water for Orange County residents.”

Prior to being elected to the city council, Director Ta served as a commissioner for the city's Energy Committee and Advisory Committee for the Disabled. Director Ta currently represents Westminster on several committees, including the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors; Westminster's Executive Committee and Budget and Finance Committee; the Orange County Council of Governments; the Orange County Public Library Advisory Board; and, the Orange County Transportation Authority Central County Corridor MIS and I-405 Policy Working Group. He also serves as council representative to the city's Water Rate Structure Committee, Zoning Code Update Committee, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion Advisory Committee, and Energy Committee.

“We are honored to have Tri Ta as a member of the OCWD family,” said OCWD Board President Denis Bilodeau. “His decade of public service in Orange County will serve the District well in achieving its mission to provide reliable and safe groundwater to more than 2.5 million people in the region.”

Director Ta was born in Saigon, Vietnam. He came to the United States with his family in 1992 at the age of nineteen. He then received a B.A. in political science and completed the requirements for a M.A. in international relations.

From 1998 to 2006, Director Ta worked as a career consultant and then an employment counselor. This enabled him to help numerous families from many ethnic groups become self-sufficient and less reliant

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on public assistance by developing better job searching skills and/or adequate vocational training to obtain sustainable employment. He also helped with a variety of supportive services including, but not limited to, transportation, childcare, housing, shelter, and ancillary.

Director Ta was active in many non-profit organizations, committees and projects, including the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations (UVSA); New Horizon; Orange History Program; National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies (NAVASA); Rancho Santiago Community College District's Measure Advisory Committee; Giving Back Program; and, Kiwanis International. He is frequently sought-after by universities as an inspirational speaker whose ultimate message to the youth is "follow your dream 'til the end."

Director Ta resides in Westminster with his wife Ahn Doan and their two daughters, Trianh and Trimy.

OCWD's Board is composed of 10 directors – seven elected from divisions that consist of cities throughout north and central Orange County, and three appointed to represent the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana. The other OCWD directors and their divisions are: Dina Nguyen, Esq., division 1; Denis Bilodeau, P.E., president and representative of division 2; Roger C. Yoh, P.E., division 3; Stephen R. Sheldon, division 5; Cathy Green, division 6; Shawn Dewane, second vice president and representative of division 7; Vicente Sarmiento, Esq., division 8; James Vanderbilt, division 9; and, Bruce Whitaker, division 10.

Attachment: Photo of Tri Ta

About OCWD

The Orange County Water District is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly and economical manner. The following cities rely on the groundwater basin, managed by OCWD, to provide more than 75 percent of their water demands: Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster and Yorba Linda. For more information about OCWD, please visit www.ocwd.com.

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