



Irvine Ranch  
WATER DISTRICT

October 18, 2017

Michael Markus  
Orange County Water District  
1870 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to share with you that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Nominating Committee has selected me as their recommended candidate to serve in the role of ACWA Vice President for the 2018-2019 term. I am excited about having an opportunity to play a leadership role in ACWA and represent your water agency and the other 430 ACWA member agencies in addressing California's increasingly complex water issues. I am writing to respectfully request your agency's support for my candidacy during the ACWA Officer Election at our fall conference.

My experience, in participating on various ACWA committees and in numerous events over the years, has shown me that it is the people that make the difference in the success of our statewide organization. The diversity among water agencies – north/south, east/west, large/small, ag/urban, coastal/mountain, desert/forest – provides a stellar example of the value of collaboration. Statewide, ACWA member agencies have the expertise to solve almost any water issue when given the opportunity. One of the things I enjoy most about being a part of ACWA is being able to learn from water experts from each of our regions. Together we are a mighty force throughout California and together we can solve difficult issues to the benefit of all Californians.

I have attached a brief summary of my experience with ACWA state water task forces and advisory committees. While this experience is indeed important, what I treasure most is having the support of people whom I respect within ACWA – past presidents, fellow ACWA Board members, friends from other water agency boards, general managers and district staff.

Many agencies have already supported my candidacy through resolutions, and I am very grateful for their early votes of confidence. I respectfully ask for an opportunity to represent the best interests of water agencies throughout California and ask for your agency's vote. I look forward to seeing you at our fall conference in Anaheim. Thank you in advance for your support. Please contact me if you have any questions about my candidacy at 714-227-2869.

Respectfully,

Steven E. LaMar  
Director

Enclosure: Statement of Qualifications

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## **STEVEN E. LAMAR**

### **Statement of Qualifications for Vice President Association of California Water Agencies**

- Inclusive Leadership
- Active Advocacy
- Strong Commitment Water Community

“Seeing things from all perspectives and working together to make a difference. This is not only the best way to forge alliances and make tough policy decisions, it’s essential for good governance.”



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### **Inclusive Leadership: Experience that Counts**

Steve LaMar has been a member of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors since early 2009, serving multiple terms as Board President. In his most recent election, he received support and endorsements from both the business community (e.g., Orange County Business Council, Building Industry Association) and environmental groups (e.g., Orange County League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club).

Mr. LaMar has also served in leadership roles for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). He is currently a member of its Board of Directors, Chair of the ACWA Federal Affairs Committee, and participates regularly at ACWA’s Executive Committee. He is a past-Chair of ACWA’s Headwaters Task Force. Mr. LaMar is a member of the board of directors of several other water-related organizations, including the National Water Resources Association (representing 17 Western states), the Southern California Water Committee, and CalDesal, and has served on the Board of the National Water Research Institute.

Beyond his water industry involvement, Steve had held leadership positions at a wide range of organizations such as the Natural Communities Coalition of Orange County, a nonprofit organization responsible for implementing California’s first natural community conservation plan and for protecting 37,000 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat, where he is its current Board President. He is also active in the California Building Industry Association, where he has chaired both the Water Resources Committee and Government Affairs Committee.

### **Active Advocacy: Not Just Words**

Mr. LaMar advocates for ACWA’s policies and initiatives not only as the Chair of the ACWA Federal Affairs Committee, but also through his involvement in other key ACWA committees including the Energy Committee, the Agricultural Initiative Work Group, and the Headwaters Work Group.

Steve’s advocacy effectiveness is evidenced by his successful professional career as President of LegiSight, LLC, a legislative advocacy firm for businesses. Prior to forming this firm, he served as the Senior Policy Director for the Irvine Company and the Director of Corporate Affairs for the Mission Viejo Company.

### **A Long-Term Commitment to the Water Community: Live What You Believe**

Mr. LaMar’s commitment to the water community pre-dates his joining the Board of IRWD. He worked on the Delta Vision Stakeholders Coordinating Group as a business representative, the AB 2717 Landscape Task Force as the Chair of the Economics Work Group, the 2005 and 2009 Advisory Committees for the California Water Plan, State Water Desalination Task Force, and Governor Davis’ Drought Advisory Panel.

Serving on the Board of IRWD has provided Mr. LaMar with the knowledge and understanding of what goes into providing retail water service to a broad and diverse community. Steve has applied this knowledge to his involvement with the Southern California Water Committee and memberships in the California Business Properties Association and the California Chamber of Commerce.

Steve LaMar has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Pittsburg State University and an Environmental Management Institute Certificate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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*Irvine Ranch Water District is a large retail water and sewer agency in Orange County California serving 390,000 residents, a 180-square mile area, with approximately 110,000 water and sewer service connections*