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DEWITT PICKED TO HEAD WRD BOARD OF DIRECTORS A Veteran Businesswoman with “Valuable” Budget Experience

LAKEWOOD (Jan. 16, 2020) - Vera Robles DeWitt was elected president today of the Water Replenishment District Board of Directors. “This is a tremendous honor,” said DeWitt, a businesswoman and longtime Carson resident and civic leader.

“WRD has an outstanding track record of overseeing the safety, affordability and reliability of the water resources used by four million residents of South Los Angeles County,” DeWitt said. “As president I will make sure we stay at the top of our game as stewards of these precious water resources.”

DeWitt was appointed to the five-member board in Aug. 2018 to fill a vacancy. WRD directors elect their president from among their members.

“Director DeWitt has been on the board only a short while but she has proved to be a fast learner,” said WRD Director John Allen, who made the motion to nominate DeWitt as his successor as board president. “The district will be in excellent hands with Director DeWitt at the helm. As a businesswoman and former top city official she brings years of valuable experience in budgeting and fiscal affairs to WRD.”

“I hope I can live up to the high standard of leadership set by Director Allen,” DeWitt said. “He has gone the extra mile to help me settle into the job of helping oversee one of the nation’s most innovative water districts.”

A recent landmark in WRD operations was the opening in August 2019 of the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning in Pico Rivera. This one-of-a-kind plant recycles locally-generated wastewater for re-use by 4 million residents who live in 43 cities and unincorporated areas of south Los Angeles County. Because of this plant, WRD will no longer need to purchase water imported long distances from Northern California and the Colorado River.

The Water Replenishment District is the largest groundwater agency in the State of California, managing and protecting local groundwater resources for four million residents. WRD's service area covers a 420-square-mile region of southern Los Angeles County, the most populated county in the United States. The 43 cities in the service area, including a portion of the City of Los Angeles, use about 250,000 acre-feet (82 billion gallons) of groundwater annually which accounts for approximately half of the region's water supply.

DeWitt represents Division 5 on the Board. Division 5 includes the cities of Carson, Bellflower, Compton, Downey, La Habra Height, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier.

DeWitt has a long record of public service. In 1981, she became the first Latino elected to the Carson City Council. She was reelected twice to four-year terms on the council, and in 1990 she was elected Carson Mayor by her council colleagues. She served on the Carson City Council until 1992.

DeWitt was a cofounder and first president of the Boys and Girls Club of Carson, a director of a battered women's shelter (the Dominguez Family Shelter) and a long-time member of Kiwanis International.
