



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO INCUMBENTS & ONE NEW DIRECTOR SWORN IN, START 4-YEAR TERMS ON PWD BOARD

Palmdale, CA – Unable to hold in-person meetings due to the pandemic, three recently elected Palmdale Water District (PWD) Board Directors took their oaths of office Monday via teleconference from their respective homes and without the usual gathering of supporters at the District office.

Incumbent Directors Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez and Gloria Dizmang, along with new Director Amberrose Merino, were sworn in at the start of the Board meeting by attorney Eric Dunn of Aleshire & Wynder, which represents PWD.

“I look forward to helping move our District ahead,” Director Mac Laren-Gomez said. “As long as we work together as a team like we have been doing, we will accomplish a lot.”

Director Mac Laren-Gomez, elected in 2011 to represent Division 4,

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is serving her third term. She works in business development for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association LMCC. Director Dizmang was appointed in 2019 to fill a vacated seat in Division 3. The retired educator, who taught at Antelope Valley Union High School District and Antelope Valley College, also was on the Board from 2011-2015.

Together with Board President Vincent Dino, Director Don Wilson and Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Director Dizmang congratulated and welcomed their newest colleague.

“We have a great team and a staff that is creative, inventive and dedicated,” Director Dizmang said. “You’ll fit right in.”

Representing Division 1, Director Merino replaces former Director Robert E. Alvarado, who did not seek re-election.

She said her interest in pursuing a role on the PWD Board stems from wanting a better future for her infant daughter and her desire to encourage young people to get involved in politics.

“I am really thankful to have this opportunity and very excited to join the team,” Director Merino said. “I want to contribute what I can to make sure our community is getting the safe, high-quality water it deserves. I really hope to reach out to the working class and the younger people. The only way to change what is happening in the world is to become involved.”

Director Merino, who grew up in the Antelope Valley, has made her mark in the local welding community. After graduating from Rosamond High School, she advanced from being

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the first female painter to becoming the second female welder at Kinkisharyo Train Factory. While at Kinkisharyo, she traveled to Washington D.C. to speak at a conference about working in a male-dominant field and how she went from being a waitress to a welder. She was later hired by Lancaster-based McWhirten Steel, where she was its first female welder.

The three Directors did not face challengers in the November election. Their terms will expire in 2024.

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on providing great customer care; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water-use efficiency; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency. For more information about PWD, visit www.palmdalewater.org.

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