

*Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
& Water Conservation Improvement District*

STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item 8: Association of California Water Agencies
2026-2027 Term Elections
Monday, August 4, 2025**

The Strategic Plan relevant priority is to **Advocate** by influencing outreach, education, funding, regulation, and legislation in support of equitable water resource stewardship.

- ACWA provides leadership and a unified voice for California's public water agencies as they worked to provide a reliable water supply for communities, farms and businesses.
- More information on ACWA membership: <https://www.acwa.com/about/membership/>

Background:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is the leading voice on California water issues. ACWA provides comprehensive leadership, advocacy, and education to serve California public water agencies' infrastructure and other water management needs to ensure high quality, sustainable and reliable water supplies in an environmentally, socially and fiscally responsible manner. The District has been a member for over ten years.

Every four years, ACWA holds elections for President and Vice President of the statewide ACWA Board and elections for the Regional Boards. For the 2026-2027 term, the election process for officers and region boards is combined. Voting for both sets of candidates will be done electronically by the member agency's designated voter on a single ballot. GM Salomone is the designated voter for the District.

Members of the Regional Board determine the direction and focus of regional issues, activities, and fulfillment of ACWA's goals on behalf of members. The role of the Regional Boards is to help guide ACWA policies, especially those that impact the region. A Nominating Committee is formed in each region to pursue qualified member candidates within the region to run for the Region Board. The Nominating Committee is appointed by the region chair in concurrence with the Region Board during odd-numbered years. The Nominating Committee selects a recommended slate for each region. The 2025 nominating committee for Region 1 was Adam Gaska (Redwood Valley County Water District), Hannah Davidson (Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District), Terrence "TK" Williams (Humboldt Community Services District) and Tony Williams (North Marin Water District)

Recommended Board Action:

- Provide feedback to General Manager on candidate selection and direction to submit District vote.

Attachments:

- ACWA Election Ballots for President, Vice President, and Region 1 Board

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Prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees by: *Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager*

ACWA Ballot Information For President and Vice President

Board Officers' Election for President & Vice President and Region Boards for 2026-'27

Both questions below are optional.

Please vote for only **one** candidate for each seat.

To write-in your vote, select Write-in and then type out your choice. Write-in candidates must be an elected or appointed director of an ACWA member agency and must submit a nominating/support resolution from their member agency's board no later than September 19.

ACWA President



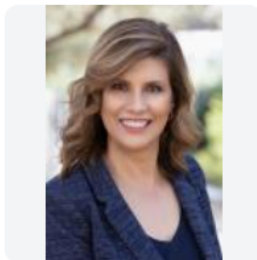
Ernesto A. Avila (Election Committee's preferred candidate)

As the current Vice-President of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), I am most proud of the thought, energy and...

[Show more](#)

Write-in:

ACWA Vice President



Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady (Election Committee's preferred candidate)

I am pleased to offer my Statement of Qualifications as a Candidate for ACWA Vice President. I'm passionate about delivering prudent...

[Show more](#)

Write-in:

ACWA Ballot Information For Region 1 Board

The Nominating Committee recommended slate:

Chair: David Rabbitt, Supervisor/Director, Sonoma County Water Agency

Vice Chair: Ranjiv Khush, Director, Marin Municipal Water District

Board Members:

- Peter Martin, Deputy Director Water Resources, City of Santa Rosa Water
- Dennis Mayo, Board Director, McKinleyville Community Services District
- Bruce Rupp, Director, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

If the Board does not concur with the Nominating Committee recommendation:

Candidates for Chair: David Rabbitt, Supervisor/Director, Sonoma County Water Agency

Candidates for Vice Chair:

- Ranjiv Khush, Director, Marin Municipal Water District
- Dennis Mayo, Board Director, McKinleyville Community Services District

Candidates for Board Members (select up to 5 of the following):

- Ranjiv Khush, Director, Marin Municipal Water District
- Peter Martin, Deputy Director Water Resources, City of Santa Rosa Water
- Dennis Mayo, Board Director, McKinleyville Community Services District
- Bruce Rupp, Director, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Submitted board candidate bios and headshots are available on <https://www.acwa.com/elections>.

Deadline to submit ballots is Friday, September 19, 2025, at 5 p.m.