



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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HUNDREDS CELEBRATE SWEARING IN OF NEW METROPOLITAN CHAIRWOMAN **Los Angeles, San Diego mayors among those participating in ceremony**

A packed board room of more than 300 elected officials, community leaders, water agency representatives, friends and family watched on Tuesday (Jan. 8) as Gloria D. Gray of Inglewood was [sworn in](#) as Metropolitan Water District's new Chairwoman of the Board of Directors.

Gray is the first African American to lead the 38-member board and only the second woman to do so in the district's 90-year history. Several dignitaries celebrated the historic moment, including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer. Gray was sworn in as the 19th chair in Metropolitan history by Inglewood Mayor James Butts.

"Here in Los Angeles, we don't just mark history, we make history. Who you are and what you are the embodiment of as chairwoman (are) the defining characteristics of this town, of Southern California itself. We are a place where freedom, where innovation and where belonging all live," said Mayor Garcetti. "Today Gloria Gray puts herself in that book of American history, in that book of Los Angeles and Southern California history."

Mayor Faulconer marked the occasion by calling for regional solidarity. "It is time to put old feuds behind us, time for a new era of cooperation. That is how we achieve success, when we work together," he said. "Gloria is the right person at the right time...this is and can be a new era of us working together."

After Gray thanked outgoing Chairman Randy Record for his leadership, she pledged to her fellow board members to "work hard with our board to come together and have a common vision about our future."

"If the past few years of drought-to-flood water cycles have taught us anything, it's that we must maintain and expand (local) investments to prepare this region for the dual impacts of growth and climate change. We need to make our shared vision for a more sustainable future a reality. And we must make sure that each community we serve benefits from that commitment," Gray said.

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“Metropolitan’s mission statement over the years has served us well, to provide reliable water in an economically and environmentally responsible way. There is no more noble a cause than to manage our water for the needs of the 19 million residents who call Southern California home,” she added.

As chairwoman, Gray, who has represented West Basin Municipal Water District on the Metropolitan board since April 2009, will represent district policies and programs at the national, state and local levels. She also will preside over monthly meetings of the board and its executive committee and is tasked with appointing board vice chairs and committee members.

On Tuesday, she named city of Los Angeles representative Lorraine Paskett, city of Pasadena representative Cynthia Kurtz and San Diego County Water Authority representative Jerry Butkiewicz as board vice chairs. Gray also recognized Director Leticia Vazquez-Wilson for her recent election as the first Latina secretary of the board.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative that, along with its 26 cities and retail suppliers, provide water for nearly 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.