

THE CITY OF  
**SAN FERNANDO**

CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR  
MARY MENDOZA

VICE MAYOR  
HECTOR A. PACHECO

COUNCILMEMBER  
SYLVIA BALLIN

COUNCILMEMBER  
CINDY MONTAÑEZ

COUNCILMEMBER  
CELESTE T. RODRIGUEZ

**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: October 12, 2022

**SAN FERNANDO REPRESENTATIVE, ADAN ORTEGA, ELECTED TO  
SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT**

SAN FERNANDO, CA - At their meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board of Directors elected Adan Ortega to serve a two-year term as Chairman of Board of the regional water agency that serves more than 19 million people across six counties in Southern California. Mr. Ortega was appointed by the San Fernando City Council in March 2021 to serve as the City's representative on the prominent MWD Board. Mr. Ortega is the first Latino chairman to be elected to the post and will serve a two-year term beginning January 1, 2023.

Mayor Mary Mendoza, Councilmember Sylvia Ballin, and Councilmember Cindy Montañez were in attendance at the MWD Board meeting on Tuesday to lend their support to Mr. Ortega's election as Chairman of the Board. Following the vote, Mayor Mary Mendoza expressed her elation. "This is a historic moment for the City of San Fernando and the MWD Board. Chair-elect Ortega will be the first Latino, and the first representative of the predominantly Latino City of San Fernando, to serve as chairman of the MWD Board. Chair-elect Ortega has spent most of his illustrious career committed to assisting small community water systems in disadvantaged communities in California. San Fernando is proud to hold a leadership role in setting regional water policy and serve as the voice for all under-served members of MWD."

"There's a part of San Fernando that's with me no matter where I go. In helping industrious people reach for safe drinking water, and among small communities striving toward resiliency. I love this community and am grateful for the opportunity to serve all of Southern California through the grace of my

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

San Fernando Representative, Adan Ortega, Elected to Serve  
as Chairman of the Metropolitan Water District  
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appointment and support from San Fernando's City Council to Metropolitan's Board," expressed Chair-elect Ortega.

Chair-elect Ortega is the principal of Ortega Strategies Group, a public affairs and government relations firm based in Fullerton. He previously served as MWD's Vice President of external affairs from 1999 to 2005. Before his role with MWD, he was Chief Deputy for then-Secretary of State Bill Jones and Assistant General Manager of both West Basin and Central Basin municipal water districts.

In 2013, Mr. Ortega was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the California Water Commission. Prior to that, he was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where Mr. Ortega chaired its Water Committee from 2005 to 2012.

With his election, Adan Ortega becomes the 20<sup>th</sup> Chairman in Metropolitan's 94-year history. He currently serves as a member of the Board's Finance and Insurance Committee, Organization, Personnel and Technology Committee, Underserved Communities Committee, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.

The City of San Fernando is a small independent water agency that supplies water to resident and business customers primarily through groundwater pumped from the Sylmar groundwater basin. San Fernando is one of 26 MWD member public agencies across six counties. As a member of MWD, the City of San Fernando may purchase water imported by MWD from Northern California and the Colorado River when local groundwater supplies are not sufficient to meet demand.

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