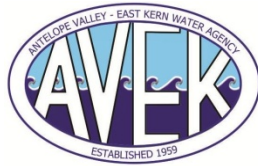


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIRECTOR RESIGNS; BOARD SEEKS NEW MEMBER TO FILL VACANCY

PALMDALE, CA: A vacancy on Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency's Board of Directors leaves an open seat that current board members must fill.

AVEK board members were informed at their Sept. 24 public meeting, that Division 6 Director Marlon Barnes was resigning his position as director more than half-way through his third term. He won his first election in November 2008.

"With mixed emotions, I am announcing my resignation as a director from the AVEK board," Barnes said. "I've spent 11 rewarding years here and I like the direction that AVEK is moving in."

Barnes cited the progress and accomplishments that occurred at AVEK during his tenure – the decision to bank water with supplies currently being stored for use through drought periods; the development and updates of a Strategic Plan with visions set on the future; the implementation of solar power for use in daily operations, an amenity estimated to save ratepayers thousands of dollars; and construction of the new Administration Building, complete with a state-of-the-art Laboratory. In addition, AVEK entered into a significant agreement with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California regarding storage capacity in the Agency's High Desert Water Bank.

"I'm going to miss working alongside six top-notch Directors and an amazing staff that is second to none," said Barnes, a firefighter working in the aerospace industry.

"I have purchased a house outside of my Division and will soon be selling the house in my Division." Barnes said the new home is in West Lancaster.

"I look forward to the rewards and challenges that this new chapter in my life will bring as we recently finalized the adoption of our two young boys," Barnes said, referring to a commitment between him and wife Sheila.

Barnes and his wife had been foster-parents to the boys, now ages 8 and 6.

As Barnes bid his colleagues farewell, he said he hopes AVEK continues to follow the "amazing path" that started more than 60 years ago.

In reaction to Barnes emotional announcement, board members shared some heartfelt sentiment. President Shelley Sorsabal said, "I'm sorry to see you go. You've made great contributions."

"Thank you for the years you've given us," said Vice President Keith Dyas. "We will miss you."

The board's longest seated member, Frank Donato, said, "I was here when Marlon was elected. He's done a remarkable job. He learned quickly. Also, Donato noted, Barnes had a noncontroversial demeanor when he approached any issue.

And, Donato said, Barnes brought his fire department experience to the board. Barnes, a Gary, Indiana native, moved to California in 1983 and has lived in the Antelope Valley since 1988. He

served as a firefighter for 30 years – 8 years with the U.S. Air Force and 22 years at Northrop Grumman.

Director Rob Parris commended Barnes for “a job well done.”

At their meeting on Oct. 8, 2019, the board chose to fill the vacancy by appointment rather than election due to the expense and required time to fill the vacancy.

Potential candidates seeking to be appointed to fill the unexpired term of the Division 6 seat must submit a signed cover letter indicating their interest; a resume stating their qualifications; and evidence showing they reside within the Division 6 boundaries. The term runs through Jan. 4, 2021.

Applications must be submitted in person no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019 at AVEK headquarters, 6450 West Avenue N, Palmdale, California.

For more information, contact Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly Hughes at (661) 943-3201 or hhughes@avek.org.

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