

# ZONE 7 WATER - BOARD OF DIRECTORS' STRATEGIC PLANNING KICKOFF MEETING



May 1, 2024



# INTRODUCTION

- Introduction
- Update to the 5-year Strategic Plan
- Why conduct strategic planning?
- What is the process?
- What are the roles of the participants?
- Solicit preliminary priorities from you
- Schedule
- Questions

# ED MEANS BIO

- 18 years with Metropolitan Water District in various management roles
- 26 years in consulting – solo consultant since 2012
- Assisted dozens of utilities in strategic planning and strategic thinking
- Familiar with all aspects of wholesale and retail water utility operations
- Conducted major strategic research for the Water Research Foundation
- Familiar with California water issues

# WHY DO IT? / BENEFITS TO ZONE 7 WATER

- Process to think through or revisit the direction
- Documents the goals (eliminates uncertainty among stakeholders)
- Aligns the organization, its people and resources to achieve the goals
- Thoughtfully addresses major issues/opportunities on the horizon (drought, competition, new services, new service areas, new regulations, etc.)
- Board sets the direction and management achieves it
- Living document

# STRATEGIC PLAN ELEMENTS



# STRATEGIC PLAN IS THE FRAMEWORK – YOUR OTHER PLANS SUPPORT IT



# PROCESS



# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF BOARD MEMBERS

- Participate in Workshops
- Define goals
- Own the outcome
- Revisit in budget and readjust as needed



# TOP 3 STRATEGIC PLANNING CHALLENGES

- Board Members share initial Top 3 Zone 7 Water challenges the Plan should ensure we address in the next 5-year period

# JUNE 10-13 INTERVIEWS - PROCESS

## **S**trengths

- Advantages
- Capabilities
- Resources
- Assets
- People

## **O**pportunities

- Market developments
- Technology
- New services
- Partnerships
- Energy
- Efficiency

## **W**eaknesses

- Financials
- Our vulnerabilities
- Timescales, deadlines and pressures
- Continuity
- Aging infrastructure
- Loss of skills
- Lack of competitive strength

## **T**hreats

- Environmental effects
- Politics
- Demands
- Obstacles

Seek Director Input on Current:

- Vision
- Mission
- Goals
- Values

# KEY DATES

Board kickoff presentation	May 1
Conduct kickoff meeting with Management	May 15
Conduct Board and Management interviews	June 10-13
SWOT meetings with Staff	June 26-27
Conduct Strategic Planning meeting with Management Team	Aug 13
Conduct Board Strategic Plan workshop	Sept 25
Conduct Management Team workshop	Oct 15
Present Strategic Plan to Board for comment/adoption	Nov 20

# QUESTIONS

