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NEWS RELEASE

DOUGLAS HEADRICK APPOINTED GENERAL MANAGER OF SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Headrick will replace Randy Van Gelder, who is retiring at the end of this year after 30 years with the district

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., Dec. 2, 2009 – The Board of Directors of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District has appointed Douglas Headrick, the district's deputy general manager, to replace current general manager Randy Van Gelder, who will retire at the end of this year.

"We commend Randy Van Gelder for his 30 years of exemplary service to our district and wish him the very best in his retirement," said Valley District Board President Pat Milligan, adding that he anticipates a smooth transition in leadership at the district given Headrick's track record of effective water management skills and excellent working relationships with other Inland Empire water agencies.

Headrick, for his part, said his goals as general manager will be to continue the tradition of excellence established by previous general managers at the district by developing innovative water resource management projects to increase the water supply reliability for the region. These would include projects that enhance the capture of local stormwater along with those that increase the reliability of the State Water Project.

Headrick has been deputy general manager of Valley District since 2006, during which time he has promoted successful groundwater recharge and surface water capture programs and developed cooperative relationships with other water agencies to maximize efficient water use practices throughout the district's 350-square mile service area.

Prior to joining Valley District in 2006, Headrick held management positions for three other Inland Empire water agencies, including chief of water resources for the City of Redlands from 2000 to 2006; deputy manager for water resources and information systems for the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District from 1996 to 2000; and senior project manager for the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority from 1992 to 1996, during which time he developed detailed mapping systems of groundwater basins throughout the Inland Empire to improve local agencies' ability to manage contaminant plumes and areas of high groundwater.

Headrick prefaced his water agency experience with a four-year stint with TRW's Space and Technology Group in San Bernardino from 1988 to 1992, during which time he administered a defense contract for mobile intercontinental ballistic missile systems in addition to developing computer programs for the US Air Force.

Van Gelder, 62, joined the district's computer department in 1979, eventually working his way up to director of finance and administration. He became assistant general manager in 2001 and was promoted to general manager three years ago.

"We've had a very stable board and a very stable staff, and that makes the job easier for any administrator," Van Gelder, who led the agency as it secured a permit from the State Water Resources Control Board to capture previously unallocated storm flows from the local mountains that would otherwise be lost downstream. The new rights, which are shared with Western Municipal Water District, capped a nearly 20-year effort led by Valley District to secure additional water for the region.

"The water business a lot like a football game," Van Gelder said. "There's a whole team of folks and they get down to the three yard line and somebody gets to carry the ball over the goal. But that person can only do that because of the collective efforts of the team."

Van Gelder added, "We've made a lot of partnerships over the years and I think those have worked out very well."

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District was formed in 1954 as a regional agency to plan a long-range water supply for the San Bernardino Valley. It imports water into its service area through participation in the State Water Project and manages groundwater storage within its boundaries. Valley District's customers include 13 retail water agencies from Rialto to Yucaipa, which collectively have more than 700,000 business and residential customers. Valley District's 350-square mile service area spans the eastern two-thirds of the San Bernardino Valley, the Crafton Hills, and a portion of the Yucaipa Valley and includes the cities and communities of San Bernardino, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, Bloomington, Highland, East Highland, Mentone, Grand Terrace, and Yucaipa.