FORMER GARDENA MAYOR JOINS METROPOLITAN BOARD

Former Gardena Mayor Donald Dear took his seat today as a member of Metropolitan Water District’s Board of Directors.

Dear joins Gloria D. Gray in representing West Basin Municipal Water District on Metropolitan’s 37-member board. He succeeds Edward C. “Ed” Little, who served three separate terms on Metropolitan’s board, including his most recent since April 2007.

At Metropolitan, Dear was placed on the board’s Finance and Insurance Committee, Audit and Ethics Committee, and Real Property and Asset Management Committee.

After serving as mayor of the city of Gardena for nine consecutive terms, Dear retired in 2001 after 27 years of city service. He was first elected to the Gardena City Council in 1970 before being elected mayor in 1982. A former teacher at Stephen White Middle School in Carson for 37 years, Dear was named "Teacher of the Year" in 1983 for Region A of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Dear was elected to West Basin’s Board of Directors in November 2000, representing the cities and communities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale and portions of El Camino Village. In October 2011, the West Basin Board paid tribute to Dear’s distinguished public service by naming the district’s Carson headquarters the Donald L. Dear Building.

In 2012, he was reelected as one of the representatives for the Los Angeles County Independent Special Districts on the Local Agency Formation Commission, where he is first vice president. He also was a trustee of the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District for 24 years and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 5 for 19 years.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dear holds a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Southern California.

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A Sierra Club member, Dear also served as president of the South Bay Cities Association (now known as South Bay Cities Council of Governments) and on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Cities Joint Powers Consortium.

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_The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 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._