



Gloria D. Gray

Chairwoman

Metropolitan Water District

Gloria D. Gray took office as chairwoman of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors, on January 1, 2019. She is the first African-American to lead the board and only the second woman to do so in the district's 90-year history.

Gray began her career in water in 2006 when she was elected to the West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors. She was the first African-American woman elected to that board in its 65 years and served as board president in 2010. She represents the Division II cities of Inglewood, South Ladera Heights, Lennox and the areas of Athens, Howard and Ross-Sexton. In 2009, Gray was appointed to Metropolitan's Board of Directors to serve as one of two West Basin representatives in 2009.

She was the first African-American woman to serve as vice chair of the Metropolitan board, the first African-American woman to chair a board meeting in the 86-year agency history and served on the Executive Committee, Organization, Personnel and Technology Committee, Special Committee on Bay-Delta, and as vice chair of Communication and Legislative Committee. In 2017, Gray was appointed chair of Water Planning and Stewardship Committee, and was the first African-American woman to lead this important committee which focuses on Metropolitan water projects and programs.

Gray, an Inglewood resident, was elected to the Inglewood Unified School District Board of Education in 1995 and served as President for two terms. In March 2009, she was appointed by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors to serve on a Water Quality Community Task Force, which is part of the County's Clean Water, Clean Beaches initiative to address pollution in local waterways that include rivers, lakes, bays, beaches, and coastal waters.

In April 2010, Gray was appointed to the Delta Stewardship Council by former Assembly Speaker Karen Bass where she served a four-year term. She was the first African American and

first woman to serve on the council. In 2011, she met with stakeholders from all areas of the state and recommended the Delta Council hold public forums to gain broader input and understanding of key issues in order to develop a comprehensive Delta Plan.

In May 2012, she was confirmed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as a member of the Oversight Commission for the dissolution of the City of Carson Redevelopment Agency. In 2013, she was recruited by the White House Obama Administration to interview for a cabinet position in the Department of the Interior.

In 2014, the West Basin Board of Directors appointed Gray as their representative to the Association of California Water Agencies Region 8, where she currently serves as a vice chair, and on the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority. She was also appointed to represent West Basin as a voting board member on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and the Commission elected her to the Executive Committee and the Commission's Authority. During her first term, Gray initiated West Basin's Local Business Enterprise Program and Local Banking Program that allows local businesses to better compete for work and enhances the local community within West Basin's service area.

In October 2012, Gray received the "Honorable Harriett Wieder" award for leadership in water from the Southern California Water Committee. She has also been honored by the Friends of the Sisters at the Well for her leadership in civic and public engagement, and the Friends of Ballona Wetlands for her leadership on current and future water supply issues.

In 2018, Gray was recognized as Visionary of the Year by Playa Vista Jobs for her work in the water industry. In 2017, Gray received the Esther Williams Award of Excellence for her continued commitment to community service and water reliability from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. In recognition of her commitment to community service, Gray received an acknowledgement proclamation from Metropolitan's Board of Directors for her work and outstanding leadership on the Delta Stewardship Council, and later received the 2014 African Legacy Award as the first African-American woman to be elected to the district's Board of Directors. Among her other notable honors are the Outstanding Community Honoree award from The A-Man, Inc. STEM International in June 2013 and induction into the National Association of University Women's Hall of Fame for exceptional leadership in March 2013. Over the years, she has received commendations from former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, current Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, senators, members of congress, and many other state and local elected officials.

Since taking office as Metropolitan's chairwoman, Gray has been honored by numerous organizations including the California Black Chamber of Commerce and several Southern California water agencies. She has also been honored by the Los Angeles City Council and was

recognized by the region's small business community at the Meet the Decision Makers Event for her significant contributions to the water industry. As part of Black History Month in 2019, Gray was honored along with Metrolink CEO by the two organizations' Black Employees Associations for their leadership and commitment in water and the transportation industry.

Gray was one of 25 women from around the world recognized in a social media campaign by Suez Water on International Women's Day 2019. The National Association of Water Agencies honored Gray at a reception at the U.S. Capitol in Washington DC and she was invited to join with other top water leaders as a featured panelist at the California Water Policy conference. Gray was also honored by the non-profit Pacoima Beautiful for her tireless efforts as a long-time champion of environmental justice issues

Gray has also been interviewed and profiled in multiple publications including the Municipal Water Leader Magazine Article, Leadership for California's Water Future; Bloomberg

Environment's profile, Delta Tunnels, Diversity, Are Focus of New California Water Leader; the Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper article, Gloria Gray Elected First African American Woman to Chair MWD Board; and in an upcoming article in LA Focus magazine.

In 2019, Gray was honored by Delta Sigma Theta, the nation's largest African-American sorority public service organization, and , as the recipient of Leadership California's 2019 Legacy of Service Award for her extraordinary leadership in the public sector, and by the Women in Water organization of the Association of California Water Agencies.

This spring, Gray will be honored by Labor 411 Foundation which supports the creation and preservation of union jobs.

Demonstrating her support for and mentorship of young women, Chairwoman Gray has recently met with representatives from the DIY (Do it Yourself) Girls organization to increase girls' interest and success in technology and engineering, and with members of the Blythe 4-H Youth Development program to address community health inequities, engaging in civil discourse and advocating for equity and inclusion for all.

Gray earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in the Business Administration Program at the University of Redlands and her Health Services Management Certificate from the University of California Los Angeles, and a Masters in Governance from Special District. She retired as a Health Care Administrator from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and has been a proud union member of SEIU Local 721 for more than 30 years.