



Michael Winn  
Chairperson

Sue Luft  
Vice Chairperson

Courtney Howard  
Secretary

Room 207, County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo CA 93401

PH (805) 781-1016  
FAX (805) 788-2182

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December 6, 2011

Mr. Gary Henderson  
316 Valley View  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

**Subject:** Commendation for Career of Service to Water Resources Planning, Development, and Conservation in the City and County of San Luis Obispo

Dear Gary:

On behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC), and with their unanimous acclamation of support, I would like to offer our deepest appreciation to you for your career of public service to the City of San Luis Obispo, and to our entire County, in the vital profession of water resources planning, development, and conservation.

You have faithfully attended the monthly meetings of the WRAC during virtually all of your years of service to your City, which began on April 1, 1984. This devotion to our deliberations continued even after your promotion to Deputy Director in the Utilities Department in August 1991. Throughout these many meetings, you provided a consistent presence and made important contributions to the WRAC, providing valuable technical information and perspective that assisted our members make well-informed recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Your service to the City of San Luis Obispo commenced just as we entered the most difficult years on record for any water resources engineer in the Central Coast, the extended drought of 1986-1991. During those challenging years, you skillfully managed the City's multiple water resources while supervising its water conservation efforts, providing a superb model for other cities to emulate. The City's Water Conservation Program has reduced per capita water use from a high of 186 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) to a current rate of about 107 gpcd – not much higher even now than its historic low of 86 gpcd in 1991.

Another achievement for which you are justifiably proud is your administration of the City's role in the Nacimiento Water Project, including supervision of improvements to the City's Water Treatment Plant, and assisting with the planning and engineering of the 45-mile Nacimiento conveyance facilities.

#### **Purpose of the Committee:**

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board specific water resource programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

*Excerpts from WRAC Bylaws dated 3/2/2011*

If these achievements were not enough, you have also gained the respect of your colleagues, both within the City of San Luis Obispo and among the entire regional water resources community, as a superlative team member, a solid performer, and an excellent communicator. You have always maintained a respectful demeanor with all WRAC members regardless of differences of opinion, upholding the highest standards of professionalism.

We thank you for your many contributions to the WRAC and water resources community over the years, Gary, and we wish you the very best in this, the next chapter of your life.

Respectfully,



MICHAEL WINN

Chairperson, Water Resources Advisory Committee

cc: SLO County Board of Supervisors