



Media Release

State Water Board Selects Michael George as New Delta Watermaster

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The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has announced the appointment of Michael George as the new Delta Watermaster.

The Delta Watermaster position, created in 2009 as part of a framework for water governance in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, is responsible for both the day-to-day administration of water rights within the legal boundaries of the Delta and working with the State Water Board on strategic initiatives to improve the operation of the water rights system within the Delta.

George is the second Watermaster since the position's inception. Delta Watermasters serve four-year terms. Outgoing Watermaster Craig Wilson created the foundation for the office's role and interactions in the Delta.

George has been actively involved in California's water community for more than 20 years and brings a diverse background and set of skills to the position. He is an attorney and has served on boards, held executive management positions in the industry, and brings particular expertise in water resource law and finance to the position.

George gained experience in municipal corporations, securities regulation, and environmental law early in his career. He went on to specialize in both public and private financial transactions and then transitioned into leadership positions with several private water companies. Most recently, he served as the managing director for Wedbush Securities in San Francisco. He has not specialized in working with any single constituency, but rather has worked with or represented different sectors of water users during the course of his career.

The new Delta Watermaster assumes his position during a time of profound water challenges for California. In making its selection, the State Water Board searched for a candidate that could build on the past efforts of the Office of the Delta Watermaster and work strategically with all of the interests to resolve some of the very complex matters that are unique to the Delta region.

Michael George, 64, holds a BA from the University of Notre Dame and a JD from the Georgetown University Law Center and will begin his term on January 5, 2015.

