

ACWA REGION BOARD CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM 2025

I am a lifelong Californian who grew up in, and who has lived through, droughts. However, my interest in water really began when I moved to Palm Springs in 2002, which coincided with a career change to become a landscape designer. Recognizing the challenges of designing landscapes in a desert environment quickly led to my involvement with local water agencies, to learn about what they were doing to increase public awareness about the importance of using water wisely in our local landscapes.

As a part of this, in 2005 I co-founded the Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley which focused on providing opportunities for residents to visit local area, low water use landscapes, and learn from their friends, their neighbors and local experts in the landscape and water industries. This then led to a six-year appointment with the Architectural Advisory Committee for the City of Palm Springs as a community landscape expert, reviewing landscape plans for proposed new build projects. When the state of California initiated a major update to its Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance in 2009, the Desert Water Agency's then conservation manager asked me to help review the proposed ordinance and suggest changes appropriate to our local conditions.

In 2017 I was a member of the initial class of the Water Counts Academy, an educational program jointly offered by the Valley's water districts. This included four 3-hour classroom sessions, and one all-day field trip, to learn about the various aspects of water in the Coachella Valley. This gave me a solid base from which to start in my role as a Desert Water Agency Board member, where I am currently in my fifth year, three of which I have also served as board president.