



## PAMELA TOBIN

*petpyrs@surewest.net* | C: 916-275-0875

### Statement of Qualifications

#### **Hello ACWA Members:**

My name is Pam Tobin and I currently serve as ACWA's **Vice President**. I am asking for your support as I seek the office of **ACWA President for the 2022-23 term**.

My track record of accomplishments as ACWA Vice President and my more than 17 years of experience in California water at the local, regional, and statewide levels, make me uniquely qualified for the role of ACWA President.

During my term as Vice President, ACWA members -- like so many other organizations -- faced unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am so appreciative of, and gratified by, the water community's success in keeping employees safe while ensuring uninterrupted reliable and safe water delivery.

One of the questions I focused on was "How can ACWA support its members?" I am especially proud of the "Leadership to Leadership" Program that I created to keep members connected virtually, to learn about their challenges, and identify ways that ACWA could support them. I also worked with the ACWA staff to develop on-line workshops and sessions to help members navigate the changed world we are all living and working in. We covered topics ranging from financial impacts to safety protocols, to communicating with the public virtually.

As we emerge from the pandemic and confront a critically dry year and the uncertainty of what is to come, I will continue to look for opportunities to support ACWA members and help them connect and share strategies with each other. I also will advocate for support and funding from both the state and federal administrations. That is what ACWA is all about: ACWA bringing the issues, the solutions, and people together.

On the policy front, it has been rewarding to work closely with the ACWA Board to devise statewide policies on everything from COVID-19 debt relief, to safe drinking water access and quality, to SGMA implementation, drought contingency planning, and providing input to the Newsom Administration on California's Water Resiliency Portfolio. As a member of the ACWA Board Steering Committee, I helped shape a future path for ACWA in 2019 through a new five-year Strategic Plan.

Through these challenges and activities, I have brought both my professional and personal skills to the table. My competencies around policy development, finance, and conflict resolution have helped me work collaboratively with all parties to find the "win-win" outcome.



I am a leader who connects, listens, learns, and works to bring all parties together. I am not intimidated by tough issues. I am an independent thinker and don't shy away from making difficult decisions.

### **Professional Background**

#### **ACWA**

I serve as the Association's representative to the ACWA-JPIA Board, Executive Committee, and its Liability Committee, and worked to provide and expand critical services for ACWA member agencies while ensuring JPIA's fiscal health. In addition to my service as ACWA Vice President, my prior ACWA experience includes serving as a Board member, Region 4 Chair, and as a member of numerous ACWA committees.

#### **San Juan Water District**

I have been on the Board of Directors of the San Juan Water District (San Juan) in Northern California since 2004, including three terms as President.

Serving on the board at San Juan has provided me with the opportunity to understand both the wholesale and retail side of the water business. We serve families and businesses. We possess some of the most senior water rights in California (1853), as well as being an American River Division contractor with the federal Central Valley Project. San Juan is also active in regional groundwater management and conjunctive use planning, including SGMA implementation. Addressing all of these issues has helped me better understand the challenges that other agencies throughout California experience.

#### **Regional Leadership**

I have served multiple terms as Chair of both the Sacramento Regional Water Authority and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority. Through these roles, I have worked directly with more than 22 public water agencies, private water companies, cities, and counties, and have built partnerships in pursuit of successful collaborative solutions.

#### **On a Personal Note**

So, what do I do in my spare time? You might be surprised to know that I am a long-time realtor and property developer with over 30 years as a business owner. Understanding the nexus between land-use planning and water management has been invaluable in my water role and in my professional life. But my real passion is caring for our four-legged friends. I am focused on showing my dogs and rescuing homeless dogs. It is the hardest and best thing I have ever done.



I hail from Laconia, New Hampshire, growing up in the Lakes Region. I have called California home since 1971. I have been married to my wonderful, supportive husband for 40 years. I have two grown children -- my oldest son is a senior engineer in upper management for the City of Los Angeles and the youngest is an attorney in Los Angeles. I also have four grandchildren.

Finally, I did not come to the decision to run for ACWA President lightly. Everything I have done to date, including serving as your ACWA Vice-President, has prepared me for this moment. I look forward to meeting with many of you to share my ACWA vision and commitment to you personally and hope that I can count on your support for ACWA President.



## Pamela Tobin

# My Priorities for ACWA

June 2021

As ACWA Vice President, I accomplished the priorities that I committed to during my campaign:

**Demystify ACWA and Increase Member Involvement** – *I pledged to increase member involvement and to keep you connected to ACWA.*

- ✓ In 2020, I created and co-facilitated “Leadership to Leadership.” This virtual town hall rotates among ACWA regions north and south, to foster connection between ACWA and its members and among the members themselves. The response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive and has helped me and ACWA staff understand how ACWA can do better and provide more value for its members.
  
- **Support the 2020 California Resiliency Portfolio and Advance Forest Management** – *In keeping with its past practice, ACWA has stepped up to provide constructive and innovative input on behalf of members to drive the state’s water policy.*
  - ✓ As Vice President, I was actively involved in ACWA’s effort to solicit member input to shape ACWA’s policies at the Board level, including ACWA’s comprehensive comments to the Newsom Administration on its 2020 California Resiliency Portfolio. I actively engaged on ACWA’s priority issues, both state and federal, including COVID-19 debt relief, Voluntary Agreements, SGMA implementation, climate resiliency, and water infrastructure investment.
  - ✓ Securing funding for improved forest management and elevating the priorities to reduce fire risk and protect our water at the source have been key features of ACWA’s comments. Additionally, I helped to build awareness of the catastrophic burden from wildfires that has been placed on local agencies within these high-risk watersheds.
  
- **Dealing with the COVID–19 PANDEMIC** – *ACWA, like every other organization, faced unprecedented challenges in coping with the impacts of the pandemic on both the association and its members.*
  - ✓ In my role on ACWA’s Executive Committee and as its representative to the ACWA-Joint Powers Authority Executive Committee and Liability Committee, I advanced critical workforce issues, limiting exposure and workers’ compensation claims related to COVID–19.



- ✓ With my strong background in finance, I contributed valuable expertise as the ACWA Board adjusted its budget and financial plans while working to protect non-dues revenue sources by adapting events to virtual formats. I also suggested and supported the ACWA team in developing a series of workshops to assist agencies with the myriad challenges resulting from the pandemic. Workshops covered a range of topics from communicating with the public to financial and legal issues.
  
- ✓ In early 2021, I called for a review of the 2020 ACWA Strategic Plan to update the budget and align activities accordingly to reflect COVID-19 impacts.

**As ACWA President, I will continue to be committed to:**

- Putting the people of ACWA first by elevating the highly successful “Leadership to Leadership” program, with an emphasis on unifying members and supporting each other as we emerge from COVID-19 into a severe drought.
- Capitalize on our collective resilience and lessons learned from the pandemic experience to make our water industry stronger and more responsive to the public we serve.
- Ensure that ALL voices within the ACWA family are heard! Respect differing viewpoints and help members connect and find common ground. Increase diversity, inclusion, and equity on ACWA’s Board of Directors, committees, and subcommittees.
- Improve transparency in ACWA’s policy and operational decisions.
- Advance forest management and address ACWA member needs resulting from wildfire impacts.
- Shape and support California’s Water Resiliency Portfolio.

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***“My accomplishments as ACWA Vice President, experience in California water and collaborative leadership approach make me uniquely qualified for the role of ACWA President.” – Pam Tobin, ACWA Vice President***

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