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PRESS RELEASE

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PWD BOARD VOTES TO APPOINT UPCOMING DIVISION 1 VACANCY FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF DIRECTOR MERINO

Palmdale, CA – With the resignation of Palmdale Water District (PWD) Board Director Amberrose Merino effective March 1, the position that represents Division 1 will be filled by appointment.

The Board voted unanimously Monday night to appoint the position rather than have a special election or let the L.A. County Board of Supervisors fill the spot.

Director Merino, who was elected in November 2020 to a four-year term, is leaving her role due to her recent move to Texas. Her last day as Director is Feb. 28.

"It is with a heavy heart that I leave Palmdale and my position at PWD," Director Merino said. "I have truly enjoyed my time representing Division 1 and being a part of the Board. I have learned a lot and hope that I have made a positive impact in my short time. I wish the District the best."

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DIRECTOR...Page 2

By law, the PWD Board has 60 days from the vacancy, or until April 30, to make an appointment. A public notice of the vacancy will be posted in three or more conspicuous places in the District at least 15 days before the appointment is made. The appointee would only serve until November when an election for the remaining two-year term will take place.

Details of how to apply for the position will be released later. However, applicants must reside in Division 1, which roughly borders Avenue P to the north, Avenue R to the south, 35th Street to the east and Highway 14 to the west. The boundaries could change slightly as the Board is currently undergoing redistricting, which happens after the census every 10 years. The Board is scheduled to vote at its March 28 meeting on a final map.

"We would like to thank Director Merino for her service to our Palmdale community," PWD Board President Gloria Dizmang said. "Her time with us was short, but she was full of great ideas and offered a fresh perspective. I hope that we will be able to fill the position with someone as great as Amber."

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on providing great customer care; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water-use efficiency; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency. For more information about PWD, visit <u>www.palmdalewater.org</u>.