



Westlands Water District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Westlands Elects Don Peracchi New President of District Board

The Westlands Water District Board of Directors today elected Don Peracchi to serve as the district's president. He replaces Jean P. Sagouspe who is stepping down after almost six years in the president's post.

Don Peracchi is a farmer in Westlands whose company, DJ Farms, grows almonds, grapes and pomegranates. He was born and raised in Fresno, attended local schools and California State University, Fresno. His family has been farming in Westlands since 1982. He was appointed to fill an unexpired vacancy on the board in 2008 and was elected to a four-year term in 2009.

"Westlands today is stronger, more unified, and better able to serve the communities of the Westside thanks to the intelligence, creativity and determination that Jean Sagouspe brought to this job," said the new president. "His shoes will be difficult to fill."

In his resignation letter to the board, Sagouspe noted that he has been representing the landowners and water users of the Westside in various elected water positions since 1979. Sagouspe expressed the hope that stepping down from the Westlands board will enable him to spend more time with his business enterprises in California and Colorado.

"I have no way of expressing how much we have all learned and benefited from Jean's leadership," said Westlands general manager, Tom Birmingham. "The District is better positioned to meet the challenges ahead because of the course Jean set for it."

Westlands is a public water district governed by a nine-member Board of Directors. Elections for the Board are held every two years and Directors are elected to four-year terms in office. The Board elects its own president and other officers. It is anticipated that the Board will appoint a new Director to fill the vacancy created by Sagouspe's resignation. This new Director will be on the ballot in the District's next election in August, 2011.

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