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## **Thurston ‘Smitty’ Smith Selected as Next MWA Board President**

### *Morongo Basin Representative Voted in as Vice President*

APPLE VALLEY, CA — Two longtime High Desert residents will head Mojave Water Agency’s (MWA) Board of Directors in 2020 after a Thursday vote that named Thurston “Smitty” Smith as Board President, and Jim Ventura as Vice President.

The decision to promote Director Smith to Board President at a recent Board of Director’s meeting was unanimous amongst the Agency’s seven-member Board and comes on the heels of him serving a year as Vice President.

Smith was initially elected to MWA’s Board in 2016 and represents Division 7 of the Agency’s service area, which encompasses parts of Hesperia and Apple Valley.

Prior to his run on MWA’s Board, Smith served two continuous terms on the Hesperia City Council. Over the course of more than two decades of public service, Smith has held leadership positions with the County of San Bernardino Treasury Oversight Committee and Desert Valley Hospital Board of Directors. He also chairs the annual Victor Valley

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Bicycle Tour.

Additionally, Smith has served on the Board of Directors for Hesperia American Little League where his two sons played baseball, and the Hesperia Recreation and Park District Board of Directors.

Appointed to the Agency's Board in 2000 as the representative of Division 2, Ventura will now assume the role as Vice President. Ventura has lived in Joshua Tree since 1980 and enjoyed a long career with Southern California Edison that spanned 32 years. Throughout the years, Ventura has been distinguished with many community awards for his work in the Morongo Basin that includes being inducted to the Copper Mountain College Community Leadership Hall of Fame and winning the Community Distinguished Citizenship Award.

The meeting also saw Jeanette Hayhurst, who was elected to the MWA Board in 2018 and represents Division 6, resume her role as Board Secretary, and Kimberly Cox, who served as Board President in 2018 and represents Division 1, take the reigns as Board Treasurer.

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