



# Scott Houston

President, West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors  
*Division IV*

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Scott Houston was elected to the Board of Directors of the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) in November 2014. He represents the Division IV cities of El Segundo, Culver City, West Hollywood and Malibu, and the unincorporated Los Angeles County areas of Topanga, Marina del Rey, Windsor Hills, View Park, North Ladera Heights, Del Aire, Wiseburn and a portion of Lennox. Director Houston serves as President of the Board, and is currently Chair of West Basin's Public Information and Education Committee and member of its Engineering and Operations Committee.

Director Houston has lived in the District for nearly two decades and continues to be an active leader in both his local community and the greater Los Angeles region. He served a four-year term on the City of El Segundo's Public Works Committee from 2009 to 2012, and was formerly a host and reporter for El Segundo TV, covering local issues and the city's business community.

Director Houston also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC), a non-profit, non-partisan public education partnership dedicated to informing local communities about our region's water needs and our state's water resources. He is Co-Chair of SCWC's Water Energy Efficiency Task Force and former Chair of SCWC's Urban Water Task Force.

In addition, Director Houston was appointed in May 2017 by Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn as a Commissioner on the County of Los Angeles Economic Development Advisory Committee. Established by the Board of Supervisors, the Advisory Committee provides input to the County's Economic Development Policy Committee as it crafts new economic development policies and coordinates the County's existing workforce training programs.

As a policymaker, Director Houston has spoken at a number of conferences, both international and domestic, about the challenges facing global water supplies and security in the midst of climate change. He also has authored two published articles about the lessons learned from California's historic five-year drought, our evolving relationship with water, and the need to diversify our global water supply portfolios in order to meet future demands and ensure resiliency.

In May 2018, Director Houston spoke at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., on a panel entitled "Sustainable Water, Resilient Communities: The Challenge of Erratic Water," where he focused on West Basin's more than two decades of leadership experience in recycled water and its regional benefits as the District continues to reduce its dependence on imported water and diversifies its local supply portfolio.

Director Houston joined a panel of fellow water utilities managers at the American Water Summit in Austin, Texas, in November 2017 to speak about the digital transformation now



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happening in the water sector, and how water utilities can best use today's data collection technologies to develop sound policy and fiscal decisions that benefit ratepayers and infrastructure management processes.

In August 2017, Director Houston attended World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden, where he served as a panelist discussing the technological advancements that further bridge the gap to successful wastewater reuse as we collectively address the global implications of water scarcity and increased worldwide water demand.

Director Houston's article "California Offers Valuable Lessons for Meeting Freshwater Needs in the Face of Climate Change" was published in March 2018 by *Ensia*, an independent, non-profit magazine presenting perspectives on environmental challenges and solutions. He also authored an article entitled "Historic Drought Prompts Water Innovation in California – Can It Be a Model?" published in June 2017 by *New Security Beat*, the blog of the Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Program, that detailed the lessons learned from California's historic drought and how we may collaborate and impart this knowledge to ensure future global water security.

In July 2015, Director Houston traveled to Jerusalem as part of a California delegation to implement the California-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on Innovation signed by Governor Jerry Brown and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. There he participated in the first "Financial Innovations Lab" held at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies discussing new models for financing water sustainability and toured key Israeli water sites, including Jerusalem's water utility Hagihon, Netafim's drip irrigation manufacturing facility, and the Sorek ocean water desalination plant near Tel Aviv.

In 2016, Director Houston was recognized as a "40 Under 40 Emerging Civic Leader" by the Empowerment Congress for his active engagement as a change-maker in government, business and the greater Los Angeles community.

Director Houston's professional background includes nearly 20 years of management experience in communications, manufacturing and technology public relations. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Michigan Technological University and studied broadcast journalism at UCLA.