



**August 10, 2021**

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## **WEST BASIN BOARD RELEASES GENERAL MANAGER FROM CONTRACT**

*Special Board Meeting Conference with Legal Counsel Held*

**CARSON, Calif.** – At a Special Meeting of the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Board of Directors on August 10, 2021 the Board held a closed session conference with legal counsel to discuss a swift resolution regarding the discipline, dismissal or release of a public employee. At the conclusion of the meeting, District counsel reported that the Board agreed to enter into a separation and release agreement with its General Manager Patrick Sheilds, which includes a termination of administrative paid leave effective August 10.

The Board also instructed staff to solicit qualifications from executive search firms to begin the process of the selecting the next general manager of West Basin.

“Choosing a general manager and ensuring his or her leadership of the District is a critical, perhaps the most important, function of the Board of Directors,” said Board President Harold C. Williams, MSCE, P.E., “as a Board, we look forward to securing our water supply while continuing a history of industry leadership.”

In addition, the Board announced that E.J. Caldwell, Esq., currently serving as Acting General Manager, would become Interim General Manager.

The personnel matter began on June 10, when the West Basin Board met with legal counsel regarding a general manager performance review. On June 11, the Board announced that Caldwell would serve as Acting General Manager, given that General Manager Sheilds was placed on an administrative leave.

At the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board, legal counsel clarified that the events precipitating the Board’s decision to place the general manager on administrative leave did not involve or result from allegations of sexual harassment. During several recent meetings of the board, the public gave comments that were incorrect and unfounded.

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*West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that serves nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin provides imported drinking water, recycled water, and conservation and education programs. Through its Water for Tomorrow Program, West Basin is committed to protecting, diversifying, and securing our water supply for the future while continuing a history of innovation and industry leadership. Visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) to learn more.*