



CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT

Special Board Meeting

3945 Rio Road, Carmel, CA 93923

September 10, 2025
Thursday
9:00AM

STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors
From: Barbara Buikema, General Manager
Date: September 10, 2025
Subject: Board Vacancy and Process to fill the Position



RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors interview candidates for the Board vacancy and make an appointment on September 10, 2025.

DISCUSSION

- ***Process***
Per Government Code Section 1770-1780 the District has 60 days from notice to fill a vacancy. Initial notice to the County Elections Department was completed within the 15 day window as required. The District posted notice in three locations (District kiosk, Carmel Post Office, and the Carmel Pine Cone) in excess of the 15 day period required and posted in the local newspaper, Carmel Pine Cone, for two one week period published on August 22nd and August 29th 2025.
- ***Board Interview of Applicants***
The interview process must be held in open session. Candidates invited to participate may excuse themselves from open session while another candidate is interviewed so that the later candidates are not given undue advantages. However, the board cannot require the candidates to leave the room.
- ***Selection/Appointment***
Again, the process must be done in open session. Any discussion about candidates must be held openly. When a vote is held, each director must identify themselves and their vote via a signed paper ballot. The ballots become public record and must be available for public review. The successful candidate will be sworn into office on September 10th after the Board has made their decision.
- In the case of a tie vote, the General Manager will flip a coin. The Board President must call the toss (heads-candidate #1 or tails-candidate #2) prior to the coin coming to rest. When the coin comes to rest, the toss is complete and the applicant that was assigned the upper side is declared the winner. If the coin comes to rest on its edge and stays there it must be re-flipped.

FUNDING – No Impact

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFIRMING THE REPLACEMENT OF DIRECTOR SCOTT LONERGAN AND THE APPOINTMENT OF _____ TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL DISTRICT ELECTION.

-oOo-

WHEREAS, Scott Lonergan served with distinction as a Director of the District's Board commencing in 2025; and

WHEREAS, The District was informed of Director Scott Lonergan's resignation ; and

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code 6483 provides that a vacancy on the Board shall be filled pursuant to California Government Code Section 1780; and

WHEREAS, Section 1780 of the California Government Code authorizes the District Board to appoint a new Director to fill the vacancy until the next general District election; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the aforementioned authority, the District Board, on September 10, 2025 appointed _____ to serve as Director until the next general District election.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Carmel Area Wastewater District as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board acknowledges the exemplary services of Scott Lonergan during his term as Director; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, After the completion of interviews and careful deliberation, the District Board, pursuant to California Government Code Section 1780 and Health and Safety Code 6483, on September 10, 2025 appointed _____ to serve as Director

until the next general District election in November 3, 2026 and thereafter until the person elected has been qualified; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) is convinced by the staff report that the appointment of a New Director To Fill The Vacancy is required to comply with the laws;

The Board of Directors further finds that the approval of the New Director furthers the Mission of the District to treat wastewater in a cost-effective manner and return clean water to the environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT **RESOLVED**, That the appointment of _____ is hereby confirmed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT **RESOLVED**, The Board Clerk shall send a certified copy of this Resolution to the Monterey County Election's office within 15 days of the September 10, 2025 appointment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Carmel Area Wastewater District duly held on September 10, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: BOARD MEMBERS:
NOES: BOARD MEMBERS:
ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS:
ABSTAIN: BOARD MEMBERS:

Ken White, President of the Board

ATTEST:

Domine Barringer, Board Clerk



September 10, 2025 Special Meeting

Paper Ballot Vote

Board Vacancy

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Information</u>	<u>Board Vote</u>
Mitra	Pedersen	Ph. D Organization Management & information Technology-Principal Technical Program Manager	
Elise	Weiland	Executive Director, Carmel River Watershed	



Oath of Office

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 10th day of September, 2025.

Domine Barringer, Board Clerk



UNSCHEDULED VACANCIES

BOARDS – COMMISSIONS – COMMITTEES – DISTRICTS APPOINTED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONTEREY

POSTING DATE: August 22, 2025

BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE: **Carmel Area Wastewater District**

NAME OF RESIGNING MEMBER: **Scott Lonergan**

NOMINATING AUTHORITY: **Carmel Area Wastewater District**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING DATE: September 16, 2025
reflects the earliest hearing date appointment can be placed on agenda; no
earlier than 10 working days after above posting date.

TERM ENDS: 2026

Clerk of the Board

Applicants Information

Mitra Pedersen



Carmel Area Wastewater District

CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS NAME: Pedersen , Mitra

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EMPLOYER: Business Phone: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: City Zip Fax#

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN CARMEL AREA
WASTEWATER DISTRICT: 12 YEARS

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN MONTEREY COUNTY:
 15 YEARS

REGISTERED VOTER IN CARMEL AREA
WASTEWATER DISTRICT YES

YES NO

HOW MANY HOURS CAN YOU DEVOTE TO THE BOARD PER MONTH? 12 HOURS PER MONTH

(Please include years of period of membership or service below; if additional space is needed, please feel free to attach additional pages to application.) EDUCATION: PhD Organizational Management, Information Technology

OCCUPATIONAL EXPERIENCE: Principal Technical Program Manager

PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS: Society of Women Engineers, Project Management Institute, IEEE

CIVIC OR COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE, MEMBERSHIPS, OR PREVIOUS SERVICE APPOINTMENTS:

EXPERIENCE OR SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE APPLICABLE TO THE DISTRICT'S AND/OR THE BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES: Held positions as VP and President for Project Management Institute Monterey County

I certify the information included in the foregoing and any attachments is true and correct.

Signature Date Mitra Pedersen

Attachment(s): Resume or biographical summary (optional)

Statement of Candidate (required)

CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CANDIDATE NAME: Mitra Pedersen

What do you think are the challenges facing the Carmel Area Wastewater District. The statement may be any length. Please attach additional pages as needed.

I would like to submit my candidacy for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Carmel Area Wastewater District. As a resident deeply invested in the health, sustainability, and resilience of our community, I believe my experience, values, and vision align with the District's mission to protect public health and the environment through effective wastewater management.

The Carmel Area Wastewater District plays a critical role in safeguarding our coastal ecosystem, supporting responsible development, and ensuring the long-term viability of our infrastructure. I am passionate about contributing to this mission and helping guide the District through the complex challenges ahead.

Some of the challenges that threaten its long-term environmental planning are financial , infrastructural domains, meeting environmental regulatory for Monterey Bay and Carmel City .

- Sea Level Rise
- Carmel Area Wastewater District
- Climate Change
- Sewer lines, Maintaining and upgrading sewer lines systems, incompatibility with modern technologies that could improve efficiency and environmental performance.
- Flooding,, Carmel River
- Regulatory , water quality standards, clean water ,
- Financial challenges, cost of necessary upgrades, regulatory compliance, limited funding for upgrade projects, compliance projects, sea rise issue , wastewater services, expansion of the services , upgrades .

My Commitment, If appointed, I will bring:

- A collaborative spirit and respect for diverse perspectives
- A commitment to environmental stewardship and scientific integrity
- A focus on long-term planning and fiscal responsibility
- A dedication to transparency and community engagement

I believe the Board must not only manage today’s operations but also anticipate tomorrow’s challenges. With thoughtful leadership, CAWD can continue to be a model of excellence in wastewater management and environmental protection.

Thank you for considering my application. I welcome the opportunity to serve and contribute to the future of our District.

Respectfully,

Mitra Pedersen 08/26/2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Elise Weiland



Carmel Area Wastewater District

CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME: Last		First	Middle
Weiland		Elise	Allen
HOME ADDRESS:	City	Zip	Birth Place:
██████████	██████████	██████	New Haven, CT
MAILING ADDRESS:	City	Zip	Home Phone:
same			██████████
EMPLOYER:			Business Phone:
Carmel River Watershed Conservancy			()
ADDRESS:	City	Zip	Fax#:
225 Crossroads Blvd, #322, Carmel, CA 93923			()
LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT: <u>1.5</u> YEARS			REGISTERED VOTER IN CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT
LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN MONTEREY COUNTY: <u>1.5</u> YEARS			
YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
HOW MANY HOURS CAN YOU DEVOTE TO THE BOARD PER MONTH? <u>8</u> HOURS PER MONTH			
<i>(Please include years of period of membership or service below. If additional space is needed, please feel free to attach additional pages to application.)</i>			
EDUCATION:			
BA International Relations, altMBA Creative Leadership			
OCCUPATIONAL EXPERIENCE: 4.5 years on County of Sonoma Supervisor Hopkins staff specializing in water, wastewater, and related infrastructure. 4 years leader of the Russian River Confluence nonprofit. 1.5 years Executive Director of the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy.			
PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS:			
Leadership of the Carmel River Task Force (CRTF) since 2024			
CIVIC OR COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE, MEMBERSHIPS, OR PREVIOUS SERVICE APPOINTMENTS:			
Prior founder and Executive Director of the Colorado Maker Hub			
EXPERIENCE OR SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE APPLICABLE TO THE DISTRICT'S AND/OR THE BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES:			
Lifelong learner on water issues and watershed health. My focus is the health and welfare of the communities that rely on the Carmel River water including regional and peninsula human communities as well as the habitat along the watershed itself.			

I certify the information included in the foregoing and any attachments is true and correct

Elise Weiland

August 28, 2025

Signature

Date

Attachment(s): _____ Resume or biographical summary (optional)
 _____ Statement of Candidate (required)

CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CANDIDATE NAME: Elise Weiland

What do you think are the challenges facing the Carmel Area Wastewater District. The statement may be any length. Please attach additional pages as needed.

Statement on Challenges:

I. Aging infrastructure vulnerable to flooding and climate change. While the Carmel River FREE project will address some of this, that project has been delayed indefinitely due to national issues.

II. At the same time, there is a need/desire to grow the sewer system within the Carmel Valley and that expansion raises questions of groundwater recharge that needs to be studied.

III. In my experience, ongoing state and federal unfunded mandates are always an issue for wastewater systems and climate change concerns will only lead to more of these challenges.

Against these challenges, CAWD is unusually fortunate in having well funded partners, strong collaborations, and an excellent team to meet them.

Candidate Statement:

In the past year and a half since moving to the area and taking the position as Executive Director of the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, I have put myself on a self-directed Masters in regional water issues. Patrick Treanor, a member of our CRTF and CAWD team leader, has been an invaluable voice on a number of these. I've seen him as this voice of calm

and reason in what are frequently fractious issues. My appreciation for the CAWD leadership is one of my motivations in looking at this Board space.

This year the CRWC is adding more water quality testing, especially in the face of the Tularcitos Creek recent contamination warning. I suspect our watershed report card and testing will illustrate the need for us to reduce dependence on poorly maintained septic systems.

I am eager to be part of solutions as our systems grow and improve. I believe that CAWD is a place to do so.

Thank you for considering my application.

Elise Weiland

Signature

August 28, 2025

Date

Adjournment