



# H<sub>2</sub>O PIPELINE

A PUBLICATION OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT



## MICHAEL J. GUALTIERI RETIRES

With over 42 service years to La Habra Heights County Water District, Michael "Mike" J. Gualtieri has retired from the District. During his years of service he held many job positions starting as Utility Worker I and rising to the position of General Manager. He was General Manager for over 21 years. He also held the position of Superintendent, Utility Worker II and Utility Worker I throughout his years at the District.

Mike was very active in the water industry and served in the below capacities:

- Director of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Director of Central Basin Municipal Water District and most recently elected President of the Board of Directors
- Achieved the 2017 George A. Elliott Memorial Award from American Water Works Association, California-Nevada (AWWA-CA/NV)
- AWWA-CA/NV, Conference Local Arrangements Committee Coordinator for 2 years
- AWWA-CA/NV, 2013 Don Kaiser Volunteerism Award
- AWWA-CA/NV Section Conference Director for 15 years
- Southern California Water Utilities Association (SCWUA) served as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

During his tenure, Mike was involved with \$23,009,077 of water system improvements, including 170 acre-feet of groundwater rights, La Mirada Reservoir, Vigil Reservoir, and numerous pipelines and fire hydrants. These improvements assured that La Habra Heights County Water District remains one of the most reliable water purveyors in Southern California.

Mike's expertise in drinking water production and water system construction and repair and his determination, professionalism, and devotion to duty was evident. He was over the many years a substantial participant in meter

reading, chlorinating, repairing the water system, digging, jack hammering, and eventually upgrading the water system as District General Manager. Also, affecting fiscal economy while remaining responsible to individuals and the requirements of the community.

To honor Mike's numerous years of service the Board of Directors renamed the La Mirada Reservoir as Michael J. Gualtieri Reservoir.

Mike and his wife, Donna have been married for 25 years. He has two daughters, Genevieve and Tatum. Running, bowling and golf are some of his hobbies. After retirement he plans to keep busy by coaching a high school cross country team. Mike's extended family was very involved in running the District starting with his father, Chuck Gualtieri. Over the years Mike's daughters, mother, uncle and cousin were employees of the District and its predecessor, La Habra Heights Mutual Water District.

## **PFOS/PFOA**

The United States Department of Health has issued the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of allowable per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFOS/PFOA) substances. This level was set at 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt).

Our water system has confirmed detections of PFOA above this new MCL. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what we are doing to correct this situation. 1.0 ng/L or 1.00 ppt is equivalent to a single drop of water in 20 Olympic sized swimming pools.

Consumer products are a large source of exposure to PFOA. In addition to water, humans can be exposed to PFOA through a variety of sources, including food, dust in homes and imported consumer products. It is unknown how PFOA entered the water aquifer at this time.

A maximum contaminant level (mcl) is the legal threshold limit on the amount of a substance that is allowed in public water systems, which is set by the EPA. The District has been actively pursuing a remedy to address PFOA and other PFAS chemicals by participating in a pilot study program to remove PFAS from the water. In addition, staff is working with our engineering firm to find the best options possible. For more information about PFAS, please visit our District website at [www.lhhcwd.com](http://www.lhhcwd.com)

### **Mission of the District**

*To provide high quality potable water service at a reasonable cost to the public residing within the District boundaries.*

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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