



## **West Basin Municipal Water District**

### **Donald L. Dear Director West Basin Municipal Water District**

Donald L. Dear was elected to the West Basin Board of Directors in November 2000 to represent Division V, which consists of the cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale and unincorporated portions of El Camino Village. He was re-elected in 2004 and is currently serving his second term. A former teacher at Stephen White Middle School in Carson for 37 years, he is well-known and widely respected by his former students, colleagues and members of the community. In 1983, he was "Teacher of the Year" for Region A of the Los Angeles Unified School District. He has also served nine consecutive terms as former Mayor of the City of Gardena.

Dear was first elected to the Gardena City Council in 1970. His thorough understanding of and sensitivity to local issues resulted in his being re-elected in 1978 and 1980. In 1982, he mounted a successful campaign for Mayor, a position he held for nine consecutive terms, resulting in more than 26 years of service as an elected official in the City of Gardena.

His keen understanding of all levels of government, as well as his strong skills as a negotiator, were important during his years of service as a member of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 5 and the Board of the Southern California Cities Joint Powers Consortium. He is also Past President/Chairman of the South Bay Cities Association (now known as South Bay Cities Council of Governments) and a Trustee of the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District. He has also served on the Gardena City Council's Finance, Beautification, Annexation and Agenda Committees.

Dear's professional affiliations include his service as a member of the National Council for Social Studies, board member of the Political Action Council of Educators and six terms of service as a member of the House of Representatives of the United Teachers of Los Angeles. His civic affiliations include the Gardena High School Booster Club, Gardena Jaycees, Gardena Valley Friends of the Library, Gardena Valley Music Association, Gardena Valley Red Cross, Gardena-Carson Family YMCA, Hollypark Lions Club, Gardena Valley Elks, El Nido Services, Association for Retarded Citizens - South Bay, North Gardena Kiwanis Club, Kiwanis Club of Gardena Valley and the Hawaiian Community Center Association.

Dear has also distinguished himself through his outstanding work with youth, not only as a noteworthy educator but also with his unselfish dedication as a coach for more than 70 teams in three sports through the Gardena Recreation Department Youth Sports Leagues.