

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY
DISTRICT, *et al.*,
Defendants.

Case No. 51-01247-GPC-SBC

**ORDER APPOINTING
THOMAS KENNEDY AS THE
NEW WATERMASTER FOR
THE SANTA MARGARITA
RIVER WATERSHED**

[Dkt. No. 6084.]

Defendant Rancho California Water District, on behalf of the Santa Margarita River Watershed Watermaster Steering Committee, filed a motion to appoint replacement Watermaster for Santa Margarita Watershed. (Dkt. No. 6084.) The Steering Committee caused the Watermaster position to be publically posted, the Steering Committee received applications from seventeen (17) candidates, and the Steering Committee interviewed five of those candidates. Based upon its review of the applications and interviews, the Steering Committee unanimously selected, and recommended that the Court appoint, Thomas Kennedy as Watermaster.

The Court conducted an in-person interview of Mr. Kennedy and reviewed the applications of the other four candidates interviewed. Notices of non-opposition were filed by the United States of America and by Plaintiff-Intervenors Cahuilla Band of Indians and Ramona Band of Cahuilla. (Dkt. Nos. 6090, 6092.) A letter in

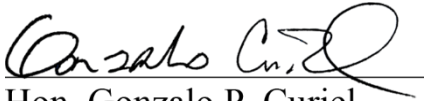
1 support of the appointment of Mr. Kennedy as the New Watermaster was filed by
2 Alfred E. Smith, II, an attorney at Nossaman LLP. (Dkt. No. 6094.)

3 On December 5, 2025, the Court held hearing on the motion. (Dkt. No. 6095.)
4 James Gilpin, Esq. appeared on behalf of Rancho California Water District. No
5 objectors appeared and no objections have been filed.

6 Based on a careful review of all the candidates' submissions and having
7 conducted an in-person interview with Mr. Kennedy, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED
8 that Thomas Kennedy is hereby selected as the next Watermaster for the Santa
9 Margarita River Watershed. The Santa Margarita River Watershed Watermaster
10 Steering Committee is hereby authorized to complete negotiations of an agreement
11 with Mr. Kennedy. Upon the effective date of the executed contract, Mr. Kennedy
12 shall serve as the Watermaster for the Santa Margarita River Watershed. Once the
13 agreement has been fully executed, the Steering Committee shall file a copy of the
14 agreement with the Court.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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17 Dated: December 5, 2025


18 Hon. Gonzalo P. Curiel
19 United States District Judge
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