



ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

April 9, 2018

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF PASSING Emeritus President/Director Howard R. Frick

The Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (District) is saddened by the passing of Howard R. Frick, on Sunday, March 25, 2018. He was 87 years old.

Howard served on the District Board since 1973, was Board President from 1987 to 2013, and just recently retired on March 13, 2018 after forty-five (45) years of service.

Howard was a second-generation farmer; born, raised, and farmed in the Arvin and Lamont area for over 47 years. Partnering with his two sons, they grew potatoes, onions, garlic, tomatoes, carrots, grapes, apples and cotton. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from UC Davis after serving his country for four years in the United States Air Force (1948).

Howard's father, Forrest Frick, helped to organize the District in 1942 and was the District's first President. As such, the District was a large part of Howard's life and when he retired from the Board he stated it was "...a highlight of my agriculture career." The District was originally based on the concept of conjunctively managing surface water supplies with groundwater supplies, which was challenging given a highly erratic surface water supply that consequently required the use of groundwater banking facilities in order to provide a reliable water service for District water users and the surrounding area.

Howard was instrumental in securing two separate District contract renewals with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Friant Division Central Valley Project). First in the 1990s and then again in 2010 after successfully negotiating the San Joaquin River Settlement with the latter renewal being converted to a permanent contract.

In 1997, as President, Howard assisted in finalizing a long-term Water Management Program with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) in which the District agreed to bank MWD's State Water Project supply and subsequently return the previously banked supply in years of deficiencies. The Ag/Urban partnership provided for nearly \$25 million in construction of new water banking facilities including new spreading basins, groundwater extraction wells, and a bi-directional pipeline (and pump station) connecting the District's South Canal with the California Aqueduct. Over the past 20 years, there have been significant benefits to District landowners from the MWD Program.

Howard was a highly respected leader and extremely knowledgeable in the water community, and he will be truly missed.

Howard's "Celebration of Life" service will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Trinity Anglican Church, 11300 Campus Park Drive, Bakersfield, CA. 93311.