

**Special District Risk Management Authority
Board of Directors
Candidates' State of Qualifications**

This information will be distributed to the membership with the ballot, "exactly as submitted" by the candidates – no attachments will be accepted. No statements are endorsed by SDRMA

Nominee/Candidate: Sandy Raffelson
District/Agency: Herlong Public Utility District
Work Address: 448-805 Pole Line Rd, P O Box 515, Herlong CA 96113
Work Phone: (530) 827-3150 Home Phone: (530) 254-0234

Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors?

I think it would be a great experience to serve on the Board and I could give Northern California and Small District's a voice on the Board. I feel I would be an asset to the Board with my degree in business and my 25 years experience in accounting and auditing. I have audited small districts and know what they need and what they can afford.

I understand the challenges that small District face every day when it comes to managing liability insurance and worker's compensation for a few employees with limited revenues and staff. My education and experience gives me an appreciation of the importance of risk management services and programs, especially for smaller district's that lack expertise among staff because of not dealing with claims on a day to day basis to be proficient in it.

I feel I could be an asset to this Board and would love a chance to try.

What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization)

I am currently the District Clerk for the Herlong PUD Board of Directors for the last 3 years, before that serving as the Secretary to the Board of Herlong Utilities, Inc. I worked directly with the formation of our District which included working for 2 separate Board's of Directors and the transfer of assets from a public benefit corporation to a special district. As part of the team that worked to form the District I was directly involved with LAFCo, Lassen County Board of Supervisors and County Clerk to establish the District's initial Board of Directors as well as the transfer of multiple permits and closure procedures from multiple agencies for the seamless transition of our District operations. I closed out the Corporation books and established the books for the District transitioning to fund accounting. I have also administered the financial portion of a large capital improvement project as well as worked on the first ever successful water utility privatization project with the US Army and Department of Defense. I also am the primary administrator of a federal contract for utility services with the Federal Bureau of Prison.

In the last 15 years I have served on several Boards in Logan and Lassen County. I have served 4 years on a Preschool Board that during that time the school purchase property and moved the Preschool to a better location, hired a new Director and 2 new teachers.

I have served as PTA President for 2 years for a private K-8th grade school. After resigning from PTA President, I accepted a Board member position for 4 years during which time we hired 1 principal and 2 teachers, purchased computer lab equipment enough for all student, upgraded water system in building and purchased insulated windows to keep children warm and heating cost down.

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I was nominated for Treasurer for Lassen County 4H Council, at which time I was also on several committees including Fair, Scholarship, Grant and Fundraising. I served as Treasurer for 3 years, paying all bills, reimbursing funds, making all deposits and did all bookkeeping for the Board. I also transformed the books from the 60's to the current age by setting the Council books up on a Bookkeeping Software and designing Financial Statements everyone could understand.

I am currently Lassen County Horse Show Manager for a 2 day horse show with over 100 classes. Also this is my 9th year putting together the Lassen County 4H/FFA Horse Show for the Community. This includes all fundraising/donations to run the shows, purchasing all awards, getting staff to help with shows, and managing the show on the event date.

What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?

I have my Bachelors Degree in Business with a minor in Sociology. I have audited Small Districts for 5 years, worked for a Small District for 4 years and have 25 years of accounting experiences. I am a good communicator and organizer. I have served on several Boards and feel I work well within groups or special committees. I am willing to go that extra mile to see things get completed.

I believe in recognition for jobs well done. I encourage Incentive programs that get members motivated to participate and strive to do their very best to keep all losses at a minulm and reward those with no losses.

I have completed my Certificate for Special District Board Secretary/Clerk Program through CSDA and co-sponsored by SDRMA and California Special District Alliance. I have completed several of the SDRMA's Target Safety courses and CSDA courses. I am currently working on my completion of the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy and will complete these courses on April 28th, 2011.

I work for a District in Northeastern California that has under gone major changes from a Cooperative Company to a 501c12 Corporation, to finally a Public Utility District. I have worked with LAFCo to become a District. Through past experience I hope to make a great Board member representing the small districts of Northern California and their growing pains and make decisions that would help all rural/small districts.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA?

I appreciate the way the Board and staff has worked hard to make SDRMA programs affordable for small district and I would like to help continue in this direction. I would also like to grow the education program to help keep claims down and if claims are down than each district would benefit by less cost.

I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature: _____

Date: 3/30/11

**Special District Risk Management Authority
Board of Directors
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

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Nominee/Candidate Emery Ross
District/Agency Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
Work Address 5009 Fairgrounds Road, P. O. Box 746, Mariposa, CA 95338
Work Phone 209-966-3431 Home Phone 209-852-2606

Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors?

- To gain more knowledge about the SDRMA and what factors affect the decisions it renders.
- To assist in maintaining SDRMA as a top-notch organization, from a Board member perspective.

What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board member? (SDRMA or any other organization)

- Appointed to the Board of Directors of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District in June 2010; served as an Associate Director for 1-1/2 years.
- Currently President of the Board of Directors of the Lake Don Pedro Community Services District; have served on the LDPCSD Board since 2008.

What special skills, talents or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?

- 15 years experience working for a public agency with 250 employees where there was much exposure to risk management from all sides. During my years as a manager, worked with County District Attorney, judges and County Counsel.
- Work experience with family law firm.
- Independent columnist for local newspaper for past 7 years; ag editor.
- Cattle rancher in Mariposa County for past 18 years.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA?

See SDRMA broaden its existing resource capability in the area of training for elected officials and special district staff in order to reduce future exposure.

**Special District Risk Management Authority
Board of Directors
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Nominee/Candidate Mike Scheafer

District/Agency Costa Mesa Sanitary District

Work Address 1551-B Baker St, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Work Phone 714-435-0300

Home Phone 714-549-4961

Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors? (Response Required)

I believe I have the qualifications and experience that enable me to assess the needs of Special Districts in risk management areas. I enjoy being able to help manage the risks of my customers, and would look forward to bringing that attitude and ability to Special Districts. I feel a commitment to serving a broad base of constituents and being able to provide a service if I can. Personally I enjoy examining the issues faced by Districts and then being able to provide help with solutions.

I believe serving on the SDRMA Board of Directors presents challenges and opportunities that will help me grow as a Director of my Special District.

What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization) (Response Required)

Former and current Special District Director, former City Councilmember City of Costa Mesa. Active in Lions Clubs International as a Past District Governor and member of several local, state and international committees. Service on several non profit boards of directors: Boys and Girls Clubs, Little League Baseball, AYSO, Costa Mesa Senior Center, others. Have served as President of all boards that I have been a member of.

Former member of Western Insurance Information Service, having served as a public speaker for that organization. I hold a community college teaching credential in Insurance Education.

Former instructor for AD Banker, Insurance Education. Taught California pre licensing classes as well as California Department of Insurance Continuing Education classes.

Participant and speaker for the insurance industry in both Sacramento and Washington DC. Served as political liaison for State Farm Insurance.

**Special District Risk Management Authority
Board of Directors
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?
(Response Required)**

In almost every board that I have associated with I have been asked to take a leadership role, either on the board or as a speaker for that organization. I possess a skill in public speaking and interaction with people. I enjoy public speaking, especially for organizations and causes where I feel I can provide a service. I have years of volunteer experience in insurance, sports, youth activities, public service and other areas.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA? (Response Required)

I would look forward to continuing the excellent work that SDRMA currently does. I would like to be a part of expanding and marketing the work of SDRMA. As a Director I appreciate the need to manage the risk that we all face. My vision would be to continue that work, but look for ways to make sure that all Special Districts are aware of the service provided by SDRMA.

I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature _____



Date _____

4/11/11

**Special District Risk Management Authority
Board of Directors
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

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Nominee/Candidate **Edmund K. Sprague**
District/Agency **Olivenhain Municipal Water District**
Work Address **1966 Olivenhain Road, Encinitas, CA 92024**
Work Phone **(760) 753-6466** Home Phone **(760) 484-4404**

Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors? (Response Required)

I have made a career-long commitment to safety and risk management, as a firefighter since 1986, emergency planner since 1993, and president of Olivenhain Municipal Water District's Board of Directors for the last three years, to which I was recently named to another term as president. My experience developing oversight standards and risk management assessment programs across several public agencies, combined with 14 years of leadership experience, is invaluable to a greater understanding of the field of risk management and my ability to properly navigate challenges faced by those in the industry.

Thankfully, I have been able to share my extensive knowledge and give back to the community in my capacity serving the customers of OMWD. A founding member of SDRMA, OMWD's commitment to safety far exceeds simply meeting minimum requirements, and this commitment has been renewed annually by the Board of Directors as part of our "Safety Has No Quitting Time" program. We have taken advantage of the Target Safety program since its inception, and have found it a cost-effective and valuable tool in providing employees with the training that they need to continually operate as safely as possible. Board members and management also routinely attend SDRMA trainings and events. Our commitment has yielded an unmatched lost-time injury rate and an exceptional experience modification factor—among the best in the state—proving that SDRMA has acted wisely in rewarding agencies such as ours with discounted premiums. OMWD has invested its trust in SDRMA, and SDRMA has most prudently returned the favor.

SDRMA's commitment to safety and risk management is just as extraordinary as at OMWD, and my successful track record of managing risk across agencies and disciplines provides me with a unique opportunity to positively contribute to the guidance of an organization as committed to risk management as I am.

What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization) (Response Required)

The lion's share of my board-level experience is as president of OMWD's Board of Directors. During my tenure, OMWD has responded to the economic crisis of the last several years by dedicating ourselves like never before to the efficient expenditure of public funds. The board enacted policies such as the "Holding the Line" program, a unique cost-containing initiative that recently earned CSDA's Innovative Program of the Year award. The Special District Leadership Foundation recognized OMWD as a District of Distinction based on our sound fiscal and administrative policies, also recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the US and Canada for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Further, I serve as an elected councilmember of the La Costa Heights School Site Council, which oversees budgets and planning for supplemental educational programs. I am proud of my successes in leading such fiscally prudent public organizations, and I look forward to sharing these same principles at SDRMA.

**Special District Risk Management Authority
Board of Directors
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?
(Response Required)**

Teamwork is critical when working together as a board, and I have proven as a member of Carlsbad Fire Department and OMWD's Board of Directors that my exemplary ability to work as part of a larger team is a valuable resource in pursuit of common goals. Compromise in the boardroom, however, is only effective when balanced with the ability to communicate one's informed position. This never-ceasing desire for maintaining my willingness to learn on behalf of my constituents is evidenced through my pursuit of a masters degree in Public Administration, as well as Special District Administrator certification through the Special District Leadership Academy. Just as important is sharing this knowledge with others; I ably convey lessons as a Battalion Chief with Carlsbad Fire, as a fire service instructor at Palomar College, as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 2000, and as a volunteer with the Carlsbad Boys & Girls Club and Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA? (Response Required)

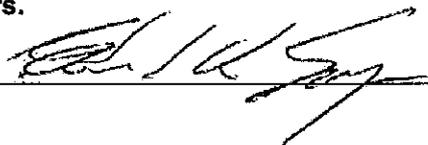
SDRMA is widely respected in the special district community for its commitment to risk management, insurance, safety, and service to its members. Even during my relatively brief tenure on OMWD's Board of Directors, I have witnessed SDRMA constantly striving to improve the services that it offers, and I hope to assist SDRMA in continuing and enhancing the level of service that it provides.

This is not to say that SDRMA shouldn't continue to explore opportunities to improve; streamlining of the CIP program by which to offer more competitive base-level premiums is one area that may be examined. Another area is ensuring that the package of services SDRMA provides is competitive with that of other providers; SDRMA may consider a program through which instructors visit job sites for specific trainings when a Target Safety module may not be sufficient.

However, the groundwork for effective administration of SDRMA has clearly already been set by the board, and I hope to continue the strong tradition of exemplary service to its members.

I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature



Date

4/20/11

**Special District Risk Management Authority
Board of Directors
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?
(Response Required)**

After serving in the US Army, I enjoyed a lengthy career in law enforcement retiring in 2004 as a Police Lieutenant. I learned early in my career, that to be an effective individual and leader, it was important to actively listen to people; to seek understanding of all sides of an issue; and make decisions based on common sense and "rightness".

My experience as an elected official has broadened my knowledge and reinforced my belief that decisions must be made based on what is right, and not on what is a personal preference.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA? (Response Required)

I see SDRMA as continuing its' journey as a successful, effective and efficient service provider through innovation, right thinking and conservative business strategies. I can visualize the organization exploring other avenues of financial endeavors that will benefit our customers.

I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature



Date APRIL 21, 2011

**Special District Risk Management Authority
Board of Directors
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

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Nominee/Candidate Bethzabe Yanez

District/Agency East Palo Alto Sanitary District

Work Address 901 Weeks Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Work Phone 650-325-9021

Home Phone

Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors? (Response Required)

I want to serve on the SDRMA Board because risk management is one of the most important challenges facing our agency today. I've been involved in public service in various capacities in my community for the past ten (10) years and I've come to understand the importance of transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. Managing risk is crucial to the success or failure of any Public Agency.

What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization) (Response Required)

I'm currently serving as Board President on the East Palo Alto Sanitary District Board of Directors. In my position, I'm responsible for agenda preparation and the conduct of Regular Board meeting. I also serve on the District Finance Committee responsible for approving all district warrants and advising District Management on issues coming before the board. In these positions I have learned the art of negotiations and compromise to get projects developed and implemented that serve the best interest of our community. If selected, I bring my skills and commitment to the SDRMA Board.

**Special District Risk Management Authority
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Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?
(Response Required)**

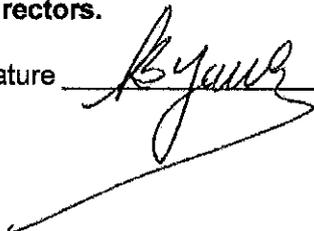
I offer the following skill set, that I feel will benefit the SDRMA Board if selected: Past President of the East Palo Alto YMCA, City of East Palo Alto Traffic & Transportation Commission, Board Member of the Mouton Mental Health Center, Owner Operator of Gaston & Betsy Catering Service. Also, I'm bilingual and have used my skills as an interpreter for various city agencies.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA? (Response Required)

I see the future of SDRMA as a primary source of education to member agencies leading the way in developing strategies that we can use to meet the risk management challenges of the future. While I believe the services currently being offered both crucial and important, I feel the ability to identify future agency needs and the education of member agencies is priority number one.

I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications as outlined in the SDRMA election policy. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SDRMA's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for nomination/candidacy to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature



Date

4.26.11

Special District Risk Management Authority

Board of Directors

Candidate's Statement of Qualifications

Nominee/Candidate: Terry Burkhart
District/Agency: Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency
Work Address: 622 Jemez Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Why do you want to serve on the SDRMA Board of Directors?

I believe my thirty four years experience in the insurance industry, primarily in agency commercial departments, can be of value to SDRMA. I enjoy working with my current Board of Directors and expect SDRMA to be interesting, challenging, and educational.

What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member? (SDRMA or any other organization)

Currently I am President, Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency Board of Directors, in the second year of a two year term. Other Boards include Johnson Valley Improvement Association, nine years as board member or officer; Business and Professional Women (BPW), North Orange County BPW, board member and all offices; BPW Regional board – secretary.

Instructor for Insurance Educational Association for twelve years.

Completed Special District Leadership Academy

Completed Special District Institute three part course.

Committees: BDVWA – Planning, Legislative, Engineering, Grants & Security – chair

Various ad hoc committees: Reche Basin Recharge Project

Financial/Budget

Commissioner, Mojave Pipeline Commission

Representative to Mojave Water Agency Technical Advisory

Committee

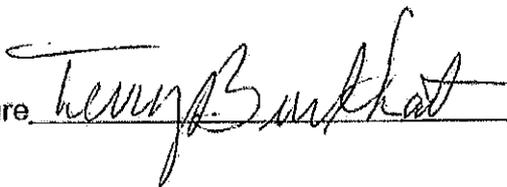
What special skills, talents or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?

34 years in insurance industry, much as agency Commercial Department Manager. Did policy analysis for risk management consultant for large international company. Experience noted above.

What is your overall vision for SDRMA?

The name speaks for itself: "Risk Management" must be the essential goal. Providing education to clients on avoidance of loss, mitigation of loss, as a means of achieving safety goals. Prompt response to client loss situations, working with the client to control/minimize loss, and where applicable prevent future loss is vital. Satisfied clients are apt to pay more attention to loss prevention information provided them.

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Candidate Signature  Date 4-29-2011