



**The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) Selects Thomas Smegal to be its Next CEO/General Manager Starting December 1, 2024**

**September 20, 2024**

BAWSCA's Board of Directors, at its meeting on September 19, 2024, selected Thomas (Tom) Smegal to be its next CEO/General Manager. He will be succeeding Nicole Sandkulla, who is retiring at the end of December. Ms. Sandkulla has successfully led BAWSCA for 11 years.

BAWSCA was authorized by the state legislature in 2002 and was formed in 2003 by 29 (now 26) member agencies in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties to represent the water interests of 1.8 million residents, 40,000 businesses, and thousands of community agencies, who depend on the San Francisco Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System.

Chair of BAWSCA's Board of Directors, Tom Chambers, said that the Board's Ad Hoc CEO Recruitment Committee unanimously recommended Mr. Smegal. It was determined that, following a professional nationwide recruitment process, he is the best qualified candidate for the job.

"The Ad Hoc Committee determined that Mr. Smegal presented the most compelling and qualified candidacy for appointment as CEO/General Manager based on his extensive experience in the California water industry, financial acumen, management of both small and large teams, and his strategic vision for leading BAWSCA into the future."

Ms. Sandkulla said "Tom Smegal is poised to be an exceptional leader for BAWSCA, using his substantial experience in water, strong leadership skills and unwavering commitment to excellence to meet BAWSCA's future challenges and deliver results for the water customers. I am incredibly excited for him."

Mr. Smegal holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Arts in History from Stanford University, in addition to completing two years of interdisciplinary study of water and energy resources at the University of California, Berkeley. For the past 27 years, Mr. Smegal has served in various roles, including Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer with the California Water Service Company/California Water Service Group (Cal Water), which is the second largest retail water provider in the state and the largest that is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Throughout his tenure at Cal Water, Mr. Smegal had in-depth experience working with and directing Cal Water teams that addressed critical water issues such as drought, water supply, regulatory compliance, capital project management, risk management, and emergency response.

Following the Board's decision, Mr. Smegal made the following statement:

"I want to thank the Board of Directors for selecting me to be the next Chief Executive Officer/General Manager of BAWSCA. Also, I want to thank the Ad Hoc CEO Selection Committee for recommending me.

“In the last eleven years, Nicole and the BAWSCA staff have aggressively pursued the interests of the water customers BAWSCA represents through advocacy, negotiation, programmatic efforts, and litigation, when necessary, to ensure a reliable water supply at a fair price for the 1.8 million residents, thousands of communities, and thousands of businesses that thrive in the members’ service territories.

“After more than thirty years working in the industry to support improvements in water service, quality, and reliability and as a former member of the BAWSCA Board, I understand my new responsibilities and the challenges that lie ahead. I recognize that achieving BAWSCA’s goal depends on leadership by its chief executive officer, ideas, advice and policy decisions by the Board, and agreement with and among the twenty-six member agencies.

“I’m excited to dive into the opportunities to work with San Francisco and within BAWSCA’s membership to improve long-term water supply reliability in the face of challenges such as climate change, housing mandates, and periodic drought.”

BAWSCA’s 26 member agencies include cities and water districts in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties and the California Water Service Company and Stanford University.

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