

JOHN J. MURA

2025 Constantia Town Supervisor Candidate

BACKGROUND

After nearly 35 years of public service and private sector experience, I have decided to leverage my skill in leading public infrastructure and construction management teams to benefit the community I love and live in. My leadership philosophy is founded on honest communication, community engagement and outcome-based decision making. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated the ability to translate community aspirations into achievable goals and performance objectives, delivering results that meet or exceed expectations.

From my humble professional beginnings as a municipal street maintenance worker and construction equipment operator, I have successfully overseen and managed the design and construction of countless public works projects that will support people for generations. Much of this success can be attributed to my ability to activate key community members and create community champions. My achievements include major residential and commercial developments, street and sidewalk programs, water treatment plants, a sewer treatment plant, reservoirs, pipelines, groundwater production and treatment facilities, fire stations, police stations and libraries.

As General Manager of East Valley Water District from 2012 to 2022, I was able to effectively complete numerous projects and secure public buy-in and local elected officials' support. My achievements include the construction of a new District headquarters and the Sterling Natural Resource Center, able to treat up to 8 million gallons of wastewater per day to produce recycled water, the development of an award-winning performance-based programmatic budget and the successful launch of a results-based employee evaluation and compensation program. With the cooperation of the Board of Directors, I led the transformation of East Valley Water District into a world-class organization, as demonstrated by the District's receipt of more than 30 workplace awards during my tenure.

Prior to joining East Valley Water District, I worked for the City of Chino Hills, where I served in several roles before working my way up to Public Works Director, acting as the day-to-day community face of the municipality, overseeing a nearly \$40 million operating budget while managing all City maintenance and developing long-range plans for public works systems and improvements.

My public service began in 1988 when I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. I've led fellow marines through a variety of missions across the world, and I am a Persian Gulf War combat veteran.

I attended PV Moore High School. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Management of Business from Pepperdine University and a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in public finance, and community development from California State University, Fullerton.

I am deeply involved in our community and practice servant leadership. I currently serve as the Vice Commander of the Constantia Veterans of Foreign Wars. I am also a life member of the Cleveland American Legion, in addition to serving on the Sewer Committee, Zoning Committee and as an alternate on the Planning Board.

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CONTACT

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EXPERTISE

Strategic Planning

Employee Recruiting and Retention

Community Relations

Public Speaking

Team Development and Collaboration

Public Works and Services Management

Budget Management

Contract Negotiation and Compliance

Operational Management

Project Management

Conflict Resolution

Meeting and Forum Facilitation

EDUCATION

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

MBA Public Administration

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

B.S. in Business Management

PROFILE

Nearly 35 years of public service and private sector top-level performance, with vast experience in building, mentoring and leading effective teams and organizational cultures to deliver proven results. Achievements include successful direction of multi-disciplinary project teams, completion of goals on target and within budget, and fostering deep internal and external relationships.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal, Kellar Consulting, Bernhards Bay, NY

August 2022 – Present

- Guide government entities and private organizations through meaningful culture change with a straight-forward approach to communication, garnering employee buy-in and building emotional intelligence at all levels of the organization
- Provide strategic counsel to executives with a holistic approach to management and tactical solutions to organizational challenges
- Build innovative recruiting and retention strategies, leveraging decades of management experience and industry networking
- Engage with the community as a spokesperson and with staff as a talent architect
- Create a positive workplace environment based on staff strengths and open communication

General Manager, East Valley Water District, Highland, CA

November 2012 – July 2022

- Implemented effective solutions through visionary leadership of 76 full-time staff
- Earned the "Top Workplace in the Inland Empire" award eight years running, in addition to leading the organization to achieve 30 public service awards in nine years
- Managed daily operations at a water and wastewater agency serving 103,000 people
- Maintained financial stability and oversaw a more than \$40 million annual budget and nearly \$60 million annual Capital Improvement Program
- Oversaw construction of new District headquarters and the Sterling Natural Resource Center for wastewater treatment and groundwater recharge
- Worked with the Board of Directors, District champions and staff to transform the District into a world-class organization

Public Works Director, City of Chino Hills

September 2008 – November 2012

- Developed and administered a nearly \$40 million annual operating budget
- Exercised full management responsibility for maintenance services and activities for parks, landscaped areas, vehicles and equipment, streets, facilities, water, sewer, and storm drains
- Fostered strategic internal and external partnerships that paved the way for City success
- Represented the Public Works Department to other City Departments, elected officials, and outside agencies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Assistant to the City Manager, City of Chino Hills

August 2006 – September 2008

- Provided project management assistance to the City Manager for “The Shoppes at Chino Hills” and New Government Center
- Oversaw City’s Safety Program and Risk Management activities
- Executed City Franchise Agreements, including cable television and refuse
- Coordinated City Council advocacy directives with State and Federal lobbyists
- Conducted public meetings on sensitive community issues
- Served as City’s Contract Compliance Officer

Neighborhood Services Manager, City of Chino Hills

November 2005 – August 2006

- Coordinated staffing and daily activities of neighborhood services, programs and activities such as City Code Enforcement, Volunteer, Emergency Preparedness, Neighborhood Network, Healthy Cities, Animal Control, and Community Policing
- Identified opportunities for service delivery improvements and established marketing plans for neighborhood services programs and activities
- Conducted public presentations and classes related to neighborhood issues and City programs

Maintenance & Operations Manager, City of Chino Hills

January 2000 – November 2005

- Developed and implemented departmental policies, goals and annual capital improvement projects
- Managed the Streets, Parks and Landscape, Vehicle and Facilities Divisions
- Administered contracted services that included Traffic Engineering, Water Conservation, Landscape Management, Tree Services, Street Sweeping and Traffic Signal Maintenance
- Responded to City Council, Public Works Commission, and resident concerns through public interaction and policy recommendations
- Prepared and presented staff reports to the Public Works Commission and City Council
- Developed and administered Maintenance and Operations annual operating budget of more than \$17 million
- Oversaw the selection, development and discipline of department personnel
- Coordinated the creation of specifications and standards of contracted projects and services
- Prepared analytical and statistical reports pertaining to Maintenance and Operations functions
- Managed capital improvement projects, including the construction of a City Yard facility

Adjunct Professor, Citrus Community College

January 2003 – 2007

- Developed and taught classes in the fields of Public Sector Budgeting, Construction and Maintenance Management, and Public Administration
- Provided technical and administrative advice for the personal and professional growth of students

United States Marine Corps

1988 – 1994

- Honorably discharged after received several awards and commendations for distinguished service
- Persian Gulf War Combat Veteran