



LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT
The Standard in Water Conservation &
Environmental Stewardship

PRESS RELEASE

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Long Beach Water Executive Appointed to Senior Body of National Drinking Water Technical Advisers

LONG BEACH- Dr. Robert Cheng, Deputy General Manager and Director of Operations of Long Beach Water, has been appointed to the [Awwa Research Foundation's \(AwwaRF\), Research Advisory Council \(RAC\)](#). AwwaRF's research program is highly respected as being one of the most scientifically credible and best-coordinated in the world. The RAC is the AwwaRF's lead body of technical advisors who [develop and recommend an annual solicited research agenda](#).

The AwwaRF, founded in 1966, is a member-supported, international, nonprofit organization that sponsors research to enable water utilities, public health agencies, and other professionals to provide safe and affordable drinking water to consumers. The AwwaRF's four main research goal areas are: high-quality water, efficient and customer-responsive organization, infrastructure reliability and environmental leadership. Specific research is focused on water treatment and



Dr. Robert Cheng discusses seawater desalination with members of the National Research Council

distribution, resources, monitoring and analysis, management, and health effects.

[Dr. Robert Cheng](#) is Deputy General Manager of Operations for the Long Beach Water Department, where he has been employed since 1997. His responsibilities include planning, coordinating, maintaining and organizing the city's water, sanitary sewer and support services operations. He ensures the delivery of service, maintenance, resource allocation, capital improvement, operational

safety, technological requirements and security of water resources and related capital. In addition,

he is responsible for the Department's water quality issues, including the operations of the 62.5 million-gallon-per-day Groundwater Treatment Plant and associated distribution system, four Water Quality Laboratories, and the Department's bottled water plant. He is also the primary Department contact with drinking water regulators, ensuring that compliance with present and future regulations is met.

Dr. Cheng began his career with the City in 1997 as the Department's Manager of Water Quality/Process. He was promoted to the position of Director of Operations in 2004, and subsequently, to the position of Deputy General Manager of Operations in 2005. Prior to joining the Department, Dr. Cheng worked as a process engineer with the [Metropolitan Water District of Southern California](#) (LaVerne, CA) where he performed numerous bench, pilot, and full-scale water treatment studies. Dr. Cheng also worked as a Senior Process Engineer for [Black & Veatch Consulting Engineers](#) (Kansas City, MO), conducting treatment studies for various utility clients. In addition, he has taught Water and Wastewater Treatment classes within the Civil Engineering Department at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Dr. Cheng is a registered Professional Engineer and [Grade 5 Water Treatment Operator](#) in the State of California.

He holds a B.E. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from UCLA.

Long Beach Water is an urban southern California water supply agency and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship. More at www.lbwater.org

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