



## LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT

The Standard in Water Conservation &  
Environmental Stewardship

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### **Two Water Industry Leaders Fill Key Positions at Long Beach Water Department**

LONG BEACH, CA – Long Beach Water Department general manager Kevin Wattier made two key appointments today, naming Dr. Robert Cheng, Deputy General Manager for Operations and Anatole Falagan, Deputy General Manager for Business. The appointments fill two very critical operations and business administration leadership positions vacated this year by John Kruse and water industry giant, Diem Vuong.

Dr. Robert Cheng has served the past 8 months as the Department's Director of Operations. As Deputy General Manager, Operations, Dr. Cheng's responsibilities include planning, coordinating, organizing and maintaining the city's water, sanitary sewer and support services operations. He also 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, including the operations of the 62.5 million-gallon-per-day Groundwater Treatment Plant and its distribution system, four water quality laboratories, and the Department's bottled water plant. He will be the Department's primary contact with drinking water regulators to ensure that compliance with present and future regulation are 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. Prior to joining the Department, Dr. Cheng worked as a process engineer with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He also worked as a Senior Process Engineer for Black & Veatch Consulting Engineers. He has taught water and wastewater treatment classes at the California State Polytechnic University at Pomona. He holds a B.E. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Vanderbilt University and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from UCLA. He is a registered Professional Engineer with the State of California and holds a Grade 5 Water Treatment Operator's license.

Anatole Falagan is the newest member of the Department's executive management team. He has served the past 16 years in a number of key positions with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), the world's largest water supply agency. He will become Deputy General Manager, Business, for the Long Beach Water Department and oversee the financial, human resources and technology operations of the organization.

Mr. Falagan began his career in 1983 as an engineer with Albert H. Halff Associates, Inc., of Fort Worth, Texas. In 1989, he joined the MWD's engineering division as a Project Manager, and in 1996 was promoted to Branch Manager in MWD's Planning and Resources Division. In 1999, he was appointed Assistant Group Manager for Water Resources where he oversaw a staff of 86 employees and a \$22 million budget. Mr. Falagan holds a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University and an Executive M.B.A. from University of California, Irvine. He is a registered Professional Engineer with the State of California and the State of Texas.

*The Long Beach Water Department is an urban Southern California water supply agency and is the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.*

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