

THE ROSEDALE-RIO BRAVO WATER STORAGE DISTRICT PROUDLY PRESENTS AWARD TO DANA MUNN & MARTIN VARGA

Bakersfield, CA, February 8, 2022 – The Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District was honored to present Dana Munn with the District’s first Water Legacy Award.

Munn retired in early 2021 as the General Manger of the Shafter Wasco Irrigation District, where he was influential in expanding the district’s groundwater storage operations and navigating the SGMA adoption process. Munn was raised in Tulare County and grew up in a farming family. He earned a civil engineering degree from UC Davis and went on to obtain a master’s degree in Business Administration from CSUB. Munn began his career in Kern County working within the engineering department at Tenneco West, which at the time owned most of the Kern River until purchased by the City of Bakersfield in the late 1970s.

In 1990, Munn was hired by North Kern where he worked for the former Kern River Watermaster, Chuck Williams, for 23 years until eventually taking over Williams as the district’s Engineer-Manager, and subsequently also followed Williams as the Kern River Watermaster. Munn was the river’s third Watermaster since the position was created back in 1955. His vast knowledge of Kern River rights and good-natured disposition made him a natural in handling the many challenges that come with maintaining the often-disputed river operations.

The Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District’s 2021 Water Legacy award was presented to Dana Munn for dedicating his career to working on water issues, as well as demonstrating leadership and long-term commitment to the community of Kern County.



RRBWSD Board President, Roy Pierucci, presenting Dana Munn with the 2021 Water Legacy Award



RRBWSD Board President, Roy Pierucci, presenting Martin Varga with a Thank You for Outstanding Engineering and Leadership Award

The Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District also was proud to present Martin Varga with a Thank You for Outstanding Engineering and Leadership Award.

Martin Varga received an engineering degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1988. He began his career by learning valuable engineering experience at the Tejon Farming Company and then at Dee Jaspar and Associates. In 2021 he retired as the Engineering and Groundwater Services Manager for the Kern County Water Agency, where he played an influential part in project development and engineering design for projects such as the Henry C. Garnett Expansion, Cross Valley Canal Expansion, and Pioneer Project.

Under Varga’s technical leadership, the Cross Valley Canal participants have been able to identify and begin correcting the several technical issues that have plagued the Expansion Project over the years. His leadership has laid the groundwork toward resolution. We thank Martin for stepping up and working hard to address issues in difficult circumstances. The Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District recognizes Martin Varga’s outstanding engineering and leadership, and thanks him for his work ethic and dedication to the community of Kern County.