



***Gary Van Dam, Director  
AVEK Board of Directors  
Division 7 - 2017***



Director Gary Van Dam, a dairy farmer, represents Division 7 on the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency board. Born and raised in Lancaster, Gary still works his family's eastside farm, the same as he did in his youth. There he produces milk for various distributors.

Now in his first term of office, Gary was elected to the AVEK board in the November 2016 race. He decided to run as a voice for farmers and small landowners who complained of rising water costs that they considered too high. Some lost their farms, so Gary vowed to keep water rates affordable.

Gary wants to see the Antelope Valley groundwater adjudication finalized in court after his 15 years of involvement as a landowner. The nearly 16-year court battle about water rights engaged thousands of litigants in this Valley -- public water suppliers; mutual water companies; farmers; and other landowners with private wells reached a settlement, then ended back in court.

As an AVEK director Gary sits on the Water Rates Committee; the Water Resources and Operations Committee; and the Public Information Committee. He is also on the Antelope Valley Fair Board; a member of the Antelope Valley Farm Bureau; and on the Antelope Valley Ducks Unlimited Committee. He also serves on the Antelope Valley Watermaster Advisory Committee, which is involved with all the adjudication rights.

Gary graduated from Antelope Valley High School in 1979 and studied business construction for two years at Antelope Valley College. His two sons and one daughter also help on the farm.