



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Long Time Resident Joins Antelope-Valley East Kern Water Agency Board**

Audrey T. Miller to serve as Division 6 Director

**Palmdale, CA, November 20, 2019** – For the first time in its history the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency has two women seated simultaneously on its seven-member Board of Directors.

AVEK board members officially named Lancaster resident Audrey T. Miller as their choice to fill the Division 6 seat formerly served by Lancaster resident Marlon Barnes, who resigned in late September, half-way through his third term. He told his board colleagues that his family was moving out of the Division 6 boundaries.

During a special board meeting on Nov. 5, Director Frank Donato made the motion to appoint Miller to the vacated seat, a motion seconded by board Vice President Keith Dyas. Board members voted 5-0 in favor of Miller. Board member Rob Parris was not present for the vote.

Miller took her oath of office at a board meeting on Nov. 12, with AVEK Attorney James Markman administering the formal ceremony.

Miller, a Realtor at Keller Williams Realty Antelope Valley, has been with that firm since 2008, when she hired on as Director of Agent Services. There she wears many hats, serving as financial officer, helping with staff training and handling market administration.

“They call our office the Market Center,” Miller said. Keller Williams boasts more than 370 agents. “We’re the No. 1 real estate (agency) in the Antelope Valley for more than 15 years.”

She brings to the table more than 30 years of experience in real estate, including 25 years in the title insurance industry.

As an active member of the community Miller was past president of AV Sunrise Rotary; past treasurer for Friends of the Palmdale City Library; past president of the Palmdale

United Methodist Foundation, Inc.; past board member of the Women's Council of Realtors; and she served on various committees at Palmdale United Methodist Church.

Her ties to the community date back a couple of generations. Her grandfather, J. Shelton Gordon, a World War I veteran, came to the Antelope Valley from Pasadena after World War II. He was a broker and contractor and a past president of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade. He opened Gordon's Motel, as well as a candy shop and a Tea Room.

He purchased 1,000 acres near Palmdale Lake's west side. Miller said her grandfather watched the aqueduct and the freeway construction. "They had to be built at the same time," she noted. He was also involved in building Palmdale High School. "He has a great legacy."

Miller's parents met in the late '40s or early '50s. Her father, Fred Turner, was a Master Sgt. in the Air Force. She was born in Victoria, Texas. She came to the Antelope Valley in the 1950s, after her father retired from the Air Force. He worked in aerospace on projects like the L-1011 aircraft.

The family lived in a house on Barrel Springs Road in Palmdale, a structure built up on a hill. Miller was the fourth of six siblings who all graduated from Palmdale High School.

"This is our community. This is where we grew up. I have a lot of love for it," she said.

Miller took some classes at Antelope Valley College and studied Medical Office Management at Bryman School. She worked in physical therapy at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys, where she met her first husband. However, with a family background in real estate, that industry came natural to her.

"I grew up in a real estate family." Her uncle, John Gordon, the Second, was one of the 50 Grand Men, a group that helped incorporate the city of Palmdale.

She received her first real estate license in 1983. When she went to work for a title insurance company, she had to surrender the real estate license to avoid a conflict of interest. "I worked my way through the title industry."

When she reentered the real estate field, she again secured a real estate license.

Her husband, Eric Miller, is a retired real estate appraiser. His family has a long history in Lancaster. She has one child, daughter Becki Maldonado, and two grandsons, Nathan, 16, and Jacob, 15.

Miller approaches every commitment with great enthusiasm, including various challenges she will face dealing with the business of water.

“I love to learn,” Miller said. She’s already gained some insight into the need to store and protect water supplies. And, she views AVEK’s accomplishments in that area with great admiration. “They have a vision to make sure we have a community in the future.”

**ABOUT AVEK**

**3<sup>rd</sup> largest State Water Contractor in California** - In 1959, AVEK received its charter as a regional water Agency from the State Legislature. In 1962 AVEK’s Board of Directors signed a contract to secure water supplies meant to supplement the local groundwater. AVEK has an entitlement of 144,844 acre-feet. Through optimization of water resources and development of groundwater storage, the Agency maintains a reliable, sustainable and affordable water supply. Serving 20 municipal users along with Edwards Air Force Base, Plant 42 and U.S. Borax within a 2400 square mile territory that includes portions Los Angeles, Kern and Ventura counties. The Agency plays a vital role in supporting future regional economic development and national defense programs.

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Dwayne Chisam  
General Manager, AVEK

661-943-3201

[dchisam@avek.org](mailto:dchisam@avek.org)

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