

EXHIBIT 1-A

September 29, 2025

Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Bldg. G
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in serving as the Division 5 representative on the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) Board. As a dedicated public servant and experienced academic leader with over a decade leading transformative efforts in public sector partnerships, resource management, and multidisciplinary higher education, I am committed to advancing the District's mission to secure and steward a resilient, sustainable, and equitable water future for all residents of the water management district while continuing its strong tradition of community engagement and environmental stewardship.

Having served as the inaugural Vice Provost for Academic Leadership at the Naval Postgraduate School, I have overseen strategic planning and direct supervision of diverse units during a critical institutional transformation. This role required flattening leadership structures, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, setting success metrics, and building inclusive environments—skills directly relevant to navigating MPWMD's responsibilities as a regional water manager and policymaker.

My leadership has emphasized:

- Strategic planning and transformation management, including budgeting, operational coordination, and oversight of critical policy initiatives;
- Experience developing and implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion programs;
- Direct involvement in development, mentorship, and the management of cross-sector initiatives involving human capital, fiscal management, and public sector resource stewardship;
- Extensive advisory and technical roles on workload models, pay equity, and innovation that required balancing competing interests and driving consensus.

MPWMD's mandate—to augment supply, optimize resources, protect water quality, and educate the public—resonates deeply with my values and track record. I bring rigor in data analysis, policy implementation, and community engagement, equally at home in technical environments or public forums. Leadership in organizational transformation, as demonstrated in my current and prior roles, equips me to guide consensus processes required by the District on matters such as project development, interjurisdictional coordination, ratepayer equity, and public accountability. Notably, I co-led efforts at NPS to establish management structures for energy and water research, in close partnership with multidisciplinary communities and government stakeholders.

As a long-term resident and public servant committed to the greater Monterey Peninsula, I am eager to collaborate with fellow board members, staff, and constituents to secure and enhance our water future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Amara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "J" being particularly large and stylized.

Jomana Amara Ph. D., P.E.

24433 San Mateo

Carmel, CA 93923

(831) 238-8405



Statement of Qualifications – Position 5, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Jomana Amara, Ph.D., P.E.

24433 San Mateo, Carmel 93923

JomanaAmara@hotmail.com | (831) 238-8405

I am a results-driven leader with a proven record of achievement in organizational transformation, resource management, and public sector innovation. With over 20 years of experience in public sector leadership, resource management, and organizational transformation, I am confident in my ability to advance the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's (MPWMD) mission and serve the needs of Division 5 residents.

Key Achievements and Relevant Experience

Strategic Leadership and Transformation

- As the inaugural Vice Provost for Academic Leadership at the Naval Postgraduate School, I led a major restructuring that flattened leadership structures, improved operational efficiency, and fostered interdisciplinary collaboration. I developed and implemented strategic planning documents and success metrics, directly supervising all academic departments and faculty.

Policy Implementation and Resource Management

- Chaired the NPS Next Transformation Line of Effort for Academic Leadership and Faculty Affairs, setting direction for faculty development, hiring, and diversity initiatives. My leadership resulted in the adoption of equitable pay structures and workload models, ensuring fiscal responsibility and consistency across departments.
- Helped establish and lead a management structure to support energy, water, and waste research in partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps. This initiative funded and managed multiple projects, advancing research in water policy, renewable resources, and humanitarian assistance—directly supporting the District's goals of integrated water management and environmental stewardship.

Crisis Management and Resilience

- Successfully managed the transition through the COVID-19 pandemic, developing and implementing policies for a safe and effective return to campus operations while maintaining health and safety.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Spearheaded efforts to enhance diversity, including establishing charters for Women Peace and Security and Inclusion and Diversity Councils, and revising hiring practices to promote equity. These actions fostered a more inclusive environment and broadened participation in decision-making.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- Led consultative and educational programs in multiple international settings, focusing on resource management and human capital development for public sector leaders. My experience in building partnerships and engaging diverse stakeholders will support the District's commitment to transparency and public trust.

Operational Excellence

- Managed large-scale executive education programs, coordinated accreditation and assessment processes, and developed technical assistance workshops for public sector personnel. These achievements reflect my ability to deliver high-quality services, manage budgets, and ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

Education and Training

- Ph.D., Economics
- Professional Engineer (P.E.)
- Extensive experience in executive education, technical assistance, and public sector training

Core Competencies

- Strategic planning and transformation
- Resource and policy management
- Crisis response and operational resilience
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion leadership
- Community and stakeholder engagement

Alignment with MPWMD's Mission

The MPWMD's core functions—augmenting water supply, promoting conservation, protecting the Carmel River environment, and fostering public trust—are essential to the future of our region. My background in leading complex organizations, implementing effective policies, and building collaborative partnerships will enable me to contribute meaningfully to Position 5 and the District's ongoing work.

I am committed to bringing a results-oriented, transparent, and community-focused approach to the Board, ensuring that the needs of Division 5 residents are represented and that the District's goals are advanced for the benefit of the entire Monterey Peninsula.