



# NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Michael Di Giorgio, Novato Sanitary District Board President Passed Away This Weekend**

NOVATO, CALIFORNIA. Michael Di Giorgio, President of the Board of Directors of Novato Sanitary District died of leukemia on Sunday, April 6, 2014.

Mr. Di Giorgio played a central leadership role in the major initiatives of the District over the last decade, most notably: construction of a brand new treatment plant and its subsequent operation, which saved millions of dollars for customers; and construction of a recycled water facility. He conceived and spearheaded the District's innovative Lateral Grants program; and drove the implementation of the District's Zero Waste franchise agreement. He was a strong voice for advancing the District's environmental services and commitments.

Di Giorgio was known for the courage of his convictions, never accepting the status quo and always encouraging those around him to look at challenges from different, often unconventional perspectives. Also very practical, he had a rare ability to communicate plainly and forcefully, while understanding others' points of view.

"He was a great friend," said Jean Mariani, President Pro-Tem of the District Board. "He taught me a lot about how to become part of the community and how to get things done. He was forceful enough to make things happen, but also understood the nuances of working collaboratively to find achievable solutions."

"News of his death was sudden and very saddening," commented District General Manager Sandeep Karkal. "He was a huge presence on the Board and he will be sorely missed. Most importantly, he never let us forget that the most important people in the District are the people we serve—our customers and ratepayers. Fortunately, Mike was forward-thinking and he leaves behind a very strong board with a solid direction through their Strategic Plan. We will take the foundation left by him and continue to advance the District for our customers."

“I met him when he ran for City Council and was immediately impressed by his belief that government should be efficient like the best businesses are,” noted Bill Long, Director of Novato Sanitary District. “Mike always focused on what is best for the customer. He was direct, had high standards, but always understood other people and could find effective, principled solutions.”

The breadth of his service to the community is a reflection of his generosity. He was always willing to take a risk for what he believed in, and also willing to put in the hard, consistent work to make good things happen.

Mr. Di Giorgio was a resident of Novato since 1988. He made a major difference at the Sanitary District, and throughout the community: he was immediate past president of the Chamber of Commerce and has served on several of its committees; he served on the Board of the Marin Association of Realtors; as well as on the boards of North Bay Children’s Center, Sunrise Rotary Club of Novato, Downtown Novato Business Association, and Novato Homeless Commission. He also served twice as Mayor of Novato and was one of the driving forces behind the early Hamilton Air Force Base Projects as Chair of the Hamilton Advisory Commission.

Di Giorgio had a long and varied career. He worked in foreign trade, worked on the BART project for Kaiser Sand and Gravel, was an airline vice president, a successful entrepreneur, and most recently worked as a realtor.

Mr. DiGiorgio is survived by his wife of 37 years, GordonnaVuksich, an addiction counselor, and his son Anthony, a neurosurgery resident at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans.

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