

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Civil Division

Central District, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Department 836

26STCP03135

TONIA REYES URANGA vs DEAN C. LOGAN

August 26, 2026

8:30 AM

Judge: Honorable Curtis A. Kin
Judicial Assistant: Mysty Mort
Courtroom Assistant: Emily Flores

CSR: None
ERM: None
Deputy Sheriff: None

APPEARANCES:

For Petitioner(s): Tonia Reyes Uranga

For Defendant(s): Adam Baumgarten appearing for Dean C. Logan ; Channing Hawkins
appearing for Al Austin II

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS: Hearing on Ex Parte Application FOR EXPEDITED
BRIEFING, ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE OR ALTERNATIVE WRIT, AND TEMPORARY
ADMINISTRATIVE STAY

The matter is called for hearing.

The Court has read and considered the ex parte application.

Petitioner pro per Tonia Reyes Uranga seeks the issuance of a writ or order directing respondent Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to disallow the designation “Long Beach Water Commissioner” for real party in interest Al Austin II, a candidate for Division 3 Member, Board of Directors, Water Replenishment District of Southern California for the November 3, 2026 General Election.

Given the August 27, 2026 deadline respondent has indicated is the last day for any changes to be made to the election materials in order for the election to proceed as scheduled, all parties elected to make an appearance in this action to be heard today and stipulated and agreed to the Court making a decision today on the merits of petitioner’s request without further notice or additional opportunity to be heard.

As agreed to by all parties, the Court granted respondent’s request for judicial notice of Exhibits A, B, and C thereto.

In accordance with Elections Code section 13107(a), the Court finds that real party’s service as an appointed Commissioner on the Long Beach Utilities Commission qualifies as a “principal” “profession,” “vocation,” or “occupation,” as those terms are defined by 2 C.C.R. 20714. As recounted by real party without dispute, his work for the Long beach Utilities Commission requires “extensive and ongoing participation in the governance and oversight of water and

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utility matters affecting the residents of Long Beach,” which has required him to “attend approximately 8-10 commission and committee meetings per month, participate in site visit and facility tours, review report and policy materials, engage with stakeholders, and develop a substantial amount of additional time preparing for meetings and carrying out my duties.” (Resp. RJN Ex. A [8/18/26 Letter at pg. 1].)

However, while real party’s service as a Long Beach Utilities Commissioner may constitute a principal profession, vocation, or occupation for purposes of section 13107(a), the designation “Long Beach Water Commissioner” does not actually “designat[e] . . . the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate.” (Elec. Code § 13107(a)(3).) “Long Beach Water Commissioner” is a title and position that real party does not have or hold. It is undisputed that there is no Long Beach Water Commission and that real party is a Commissioner for the Long Beach Utilities Commission. As for the contention that “Long Beach Water Commissioner” is simply a permissible, generic description of real party’s work for the Long Beach Utilities Commission, which oversees water, natural gas, and sewer services (see Resp. RJN Ex. B), the Court is unconvinced. Although real party might be free to select a designation that reflects his work on water issues, his chosen designation of “Long Beach Water Commissioner” signals to voters that he holds a title and position on a non-existent agency dedicated exclusively to water issues, which is particularly misleading as he seeks to hold office as a Director for the Water Replenishment District. (See *Andal v. Miller* (1994) 28 Cal.App.4th 358, 365 [noting that a specific or general descriptor of the candidate’s work may be acceptable “so long as the designation chosen does not mislead the voters”].)

Accordingly, petitioner’s request is GRANTED. A writ shall issue commanding respondent to disallow real party in interest Al Austin from using the designation “Long Beach Water Commissioner.”

The Petition for Writ of Mandate filed by Tonia Reyes Uranga on 08/18/2026 is Granted.

Notice is waived.