The North County Times - Californian

Forty-vote margin separates fourth-, fifth-place finisher

TEMECULA: Rancho Water incumbents re-elected

The Californian | Posted: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 11:25 pm

All four incumbents competing in Tuesday's vote-by-mail election were re-elected to the Rancho California Water District's board of directors, according to final election results released Wednesday by the county registrar of voters office.

The election, open only to the 40,000 Temecula-area households serviced by the district, was a tight contest with 432 votes separating the five candidates running for the four available seats.

The fifth-place finisher, Edward "Bob" Lemons, ended up with 5,279 votes, 40 votes behind Director Stephen Corona, the fourth-place finisher who received 5,319 votes.

The top vote getter was Director John Hoagland, who snared 5,711 votes.

Director William Plummer ended up with 5,540 votes for second place and Director Ben Drake netted 5,514 votes for third place.

Lemons, the district's former director of engineering, said the results showed that most of the community is pretty satisfied with what they have.

"I was happy to be considered to be honest with you," he said.

While he was narrowly defeated, Lemons, 59, said he does not envision running again in the near future. He said he supports the three board members who will see their seats come up for election in the next cycle.

If one of those board members steps aside, however, Lemons said he would consider another run.

County election officials said the results posted on the Registrar's Web site on Wednesday were certified and final as of 2:45 p.m. The updated numbers included ballots dropped off in Riverside on Tuesday.