

State Water Resources Control Board

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State Water Board Names New Executive Director

The State Water Resources Control Board has named Dorothy Rowena Rice as its new Executive Director.

Rice, who is currently Deputy Director at the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), will become the top professional staff member of the State Water Board, which protects water quality statewide and is responsible for the allocation of water rights. The State Water Board is one of six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA).

With 25 years of experience, Rice has served in many leadership capacities to protect public health and improve California's environment. Since 1999, she has been director of DTSC's Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program, building collaborative efforts with several Regional Water Boards. Prior to that, she served as Chief Deputy Director at the California Integrated Waste Management Board, and as the Deputy for permitting and enforcement activities, as well as governmental and regulatory programs.

Rice also worked for the California State Assembly from 1984 to 1991, helping to draft legislation and conduct hearings for the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, and serving as staff member to Assemblywoman Sally Tanner. Prior to that, she was with the legislatively-created Hazardous Waste Management Council.

Water Board Chair Tam M. Doduc said, "Dorothy's extensive environmental experience gives her insights into many of the challenges facing the Water Board. She has a proven track record in successfully working with agency management and staff, the Legislature, and external stakeholders to identify areas for growth and change, to build consensus, and to effectively implement and manage new initiatives and ongoing programs."

"My fellow board members and I are fortunate to have had a number of excellent candidates from whom to choose," Chair Doduc continued. "We fully expect that our unanimous selection of Dorothy Rice will pay dividends for years to come. She is the person best suited to guide the Board's activities and to help us achieve an even higher level of effectiveness, cohesiveness and excellence."

Rice will start as the State Water Resources Control Board's new Executive Director on March 26, 2007. Until then, Tom Howard will continue to provide excellent leadership as Acting Executive Director.

"The State Water Resources Control Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations."