



# Media Release

## Central Coast Water Board Appoints Matt Keeling to Executive Officer

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**SAN LUIS OBISPO** -- Matt Keeling, a civil engineer with a wide range of experience and diverse list of accomplishments during two decades with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, has been named its new executive officer, succeeding John M. Robertson, who is retiring in spring 2020.

An assistant executive officer since August 2018, Keeling will step into his new role April 1, 2020.

“We are very happy to promote Matt and expect great things from him and our dedicated team in the years ahead,” said Jean-Pierre Wolff, chair of the Central Coast Water Board. “While John leaves big shoes to fill, Matt gives us the kind of experience, passion and knowledge to make this key transition as seamless as possible.”

Keeling has long ties to the area, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental engineering from California Polytechnic State University (1996) before earning his master’s in civil engineering at Oregon State University (1999).

He joined the Central Coast Water Board in 1999 and took on many new duties -- increasing responsibilities and adding management appointments – before his assistant executive officer appointment. Keeling, who earned “Sustained Superior Accomplishment” award in 2012 as a water resource control engineer, has had an impact on countless projects and initiatives, from technical and regulatory oversight related to the high-profile underground storage tank investigations to serving as active oil field regulatory program manager.

Most recently, as the assistant executive officer, he directed the strategic planning and implementation of 16 water quality regulatory and assessment programs, coordinating with the executive officer, the four section managers and the 86 staff of the Board.

“I’m honored and humbled that the board members have shown the confidence in me to work with them in this new role,” said Keeling. “I have been here now for 20 years and am proud of what we have accomplished. There are many challenges ahead, from dealing with groundwater sustainability issues, providing safe and affordable drinking water to residents in economically disadvantaged communities, and continuing to



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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engage with elected officials and stakeholders to communicate our mission and implement our vision as fairly and efficiently as possible.”

The [Central Coast Water Board](#) is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to the northern part of Ventura County and is one of nine regional water quality control boards in the state.