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SANTA ANA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD APPOINTS KURT V. BERCHTOLD AS NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Kurt V. Berchtold as its new Executive Officer.

Employed by the Santa Ana Regional Water Board since 1981, Mr. Berchtold currently serves as the Board's Assistant Executive Officer, a position he has held since 1988. In this capacity, he oversees all of the Board's regulatory programs, including Compliance and Enforcement, Site Cleanup, Storm Water Quality Protection, and Basin Planning.

Mr. Berchtold brings nearly 30 years of experience in public service with the Regional Water Boards to the position of Executive Officer. A native of Riverside, he holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Stanford University and is a registered civil engineer in the State of California.

"The members of the Santa Ana Regional Board are delighted to have Kurt step in as our new Executive Officer. His years of experience at the Santa Ana Regional Board uniquely prepare him to continue the tradition of collaboration and cooperation with our stakeholders for which our region is known. The Board looks forward to working with Kurt in his new role as Executive Officer," said Carole Beswick, Chair of the Board.

Mr. Berchtold will succeed Gerard J. Thibeault, who will be retiring in June. Mr. Thibeault has worked for the Water Boards for 35 years, including serving as Executive Officer for the Santa Ana Water Board for the last 22 years.

The mission of State Water Board and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards 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. The Santa Ana Region includes the watershed of the Santa Ana River located in San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties extending from the crest of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains to the sea. The region is home to almost 5 million people, supports thousands of businesses, and hosts millions of visitors, and yet retains some of the highest quality natural resources and biological diversity in the state. The surface and ground waters in the Santa Ana region support a variety of important beneficial uses, including: water supply, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment, and habitat for fish and wildlife.