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Water district board names new chief executive officer

SAN JOSE – The Santa Clara Valley Water District board of directors has appointed Beau Goldie to serve as the new chief executive officer. Goldie, who currently serves as chief operating officer (COO) for Capital Program Services Division at the water district, is scheduled to assume the role currently held by interim CEO Sharon Judkins on June 1, 2009.

“After completing an extensive recruitment and interview process, it was clear that Beau Goldie was the right person for this job,” said Board Chair Sig Sanchez. “Beau has a proven track record of delivering on major projects, holding staff accountable and providing the kind of guidance and encouragement that inspires employees to perform well.”

As COO of the Capital Program Services, which has 170 employees, Goldie is responsible for the overall management of the district’s capital improvement program. Prior to the COO position, Goldie served as the deputy operating officer for Watershed Operations, which included providing capital projects, operations and maintenance services for an area of 358 square miles.

“I am both excited and honored to have been chosen by the board of directors to lead this organization,” said Goldie. “Over the years, I’ve worked closely with maintenance staff, field crews, executive managers and the board of directors. I’m surrounded by a strong and capable group of people and I’m looking forward to taking on some tremendous challenges currently facing the water resources industry.”

Goldie says he understands the strengths and weaknesses of the water district and has created an action plan to address both current and long-term challenges.

“We’re in the middle of a statewide drought, we’ve had significant cutbacks in our imported water supplies and we have an aging infrastructure with regard to our pipelines and stream channels. Those are just a few of the major issues that will take priority. It will be necessary to be frugal and innovative in managing our financial resources to deal with these problems in the future,” Goldie said.

Goldie’s collaborative management style has earned him the respect of the leaders of the water district’s three labor unions. Employee Association President Donna Germany-Howe, Mid-Management Association President Martin Gamez, and Engineering Society President Luis Ortiz had this to say about the board’s appointment of Goldie:

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"We appreciate the opportunity that the board provided for stakeholders to take part in the CEO's selection process and are especially appreciative of the outcome. Beau has demonstrated a proven record of success with the community and various stakeholder groups. We offer our full support as he sets a new vision for the district and look forward to working with him."

Throughout Goldie's tenure at the water district, he's taken part in numerous collaborative efforts with both local and state agencies.

"I've always appreciated Beau's attention to detail, while at the same time it's obvious he sees the big picture. He understands the benefits of taking a watershed-based approach to managing our integrated system of water supply and flood protection while protecting water quality," said Tom Mumley, assistant executive officer of San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. "In addition, he's hardworking, collaborative and a genuinely nice guy," Mumley added.

Goldie is known for bringing people together to solve problems in a respectful and inclusive way.

Susan Mandle, a neighbor who worked with Goldie on the recently completed Adobe Creek Flood Protection Project in Los Altos Hills said "Beau's leadership of the Adobe Creek Collaborative fostered an environment of mutual trust and respect between the district's project team and the community. This allowed for the free exchange of ideas and information and led to the success of that unique project. I look forward to seeing his practical, open-minded approach that will benefit the whole water district and all communities within Santa Clara County."

Goldie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resources Engineering, a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering and is a professional civil engineer. He began at the water district as an assistant engineer in 1984. In addition to Capital Programs Services and Watershed Operations, Goldie has also worked in groundwater production, water supply planning, and environmental compliance.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages water resources and provides stewardship for the county's five watersheds, including 10 reservoirs, hundreds of miles of streams and groundwater basins. The water district also provides flood protection throughout Santa Clara County.