



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Press Release

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Matt Rodriquez Confirmed as Cal/EPA Secretary

SACRAMENTO, CA. – The State Senate today confirmed Matt Rodriquez as Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). Rodriquez, 58, of Castro Valley, was confirmed with a bipartisan vote of 38-0.

“I’m honored to have been appointed as California’s Secretary of Environmental Protection by Governor Brown and to have been confirmed to the position by the Senate today,” said Rodriquez. “There is no greater job than working to advance the public’s right to clean air and water; to preserve the state’s natural wonders – it’s beaches, forests and rivers; and to promote a healthy living and working environment for all Californians.”

As Cal/EPA Secretary, Rodriquez oversees the activities of the California Air Resources Board, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the State Water Resources Control Board. As a member of the Governor Brown’s cabinet, he also advises the governor on environmental policy.

“We should always seek to ensure that environmental protection and economic progress are not viewed as competing goals, but as complimentary objectives,” said Secretary Rodriquez. “And we should always seek the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders and communities in our decisions.”

During a Senate Rules Committee confirmation hearing last month, Senator Bob Dutton (R-Inland Empire) praised Rodriquez as an honest and forthright individual. “I have no doubt of your commitment to public service,” said the senator. “I think you’re really top notch.”

“He is particularly interested in hearing from all sides and incorporating a lot of views,” said Ann Notthoff with Natural Resources Defense Council. “I think we’ll all be very proud of the way he protects California’s environment.”

Rodriquez comes to Cal/EPA with more than 24 years of environmental experience with the California Department of Justice. He served as a Deputy Attorney General from 1987 to 1999. In this capacity, he advised or represented the Attorney General and clients of the Land Law Section of the Attorney General’s Office. His clients included the California Coastal Commission, the State Lands Commission, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. In 1999, he was appointed Senior Assistant Attorney General for the Land Law Section by Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

As Attorney General, Brown selected Rodriquez to be the Chief Assistant Attorney General for the Public Rights Division in 2008. In this capacity he supervised the work of the Land Law, Environment Law, Natural Resources Law, Consumer Law, Civil Rights Enforcement, Antitrust and Corporate Fraud Sections of the Office, among others. Under his supervision, the Attorney

General's Office worked to enforce hazardous waste disposal laws and regulations protecting groundwater from leaking underground storage tanks. He also worked collaboratively with the attorneys in the Environment Section to represent OEHHA in cases brought under Proposition 65. He was responsible for the legal team that defended California's vehicular greenhouse gas rules against challenges from the auto industry. Most recently, he served as Acting Chief Deputy Attorney General for Attorney General Kamala D. Harris.

Rodriquez graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a degree in History, and received his Juris Doctor degree from Hasting College of the Law in 1980.

“Californians and our economy depend on the continued health and vitality of our state’s environment. It is incumbent upon us to be good stewards for our children, our grandchildren, and for generations to come,” said Rodriquez.

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