



# Media Release

*Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board*  
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## Veteran Water Boards Executive Named as Colorado River Water Board Executive Officer

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**PALM DESERT** -- The Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (Colorado River Water Board) announced the appointment of veteran water boards executive Paula Rasmussen as its new Executive Officer. Rasmussen starts on Aug. 6.

Rasmussen comes to the board from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board where she has served as Assistant Executive Officer and in other leadership positions since 2000. She replaces outgoing Colorado River Water Board Executive Officer Jose Angel. Angel's last day is Aug 3.

"Paula comes to us with her vast experience in many aspects of water quality and we feel she will be a great office leader and extraordinary asset to the region and its key stakeholders," said Colorado River Water Board Chair Nancy Wright. "Our staff, my colleagues and I look forward to working with Paula in her new capacity."

As Los Angeles Regional Water Board Assistant Executive Officer, Rasmussen oversaw the groundwater division, where her responsibilities included management of the site remediation (cleanup) section, the underground storage tank section, and the compliance and enforcement section. She also served as the chief prosecutor for the Los Angeles Regional Board and worked with the region's public participation specialist on outreach and environmental justice issues.

"I look forward to working closely with the board and the community across this broad basin on critical issues related to groundwater management, the Salton Sea and the New River," Rasmussen said. "I will ensure that our New River remediation plan moves forward to benefit residents on both sides of the international border. From my years of working with the board and staff at the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, I learned that coalition building is an important tool to assuring that residents and communities have a say in the efforts we collectively make and reap the rewards of prudent environmental management and oversight on water issues."





Prior to her arrival at the regional water board in Los Angeles, Rasmussen worked at the Department of Toxic Substances Control where she served as chief of the State Regulatory Programs Division, and chief of the enforcement branch in Southern California. She started her career in environmental protection at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, in the Water Division beginning in 1978.

Rasmussen has a master's degree in environmental engineering and a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, both from the University of Southern California.

The Colorado River Water Board's region covers approximately 20,000 square miles in the southeastern portion of California. It includes all of [Imperial County](#) and portions of [San Bernardino](#), [Riverside](#), and [San Diego](#) counties. It is bounded on the east by the Colorado River; on the south by the U.S.-Mexico Border; on the west by the Laguna, San Jacinto, and San Bernardino Mountains; and on the north by the New York, Providence, Granite, Old Dad, Bristol, Rodman, and Ord mountain ranges.

The Colorado River Water Board is located in the most arid area of California. Despite the relatively dry climate, the region contains some substantial surface water bodies, including the Colorado River and the Salton Sea. Many of the alluvial valleys in the region are underlain by ground water aquifers that in many cases are the sole source of water for local areas. The most regionally important ground water basin underlies the Coachella Valley.

For more information please visit the [Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board's website](#).

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