

State Water Resources Control Board

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF COUNSEL

Michael A. M. Lauffer Named To Lead Legal Staff

SACRAMENTO—The State Water Resources Control Board announced today that Michael A. M. Lauffer is the Board's new Chief Counsel.

The five-member Board's unanimous decision to select Lauffer was made on Thursday.

The position had been vacant since Craig M. Wilson retired from state service last month. Lauffer will assume Chief Counsel duties on Monday, September 26th.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Michael Lauffer as our new chief counsel. His leadership skills have been established through his work with the Los Angeles Regional Water Board," said Tam M. Doduc, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Chief Counsel supervises 37 attorneys and 8 support staff, and takes legal responsibility for water quality, water rights, and administrative functions of the State Water Board. The Chief Counsel is an advisor to the State Water Board on all issues and frequently represents the Board's positions in the Legislature, to other public agencies, and before outside groups.

Michael Lauffer has been staff counsel with the Water Board since 1998. Lauffer was named chief counsel after serving as lead counsel of the Los Angeles Regional Water Board.

Before joining the Water Board, Lauffer was an attorney with Luce, Forward, Hamilton and Scripps in San Diego and San Francisco, and assigned to its environmental practice group.

He was admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Northern, Eastern, and Southern Districts of California and U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit in 1995.

He earned a Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, in May 1995 from the Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont, where he also earned a Master of Studies in Environmental Law, *magna cum laude*. He ranked in the top 15 percent of his law class. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.

Lauffer is married and has two children.

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