



November 27, 2012

With our congratulations and a sense of great loss, we at the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA), bid farewell to Jane Beesley as our Deputy Executive Officer. On November 29th, Jane will embark on a new career with the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation as the new Regional Operations Manager for their Regional Parks and Open Space District.

Over the last eight years, Jane has been an indispensable member of our team. As Deputy Executive Officer of the Watershed Conservation Authority and Interim Executive Officer of the San Gabriel River Discovery Center, she helped forge an organizational culture that values partnerships and collaboration in achieving the goals of accessible open space, increased recreational opportunities, and improved watersheds. Her personal dedication to resource management, interpretation, and park development for passive recreation has inspired many in our community. Her tireless energy, coupled with her upbeat and inclusive nature, has left a lasting legacy within our Agency.

Jane has much to be proud of during her tenure, and our Agency is grateful. From her early days with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, she oversaw the acquisition of all of the WCA's flagship properties including River Wilderness Park (El Encanto and Canyon Inn properties), the Duck Farm, Walnut Creek and Parque de los Rios (South Gate). Jane is also responsible for planning efforts of countless other projects in our region including the most recent Emerald Necklace Master Plan. In addition, she has orchestrated the creation of the WCA as a bona fide employer entity which was no small or insignificant challenge.

Perhaps the most important of all, was the manner in which Jane led teams both at the RMC and WCA. By always creating a collaborative work environment, she brought the best out of those who worked with and for her. Leading by example she exhibited integrity, dedication, personal responsibility, and professional and personal fulfillment. She has always been there to listen and lend a helping hand. She inspired the best in those that she worked with, and in the planning and design process of the projects she touched. Jane has epitomized the vision of our agencies and did all she could do to promote their fulfillment.

Jane can always be counted on to share the 'dream' of our parks with the public, stakeholders, elected officials, and potential funders. While the path to building our dreams or navigating a new agency wasn't always smooth, she viewed the added challenges with vigor and sought out creative and lasting solutions. In rising to the challenges, both she and the Agency have become all the stronger for her efforts.

We will definitely miss Jane here; however, our loss is County's gain. Although Jane will no longer be with the WCA, her passion for building parks and open space in our region remains. We look forward to working with Jane in her new capacity, and in continuing the work of building our shared dreams.

On behalf of the WCA and RMC Board of Directors, and staff we congratulate Jane on a job exceptionally well done and wish her well in her new position!

With Regards,

Mark Stanley  
Executive Officer

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