

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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Newcombe appointed Director of County Public Works

County residents and the County's Department of Public Works will soon benefit from the leadership of one of the County's most experienced executives.

Deputy Executive Officer Gerry Newcombe will take over as Public Works Director at the end of the month when current director Granville "Bow" Bowman retires.

"Gerry has tackled many difficult assignments during his time as an executive with the County. Public Works is one of the County's most complex and challenging departments, and I am confident it will be in good hands with Gerry at the helm," said County Chief Executive Officer Greg Devereaux, who appointed Mr. Newcombe to the position.

As Director of Public Works, Mr. Newcombe will oversee a department that includes divisions for Transportation, Flood Control, Solid Waste, and Surveyor. The department's responsibilities are to maintain county roads, administer special transportation projects, manage Surveyor functions, provide administrative oversights for the operation and management of the county's solid waste system, and maintain an extensive system of flood control and water conservation facilities.

"I've gotten to know many of the excellent staff at Public Works over the years and am looking forward to the opportunity to work with them all. I appreciate Greg's confidence in me and I'm anxious to get started," Mr. Newcombe said.

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Mr. Newcombe has been with the County for more than 30 years, most recently in the dual role of Deputy Executive Officer and Manager of the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Division. As Deputy Executive Officer, Mr. Newcombe has been responsible for managing the oversight of renewable energy projects in the County, working with cities on the possible regionalization of animal control, and overseeing several major capital projects, including the \$150 million construction of 1,300 new jail beds.

At one time he also simultaneously oversaw five County departments, including Land Use, Real Estate Services, Architecture & Engineering, Fleet Management, and Facilities Management. During that period Mr. Newcombe was the lead negotiator for the transfer of Court facilities from the County to the state under the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002. This process required working through a myriad of property and building issues, and ultimately presenting transfer agreements for approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Prior to this, from 2001 to 2006, Mr. Newcombe oversaw the County's capital improvement program and debt financing. His responsibilities included developing the annual budget for new construction and ongoing and deferred maintenance projects, and managing a debt portfolio of more than \$1.4 billion in revenue bonds and certificates of participation. He also developed the County's first debt reduction plan.

Mr. Newcombe's previous assignments included Contract Administrator for the County Waste System Division, Deputy Director for the County Solid Waste Management Department, and Chief of Administration for the County Regional Parks Department.

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Gerry Newcombe