

# NEWS

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## Vana Olson appointed County Public Works director

Vana Olson, an assistant director with the County Public Works Department who has worked for the department for 28 years, was appointed Public Works director today.

Ms. Olson was selected following a lengthy statewide recruitment process that attracted a number of highly qualified applicants from both within and outside of the County organization. The County began the recruitment process several months ago when former Director Pat Mead announced he would retire. Mr. Mead retired on Jan. 19 after many years of service to the County.

"Vana Olson brings many years of experience and institutional memory to this important leadership position, so her appointment should provide for a very smooth transition for the department and the County organization," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane.

The Public Works Department, including the Flood Control District, employs 707 public service professionals and operates on an annual budget of \$404,699,673. The department is responsible for a wide range of vital public services in the areas of road construction and maintenance, traffic, land surveying, solid waste management, and flood control.

The department operates and maintains 2,830 miles of roads, six regional landfills, eight solid waste transfer stations, post-closure maintenance of 27 inactive landfills, and a wide range of flood control facilities.

Ms. Olson has served as the Public Works Department's assistant director for transportation and flood control project development during the past six years. She began her career with the County as an engineering technician in 1973, and was promoted several times until 1981, when she temporarily left the County during budgetary layoffs.

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Ms. Olson worked for several prominent engineering firms until 1986, when she returned to the County as a public works engineer. She was made a division chief in 1988, and was promoted to assistant director in 2000.

Ms. Olson holds a registered California Civil Engineering License after studying at San Bernardino Valley College and Cal Poly Pomona.

"Her combination of County tenure, private sector experience, and knowledge of the organization provides Vana with a solid background to assume the director's duties," said Norman Kanold, Assistant County Administrator overseeing the County's Public and Support Services Group, which includes Public Works.