



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District  
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### Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District Announces New Executive Director

(Davis, CA) – The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (District) Board of Directors confirmed the appointment of Gretchen Bennitt to fill the position of Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO). Ms. Bennitt will begin her position as APCO on Monday, April 10, 2023.

“I am honored to have been appointed by the Board of Directors to lead this agency during this challenging period of increasing exposure to wildfire smoke impacts, issues with the energy grid, and coming into compliance with the federal air quality standards,” Ms. Bennitt stated after the confirmation of her appointment as APCO. “I am looking forward to meeting and working with the residents and businesses in the region to develop and implement solutions to these air quality issues which impact human health and property.”

Ms. Bennitt joins the District from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (AQMD) where she has served as the APCO since 2000. During her tenure there, Ms. Bennitt worked to develop and maintain Air Quality Management Plans for two Federal Nonattainment Areas (PM2.5 and Ozone) and fostered relationships with partner agencies, regulated industries, and the public. Most recently, Ms. Bennitt joined a contingent of fellow California APCOs in Washington D.C. to meet with federal officials and representatives to voice concerns regarding issues facing California air districts, residents, and businesses. Before her appointment as APCO at Northern Sierra AQMD, Ms. Bennitt held positions at the California Air Resources Board, the State of Montana Air Quality Department, and as an Air Pollution Control Specialist at Northern Sierra AQMD; providing experience in State Improvement Planning, regulatory enforcement, and relationship building with stakeholders and the community.

“The Board of Directors is pleased to have Ms. Bennitt join the Yolo-Solano AQMD,” states Gloria Partida, Chair of the Yolo-Solano AQMD Board of Directors. “I am also honored to be a member of the Board that is appointing the first female APCO for the District. Her experience within the greater Sacramento region, and familiarity with regionwide air quality concerns and challenges will provide the opportunity to quickly begin to work with District stakeholders, build upon existing relationships, and guide staff as the air district continues to fulfill its mission.”

Ms. Bennett received a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. She recently moved to Davis with her husband, a California Air Resources Board employee and University of California Davis graduate. Their daughter currently works for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Gretchen is a fourth generation Californian and enjoys spending time at her family's cabin on the Russian River.

The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District is a public health agency committed to protecting human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution within Yolo County, and the northeastern portion of Solano County, including the cities of Dixon, Rio Vista, and Vacaville. For more information about the Yolo-Solano AQMD, including signing up for air quality alerts and the quarterly newsletter, visit: [www.ysaqmd.org](http://www.ysaqmd.org). Connect with the District on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) @YoloSolanoAir or on [Nextdoor](#).

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Gretchen Bennett  
Executive Director/APCO

