

**County Executive**

Terry Schutten



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## County of Sacramento

### **News Release**

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### **Sacramento County Executive Announces Retirement**

Sacramento County's chief executive announced today that he is planning to retire after more than 10 years of county service, effective December 31, 2009. County Executive Terry Schutten has served in the public sector for more than four decades, with a wide ranging career that has taken him from the Peace Corps in Nigeria, Africa, to executive management positions across the country.

Arriving in June of 1999 from Ramsey County, (St.Paul,) Minnesota, Schutten was recruited by the Board of Supervisors, whose members found his collaborative and innovative style to be a good fit for Sacramento County. "With Sacramento's reputation for good government and strong leaders, this was a job I couldn't resist. And as a native Californian, it meant coming home." Schutten adds that he had planned on staying for a ten year stretch, but extended his tenure with the County this summer to finalize this fiscal year's difficult budget.

Under Schutten's leadership, Sacramento County dedicated resources to preserving open space, solidified key water agreements and launched neighborhood initiatives to bring more community involvement into local governance. Innovative programs to provide health care for Sacramento's most vulnerable residents were launched, and the most ambitious airport expansion in County history is well underway.

Schutten acknowledges the difficulty of leaving at a time when the County's budget has been devastated by the recession, and additional cuts have been pushed to local governments by the state. "We have weathered a budget storm that included cuts of more than \$200 million dollars, and we still have much more to do. We are still in cutback mode," Schutten said. With this budget cycle completed, he added that work is well underway on next year's budget. "Our dedicated workforce is already bracing for next year, with an eye towards creative and long term solutions to allow the County to continue to do what it does best: provide high quality services and programs for our residents."

Susan Peters, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, acknowledged the complexity of Schutten's job increased significantly with the downturn in the economy. "Leadership is always easier when the money is flowing and programs are expanding," Peters said. "Terry paved the way for innovative services and programs during the good times, but stepped up with very difficult decisions during the most challenging of times. I personally appreciate his dedication to see this year's budget through to conclusion."

Schutten has not yet announced his future plans, noting he still has a heavy workload in front of him through the end of the year.

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