

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

JOHN LAIRD

Representing the 27th Assembly District
Portions of Monterey, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties

eNews Update



November 25, 2008

PRESS RELEASE:

Speaker Bass to Appoint Laird to CA Integrated Waste Management Board

SANTA CRUZ – Assembly Speaker Karen Bass today announced she will appoint Assemblymember John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). Mr. Laird, who is leaving office November 30, 2008, due to term limits, will be appointed to the board by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, effective December 1, 2008.

“As Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, John Laird has consistently demonstrated the ability to handle tough challenges with a sharp intellect and good humor,” said Speaker Bass. “Those qualities will be very valuable in his new duties helping promote a sustainable environment in California by serving on the Integrated Waste Management Board. As a longtime representative of one of California’s most environmentally progressive communities, John will also bring an important perspective to the Board.”

“This is a great opportunity for me to continue working on many issues important to me, such as plastic debris in the ocean, implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act, and waste reduction and diversion,” said Assemblymember Laird. “I’ve been working on some of these issues for a quarter century. When I was on the Santa Cruz City Council, the city began one of the first curbside recycling programs in the state.”

The stated purpose of the CIWMB is “to protect and preserve our public health and safety, our resources, and our environment. To meet the mandates in the Integrated Waste Management Act, the CIWMB implements programs to reduce waste generation; divert materials from landfills; recover resources and direct them to their highest and best use, in accordance with the act’s waste management hierarchy (Public Resources Code section 40051); remediate illegal sites; and, ensure compliance with applicable state standards. CIWMB programs are also conducted in support of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006,” of which Assemblymember Laird was an original co-author.

For more about the CIWMB, go to: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/>.

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This is the final Laird eNews Update. If you’re receiving this as a forwarded email or in error, please accept our apologies

Laird to join waste board

The Monterey County Herald
Herald Staff Report
11/26/2008

Termed-out Assemblyman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, will be appointed to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass said Tuesday.

Laird, forced out by term limits after serving six years, will leave office Sunday. His job on the state solid waste board starts Monday.

The board oversees landfills and solid-waste reduction efforts. Laird will replace Cheryl Peace for the remainder of a term that expires in January 2010.

The job pays \$132,179 a year.

Bass cited Laird's work as chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee in making the appointment.

She said Laird "has consistently demonstrated the ability to handle tough challenges with a sharp intellect and good humor."

Laird spokesman Bill Maxfield said Laird will have offices in Sacramento and on the Central Coast as a board member.

Assemblyman-elect Bill Monning, D-Monterey, will replace Laird in representing the 27th District in the Assembly.

Waste board posts a big load of garbage

Monterey Herald

Dan Walters

12/06/2008

As California governor three decades ago, Jerry Brown embraced the questionable practice of allowing the Legislature to make appointments to state boards and commissions, many of whose members are paid high salaries and wield substantial powers.

He implicitly encouraged the Legislature to create a spate of new boards and expand existing ones with legislative appointees, and they became vehicles for political patronage for ex-staff members and out-of-work politicians.

Brown's successor, George Deukmejian, looked askance at the practice and refused to approve any more new boards or board expansions with legislative appointees — a pledge that held until very late in his eight-year governorship, when he cut a political deal involving a new board, the Integrated Waste Management Board.

The board's job was to fashion policies to reduce the amount of garbage going into landfills and other disposal sites. And the deal was to give the Legislature two of the six appointments, in return for which the Senate would allow Deukmejian to appoint two of his top aides.

The first two legislative appointees were Kathy Neal, wife of a state assemblyman with close ties to Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, and Wes Chesbro, a Humboldt County supervisor and aspiring state legislator who later segued into the state Senate.

When Chesbro was termed out of the Senate two years ago, the Senate leadership reappointed him to the Integrated Waste Management Board. The job now pays \$132,178 a year, so he could remain in Sacramento while waiting for another legislative seat to open up. This year, Chesbro was elected to the Assembly, where he can serve for six more years.

That's been the historic pattern of legislative appointments to the board, emulating those to other well-paying commissions with light workloads, some meeting only one or two days a month. Governors have followed a similar pattern, especially on trash board slots. One of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's appointees is Margo Reid Brown, his former scheduler. And that brings us to the most recent activity.

The Assembly has appointed termed-out Central Coast Assemblyman John Laird to its position on the board, while the Senate has appointed outgoing Sen. Sheila Kuehl. And on Friday, Schwarzenegger did as expected and gave the remaining spot to none other than Carole Migden, who lost her bid for re-election to the Senate this year by being defeated in the Democratic primary.

Why would a Republican governor appoint a liberal Democrat from San Francisco to a plum position? He was holding it open as a possible reward to a Republican legislator who would break GOP ranks and vote for new taxes to balance the budget, along with one or two other high-paying board positions. But that opportunity vanished last week, and Schwarzenegger chose to appoint Migden as a favor to the new Democratic leader of the Senate, Darrell Steinberg.

That's the way these things work.

Dan Walters writes for the Sacramento Bee.