

Kennard to Resign as Head of LAWA; Day Takes Over in Interim Position

Los Angeles World Airports Executive Director Lydia Kennard, who managed the City's airports through the daunting post-Sept. 11 challenges, announced August 14 that she would leave her post in the fall to be able to spend more time finding employment in the private sector.

Mayor James Hahn named Deputy Executive Director Kim Day as Interim Executive Director of the department. Day has been a deputy executive director responsible for facility and space planning, design, engineering, and construction and maintenance at all four LAWA airports since November 1999.

The transition comes at a critical time at LAWA, as security issues continue to complicate the aviation industry, and as Mayor Hahn's multi-billion-dollar plans to modernize LAX begin to gather steam and work their way through City government.

"I want everyone in the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) family to be the first to know

of my decision to leave my position as Executive Director this fall," Kennard wrote in a memo to her LAWA employees. "I have decided to consider new and exciting opportunities in the private sector after nearly a decade with LAWA. I have informed Mayor Hahn and the Board of Airport Commissioners of my decision and pledged to work closely with them on a seamless transition of leadership. I am sure you can appreciate how difficult it would be for me to spend



Lydia Kennard, former Executive Director, LAWA



Kim Day, Interim Executive Director, LAWA

the considerable amount of time required to evaluate my professional options while facing the demands of my current role at LAWA.

"Working at LAWA since 1994 has been a challenging yet tremendously rewarding experience," her memo continued. "The main reason I have enjoyed it so much is because of the many great people at LAWA who make up what I truly believe is the finest airport system team in the nation. I am very proud of this team and all we have accomplished. As I look

back on my time at LAWA and consider the 75-year history of our department and the centennial of flight, I feel very confident about how well our system of airports is positioned for the future.

"Mayor Hahn has been most gracious and supportive of my decision to return to the private sector, and I will be available to assist him in any way."

"I am pleased that Kim Day has agreed to serve as interim executive director after a suitable transition period with Lydia Kennard," Hahn said. "[Day] is eminently qualified to maintain the momentum and management focus at our airports as we continue to pursue our plans to develop a truly regional approach to meeting aviation demand in Southern California."

Wanna be heard? What do you think of Kennard's dedication to LAWA, and her resignation? Write us: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



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