



NEWS

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FORMER KERN COUNTY OFFICIAL APPOINTED AS MTA'S DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Joseph E. Drew, who has held numerous administrative positions with Kern County during the past 13 years including four years as the county's top administrator, has been appointed as MTA's new Deputy Chief Executive Officer, announced Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer.

Mr. Drew, who began his duties May 15, will be responsible for coordinating the executive staff and assisting the chief executive officer in accomplishing the MTA mission.

Since 1982, Mr. Drew served as Kern County's director of personnel (seven years) and director of airports (two years) before assuming the position of county administrative officer in April, 1991. He is a graduate of Park College in Parkville, MO, with a degree in political science. He earned his master's degree in public administration at California State University -- Bakersfield.

Over the past few years, he has gained experience in strategic planning and organization development for public organizations, and has worked extensively with the governor and legislature in re-engineering intergovernmental relationships.

"Mr. Drew has demonstrated an excellent grasp of the complexities of government at the county level, which has prepared him well for his new duties at the MTA," White said. "It is a pleasure to have him join us as we launch our new 20-year long range transportation plan."

Prior to joining the Kern County government, Mr. Drew served in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1981 as a lieutenant colonel. He served two years of combat duty

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in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot, logging more than 1,000 combat hours in attack helicopters. His numerous military honors include two Purple Hearts, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Bronze Stars and 30 Air Medals.

In 1989, he was awarded the John W. Doubenmeir Award for distinguished service to Kern County and contributions to the field of public administration. The same year, he received Alumni of the Year honors from the School of Business and Public Administration from CSU-Bakersfield.

"I am honored and excited to be joining the MTA at such a formative time in its history," Drew said. "The MTA is absolutely critical to the continued health and growth of the region's economy."

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