



February 23, 2022

Cathryn Rivera-Hernandez, Appointments Secretary  
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[Cathryn.Rivera-Hernandez@gov.ca.gov](mailto:Cathryn.Rivera-Hernandez@gov.ca.gov)

VIA E-MAIL

**Re: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Director Appointment**

Dear Secretary Rivera-Hernandez:

Our organizations enthusiastically recommend that you appoint Jeanie Ward-Waller as the next Director of Caltrans. We have worked with Ms. Ward-Waller for several years and we are confident she is the best choice to implement the vision you and your team have established for this crucial department.

Ms. Ward-Waller has dedicated herself to improving clean mobility and transportation equity for all Californians. She has impressed us and many others with her skills, commitment, and sound judgment. She has collaborated successfully with groups and individuals both within and outside of state government, and she has organized coalitions of disparate interests to achieve policy goals.

As Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs for Caltrans, Ms. Ward-Waller oversees the Divisions of Aeronautics, Local Assistance, Transportation Planning, Rail and Mass Transportation, and Research, Innovation, and System Information. She has assisted Toks Omishakin as he implemented innovative strategies to create a more equitable, world-class transportation network for all users while improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods across the state.

Before joining Caltrans, Ms. Ward-Waller worked for over a decade in the private sector as a structural engineer and in the non-profit sector as policy director for two transportation organizations—the California Bicycle Coalition and the Safe Routes Partnership. As a structural engineer, she managed design and construction oversight on large-scale building projects, including a 40-story tower in downtown Boston. In each of her roles, Jeanie has built trusted partnerships with diverse stakeholders across government, non-profit, academic, and private sectors to develop creative solutions, advance policy change, and effectively implement new programs

.Ms. Ward-Waller will be a champion for planning and projects that support state climate and environmental priorities, such as those that support connectivity for critical wildlife corridors. She recognizes the biodiversity, human safety, and wildlife protection value of such efforts and in particular will be dogged in pursuit of the available federal infrastructure funds.

Providing mobility, health, and equity to all Californians will require leadership, tenacity, and a strong foundation in the technical skills of implementing smarter transportation and land use policies that offer residents more sustainable choices. Jeanie Ward-Waller is the exact leader we need at this time for Caltrans; she will take California to the next level through her unwavering commitment to communities across the state and lead the way to the transportation solutions we need.

Respectfully,

**Bill Magavern**  
Policy Director  
Coalition for Clean Air

**Nailah Pope-Harden**  
Executive Director  
ClimatePlan

**Jonathan Matz**  
California Senior Policy Manager  
Safe Routes Partnership

**Arnie Sowell, Jr.**  
Executive Director  
NextGen California

**David Diaz, MPH**  
Executive Director  
Active San Gabriel Valley

**Catherine Garoupa White**  
Executive Director  
CVAQ

**Debra Chase**  
CEO  
Mountain Lion Foundation

**Richard Marcantonio**  
Managing Attorney  
Public Advocates Inc.

**Marven E. Norman, MPA**  
Executive Director  
Inland Empire Biking Alliance

**Matthew Marsom**  
Sr Vice President, Programs & Public Policy  
Public Health Institute

**Linda Rudolph, MD**  
Center for Climate Change and Health

**Hana Creger**  
Senior Program Manager, Climate Equity  
The Greenlining Institute

**Faraz Rizvi**  
Special Projects Coordinator  
CCA EJ

**Chione Lucina Muñoz Flegal**  
Managing Director  
PolicyLink

**Caro Jauregui**  
Co-Executive Director  
California Walks

**Joel Ervice**  
Associate Director  
Regional Asthma Management and  
Prevention (RAMP)

**Denny Zane**  
Executive Director  
MoveLA

**Pamela Flick**  
California Program Director  
Defenders of Wildlife

**Carter Rubin**  
Interim Director of Transportation  
NRDC

**Bryn Lindblad**  
Deputy Director  
Climate Resolve

**Colin Fiske**  
Executive Director  
Coalition for Responsible Transportation  
Priorities

**Nick Lapis**  
Director of Advocacy  
Californians Against Waste

**Erin Rodriguez**  
CA Policy Advocate  
Union of Concerned Scientists

**Hayley Currier**  
Policy Advocacy Manager  
Transform

**Jenn Guitart**

Director of Advancement  
California Bicycle Coalition

**Matthew Baker**

Policy Director  
Planning & Conservation League

**Kyle Jones**

Policy & Legal Director  
Community Water Center

**Mary Creasman**

Chief Executive Officer  
California Environmental Vote