



CITY OF STOCKTON NEWS RELEASE

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City Hires New Economic Development Director

(Stockton, CA) - Stockton has tremendous economic and workforce development opportunities and now has an Economic Development Director with the experience and demonstrated success to develop the City's potential. Wendy Saunders, who will join the City of Stockton, July 25, 2011, has over 20 years of both public- and private-sector experience in economic development, redevelopment and land use, including very recent experience right here in Stockton.

"I have met so many people in Stockton who are committed to helping the City realize its full potential," said Ms. Saunders. "The new healthcare facilities coming to the region, the established agricultural base, the Port and the great local educational institutions provide Stockton with a unique opportunity to foster growth of a full range of skilled and professional job opportunities. This is a tough economy, and Stockton has suffered along with the rest of the state and nation. But Stockton has some great advantages going for it. "

Deputy City Manager Mike Locke, who has extensive economic development

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experience throughout the county, is excited about the new leadership team that the City is assembling. “We are so fortunate to have someone of Wendy’s caliber join us. Our recent interaction with her through the prison healthcare facility negotiations allowed us to preview her skills, and we can see examples of her success in Sacramento. She will be an integral part of the development and implementation of the City Council’s economic development goals and implementation of the strategic initiatives.”

Ms. Saunders was most recently (March 2008 – July 2011) the senior community relations and CEQA manager with URS Corporation, working with the California Prison Healthcare Receivership on the prison healthcare facilities in Stockton. In addition, she has private sector experience working as the director of project development with New Faze Development in Sacramento (April 2006 – December 2007). She led the City of Sacramento’s Economic Development Department as its director and redevelopment manager from 1998 to 2004, and has also held various positions with the City of Sacramento and as a consultant in the fields of housing and redevelopment projects.

Ms. Saunders obtained her Bachelor’s degree from University of California, Santa Barbara, and her MBA from University of California, Davis.

“The next few years promise to be extremely exciting for Stockton,” continued Saunders. “I am privileged to be a part of the Stockton team.”

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