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Contact: Dave Ralston, LRAPA board chair 681-7266
Merlyn Hough, 736-1056, ext. 216
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LRAPA board names Merlyn Hough as executive director

In a unanimous vote at their January meeting, the LRAPA board of directors appointed Merlyn Hough as the executive director of LRAPA effective January 10, 2006. Hough had been serving as interim director since July of 2005.

“We are pleased to announce Merlyn’s promotion to agency director,” said Dave Ralston, LRAPA board chair. “Merlyn has demonstrated his ability to lead the agency over the past six months and has expressed his willingness and desire to continue to do so on a long-term basis. We’re excited to have him at the helm, and are confident he will be a great asset to the agency in his new position.”

Hough, a professional civil and environmental engineer, was originally hired as the LRAPA operations manager in May 2005. A few months later he was promoted to interim director. Prior to coming to LRAPA, Hough served 31 years for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. There he had held the position of Western Region’s Tanks Manager and Eugene Office Manager for the past 11 years. Prior to that position he was the Senior Environmental Engineer in the Air Quality Division working on airshed improvement strategies for the Medford-Ashland, Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Salem, and Portland areas.

“ I have held the LRAPA staff in high regard over the years,” said Merlyn. “The air quality improvements achieved since LRAPA began 38 years ago are impressive, especially when you recognize the significant growth that has occurred. I’m excited to be a part of the future of air quality in Lane County.”

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