



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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The County of Santa Cruz regrets to announce the retirement of Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Mary Jo Walker.

First elected in 2006, Walker is one of five elected department heads in Santa Cruz County. The department's functions include auditing public budgets, the distribution of property taxes, managing over \$1 billion in annual deposits and the County's multi-million dollar investment portfolio, producing annual comprehensive financial reports, overseeing special taxing districts and more. Walker was reelected in 2010 and 2014.

"It's been such an honor to be elected to serve the people of Santa Cruz County," Walker said. "This is where I wanted to live and where I always want to live. Given the skill set that I have, this for me was the best job in the world."

Walker stayed on to oversee the merger of the county's Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector offices, a process that began in 2013 and resulted in substantial county taxpayer savings. The Treasury Division processes \$1.4 billion in deposits annually, manages a \$700 million investment pool and collects \$500 million in taxes each year from property owners, hotel operators, medical cannabis dispensary businesses and more.

The office also maintains, and investigates complaints through, the county's whistleblower hotline.

Walker began working for the County's Public Works Department in 1989, three months before the Loma Prieta Earthquake. She previously served as Controller in the City of Oakland, and went on to become Finance Director in the cities of Danville, Saratoga and Santa Clara, before returning to the County in 2004.



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She will remain in her role through the end of the year.

Walker is recommending that the Board of Supervisors appoint Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller Edith Driscoll as a temporary successor. Voters would determine who the County's next Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector is in the June 2016 primary election.

Driscoll is an established financial leader within County management, having served as Walker's Chief Deputy for eight years and as the County's Audit Manager prior to that. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration, is a Certified Internal Auditor, a member of the Government Finance Officers Association and the Chair of the County's Deferred Compensation Committee.

Driscoll began working for the County in the Auditor-Controller's Office in 1996, and has recently spearheaded the countywide implementation of a new computerized financial system. She has extensive experience in audit, accounting and financial systems.

Driscoll is also a longtime volunteer with the Pajaro Valley Unified School. Driscoll is married and lives in Aptos with her two children.