



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

APR 12 2019

Dear NPS colleagues,

It's been well over a year now since I came back to the National Park Service family as Deputy Director, Exercising the Authority of the Director. Rick Obernesser was by my side as Acting Deputy Director of Operations for that entire time until his well-deserved retirement. Fortunately, Ray Sauvajot, our Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, was willing to step up in an interim role as Acting Deputy Director. He has done an outstanding job and I very much appreciate his guidance and counsel.

Today, I am extremely pleased to announce that we have asked David Vela, Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park, to serve as Acting Deputy Director of Operations effective Monday, April 15.

David knows and loves the National Park Service. He began his career at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and has gone on to hold numerous leadership roles including as Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park & the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway since 2014, in WASO as the Associate Director for Workforce and Inclusion, as the Southeast Regional Director, or as a superintendent at parks including the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, and Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park.

Many of you have already worked with David and seen his leadership in action. Those of you who haven't will quickly see how important our workforce is to him. We will all benefit from his leadership in building a next generation workforce that will protect our national treasures and serve all who will come to enjoy the parks as we chart a path forward for a second century service.

I will continue to exercise the authority of the Director.

David and I look forward to working closely with our entire National Park Service team to support the remarkable work that you are doing across the country.

Take care,
Dan