

AGUA FUND, INC.



The Agua Fund Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that Ann C. Mills will become the foundation's next executive director in mid-November. The Agua Fund began in 2000 as a donor-advised fund at the Tides Foundation and became a private foundation in 2003. Based in Washington, DC, the fund is dedicated to improving the quality of life through support of work to protect the natural environment and to help the poor, disadvantaged, and underserved. Cecily Kihn will be retiring as the foundation's executive director in mid-December after 17 years of valued leadership.

Ann has had a distinguished career in conservation focusing on water and collaborative partnerships to achieve measurable environmental results.

From 2009 to 2017, she was Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment at the US Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC where she oversaw the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a \$4 billion agency with 10,000 staff dedicated to co-investing in conservation with farmers and ranchers across the country. Ann also co-chaired the National Drought Resilience Partnership and represented USDA on federal ecosystem restoration initiatives including those in the Chesapeake Bay Basin, Mississippi River Basin, Gulf of Mexico and Great Lakes.

From 1998 to 2009 she held senior positions at American Rivers including Senior Vice President for Regions, Executive Vice President, and Vice President for Conservation.

Prior to joining American Rivers, Ann focused on federal and state environmental and agricultural policy as a staff person in the US House and Senate, including as Chief of Staff to Senator Tom Daschle and Chief of Staff to California Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy.

For the past eight months, Ann has served as a Senior Fellow at The George Washington University Sustainability Collaborative.

Ann earned a BA in Political Science from Tufts University and a Master of Public Administration from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin.