

FOCUS ON: MARILYN LENNON

Few executives in New Jersey have brought as extensive and unique a blend of leadership skills to the public and private sectors as Marilyn Lennon, who returned to PS&S last fall after a successful tenure as Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Land Use Regulation in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Marilyn's experience and widely recognized expertise were proven assets at two of the state's key agencies – the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, as well as the DEP – and they now serve her clients well as Senior Director of PS&S, managing many of the firm's most important relationships.

"I'm delighted to be back with PS&S," she said. "I realized this past summer that it was time for me to return to the private sector. I think my combination of public and private experience will continue to be an asset to the firm."



Marilyn, who will work primarily from the firm's new offices in Wall Township, served as an executive of PS&S previously, for more than 20 years of her career. In 2007, she was appointed Director of Strategic Planning and Policy for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, before becoming Assistant DEP Commissioner.

While in Trenton, she instituted e-permitting to expedite the permit and approval process, and brought a common-sense approach to land use and oversight. She described her philosophy in working in the public sector as "science, not political science."

In that role, she would find herself literally in the eye of the storm, serving on the front lines of the Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy crises.

Marilyn worked continuously along the Shore during Sandy recovery efforts with administration officials, local leaders and affected businesses to navigate federal, state and local rules and regulations. She was in charge of assessing applications and issuing emergency permits to facilitate response and recovery, streamlining the permitting process and putting in place a strategic plan to deliver relief as quickly as possible to communities and residents.

As Marilyn recalls it, "we tried to get out of the way of the red tape, and that wasn't easy." One of the enduring memories of the state's greatest natural disaster will be how tirelessly

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and effectively her DEP team worked to get businesses up and running and put people back in their homes.

At the same time, the tragedy hit close to home. As a resident of Seaside Park, her own residence was severely damaged by the storm and the devastation was town-wide. "My friends and neighbors had water come through their living room," she said. "It was so hard for everyone."

Marilyn was named Senior Director of PS&S in November, a senior management role in which she is involved in every facet of the business. Her experience in coastal development and management, and her extensive knowledge of rebuilding and restoring urban environments, are proving an invaluable asset to the firm.

Additionally, based on experience built from Irene and Sandy, she understands the need for greater resiliency around public utilities, structures and shoreline development and maintenance.

During her earlier career at PS&S, she was heavily involved in the redevelopment of the Hoboken South Waterfront project, the Camden waterfront project, and development of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and the Borgata hotel and casino in Atlantic City. Urban revitalization will continue to be a focus as New Jersey and the region emphasize growth in these areas.

In addition to her professional service, Marilyn is active in her community and in civic volunteerism. She is a two-term member of the State Planning Commission, and served as only the second woman in 113 years as Commodore of the Seaside Park Yacht Club.

Marilyn has also overcome serious personal challenges. Twice, she has survived breast cancer. Not only did she battle these health concerns in 2004 and 2007, she continued to work on behalf of clients and the public during those difficult periods.

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