



State of California

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez to Leave Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

SACRAMENTO – [Lourdes Castro Ramírez](#) today announced she will be stepping down as Secretary of the California [Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency](#) (BCSH).

Her resignation is effective November 2, 2023.

“Secretary Castro Ramírez has been an incredible partner whose leadership and dedication has changed lives across the state,” said Governor Gavin Newsom. “Throughout the extraordinary challenges of the pandemic, she led California’s unprecedented efforts to shelter tens of thousands of homeless individuals, help struggling renters keep a roof over their heads, expand affordable housing, and confront hate and discrimination head-on, among many other priorities. I am deeply grateful to Lourdes for her unwavering commitment to our state and wish her well as she continues her work to improve the lives of Californians.”

“It has been an honor and one of the greatest joys in my career to serve Governor Newsom and his Administration,” said Secretary Castro Ramírez. “I am immensely proud of the Governor’s bold leadership in housing and homelessness, consumer protection, and civil rights, and extremely grateful that the Governor entrusted me to serve as a member of his cabinet and lead this extraordinary agency.”

Secretary Castro Ramírez was appointed by Governor Newsom on January 22, 2020, and began work as Secretary on March 2, 2020. Since then, she has led 12 entities and 40 boards and bureaus that advance the state’s priorities in housing, homelessness, civil rights, and consumer protection.

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“I am immensely proud of the people in our agency and departments for the work they do, day in and day out, to improve the lives of Californians,” said Secretary Castro Ramírez. “From responding to a global pandemic, to addressing California’s affordable housing shortage, to new civil rights initiatives, to furthering consumer protection, we have helped to create a legacy of opportunity for Californians.”

Under the leadership of Secretary Castro Ramírez, BCSH and its departments advanced the Governor’s priorities to combat hate and discrimination, and create greater access to state programs that incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility policies. BCSH and its departments delivered more than \$11 billion in funding to address homelessness, and more than \$31 billion to preserve and create housing, including rental housing and homeownership opportunities.

During the Secretary’s tenure, BCSH and its departments designed and implemented statewide programs that garnered national recognition, including Homekey, the California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program, the CA vs Hate Resource Line and Network, Tribal housing and homelessness grant programs, and the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Housing Accountability Unit.

“When I left San Antonio to assume this role, I was ready to return to my home state to serve the great people of California,” said Secretary Castro Ramírez. “This has been an enormously satisfying opportunity. Now, I am ready to return home to Los Angeles to continue serving Californians by fighting housing insecurity, addressing homelessness, and building community. Los Angeles is where I found my calling and launched my career.”

She has been appointed to serve as the Chief of Housing and Homelessness in the Office of Los Angeles City Mayor Karen Bass.

“I am honored to join in Mayor Bass’ efforts to continue this work, bringing my experience and passion for urgent, collaborative and transformative solutions to Los Angeles,” said Castro Ramirez

During her remaining time at BCSH, Secretary Castro Ramírez will work closely with the Governor’s Office to ensure a smooth transition.

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