For Immediate Release
July 2, 2015

JCRC Welcomes Public Affairs and Civic Engagement Director, Announces Staff Redeployment

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is pleased to announce that Ilana Kaufman has joined JCRC as its first Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) Director. Kaufman will launch JCRC's East Bay civic engagement, public education advocacy, and coalition building efforts, together with Program Assistant Jessica Sterling.

Kaufman comes to JCRC from the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, where she served as Program Officer. In that capacity, she managed the Early Childhood Education Initiative, supported the Affordability Project, and consulted Jewish organizations on outreach, diversity and inclusion. With twenty years of leadership, community building and organizational development experience, she brings to JCRC strong experience convening diverse coalitions and advancing initiatives with civic entities. She serves on Bend the Arc's Regional Council, has been featured in the Jewish Times of America and J Weekly, has articles published in eJewish Philanthropy, The Foundation Review and Independent School Magazine, and is a nationally recognized speaker.

"We are thrilled to announce that Ilana Kaufman has joined our team," said Abby Porth, JCRC Associate Executive Director. "She brings strong coalition building and grassroots advocacy experience and deep relationships with communities in Berkeley, where she lives, and Oakland."

In addition, Legislative Affairs and Intergroup Relations Program Associate Joe Goldman assumes the redesigned position of PACE Manager in San Francisco. JCRC North Bay Regional Director Paula Simon has moved from the position of North Bay Director to assume the role of Operations and Special Projects Director, and will oversee all PACE staff. Recruitment begins this summer for PACE Managers to fill vacant positions in the Peninsula and the North Bay.

The PACE positions are part of a JCRC strategic restructuring that will broaden the organization's reach and impact. In a related change, Jessica Trubowitch, Director of Legislative Affairs and Intergroup Relations, is now the Public Policy and Community Building Director.

"These changes emphasize JCRC's critically important and unique role in growing civic engagement within the broader community and in mobilizing our community at a time of growing challenges," Porth said.

###