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PRESS RELEASE

February 12, 2019

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COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR APPOINTED

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – Today, the Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of Lisa Plowman as the County’s next Director of Planning and Development. Plowman has more than 19 years of experience assisting private and nonprofit developers with land use entitlement and planning processes.

For the past five years, Plowman has served as Principal and Planning Manager of RRM Design Group, a multi-disciplined design firm with more than 130 employees and four offices in California. The firm specializes in development of mixed-use infill, affordable housing, parks and recreation, public projects, specific plans and master plans. Prior to RRM Design Group, Plowman was Planning Manager of Peikert Group responsible for leading land use consultations and entitlement strategy for clients; managing the design and entitlement process for residential, mixed use and commercial projects; and facilitating design charrettes and community engagement.

Before her work as a consultant, Plowman previously worked in the County’s Planning and Development Department for 11 years, leaving in 2005 as the Deputy Director, a role she held for two years following nine years as a Planner III and Supervising Planner.

In her current role managing the RRM Design Group’s Santa Barbara office and 20 employees, Plowman oversees the entitlement process for all private development projects and working with public agencies on long range planning projects including specific plans, master plans, reuse plans and contract planning services.

“Lisa brings a rich mix of private and public sector experience,” said County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato. “Her breadth of knowledge from working in the private sector, with her experience and clear understanding of our complex land use issues, puts her in a unique position.

“We look forward to her leadership. She has an opportunity to provide a new perspective, informed by her consulting work, significant knowledge of the community and understanding of the department’s operations.”

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**COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT APPOINTED
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“Ms. Plowman will be an excellent leader of the Planning and Development Department during this pivotal time in our County’s history,” said Second District Supervisor Gregg Hart. “Lisa’s vast experience with land use planning will serve our County’s unique environmental, residential and economic needs well.”

“After many years in the private sector, I’m excited about the opportunity to lead the Planning and Development Department through the County’s Renew 2022 transformation effort,” said Plowman. “I look forward to working with the professional and dedicated team in the Department to provide exceptional service to our customers and the community.”

Miyasato added, “I would also like to thank Dianne Black, who has served as Interim Planning Director since March 2018 upon the retirement of Dr. Glenn Russell. Dianne has had a long tenure with the County of almost 35 years, and we will miss her wealth of experience, encyclopedic knowledge and tremendous commitment to the Planning and Development Department and County.”

For information about the County of Santa Barbara, go to www.countyofsb.org.

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Note: photo of Lisa Plowman is attached

