



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

**Agenda Number:**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** County Executive Office  
**Department No.:** 012  
**For Agenda Of:** November 28, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Wade Horton, Assistant County Executive Officer

DocuSigned by:  
*Mona Miyasato*  
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**SUBJECT:** Appointment of the Community Services Department Director

## County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

## Other Concurrence:

Human Resources: Yes

## Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

## Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve appointment of Jesus Armas as the County of Santa Barbara Community Services Director, beginning January 22, 2024;
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) because the recommended actions involve continuing administrative or maintenance activity.

## Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to approve the appointment of Jesus Armas as Santa Barbara County's Community Services Department Director as of January 22, 2024, following the retirement of Director George Chapjian, who is retiring from the position in January 2024. Mr. Armas was selected following a nationwide recruitment process.

**Background:**

Mr. Armas has extensive leadership experience spanning a thirty-year tenure in the public and private sectors. His twenty-year service to two Bay Area cities as a City Manager was distinguished by strategic leadership, where he fostered a collaborative and mission-driven work environment overseeing a staff of 1,000 ensuring services were delivered in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

As Executive Director of the Hayward Redevelopment Agency, Mr. Armas was responsible for a project area encompassing 1,500 acres, with an assessed valuation of \$1.5 billion. Under his leadership, a downtown characterized by vacant properties was transformed into a vibrant, mixed-use, transit-oriented development anchored by new retail establishments and over 1000 new residential units, all within walking distance of a Downtown Intermodal Center.

Mr. Armas has extensive experience collaborating with non-profit organizations to provide community-based social services and facilitating the delivery of affordable housing and shelter projects. As an elected school board member, he successfully spearheaded campaigns to gain voter approval of a \$200 million bond measure and parcel tax.

Mr. Armas will relieve Director George Chapjian upon his retirement, who's accomplished 8.5 years of service is highlighted by championing efforts to bring Community Choice Energy to our region and establishing the Tri-County Regional Energy Network; increasing access to outdoor parks and recreation opportunities; and bringing unprecedented levels of Federal, State and local funding to address the homelessness and affordable housing crisis.

**Fiscal Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

There are no fiscal impacts with this action. The bi-weekly salary is \$8,432.64. Mr. Armas will receive benefits consistent with those received by other Santa Barbara County Department Heads. Costs are addressed within the department's budget.

**Authored by:**

Wade Horton, Assistant County Executive Officer.