



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: March 5, 2024
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

SUBJECT: Appointment of the Public Works Department Director

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

Human Resources: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve appointment of Chris Sneddon as the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Director, beginning April 1, 2024; and
- 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:

This item is on the agenda to approve the appointment of Chris Sneddon as Santa Barbara County's Public Works Department Director as of April 1, 2024, following the retirement of Director Scott McGolpin, who is retiring from the position at the end of March 2024.

Background:

Mr. Sneddon, currently the Deputy Director of the Transportation Division for the County of Santa Barbara's Public Works Department, has over 29 years of private and public sector civil engineering experience, and 21 years with County Public Works. He was selected following a nationwide recruitment process.

In 2012 Mr. Sneddon assumed leadership of the Public Works Transportation Division, a division with 120 individuals and an annual budget exceeding \$80 million. During his tenure as the Transportation Division Deputy Director, Mr. Sneddon has led response and recovery efforts for federal and state declared disasters, adapted operations during the COVID-19 pandemic to safely maintain public services for the community, negotiated the Countywide Workforce Agreement, and been the liaison for members of the public and agencies for Public Works projects of all sizes. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Director, Mr. Sneddon served as the Engineering Section Manager and Construction Section Engineer for the department; a Geophysical Engineer for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Geotechnical Services Center, and a staff engineer for a private engineering consultant firm.

Throughout his tenure with the County, Mr. Sneddon has demonstrated a commitment to customer service, building and leading teams, working collaboratively with community organizations and agencies, and working at the regional, state and national levels to create and implement complex transportation policy, strategy and projects.

Mr. Sneddon is a licensed Civil Engineer and Geotechnical Engineer. He graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and a M.S. in Geophysical Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines.

Mr. Sneddon will succeed Public Works Director Scott McGolpin upon his retirement. Director McGolpin has served as the head of the department for almost 17 years during which time his significant achievements have included developing the Road Maintenance Annual Plan, constructing the Randall Road Debris Basin, serving as president of the National Association of County Engineers and the County Engineers Association of California, and securing unprecedented federal and state resources for Santa Barbara County Public Works projects through advocacy, lobbying, and strategic thinking. Like his successor, Director McGolpin also served as the Deputy Director of the Public Works Transportation Division before being appointed the Public Works Director. In total, Director McGolpin has served the County of Santa Barbara for over 35 years.

Fiscal Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

There are no fiscal impacts with this action. The bi-weekly salary is \$8,624.32. Mr. Sneddon will receive benefits consistent with those received by other Santa Barbara County Department Heads. Costs are addressed within the department's budget.