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Mavrogenes Named Interim San Jose Redevelopment Agency Head

San José ---- Harry Mavrogenes has been appointed interim executive director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency by the San José City Council today to fill the vacancy left by the upcoming retirement of Susan Shick.

Mavrogenes has been deputy director of the agency since 1998, where he has been responsible for the planning and development of major projects including the new King Library, the restoration of the historic California Fox Theater, and neighborhood revitalization activities.

Prior to rejoining the San Jose Redevelopment Agency five years ago, he served as assistant city manager and director of economic and community development for the City of Miami Beach in Florida. For nearly twenty years before that, Mavrogenes worked in a variety of positions for both the San José planning department and the redevelopment agency.

“Harry’s long experience in San José and his knowledge of redevelopment and planning issues will help us maintain a steady course through the challenges of change,” said Mayor Ron Gonzales. “His perspective and insight will be very valuable as we continue our efforts to get our economy moving and make our city the best place to do business.”

Shick announced her plans in October to retire from the agency at the end of the year. She has served as executive director since November 1999, coming here after ten years in a similar role in Long Beach.

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San Jose Redevelopment Director**

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“I’m honored by the opportunity to continue the progress we have made to make sure redevelopment and economic development programs reinforce each other to achieve our community’s goals,” said Mavrogenes. “By working together we can strengthen our neighborhoods, keep downtown improvements on track, and create opportunities for our residents.”

Gonzales and the city council will be reviewing a broad range of possible approaches to further coordinate redevelopment functions with city operations over the next several months.

“Whenever we have departures of top-level staff, we use the opportunity to consider alternatives for the future, especially in light of the economic, budget and institutional challenges we currently face as a community,” said the mayor.

“Redevelopment is a valuable tool for economic recovery, job creation, and quality of life in San José, and we will make sure it continues to be effective to achieve these goals.”

Governed by the San José City Council, the San Jose Redevelopment Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the city’s downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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