

DATE ISSUED: November 9, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-245

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Appointment of the Director of Development Services Department

#### SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Gary Halbert as Director of the Development Services Department, effective November 8, 2004.

In June, 2004, CPS Executive Search was hired to conduct a national search for a new Development Services Director to replace Tina Christiansen, who left the City in early July to accept a position with the City of Irvine. A highly competitive field of candidates were attracted from across the county. The selection process included candidate evaluations by a diverse array of stakeholders representing community planning, environment, building industry as well as public agency management. The City's internal candidates compare most favorably among the nations best.

Mr. Halbert has worked for the City of San Diego for fifteen years, most recently as Assistant Director for the Development Services Department. Mr. Halbert has also held the positions of Deputy Director in the Engineering Services Division and Chief Deputy Director in the Planning Department. In his role as Assistant Development Services Director, Mr. Halbert has led the department through several on-going change efforts, including a major new customer service initiative and full implementations of the department's Project Tracking System.

I have shared my expectations with Mr. Halbert, as he accepts this assignment, that he focus on continuous improvements in customer service and streamlining processes.

Mr. Halbert received a Bachelor of Science, in Systems Science from the University of California at San Diego, Revelle College and a Master of Public Administration from San Diego State University. Mr. Halbert is a Professional Traffic Engineer and a Certified Planner. Please join me in congratulating Gary.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Lamont Ewell  
City Manager