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San Jose Redevelopment Agency

Susan Shick to Retire from San Jose Redevelopment Agency

SAN JOSE — San Jose Redevelopment Director Susan Shick today announced her plans to retire from the agency at the end of the year.

Shick has served as executive director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency since November 1999, coming here after ten years in a similar role in Long Beach.

“After more than 30 years of public service, I look forward to retiring with my husband to pursue new adventures,” said Shick.

“I’m proud of all that we have accomplished in San Jose over the past four years to make the redevelopment agency a valued partner and an effective resource for our neighborhoods, residents, and businesses that are working together to create a better future.”

During Shick’s tenure as redevelopment head, the agency increased its level of investment in neighborhoods from five percent to more than 30 percent of its five-year capital program, and it actively involved residents and businesses to define priorities and plan for changes to strengthen neighborhoods.

In addition during this time, the agency has overseen the development of major downtown projects including the completion of new King Library, the renovation of the historic California Fox Theater and Jose Theater, and the creation of thousands of new homes in the downtown area.

“We will miss Susan’s tremendous knowledge, perspective and skill that she brought to San Jose and our redevelopment agency,” said Mayor Ron Gonzales.

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“Despite the challenges and frustrations created by the prolonged recession of the past three years, she made sure the agency remained focused on achieving our highest priorities to improve long-term quality of life and prosperity for the residents and business in this city.”

Gonzales and the city council have not yet determined their next steps to fill the vacancy left by Shick’s retirement

“Whenever we have departure of senior staff at the top level like Susan, we must use the opportunity to consider alternatives for the future of the agency and for the city, especially as we look at our continuing economic challenges.

“Over the coming weeks, the city council will review how we will search for her successor and meet the needs of the agency and the community for continuing redevelopment leadership.”

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

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