



IMPERIAL COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

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County of Imperial Announces Additions and Promotion to Strengthen County Executive Office Leadership Team

February 23, 2024 –The County of Imperial is pleased to announce significant enhancements to its leadership team with the hiring of Bari Smith Bean as the Deputy County Executive Officer (CEO) of Natural Resources, Eddie López as the Public Information Officer (PIO), and the promotion of Gil Rebollar to Deputy CEO assigned to General Services. These appointments underscore the County's commitment to building a robust team capable of navigating the complex challenges and opportunities facing the region.

Bari Smith Bean joins the County of Imperial with a rich background in marketing, community relations, and business development, having previously served as the Marketing and Community Relations Manager for BHE Renewables. Her extensive experience in promoting sustainable energy initiatives and fostering community engagement across the nation will be invaluable in her new role. Bean's educational achievements, including a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Arts from Chapman University, a Master's degree in Marketing, Communications and New Media from Georgetown University, and a CORE Certificate from Harvard University, equip her with the knowledge and skills to effectively lead the county's natural resources initiatives. She is currently furthering her expertise through an Executive MBA in Energy with the University of Oklahoma and expected to graduate in Spring 2025.

Eddie López brings to the County over 15 years of experience in communications, graphic design, and multimedia from both the public and private sectors. As the former Administrative Analyst and Multimedia Specialist for the Imperial County Public Health Department, López played a pivotal role in the county's communication efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. His expertise in crisis communications, combined with his background as a small business owner, makes him an ideal fit for the PIO position. López holds a Bachelor's degree in Multimedia Arts from The Art Institute of California.

Gil Rebollar's promotion to Deputy CEO, assigned to General Services, marks a significant step in his career within the County of Imperial. Previously serving as the Public Information Officer, Rebollar's comprehensive understanding of county operations and his academic background, including a Bachelor's degree in Human Services and a Master's degree in Public Administration, have prepared him to excel in this new capacity. His active involvement in the community further demonstrates his commitment to public service.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Luis A. Plancarte, expressed his enthusiasm for the new appointments, stating, "The addition of Mrs. Bean and Mr. López, along with the well-earned promotion of Mr. Rebollar, reflects our strategic intent to fortify our leadership team. Their diverse skills and backgrounds will undoubtedly propel Imperial County toward realizing its vision for a sustainable and vibrant future."

"Building a strong leadership team is essential for the progress and resilience of Imperial County," added County Executive Officer, Miguel Figueroa. "The Imperial County Board of Supervisors afforded me the opportunity to grow the County Executive Team and I am confident that these three individuals will bring innovative perspectives, energy, and steadfast commitment to their respective roles. Together, we will work tirelessly to meet the needs of our community and foster a thriving environment for all that live and work in the County of Imperial."

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