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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT LEWIN AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) -- Today, County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato appointed Robert Lewin to the position of Director of the Office of Emergency Management (County OEM). As the Director, Lewin will lead the department responsible for emergency planning and coordination of the Santa Barbara operational area. Lewin joined County OEM earlier this year as Emergency Manager. He will begin as Director on October 10, 2016.

Miyasato stated, "This is a critical role in the County, for which Rob brings the experience from 37 years in emergency and incident management. He is a proven leader with an ability to work well with the County's regional partners in emergency response and the broader community. I am confident that Rob will take OEM to the next level in planning, preparedness, community outreach and response."

Prior to joining the County OEM, Lewin served as Fire Chief for CAL FIRE, San Luis Obispo County Fire Department. As a former fire chief and accomplished Type 1 Incident Commander, Lewin has spent his career dedicated to public service. "I am very excited to step into the role as director of County OEM," said Lewin. "I look forward to serving the County by developing collaborative relationships inside and outside the department all in support of providing residents a healthy, safe and prosperous environment. I value communication, integrity, innovation, teamwork and service."

Lewin is a graduate of the Naval Post Graduate School Homeland Security Executive Leadership Program, with a bachelor's degree in political science from California Polytechnic State University, an associate's degree in fire science, and a technical certificate in horticulture.

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County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato further noted that “Robert Lewin has a strong commitment to public service coupled with a collaborative, transparent, and results-oriented style. We are fortunate to have someone with Rob’s expertise and talent serving in this role for Santa Barbara County.”

“I would also like to thank Robert Troy for serving as the Interim Director of County OEM,” said Miyasato. “His leadership has guided the department through tremendous change and has set the foundation for success.” Troy will reassume his position as Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Management on October 10, 2016. Troy was appointed the Interim Director in March after former OEM Director, Ryan Rockabrand, left for a position with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.