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NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST 5 WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONERS

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) -- Two community leaders have joined the First 5 Commission that oversees and directs the work of First 5 Santa Barbara County. First 5 invests sales tax on cigarettes into local programs and services that help children prenatal through age 5 prepare for kindergarten.

Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, PhD, JD, joined the Commission in February. Prior to her service on the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Hartmann served as Director of the Public Policy Program at the Claremont Graduate School and taught Environmental Studies at Oberlin College and later at University of Southern California. She has also worked with the Congressional Research Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3. Supervisor Hartmann played key roles in the public-private partnership Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, Buellton Urban Growth Boundary initiative, and the Goodland Coalition in Goleta. Supervisor Hartmann has a long history of community service through organizations such as Court Appointed Special Advocates, the Wilding Museum, and the Fund for Santa Barbara.

Charity Dean, MD, MPH, is a public health physician who joined the Commission in March. Currently, Dr. Dean serves as the County Health Officer for the Public Health Department of Santa Barbara County where she is responsible for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Immunizations, and Public Health Preparedness. Dr. Dean served as President of the Board of Directors for the Central Coast Medical Association is an active leader in the California Conference of Local Health Officers, and she serves on the School Site Council of Mountain View Elementary. She received her medical degree and master's of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from Tulane University in New Orleans.

"We are profoundly grateful to have Supervisor Hartmann and Dr. Dean join the First 5 Commission," said First 5 Executive Director Ben Romo. "Their extensive expertise, professional background, and long record of community service will greatly benefit our work supporting children prenatal through age 5 and their families**."**

About First 5 Santa Barbara County
First 5 Santa Barbara County Children and Families Commission, funded by Proposition 10 works in partnership with individuals and organizations throughout the county, to support the health, early learning and well-being of children prenatal to age 5 and their families. Call (805) 884-8085 or visit www.First5SBC.org

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