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City Manager Hires Jessica Forte as New Director of Public Works/City Engineer

(Agoura Hills, CA) – Agoura Hills City Manager Greg Ramirez has hired Jessica Forte as the new Director of Public Works/City Engineer, effective April 1, 2020. Forte fills the vacant role at the City after spending the past 4 years as the City Engineer for the neighboring City of Westlake Village. Forte’s proven track record of delivering successful public works projects, her familiarity with local and regional issues, and her well-established relationships with leaders and officials in partnering agencies and all levels of government were critical in the decision-making process.

“I am elated to join the team here in Agoura Hills, it’s great fit in such a beautiful City. ” Forte said. “The City Council, Management, and staff are all extremely talented and committed to this community. Embarking on a new chapter of my career with these people, is invigorating! I’m ready to roll my sleeves up and really get into these visionary projects the City Council has prioritized, that’s what drew me to this position”

Forte is a registered Civil Engineer in California. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering Management from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ and is a Licensed Civil Engineer in the State of California.

Forte began her career as an underwater bridge inspector with W.J. Castle & Associates in NJ, before moving to Sacramento to join Willdan Engineering in 2005. Jessica joined the City of Santa Monica in 2009 where she worked on public works projects varying from roadway improvements, bluff stabilization, airport runway improvements, bridge repairs, green streets, storm water diversions, potable water treatment facilities, and ultimately became responsible for the City’s \$45 Million Dollar Water Resources Capital Construction Program. In 2016, she joined the City of Westlake as contract City Engineer and lead the Engineering Department during construction of the Community Park, Dog Park, Lindero Linear Park, Jessica lead the City’s public works program, regional collaboration on Measure M, R, and W, and managed their Landscape and Lighting Assessment Districts. In 2017 Jessica was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the newly created Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board; she was the State Board’s inaugural chair in 2018, vice chair in 2019, and is currently in the final year of her 4-year term.

Forte will lead the Public Works Department at the City of Agoura Hills, where she will oversee, among other things, the operations and maintenance of the public infrastructure, the citywide landscaping and storm water program, representation for Measure R, Measure M, and Measure W, along with a robust

capital improvement program. Forte's leadership will be instrumental in delivering a list of priority projects, with the first major project being the facilitation of the design and eventual construction of the storm water treatment plant and linear park, which is currently in design.

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