

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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briscoee@kerncounty.com | (661) 868-3917**Kern County Board of Supervisors Appoints New County Counsel, Director of Planning and Natural Resources**

KERN COUNTY, CA—The Kern County Board of Supervisors has appointed Kendra Graham as the next County Counsel, and Craig Murphy as the next Director of Planning and Natural Resources, both effective December 27, 2025.

Ms. Graham has served as interim County Counsel since July 5, 2025. She has been an attorney with the Kern County Office of County Counsel for over 20 years. She served as Chief Deputy County Counsel over the Employment Law Section from 2018 to 2021, and most recently as Assistant County Counsel for the past 4 years. Ms. Graham received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources from CSU Bakersfield and her Juris Doctor from the California Pacific School of Law. She is Chair of the CSU Bakersfield Pre-Law Advisory Board, and served in numerous leadership roles in our community, including Junior League of Bakersfield, and Downtown Elementary School PTA.

Mr. Murphy has served as the interim Director of Planning and Natural Resources since August 23, 2025. He started his career with the County as a Planner 20 years ago and worked his way up to being promoted to the Assistant Director of Planning and Natural Resources, a position he held for the last 7 years. Mr. Murphy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Radio/Television Journalism from San Jose State University. He has extensive postgraduate studies in Urban and Regional Planning from California State Polytechnic University. Mr. Murphy is also an alumnus of the Leon Panetta Institute for Public Policy and completed a Washington, D.C., Internship Program.

The Board is grateful to have two highly skilled, accomplished, and respected professionals to continue to serve the residents of Kern County.

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