



*For Immediate Release*

September 12, 2019

**Media Contact:** Kady Fleckenstein, (805) 291-9389,  
[pio@cityofsolvang.com](mailto:pio@cityofsolvang.com)

**Public Contact:** (805) 688-5575, [www.CityofSolvang.com](http://www.CityofSolvang.com)

## **Solvang City Council Appoints Xenia Bradford as Acting City Manager**

*Solvang, CA*—The City of Solvang has announced the appointment of Xenia Bradford as Acting City Manager by the City Council, effective immediately.

On Monday, September 9, 2019, the Solvang City Council accepted the resignation of City Manager, David Gassaway and voted unanimously to offer Matt van der Linden, long-time Public Works Director, the position of Acting City Manager or, if he declines, Xenia Bradford, Administrative Services Director. Van der Linden declined the offer to focus on important Public Works projects and Council goals.

“Although flattered by this compliment, I will not be accepting the position of Acting City Manager. I believe the best way I can serve the City Council and the residents/businesses of Solvang is to focus on public works and capital projects especially our upcoming major Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. I do not believe I would be able to effectively oversee the Public Works Department and serve as Acting City Manager,” explained van der Linden. “I have confidence that Xenia Bradford will be a very effective Acting City Manager.”

Bradford is no stranger to the area as she received two degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) a BFA in Business Economics with an emphasis on accounting

and an MA in economics with an emphasis on business. After attending UCSB she continued higher education by earning a Master of Public Policy with an emphasis in local government and international relation from Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Public Policy. Not stopping at a Master's degree, Bradford attended Santa Barbara College of Law and graduated in 2008 with a Juris Doctorate. In addition to her impressive degrees, she came to the City of Solvang most recently from the City of San Luis Obispo where she managed a team of 18 employees as Finance Director. Her prior experience includes working with the County Executive Office of Santa Barbara County as well as private sector roles. She was also an applicant in the recruitment process for a new Solvang City Manager that started with the prior City Council.

"I am honored and excited to assume the Acting City Manager position," exclaimed Bradford. "I look forward to working closely with the City Council to deliver on Council goals. It has been a pleasure working for the City of Solvang as a consultant since May 2018 and as Administrative Services Director since April of this year." Bradford will continue to manage the Finances, Human Resources and IT departments as Administrative Services Director while also taking on the new responsibility of Acting City Manager.

"As a member of the finance committee, I've worked very closely with Xenia on the development of the budget," says Mayor Ryan Toussaint. "Both Daniel Johnson and I have had a very positive experience with Xenia. She is very capable and will certainly excel with her new responsibilities."

##

High Resolution Photos available upon request.

City of Solvang  
(805) 688-5575

1644 Oak Street, Solvang, CA 93463  
[www.CityofSolvang.com](http://www.CityofSolvang.com)