



First 5 Ventura County Announces Appointment of Executive Director

First 5 Ventura County (F5VC), the local agency established to administer Proposition 10 Tobacco tax revenues, is pleased to announce the selection of Petra Puls as the new Executive Director. Ms. Puls has served as the agency's Acting Executive Director since 2016.

Ms. Puls assumes the leadership of F5VC left vacant by the unfortunate passing of founding Executive Director Claudia Harrison in October of last year. "After a thorough and deliberate selection process, the Commission is delighted that Petra will lead F5VC as we address significant changes in funding that will occur in the coming years and expand our role in helping to build and support communities that prioritize the wellbeing of young children and families," said Stan Mantooh, Commission Chair and County Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Puls most recently held the position of Director of Program and Evaluation at First 5 Ventura County, overseeing the Commission's more than \$11 million annual investments in local programs, such as the Neighborhoods for Learning. Petra's entire career has focused on improving the lives of children, their families and the communities they live in. Since joining First 5 Ventura County in 2003, she shaped program design and practices in the areas of early education, family support and health to ensure our county's youngest children and families have the best start in life.

Petra holds a degree in Education and a Teaching Credential from the Federal Academy of Education in Austria, a Bachelor of Science in Business Management, and a Master of Public Administration. She resides in Oxnard with her 11-year old son, Ian.

"I want to thank the Commission for allowing me to serve as the agency's Executive Director. This is a bittersweet point in my life, as well as my professional career. There will never be another Claudia, but I do plan to lead F5VC in a fashion that will make her proud and carry forward her vision of weaving the fabric of the community so tightly that no child can fall through," states Ms. Puls.