



Memo

To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Stan Mantooth, Chair (on behalf of the Ad-hoc Executive Director Recruitment and Selection Task Force)

Date: May 18, 2017

Re: **Recommendation for Appointment of, and Compensation for, Executive Director**

Background

As a result of the unexpected passing of Claudia Harrison, the Commission appointed Petra Puls as the Acting Executive Director in November 2016. This was necessary for the continued functioning of the Commission, to assure capacity to support partners and contractors, and to maintain the Commission's financial integrity.

In January 2017, the Commission established an Ad-hoc Executive Director Selection and Recruitment Taskforce comprised of Commissioners Mantooth, Oliva-Olsen, Stenslie, and Morales. The Taskforce, charged with developing recommendations for a process to identify and appoint a regular Executive Director, met several times since January to discuss options. After careful consideration, the taskforce ultimately determined to pursue an internal promotion rather than conducting an external search, and after conducting an in-depth interview is recommending the appointment of Petra Puls as the Executive Director of First 5 Ventura County.

Petra has held leadership roles with the Commission as a Program Manager and its Director of Program and Evaluation, representing over 14 years of service. She also possesses the institutional knowledge relative to First 5's vision, strategic plan, guiding principles, and policies and procedures, as well as a deep passion for the work of First 5. She is well positioned to serve in this role with her long-standing relationships with funded partners and community partners at the local, state, and national levels.

Recommendation

The recommended action is to appoint Acting Executive Director Petra Puls, as the Executive Director of First 5 Ventura County, effective May 18, 2017 and to determine compensation.