



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Milpitas Appoints Lauren Lai as New Finance Director

Lai will be responsible for the overall financial stewardship of the City's portfolio, departmental efficiency and effectiveness improvements, budget management of the City's capital projects and enterprise resource system planning

Milpitas, Calif. – City Manager Steven G. McHarris has appointed Lauren Lai, CPA as Finance Director. Lauren comes to Milpitas from the City of Monterey, where she served as Finance Director for the past two and half years.

"Lauren's strength not only lies with her technical knowledge, but in her ability to communicate complex ideas through simple and understandable language," says City Manager Steve McHarris. "She thinks holistically and will undoubtedly be an asset to the City as we maneuver through this fiscal crisis. Her deep and broad expertise, strategic thinking and team, community approach is a great fit for our team and community. We all look forward to welcoming Lauren."

Lauren joins the team with 25 years of professional experience and fifteen years as Finance Director in the cities of Monterey, Marina and Capitola. She has a solid track record of helping communities obtain fiscal sustainability, engaging the public to solve difficult problems and being a positive leader to any organization she works with.

The Milpitas Finance Department is responsible for the City's financial planning, account of the City's resources, fair and accurate reporting of the City's financial position, and the management of the business registration division. The Department also provides the following support services to City departments: accounting, accounts payable, payroll, purchasing, budgeting, and cash management. The Department is organized into two divisions – Administration and Operations – and each provides essential customer services and support to the City Council, City departments, and the public.

Lai is a California Certified Public Accountant and holds a Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from San Jose State University. She was selected to be on the Inaugural 2021 ICMA (International City County Management Association) Leadership Institute for Race, Equity and Inclusion. She will report directly to the City Manager and will begin work with the City of Milpitas on March 8, 2021.

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About the City of Milpitas

Located at the southern end of San Francisco Bay, Milpitas is a progressive community that is an integral part of Silicon Valley. A full-service city with water utility, sewer utility, police and fire services, Milpitas celebrates a diverse population of nearly 80,000. Under a Council-Manager form of government, the City Council has established the following seven priority areas of service and policy: public safety, environment, transportation and transit, economic development and job growth, neighborhoods and housing, community wellness and open space, and governance and administration.

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