



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KARINA BAÑALES NAMED DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

Rancho Palos Verdes (May 8, 2020) — Karina Bañales, a well-known city administrator on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, was today named Deputy City Manager of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

Ms. Bañales joins the City from neighboring Palos Verdes Estates, where she has served as Assistant to the City Manager since 2018. She succeeds former Deputy City Manager Gabriella Yap, who left Rancho Palos Verdes in December 2019 to take the same position in Beverly Hills. Ms. Bañales' first day at the City will be June 1.

“I am honored to be appointed as the Deputy City Manager and look forward to working and serving in this world-class community,” Ms. Bañales said. “I look forward to meeting the members of our community, working in partnership to achieve the highest level of professional service.”

Ms. Bañales holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of La Verne. She brings vast experience with a variety of governmental and legislative affairs, community relations, human resources and public safety, but most importantly, her familiarity with issues facing the Palos Verdes Peninsula community.

“Karina has demonstrated outstanding leadership in Palos Verdes Estates and we are thrilled to bring her on board and benefit from her talents and ingenuity,” said City Manager Ara Mihranian.

In recent years, Ms. Bañales was called upon to serve in numerous key roles in Palos Verdes Estates, leading the Human Resources Department and filling in as the City Clerk. During her tenure, she was awarded the City’s Neptune Award for exemplary service to residents and employees and was named a finalist for the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority’s Capstone Award for demonstrating best practices in risk management. Prior to joining Palos Verdes Estates as an administrative analyst in 2015, Ms. Bañales held human resources positions in the City of San Gabriel, Riverside County, and the City of South San Francisco.

Ms. Bañales is a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Municipal Management Association of Southern California (MMASC).

She grew up in Burbank, where she remains an active member of her community, having served as Director of Coaches with the Burbank United Soccer Club and a volunteer coach with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO).

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