



Oceano Community Services District

1655 Front Street | P.O. Box 599 | Oceano, CA 93475

PHONE (805) 481-6730 | FAX (805) 481-6836

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Board of Directors of the Oceano Community Services District is very pleased to announce that, after an extensive search and review of more than 120 applicants, we have selected Peter Brown to serve as the next General Manager of the District, starting June 10, 2024.

The position became vacant when the former General Manager, Will Clemens, announced his retirement in late 2023. The recruitment and selection process involved a review of top applicants, including panel interviews and detailed questions about the applicant's professional experience related to managing people, water, wastewater, solid waste, parks and recreation, and other key community services. After months of vetting qualified applicants that yielded several top candidates, the Board selected Peter Brown as the best qualified to lead the organization for both his technical and communication skills.

Peter is a San Francisco Bay Area native. He comes to Oceano with 25 years of municipal urban planning and public works experience in several California cities, including San Luis Obispo and the Central Coast. He has implemented dozens of long-range planning projects, overseen the development and implementation of Capital Improvement Programs, and helped deliver multimillion-dollar transportation, water, stormwater, and sanitary infrastructure projects throughout the state. Prior to this new role with the OCSD, Peter was the Public Works Director in Belmont, California, in San Mateo County since early 2020. There, Peter led a Public Works team of 33 people and oversaw a ten-million-dollar annual operating budget to maintain and improve the sanitary system and potable water delivery system, including dozens of capital projects related to upsizing and replacing pipes and lift stations to address long-term infrastructure needs related to growth, drought, climate change, and community sustainability goals.

Peter is an honors graduate of Chico State with a dual major in political science and environmental studies; Mr. Brown then attended UCLA, where, in 2001, he earned two Masters's Degrees, one in Urban Planning and the other in Latin American Geography. Peter taught City and Regional Planning courses at Cal Poly and Environmental Science courses at the University of San Francisco.

Peter expressed his appreciation for the position and stated "I realize that the last year has been a difficult time for the OCSD related to budget constraints, management, and community relations, but I am up for the challenge. I plan to help bring the Board and community together, given how much common ground exists. I am honored by the



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potential to join the District's stellar staff team and to learn as much as possible about Oceano, its needs, and its people. I look forward to bringing my Public Works experience here to San Luis Obispo County to help improve and maintain the high quality of life for residents, business owners and visitors alike."

Peter speaks fluent Spanish, holds a B.A. in International Relations and Environmental Science from Chico State University, and Master's Degrees in both Latin American Studies and Urban Planning from UCLA.

Charles Varni, President of the OCSD, stated "I could not be more happier with the hiring of Peter Brown. His leadership skills, experience, and knowledge will serve the District and entire South County well. Now is a critical time to initiate a new round of regional water treatment and recycling planning as we face a 2047 deadline to have a new or relocated wastewater treatment and recycling facility in operation. Mr. Brown's people skills, interagency coordination experience, and grant writing history are welcomed and will have a very positive impact on our mission."

We look forward to Peter's leadership, energy, and enthusiasm; and anticipate him taking the OCSD to new heights.

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