



## CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Rossi, Human Resources Director

**MEETING DATE:** March 10, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Resolution 2026-48, Authorizing the Appointment of Retired Annuitant Matthew Bassi as Interim Community Development Director

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution 2026-48

### **BACKGROUND:**

Following Community Development Director David Newell's recent resignation, the City has begun a formal recruitment process to fill the vacancy. Given Mr. Newell's extensive involvement in key municipal projects, Human Resources partnered with staff and specialized firms to secure a retired annuitant. This interim lead will provide essential guidance and departmental support while a permanent successor is found. A recruitment is underway and a permanent appointment is anticipated to be in place prior to June 30, 2026.

In mid-February, the City identified Mr. Matthew Bassi to fill the vacant Community Development Director position on an interim basis while the recruitment for a permanent appointment continues. Mr. Bassi is a highly qualified CalPERS retiree with over 40 years of distinguished experience in city management and municipal planning. It is anticipated that Mr. Bassi will officially assume the role of Interim Community Development Director on March 11, 2026.

Pursuant to Government Code section 21221(h), the City is permitted to make limited-term appointments of CalPERS retirees to temporary positions, provided they adhere to requirements regarding compensation, duration, and hour limitations. In accordance with these guidelines, Mr. Bassi is restricted to an aggregate of 960 hours per fiscal year across all CalPERS contracting agencies. His appointment ensures that the Community Development Department remains under expert leadership during this pivotal transition period.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve by Resolution the limited-term appointment of Matthew Bassi as Interim Community Development Director, while the city continues to aggressively recruit for a permanent appointment.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The resolution for Interim Vacant Retired Annuitant under Gov. Code section 21221(h), is for CalPERS retirees hired to work in a vacant position while the employer recruits for a permanent replacement, such as an interim city manager, interim police or fire chief, interim department head, or any other unique managerial or executive position. An open recruitment to fill the vacancy with a permanent replacement is required to appoint a retiree. A retiree can only be appointed once to a vacant position. A retiree must reinstate from retirement to be employed in any regular staff position which includes any permanent positions including full time, part time, seasonal, limited term, permanent intermittent, exempt from membership, or any other type of temporary or periodic regular staff position.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Mr. Bassi will be paid an hourly rate of \$103.68, representing the top-step equivalent for the Community Development Director position, for a total of \$62,208. This expenditure will be covered by salary savings resulting from current department vacancies. He is not entitled to any additional compensation, benefits, vacation, or holidays.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

**BUDGETED?:**

No

**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Resolution\\_2026-48\\_Matthew\\_Bassi.docx](#)
2. [Bassi\\_Matthew\\_Final\\_Offer\\_of\\_Employment\\_031026.docx](#)