



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Lisa Rossi, Human Resources Director
Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

MEETING DATE: June 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2026-101, Authorizing the Appointment of Retired Annuitant Matthew Bassi as Extra Help

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2026-101

BACKGROUND:

Following Community Development Director David Newell's resignation, the City initiated 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 engage a retired annuitant who could provide essential guidance and departmental continuity while a permanent successor was sought. A permanent appointment was anticipated to be in place prior to June 30, 2026.

In mid-February, the City identified Mr. Matthew Bassi to serve as Interim Community Development Director while the permanent recruitment process continues. Mr. Bassi is a highly qualified CalPERS retiree with over 40 years of distinguished experience in city management and municipal planning. Mr. Bassi officially assumed the Interim Community Development Director role on March 11, 2026, with his interim appointment extending through the end of the current fiscal year on June 30, 2026.

As the Community Development Director position has not yet been permanently filled, the City has an ongoing operational need for interim leadership into the new fiscal year. To ensure continuity of service and departmental support, the City proposes to continue Mr. Bassi's engagement on a limited-duration basis; however, as of July 1, 2026, his role will be designated as Extra-Help. His retired annuitant employment is anticipated to conclude on or before December 31, 2026. Mr. Bassi will be compensated at an hourly rate no less than the minimum and no more than the maximum established for employees performing comparable duties, and he will receive no additional compensation. His extensive background has equipped him with specialized knowledge and expertise directly applicable to the City's planning and development operations.

JUSTIFICATION:

The resolution for Interim Vacant Retired Annuitant under Gov. Code sections 7522.56 and 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 would be paid an hourly rate of \$103.6781 per hour, which is the hourly equivalent of the Community Development Director position. He is not entitled to any additional compensation, benefits, vacation, or holidays.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution_2026-_Matthew_Bassi_062326.docx](#)