



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New General Manager- Chief Engineer Andy Cortez Appointed to the Department of Waste Resources

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT GENERAL MANAGER - CHIEF ENGINEER OF WASTE RESOURCES ANDY CORTEZ

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The Riverside County Board of Supervisors appointed Andy Cortez, a lifelong resident of Riverside County, as the new General Manager - Chief Engineer for the Department of Waste Resources. Cortez's career with the department spans more than 25 years, marking his 8th position since starting as a junior engineer in 1998. Throughout his years with the department, his experience was built in management, innovation and civil engineering.

Cortez holds a degree in environmental engineering from UC Riverside and a master's in public administration from Cal Baptist University. Throughout his tenure, he has held progressively responsible roles, including his most recent role as Assistant Chief Engineer and Principal Engineer.

"Selecting an experienced leader for this department is invaluable as we enhance environmental waste management practices in Riverside County," praised Board Chair Chuck Washington, Third District. "Andy's appointment reflects dedication to excellent solid waste management operations and innovation for future waste reduction programs."

Cortez's appointment recognizes his efforts in optimizing solid waste disposal operations, ensuring regulatory compliance, and fostering collaborative relationships with governmental agencies and the public. Notable achievements include receiving the Innovation Award for Engineered Landfill Tarp Systems from the California State Association of Counties and spearheading the largest landfill expansion in the department's history at Badlands Landfill in Moreno Valley, which was a \$33 million 35-acre project.

"As a proud Riverside County native from Corona, I am deeply honored and grateful to step into the role of General Manager - Chief Engineer with the incredible individuals that contribute to our department and work tirelessly to meet the evolving needs of Riverside County," said Andy Cortez. "With a career deeply rooted in this county, I am confident that together, we can further enhance the quality of life for our residents."

Cortez has led teams focused on enhancing landfill efficiencies, projected to save the department millions in the coming decade. With a primary emphasis on long-term sustainability, this effort involves effective landfill management, curbing illegal dumping, organizing community clean-ups, promoting composting, facilitating household hazardous waste collection, encouraging recycling, and engaging in widespread public outreach efforts.

In his new capacity, Cortez will play an instrumental role in advancing the County's waste management infrastructure by securing approvals for critical projects and navigating complex regulatory environments. His appointment follows the retirement of the former General Manager-Chief Engineer Hans Kernkamp, who held the position for 20 years.

For more information on Riverside County's Department of Waste Resources and its initiatives, please visit rcwaste.org.

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