Costa Mesa City Council appoints Gallardo-Daly as the interim City Manager

The Costa Mesa City Council voted unanimously at the Tuesday, June 3 closed session meeting to appoint Cecilia Gallardo-Daly as the interim City Manager.

“The Council’s unanimous vote for Cecilia Gallardo-Daly as interim City Manager demonstrates our full trust and confidence in her ability to perform this important role,” Mayor John Stephens said. “I admire Cecilia’s background and experience and look forward to working closely with her to accomplish the council’s goals and to serve our community.”

Gallardo-Daly was appointed as Costa Mesa’s Assistant City Manager in December of 2023 and has been instrumental in managing several large city initiatives, including the potential development of the Fairview Developmental Center.

“I want to thank the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem and the City Council for this tremendous opportunity to serve as the interim City Manager. It’s an honor and privilege to be of service to the City in a new way. I’m so very proud to be part of the Costa Mesa team and I look forward to all the great work ahead.”

Prior to her arrival in Costa Mesa, Gallardo-Daly served the City of San Clemente as the Assistant City Manager, and prior to that as the Community Development Director, where she was responsible for implementation of San Clemente’s vision and policy as it relates to land use, economic development, environmental and historic preservation and coastal resiliency. She also worked as a Planning and Environmental Permitting Consultant for local agencies from 2001 to 2013.

She served in several capacities with the City of San Diego, holding the titles of Deputy and Assistant Director of the Development Services Department, Program Manager for the City Planning and Community Investment Department and Senior Planner.

She has also held planning roles for the cities of Austin, Texas and Rancho Cucamonga, Rosemead and Sierra Madre in California.

Gallardo-Daly has a Master of Arts Degree in Urban Planning and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science both from UCLA.