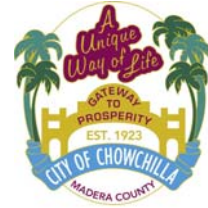


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City of Chowchilla

# Press Release



For Release: January 5, 2012

## City of Chowchilla Welcomes Two New Department Directors

Outside Consultant Services Discontinued; More In-House Services Provided at the City to Increase Cost Efficiency

**Chowchilla, CA, January 5, 2012:** The City of Chowchilla is pleased to announce the addition of a City Engineer/Public Works Director and a Director of Community and Economic Development. The Chowchilla City Council and staff have been vigilant about keeping a structured, balanced budget and one of the goals has been to reduce outside consultant fees. With the addition of the new directors, outside consultant services have been discontinued thereby providing a cost savings while improving customer service. City Administrator Mark Lewis stated "When analyzing budget figures from the past three years, we paid over \$350K each for planning and engineering services. We then determined we could provide better service to the public and save money by bringing these positions in-house and eliminate the need for consultants."

Andrew Benelli takes the reins as City Engineer/Public Works Director for the Public Services Department. Benelli formerly held the same position with the City of Visalia from 2004-2012 and the City of Reedley prior to that from 1998-2004. He was also employed by Provost and Pritchard Engineering, Kawes and Associates, Caltrans, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Prior to college, Benelli was a licensed contractor.

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Benelli obtained two Bachelor of Science degrees from California State University Fresno in 1989. The degrees were in Civil Engineering and Surveying and Photogrammetry, the latter being the practice of determining geometric properties of objects from photographic images.

Benelli is married with three daughters and enjoys hiking, home improvement projects, and spending time with his family. He also is a licensed pilot. His goals for his new position in Chowchilla include providing better customer service and getting involved in the community to make new friends. More specifically in his position, Benelli would like to deliver capital projects to improve traffic circulation and pavement conditions and to modernize and improve the water system. Benelli stated “I really enjoy working in smaller communities and look forward to working with the staff and residents of Chowchilla.”

Kevin Fabino has joined the City of Chowchilla as Director of Community and Economic Development. Kevin comes from the City of Fresno Planning and Development Department where he spent the last ten years. While employed there, he managed the Current Planning and Mapping and Engineering Sections of the department. Fabino also brings the experience of working closely with various city departments (e.g., code enforcement, historic preservation, building permits, redevelopment agency, public works, police and fire) and community groups allowing necessary resource coordination to complete large development projects. His background also includes many years in the Parks and Recreation field.

Fabino's educational background consists of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreational Services and a Masters Degree in Public Administration, which he obtained from California State University Fresno in 1998. Fabino's family consists of his wife of 27 years, one son, and two daughters. He has been active as a volunteer in band booster programs and has a passion for sailing, a past-time his whole family enjoys together.

According to Fabino, his immediate focus is on customer service. “I am a big believer in public service and want to strive to serve our community with the best service possible,” stated Fabino. “Chowchilla is a great community,” said Fabino. “I have felt the warm welcome and I look forward to hearing what people want and expect out of our department. The staff is great and I look forward to working with them and the public.”

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Fabino and Benelli began their careers with the City of Chowchilla this week. They may be reached at the Civic Center by calling (559) 665-8615.

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