

***For Immediate Release***  
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## **Walesh Joins San José Economic Development Team**

San José – Kim Walesh, a nationally recognized economic development strategist, will join the City of San José as Assistant Director of Economic Development early next year, it was announced today by City Manager Del Borgsdorf. In her new position, Walesh will lead the team responsible for San José’s economic development strategy.

Walesh, who will join the City on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003, is co-founder and director of Collaborative Economics, a firm that advises business and civic leaders nationally and has supported influential Silicon Valley organizations such as Joint Venture Silicon Valley and Community Foundation Silicon Valley. Walesh, who will take a leave of absence from Collaborative Economics, has worked with business, civic, and elected leaders in more than 30 metropolitan regions in the United States and abroad.

“Kim Walesh is a highly regarded expert with national experience in the creation of economic development strategies,” Borgsdorf said in announcing her appointment. “With her appointment, the City’s Office of Economic Development has the best of two worlds—a director (Paul Krutko) with national experience in business attraction and development, and an assistant director with enormous knowledge and experience in the Silicon Valley economy.”

(more)

Walesh, who authors Joint Venture: Silicon Valley's annual *Index of Silicon Valley*, brings a wealth of relationships with the public, private and non-profit sectors within the valley. In her new position Walesh will work with the City's Director of Economic Development, Paul Krutko who joined the City of San José in February 2002 after leading economic development efforts in Cleveland, Ohio and Jacksonville, Florida. The economic development team, which also includes the directors of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; Public Works, and Housing, and the executive director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, is part of a City initiative to emphasize the economic benefits of locating businesses in San José. The team will develop a data driven economic development strategy, which is a priority for the mayor and city council. The strategy will guide policy, projects, and outreach over the next 3-5 years.

"I am excited about bringing regional, national, and international perspectives gained from my work with Collaborative Economics to help nurture and competitively position San José, a community I care very passionately about," said Walesh, who lives in downtown San José.

Walesh has a graduate degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and an undergraduate degree in Economics from Valparaiso University. Prior to co-founding Collaborative Economics in 1993, she was Senior Policy Analyst at SRI International's Center for Economic Competitiveness. She is the co-author of the book *Grassroots Leaders for a New Economy: How Civic Entrepreneurs are Building Prosperous Communities (Jossey-Bass)* with colleagues Doug Henton and John Melville.

If you'd like to contribute your ideas on how to strengthen San José's economy and position it for future success, please e-mail Paul Krutko, Director of the Office of Economic Development, at [economic.development@ci.sj.ca.us](mailto:economic.development@ci.sj.ca.us).

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