



# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Natalie Hernández named to bilingual public information position**

VENTURA, Calif. – Natalie Hernández has been named as the County’s Assistant Public Information Officer, a bilingual position intended to extend the County’s outreach into Spanish-speaking communities and support the overall public information program.

Hernández graduated summa cum laude from Azuza Pacific University with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and received her master’s in Latin American and Iberian studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has lived in both Mexico and Spain.

Hernández has more than 12 years of experience in translating, transcribing and interpreting from English to Spanish and vice versa. She has also taught college-level Spanish and has more than eight years of domestic and international marketing and public relations experience.

Hernández was selected after a months-long recruitment and testing process that attracted 100 applicants from across the country. The testing included passing the County’s most stringent bilingual examination, requiring candidates to pass in both written and verbal translation skills.

“This was a difficult recruitment,” said Mike Powers, County Executive Officer. “We were looking for someone able to communicate in Spanish at every level of our communities who could also support our public information programs both during emergencies and the normal course of business. It’s extremely important for us to connect with our Spanish-speaking residents directly and through the media outlets they prefer. Natalie’s qualifications give us that ability.”

Hernández will enhance the efforts of the County’s public information office to respond to inquiries and help to increase public awareness of the large number of County programs and services available to county residents. The public information office is also responsible for reporting a broad spectrum of information, including the County’s ongoing efforts to remain fiscally sustainable, its continued focus on outstanding customer service, and its efforts to maintain its communities as healthy and safe places to live and work.

Hernández, 34, is an Oxnard resident and began her duties on August 6 at a salary of \$91,475. Her office is on the fourth floor of the Hall of Administration at the County Government Center and she can be reached at (805) 654-2635, or [natalie.hernandez@ventura.org](mailto:natalie.hernandez@ventura.org).

Photo: Natalie Hernández