

Second Harvest Food Bank announces new CEO



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 **By Jason Rodriguez**

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — The Second Harvest Food Bank announced their new CEO on Wednesday after a nation-wide search. Erica Padilla-Chavez will join the company starting in mid-July and will succeed the current CEO Willy Elliott McCrea after his retirement.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my honor to announce the appointment of CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County to Erica Padilla-Chavez. Erica is a Santa Cruz County native and has dedicated her life to the betterment of her community. Erica’s active involvement in numerous nonprofits around the central coast has earned her great recognition including Assembly District 30’s 2022 Woman of the Year by Robert Rivas.” said board chair Michele Bassi.

The search committee unanimously agreed to appoint Chavez for the role.

Padilla-Chavez was born in Watsonville, and graduated from Watsonville High School. She received her Bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and a Masters of Public Administration from Golden Gate University.

Padilla-Chavez is a member of the Hartnell College Board of Trustees, and has held multiple board positions throughout the Central Coast.

Padilla-Chavez will officially start July 18. A community meet and greet will be scheduled for August.