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NEW CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER APPOINTED IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Charlotte J. Orcutt is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephanie L. James as San Joaquin County's new Chief Probation Officer. Ms. James was nominated by the Juvenile Justice Commission and appointed by Judge Orcutt to fill the position with the unanimous support of Presiding Judge David P. Warner and San Joaquin County Administrator Manuel Lopez. Judge Orcutt had this to say about the appointment, "We are so pleased to have Ms. James fill the role of San Joaquin County's Chief Probation Officer. Her dedication, leadership, innovative methods and sparkling personality will make her a wonderful justice partner."

Ms. James started her career with the San Joaquin County Probation Department in 1996 as a Probation Officer I in the Juvenile Investigations Unit. Over the years, she has served in various supervisory capacities in both juvenile and adult probation and will leave her current position as Assistant Chief Probation Officer, which she has held for the past two years. Ms. James has led the department in the development and implementation of numerous innovative programs, grants, technology projects, and departmental reorganizations. Most recently, she has been instrumental in the development and writing of the San Joaquin County Public Safety Realignment Plan, as well as ongoing implementation of all plan components. She is the primary liaison between all partner agencies of the Community Corrections Partnership. Additionally, Ms. James has served on numerous committees both within the Probation Department and in collaboration with partner agencies.

As a longtime resident of San Joaquin County, Ms. James has been equally dedicated to the local community as to her profession. She has been a Girl Scout Leader, served on the Board of Directors for the Mediation Center of San Joaquin, and has participated on the Community Partnership for Families Planning Committee for its annual Multi-cultural Health and Safety Fair.

Ms. James earned both her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1992 and Masters of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 2000 from California State University, Sacramento.

Ms. James' eagerness to begin her new assignment is reflected in her comments about her new role as Chief, "I am very excited about this opportunity and will do my best to serve the

Courts, the Community, and the County. I believe in the work of the Probation Department and our ability to affect change in the clients we serve while still protecting public interest and safety.”

Ms. James has been serving as Interim Chief Probation Officer since March of this year. She takes the place of Chief Probation Officer, Patricia Mazzilli who retired on March 25, 2012.

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