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# State Personnel Board Announces the Retirement of Executive Officer Suzanne M. Ambrose and the Appointment of Alvin Gittisriboongul as the New Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO – The California State Personnel Board (SPB) on November 9, 2026, announced the pending retirement of Executive Officer Suzanne M. Ambrose at the end of the calendar year, and the appointment of Alvin Gittisriboongul to succeed her as the new Executive Officer.

Ms. Ambrose has served as the Executive Officer of the State Personnel Board since May 2007.

Ms. Ambrose's public service career spans over 45 years through seven different Administrations, beginning in 1981 when Jerry Brown was Governor the first time. Prior to her appointment as Executive Officer, Ms. Ambrose served as Director of the former Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), California's civil rights enforcement agency. She had previously served as Staff Counsel, Assistant Chief Counsel, and Chief Counsel with DFEH where she litigated complaints alleging employment, housing, and public accommodation discrimination, and acts of hate violence. Ms. Ambrose also worked at the Attorney General's Office as a Deputy Attorney General and Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the Civil Rights Enforcement Section where she represented the DFEH, the Fair Employment and Housing Commission and the Native American Heritage Commission. Ms. Ambrose focused primarily on investigating alleged violations of the disability access laws in public accommodations throughout the state and enhancing protections for persons with disabilities.

Since joining SPB, Ms. Ambrose has overseen significant improvements to the civil service system, including streamlining the appeals process, eliminating case backlogs, automating civil service examinations, consolidating civil service classifications, and modernizing the hiring process through policy initiatives and regulatory changes. Under her leadership, the organization strengthened its mission, streamlined processes, and advanced strategic priorities that have positioned it for continued success.

"Suzy has been an exceptional leader whose dedication, integrity, and commitment have left an enduring impact on civil service," said Kathy Baldree, President of the Board. "We are deeply grateful for her years of service and the lasting legacy she leaves behind."

Reflecting on the announcement, Ms. Ambrose said, "Serving as Executive Officer of SPB has been one of the greatest privileges of my career. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together and grateful to our employees, state agency partners, employee organizations, and stakeholders who have helped us accomplish all of the improvements we've made."

The Board has chosen Alvin Gittisriboongul to succeed Ms. Ambrose as Executive Officer. Mr. Gittisriboongul has been serving as the Chief Counsel for the State Personnel Board since 2009. As Chief Counsel, he advised the Board and represented the agency in all legal matters and provided advice on legislation and policy impacting the civil service system. Before his appointment as the Chief Counsel, Mr. Gittisriboongul served as SPB's Presiding Administrative Law Judge in the Appeals Division, supervising the administrative law judges who hear state employee discipline matters. He previously worked as a Supervising Deputy Attorney General in the Correctional Law Section of the California Attorney General's Office litigating cases in state and federal courts and supervising attorneys in defense of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Preceding his tenure in public service, Mr. Gittisriboongul worked in private practice handling litigation on behalf of employers, corporations, and public entities in employment and general liability matters. He also served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Art McKinster at the California Court of Appeals, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two. Mr. Gittisriboongul received his law degree from McGeorge School of Law in 1993.

"As we look to the future, we remain committed to building on the strong foundation established under Suzy's leadership," said President Baldree. "We are confident the organization is well-positioned for its next chapter, and that Alvin's strong legal background and extensive SPB history will take us to the next level."

Mr. Gittisriboongul said, "I am extremely honored to be chosen as the next SPB Executive Officer and appreciate the Board's confidence in my ability to continue to improve the civil service system. I'm looking forward to expanding my role at the Board."

About SPB

Established by the State Constitution, SPB is charged with overseeing the merit-based, job-related, recruitment and selection process for the hiring of state employees who provide critical services to the citizens of California. SPB provides direction to departments through simplifying civil service laws, rules, and policy. In addition, SPB audits departments for merit system compliance. SPB also investigates and adjudicates alleged violations of civil service law that are filed by employees, applicants, and members of the public. More information on SPB and its Board members can be found at the SPB website. ###