



Small Business Development Center



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Lee T. Takikawa named as new President and CEO of California Coastal RDC**

(Salinas, CA, March 4, 2019) California Coastal, a non-profit financial development corporation authorized by the State of California to provide both technical training and financing to family farmers and small businesses, announces the retirement of long-time President/CEO, Karl Zalazowski; and, the appointment of Lee T. Takikawa as its new President and CEO.

Takikawa was selected as the result of a lengthy search process overseen by the Board of Directors. The Board's goal was to find a long-term replacement who could build on the success of the Company since it was founded in 1982.

Cal Coastal is headquartered in Salinas and has a proud history of farm lending on the Central Coast. Cal Coastal is the largest Farm Services Agency lender in the State of California.

Takikawa most recently worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Agency, as a Business and Cooperative Specialist for the California State Office. Prior to that position, he was a Vice President and Senior Loan Officer that managed the commercial loan department for the Valley Small Business Development Corporation in Fresno. Takikawa has deep roots in the Monterey Peninsula area as he grew up here and is very pleased to return home.

Takikawa states, "It is an honor to be asked to head this Company. My hope is to increase awareness of our presence in the region and State."

In addition to both farm ownership and farm operating loans, Cal Coastal is a small business lender making both direct and intermediary loans including: State Guarantees, SBA 504 loans, SBA Community Advantage loans, SBA Microloans, and participating in an innovative Government program targeting businesses with needs as little as \$500.00. Many of these loans can be coupled with free Technical Assistance provided through our affiliated Small Business Development Corporation.

As well as the Salinas office, Cal Coastal has a loan production office in both Santa Maria and Santa Barbara. The Company's principal areas of lending are: Santa Cruz Co., San Benito Co., Monterey Co., San Luis Obispo Co., Santa Barbara Co., and Ventura County.

**For more information contact:**

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