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For Immediate Release

Oro Valley Hires Acting Economic Development Director

ORO VALLEY, AZ (Jan. 14, 2008) —The town of Oro Valley announced it has hired Matt Michels to fill the position of acting economic development administrator. Matt will assume his duties Feb. 4.

Matt has been with the town of Oro Valley since May of 2006 and holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University. He has more than 10 years in land use planning, and has worked closely with business and development in Oro Valley, as well as with the regional economic development leadership.

"Matt's background in analyzing market research data, retail feasibility analysis and other valuable planning data will be keys to ensuring a strong economic development plan as we move forward," said Town Manager David Andrews. "Given Oro Valley's challenges with growth and expansion opportunities, as well as its potential for future growth, the search committee felt Matt's in-depth understanding of land development and land use issues was critical."

The search committee included Beth Koch from sanofi-aventis representing private industry; David Welsh from TREO representing regional economic development; and David Andrews and Sandra Abbey on behalf of the town. After a national search, Matt was unanimously chosen from four applicants who were interviewed, including two from out of town (Yuma and Washington state), and one other internal candidate.

Matt will serve as acting economic development administrator to allow both parties to ensure a smooth transition and success in his new role. His starting salary will be \$74,859.

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