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Personnel Chief Kent Rice Resigns

Santa Cruz Personnel Manager Kent Rice will leave his job in August to go into private consulting on labor relations and insurance risk management.

He made the announcement this morning so that any necessary budget changes could be made in June. The budget could reflect the wages of the new personnel director and also a contract for Rice to handle the city's risk management program for a year.



Kent Rice

Rice, 44, has been with the city for nine years and leaves with high praise for the past and present city administrations.

"The city is one of the best municipal operations I've seen, and I compliment the city councils that they have had confidence in the administration," Rice said.

His department has never lost an affirmative action complaint and during his tenure, he notes, there have been no major personnel problems.

Also, during that time, the city has managed its own liability insurance and health and dental programs.

Rice came here from Palo Alto where he was the city's assistant personnel director. He holds a bachelor's degree in personnel management and a master's in business.

He will form a private company in Santa Cruz with consultant John Mortenson under the name Mortenson and Rice.

Rice noted that by delaying until August he will have time to complete the city's negotiations with its working force.

The city has a work force between 640 to 800 workers, with 80 to 200 being temporary employees.