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Jennifer Ott set to be named City Manager of the City of Hayward

HAYWARD, Calif., Oct. 17, 2025—The Hayward City Council on Tuesday plans to formally appoint Jennifer Ott as the next City Manager of the City of Hayward and welcome back an experienced local government leader at a time of fiscal urgency for the City.

"The Council and I are thrilled to welcome Ms. Ott back to Hayward," Mayor Mark Salinas said. "I'm especially pleased that she returns as an experienced local government leader and a proven City Manager."

Ott first joined the City of Hayward in September 2018 as Deputy City Manager and was later promoted to Assistant City Manager before leaving in November 2022 to become City Manager of the City of Alameda, where she has served continually since as that city's chief executive.

Under her new agreement with the City Council to rejoin Hayward, Ott will begin work as Hayward City Manager on Dec. 8, after completing her service to the City of Alameda.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to join former and new colleagues at the City of Hayward and meet the immediate challenges and future opportunities together," Ott said.

Ott has more than 25 years of experience working on local government issues, especially in Alameda County where she is considered one of its most dynamic civic leaders.

Before her initial service to the City of Hayward from 2018 to 2022, Ott worked for 13 years in numerous capacities for the City of Alameda, which included Base Reuse and Transportation Planning Director and Deputy City Manager prior to eventually returning as City Manager.

Earlier, she was Vice President at Economic & Planning Systems (EPS) of Oakland, a leading land-use policy and real estate development consultancy to local governments and private developers.

Ott earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Spanish from the University of California, Davis.