FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2026
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City of San Mateo Appoints Jennifer Yamaguma as Assistant City Manager



San Mateo, CA – City Manager Alex Khojikian announced the appointment of Jennifer Yamaguma as its new Assistant City Manager. Yamaguma brings more than 25 years of experience in local government leadership across San Mateo and Santa Clara County communities, with deep expertise in executive leadership, strategic communications, policy implementation and organizational management.

She currently serves as Deputy City Manager for the City of Redwood City, where she oversees key City Manager's Office functions including City Council relations, communications, economic development, real estate, legislative affairs and strategic initiatives.

In Redwood City, Yamaguma has led essential cross-departmental initiatives, advanced major City Council priorities and played a key role in citywide strategic planning, budgeting, intergovernmental relations, community engagement and organizational coordination.

"Jennifer is known for fostering collaboration and building consensus within departments and in the communities she serves," City Manager Alex Khojikian said. "Her ability to navigate complex policy and community issues, and to build strong relationships with elected officials, staff, partners and community stakeholders leaves a lasting impact. That kind of leadership is a win for all involved, driving results that will benefit San Mateo residents."

Prior to serving as Deputy City Manager, Yamaguma led Redwood City's Communications Division, where she modernized and expanded the City's communications and community engagement efforts and advised executive leadership on high-profile and sensitive issues.

Her previous experience also includes leadership roles with the Cities of Santa Clara and Milpitas, including serving as Assistant to the City Manager, Acting City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk, Community Relations Manager and Public Information Officer. During her career, Yamaguma has successfully managed high-profile regional initiatives and public-facing projects, including serving as the City's lead Public Information Officer for Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium.

"Local government is ultimately about people, relationships and finding real solutions that improve people's lives," Yamaguma said. "I'm honored to join the City of San Mateo, excited for this next chapter and grateful for the opportunity to serve this vibrant community."

She will take over the role from Christina Horrisberger, who will retire from the City of San Mateo Assistant City Manager position on June 2. In her tenure at the City, Horrisberger has served as the Assistant City Manager, overseeing the City's first-ever Strategic and Economic Development Plans, ushering forward sustainability initiatives, working to activate the pedestrian mall, and bolstering the City's DEI and community engagement strategies. Previously, as the City of San Mateo's Community Development Director, Horrisberger's team led the City's General Plan 2040 and Housing Element Cycle 6 efforts successfully to completion and launched the City's online permit center. Horrisberger has dedicated more than 20 years to public service, working as a land use planner for Alameda County, Foster City and Pacifica prior to her time in San Mateo.

Yamaguma, who starts June 8, will continue the City's dedication to strategy and thoughtful innovation. Her appointment reflects the City of San Mateo's commitment to experienced, collaborative leadership focused on organizational excellence, community engagement and delivering high-quality public service.

Yamaguma holds a Master of Public Administration with High Honors from Golden Gate University and is an active member of the International City/County Management Association. She is a third-generation public servant, inspired by the example of her grandmother and mother.

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MEDIA CONTACT:
Kailey Fisicaro
kfisicaro@cityofsanmateo.org
650-674-5230

About the City of San Mateo
Incorporated in 1894, the City of San Mateo is located at the heart of the San Francisco Bay Area Peninsula. San Mateo is known for its vibrant dining and entertainment options, shopping districts and parks. The City is committed to serving more than 104,000 residents and over 10,000 businesses, maintaining several community centers that offer recreational programs for youth, adults and seniors. City libraries provide technology-lending services, literacy courses, free museum passes and other educational programs for all ages.