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# Hayward Area Recreation and Park District FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Hayward Area Recreation and Park District General Manager Announces Retirement

**Hayward, CA** – On April 30, 2020 General Manager Paul McCreary submitted his retirement letter to the Board of Directors. Mr. McCreary's retirement will be effective September 30, 2020 after almost five years with the District. Mr. McCreary had told the Board last summer he did not intend on extending his employment agreement and planned to retire in 2020.

Mr. McCreary has dedicated over 30 years to public service and considers his five years with the Park District as the pinnacle of his career. "I will be forever grateful to the Board of Directors for offering me the position and trusting me over the years to implement its vision. It's rare that you build a relationship with an elected Board that works as well as ours has," Mr. McCreary said. "Moreover, I will be endlessly indebted to my amazing staff for the incredible work they've done, for the spirit they have brought to work each day, and for continually finding ways to be progressive. Without them nothing could have been accomplished."

Under McCreary's leadership, the District saw increased transparency and continued stewardship of its long-term financial stability, with general fund reserves rebounding to a record level. Mr. McCreary's proudest accomplishment is the passage of the \$250 million Measure F1 Bond by 79% of voters, and the subsequent development of the District's first multi-year capital improvement program. He believes the most impactful project has been working with the District's Foundation and partners to construct Mia's Dream Playground Come True, a \$5 million state-of-the-art all-inclusive playground for people with special needs.

Mr. McCreary oversaw many capital improvements during his tenure including several strategic land acquisitions to improve access to parks such as Ashland Common, Bidwell Elementary School and the former Coca-Cola bottling plant at Mission and Mattox. He has guided the planning and development of several other projects including the renovations of Hayward Community Gardens, Greenwood Park, San Lorenzo Community Park, Kennedy Park, Sorensdale Recreation Center, Hayward Senior Center, and San Lorenzo Community Center. He also worked with the Board on public safety initiatives to expand the Park Ranger Program to help reduce crime in parks and develop the District's first Emergency Operations Center with modern information technology and direct radio communications to all other public safety agencies in the East Bay.

"We are grateful to Paul for his leadership and contributions to the District," said Board President Paul Hodges. "Paul always handled his duties professionally and competently, especially when dealing with very complex and contentious issues. He has developed excellent working relationships with various government agencies and non-profit organizations. We know he will leave the next

General Manager with a solid foundation for a path of continued success particularly during the challenging times ahead. On behalf of the entire Board, staff and residents, we thank Paul for a highly productive tenure and wish him well in his next chapter."

Mr. McCreary stated that, "It has been an honor serving this Board, the organization, and the many communities in the District. I have deep confidence in the leadership team we have assembled. I am stepping aside now to facilitate the restructuring that must take place in response to the impacts of this emergency we are all facing. The talented staff that remain will carry on the District's mission and the vision of a sustainable organization with a focus on delivering the core services desired by residents. I am humbled and grateful to end my career having served the amazing Hayward Area Recreation and Park District."

The Board of Directors will determine how to proceed with selecting the next General Manager, in the near future.

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