

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Thursday, June 5, 2025

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**City of Atwater Announces the
Expected Appointment of Community Development Director**



Atwater, CA - The City of Atwater is pleased to announce the expected appointment of Jon O'Connor as the Community Development Director. The City Council will consider and vote on his appointment at its next regular City Council meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025. His tentative start date is Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

Mr. O'Connor brings over 20 years of public and private sector experience in real estate development, project management, and community planning. He has led successful initiatives in economic development, partnerships, and regulatory compliance across multiple jurisdictions in California. His government service includes advisory, leadership, and consultancy roles with the City of Eureka and the City of Arcata, among others.

Notably, Mr. O'Connor developed a first-of-its-kind tourism center in Eureka, CA, supported by funding from Blue Lake Rancheria and the Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The project earned runner-up recognition in the prestigious California Poppy Awards. In Arcata, he led the development of a zip line and ropes course in the Arcata Community Forest and collaborated on an Agricultural Tourism Grant that launched a farm-to-table oyster tour company on Humboldt Bay.

Jon holds a Bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University in Religious Studies, and a Master's degree from National University in Organizational Leadership.

Alexandra Stillman, Mayor of the City of Arcata, shared her past experience with Mr. O'Connor, stating: "I have known Mr. O'Connor as an enterprising, innovative and creative individual. He is a good collaborator and hard worker who works well with people. I'm confident he will do a great job as Community Development Director for the City of Atwater."

City Manager Chris Hoem expressed his enthusiasm for the anticipated appointment, saying, "We're excited to welcome Jon as our new Community Development Director. His experience, leadership, and vision for thoughtful growth will be a tremendous asset to our community."

Jon commented on moving forward with the City of Atwater, saying, "It is an honor to join the City of Atwater at such an exciting time in its growth. I look forward to working with the community, city leadership, and local businesses to support sustainable development and enhance the quality of life for all residents."