

East Palo Alto set to name city manager

Times Tribune staff

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City officials could announce East Palo Alto's new city manager as early as Friday, Mayor Barbara Mouton said Tuesday.

All that remains in the selection process are background checks of the four finalists before negotiations begin.

Mouton said she would like the decision to be made as soon as possible, but she cautioned that negotiations could take several days, perhaps a week or more.

The City Council has ranked the finalists in order of preference, but officials have not released any

names. Mouton did say that all four are of minority background, that all have had extensive experience in city government and that all are men.

"I was very happy with the caliber of the candidates," Mouton said, adding that the highest-regarded 14 had "excellent qualifications."

Richard Hughes, a consultant supervising the selection, said the new city manager would take office in February, if all goes according to schedule.

The new manager will replace Robert Allen, who has served as acting city manager since the city

was incorporated last summer.

Hughes, the senior partner of Hughes, Heiss Associates in San Mateo, said the search drew 50 applicants, mostly from California. Others from the Midwest and East Coast also applied.

The firm screened the number of candidates to 24, and the City Council reduced that number to 14.

On Friday, nine candidates were interviewed by members of the community and officials from nearby cities while the City Council observed. The council then narrowed the number of candidates to four Friday evening, who were then invited back for final interviews.