

*"Providing thread to help stitch together the fabric of the city management community."*

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## California City Manager The Future of the Craft

Last month we looked at some of the oldsters in California's City Manager ranks, which developed a few suggestions...starting with Tehachapi's Jason Caudle...that we take a look at some of the young folks that are serving in the position these days.

Good idea! We discovered that there are many solid young professionals out there. This listing does not claim to be all-inclusive as many managers are not listed in the ICMA Who's Who Directory and some who are do not list their birthdays. However, this list is a demonstration that the craft has some good young leaders for the future. Perhaps, all is not quite "lost."

Of course, we are not minimizing the training opportunities that are available, and, in fact, endorse those efforts to improve the skill levels of all managers and staff members: old and young.

As always, we apologize in advance for any errors. Please note that there is no particular order for this listing. The list demonstrates that there are many good young people already in city manager positions who will be there in the future.

Young leaders of the future:  
Perhaps, all is not quite lost.

Bradbury City Manager **Jennifer Vasquez** is a 20-something veteran of the League of California Cities staff where she worked with the Los Angeles County Division. Jennifer has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California at Riverside, and is in the process of a Masters Degree curriculum at California State University Los Angeles. She was the Assistant City Manager in Bradbury prior to her appointment to the top slot.

Rosemead Interim City Manager **Oliver Chi** is a young man on the move at age 27. Ollie was born in January 1980 and has a BA from UCLA and an MPA from the University of Southern California. He is known for his laugh, as well as, his active professional participation. His first public sector position was in Arcadia in 2003 where he was a Communications & Marketing Specialist. He moved to the Claremont staff in 2004, and was appointed Deputy City Manager in Rosemead in 2006. This Arcadia High School graduate was appointed Interim City Manager last month. Oliver is an MMASC Past President.

Hawaiian Gardens City Administrator **Ernesto Marquez** will be 30-years old in August. ICMA's Directory notes that Ernesto has a BA and MPA from Cal State-Long Beach. His first listed city position was in Hawaiian Gardens in 1992. He later worked for the State Department of Fish & Game, and the City of Long Beach as a Teen Center Director, and an Administrative Analyst. Ernesto was appointed "Acting" City Administrator in Hawaiian Gardens in 2003 and "acted" so well that the City Council removed the label during the past year.

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## Younger CA City Managers:

Tehachapi City Manager **Jason D. Caudle** is definitely one of the young guns born in October 1972. 34-year old Jason (he'll turn 35 in October) has a BA and an MPA from California State University-Bakersfield. Starting in 1994 in the Kern County area, Jason was appointed Tehachapi City Manager in 1998. Jason is active in his community and is a member of the Tehachapi AFA supporting agriculture in the region.

Agoura Hills City Manager **Greg Ramirez** is 36-years old. Prior to joining the Agoura Hills staff he worked for the League of California Cities as the Southern California Regional Director. He is a native Californian and has a degree in Economics from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and a Master's Degree from California State University Hayward. Greg served as an assistant to former City Manager Dave Adams for about six years.

Firebaugh City Manager **Jose Antonio Ramirez** is 36-years old. He was born in October 1971 and served as the City Administrator in Orange Cove prior to his appointment in Firebaugh. Jose serves on the Fresno County Interagency Council for Children and Families.

Another one of the younger California City Managers is Rohnert Park's **Stephen "Steve" R. Donley**. Steve was born in February 1971. He has a BA from the University of California and an MPA from the University of Southern California. 36-year old Steve started as an Intern in San Diego in 1990. He then went to Vallejo, Alhambra, and Burbank prior to moving to Rohnert Park as the ACM. He was appointed City Manager in 2005. Steve has a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

When she started she was Tammy Gates, and now she is a veteran city manager named **Tamara "Tammy" S. Letourneau**. Tammy was born in February 1970. 37-year old Tammy has a BS from California Poly Pomona and an MPA from California State University. She started as an Administrative Intern in Arcadia in 1991 and stayed with that city as an Administrative Assistant until she moved to Claremont. She was the Assistant to the City Manager when she left Claremont to take the City Manager position in Sierra Madre. Tammy was appointed Yorba Linda City Manager in 2004. Tammy has a 10-year ICMA Service Award. She is a Past-President of MMASC and she was on the ICMA Task Force on Career Development for Assistants and Emerging Professionals.

Villa Park City Manager **Kenneth "Ken" A. Domer** was born in October 1969. Ken has a BS and an MPA from the University of Southern California. The 37-year old Trojan began his career in Orange County in 1999 as a Community Development Manager, and in 2004 as a Strategic Planning Manager. Ken was appointed in Villa Park in 2005.

Oakley City Manager **Bryan Hyrum Montgomery** was born in August 1969. This 38-year old has earned a BA & MPA from Brigham Young University. Bryan was an Intern in Provo, Utah in 1993. Since then he worked in Alamogordo, New Mexico, prior to being appointed City Administrator in Rupert, Idaho, and City Manager in Mesquite, Nevada. Bryan came to Oakley in 2005. He was awarded an ICMA Conference Assistance Scholarship in 1993, and has earned a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

The logo for Wolf & Company Inc. is written in a stylized, cursive script font. The word "Wolf" is the largest and most prominent, followed by "& Company" and "Inc." in smaller sizes. The entire logo is enclosed within a thin red rectangular border.

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## Younger CA City Managers:

**Michael S. Tree** is listed in ICMA's Who's Who Directory as the City of Twentynine Palms City Manager. Michael was born in June 1969. The 38-year old has a BS from Brigham Young University and an MS from San Jose State University. Prior to his Twentynine Palms appointment in 2006 he worked as the General Manager for the Morongo Basin Transit Authority.

Pleasanton City Manager **Nelson Fialho** was appointed to his current assignment at the age of 36 in 2004. Prior to joining the Pleasanton staff in 1996, he had 15 years of city experience in Hayward and Campbell. He has a BA and MPA from California State University-Hayward.

Mendota City Manager **Gabriel A. Gonzalez** was born in December 1969. This 38-year old municipal management professional has a BA from National University in California. He worked in Arvin for about 6 years and then tried the private sector before being chosen City Manager in Mendota in 2004.

One of the "young guns" who does not list his age in the ICMA Who's Who listing, is Colton City Manager **Daryl J. Parrish**. Daryl graduated with a BS in 1980 from the University of California-Riverside. He also has an MBA from the University of Redlands. He began his public service career in 1991 in Colton. He served there as Assistant City Manager for about five years prior to being appointed to the top spot. Daryl has a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

*"Proactive preparation will help the  
'Next Generation'"*

Belvedere City Manager **George J. Rodericks** was born in April 1967. The 40-year old joined Belvedere after serving for about four years as the Villa Park City Manager. George has a BA from CSU and an MPA from California State University Long Beach. George also has a JD from Concord University School of Law. George started as an Intern in La Mirada in 1991, and then worked in Rancho Palos Verdes and La Habra Heights prior to returning to La Mirada as an Assistant to the City Manager.

**Richard J. Belmudez** is listed in the ICMA Who's Who Directory as the Acting City Manager in Perris. Richard was born in December 1967. The 40-year old was a Senior Planner in Pomona prior to taking his current assignment in 2004. Richard has a BS and an MBA from the University of La Verne.

Redding City Manager **Kurt J. Starman** has a BA and MA from California State University and an MPA from USC. Kurt was born in November 1964. The 43-year old began his career as a Budget Services Officer in Redding in 1991. He has held various positions and was ACM at the time of his appointment to the top spot. He has a 10-year ICMA Service Award, and served on the ICMA Task Force on Career Development for Assistants and Emerging Professionals.

Forty-one year old Aliso Viejo City Manager **Mark A. Pulone** was born in February 1966. Mark has a BS from California State University Long Beach. He started his career in Lake Forest where he worked in various positions between 1992 and 2005.



Young Veteran City Manager Fred Diaz of the City of Fremont, previously served as CM in Indio, and Tracy. Fred is currently working to move the Oakland A's into his city.

[www.fremont.gov](http://www.fremont.gov)

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## California ICMA CMs of age:

**Daniel "Dan" Rich** became Campbell's City Manager in May, 2005 at the age of 41. Dan has a BA from the University of California. He worked in Sunnyvale and Belmont in "assistant" capacities prior to his appointment in Campbell. He has a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

After interning in Pasadena in 1990, 41-year old Fairfax City Manager **Linda Kelly** started her public service career in the Long Beach City Clerk's office. Born in September 1966, Linda has a BA from California State University-Los Angeles and an MA from the University of California Riverside. She left Long Beach in 1993 to become the City Clerk/Administrative Services Director in La Puente. She left there for the Assistant City Clerk position in Whittier, and following some consulting service she returned to Long Beach. Linda moved north to work with the Sunnyvale staff and then served as the Assistant to the City Manager in Atherton prior to her appointment in Fairfax. She has a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

Reedley City Manager **Brian S. Nakamura** has a BA from Cal State and an MPA & DPA from USC. Born in November 1964, this 43-year old started in 1993 in the Elk Grove CSD, he worked with Winters prior to being appointed City Manager in Sutter Creek. He was in Oregon City, Oregon as CM in 1999, and served as the DPW in Riverside before accepting the Reedley assignment. Brian has a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

One of California's younger City Manager leaders is Santa Paula City Manager **Walter "Wally" J. Bobkiewicz, III**. 41-year old Wally, born in July 1966, has a BS from the University of Southern California and an MPA from Syracuse University. Wally started in 1987 as an Intern with the League of California Cities and in Syracuse, New York in 1988. Wally came to Long Beach in 1989 and served in various positions there, including Assistant to the City Manager. He was appointed ACM in Novato in 1998 and became Santa Paula City Manager in 2002. Wally has participated in the ICMA Exchange Program to the United Kingdom. He is a Past-President of MMASC. Wally has a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

Tulare City Manager **Darrel L. Pyle** was born in May 1966. 41-year old Darrell has a BS and an MS from California State University-Fresno. He worked in Visalia as the Finance Director, and with the Visalia Unified School District as the Chief Financial Officer. Darrell went to Porterville in 2002 and left as the Deputy City Manager for the Tulare City Manager position in 2005.

Gonzales City Manager **Rene L. Mendez** is 42-years old, born in April 1965. He has a BA from California State University-Stanislaus and an MA from Duke University. Rene's first public sector position was in Solano County where he rose through the ranks starting in 1992 to become the County Administrator in 1997. He was appointed Gonzales City Manager in 2005.

Nelson Fialho,  
City Manager  
City of Pleasanton  
<http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/>



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## California ICMA CMs of age:

Forty-two year old City Manager **Michael J. Powers** of King City was born in January 1965. He has a BA from California State University-Fresno, and a 10-year ICMA Service Award. He worked in Firebaugh, Reedley, and Fresno before his appointment as City Manager in the City of Dunsmuir in 1997. In 2004 he moved to Ferndale as City Manager and accepted the King City position in 2006.

Thousand Oaks City Manager **Scott W. Mitnick** was born in November 1964. 42-year old (he will turn 43 in November) Scott has a BA from California State University and an MPA from Syracuse University. Scott started in 1987 as a Finance Analyst in Brea and Burbank in 1989. He left Burbank in 1996 as the City's Budget Administrator to take the Administrative Service Director position in Yuba City. He joined the Thousand Oaks staff as a Deputy City Manager in 2000. Scott has a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

Forty-three year old **Scott Hanin** is the City Manager in the City of El Cerrito. Born in May 1964, Scott has a BA from the University of Delaware and an MPA from New York University. In 1989 he worked in New York City in the Mayor's Office of Operations. He worked as a consultant from 1993 to 1999 when he joined the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority staff. He was appointed El Cerrito City Manager in 2001.

## Alan Shear Promoted:

Huntington Park Assistant to the City Manager Alan Shear's position has been reclassified to Assistant City Manager. Congratulations on the promotion Alan!

**Daniel "Dan" A. Singer** is the City Manager of the City of Goleta. Born in March 1963, the 43-year old has a BA from Chapman College, an MA and an MPA from Syracuse University. Dan began his career as an Administrative Intern in Lafayette, California in 1991. He moved to Ojai in 1992 and served in a couple of different positions until he was appointed Ojai City Manager in 2001. In 2005 Dan was appointed City Manager in Goleta.



Mike Egan,  
City Administrator  
City of Bellflower

[www.bellflower.org](http://www.bellflower.org)

CONGRATULATIONS to 27-year old **Oliver Chi** on his appointment as Interim City Manager in the City of Rosemead. Oliver is a past-President of MMASC and is currently a member of the California City Management Foundation Board of Directors. He worked in Claremont prior to moving to the Rosemead staff under Andy Lazzaretto.

## GARY MILLIMAN LEAVES SOUTH GATE

On Wednesday, June 27, a well-attended retirement dinner party gathered to honor South Gate City Manager **Gary Milliman**. Speaking for the City Council and surrounding communities Mayor Bill De Witt said that Gary's expertise, integrity and work ethic will be sorely missed. Gary led South Gate back from a state of corruption. Huntington Park City Manager **Greg Korduner**, Sam Olivito of the CCA and Chris McKenzie of the League were there. Others included: former city managers Frank Tripepi, Mary Strenn and Larry Kosmont.

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**Picking up the pieces:** Hercules City Manager **Michael Sakamoto** has retired and headed into a new public finance venture and perhaps matrimony. **Nelson Oliva** is the new Hercules City Manager. He and wife Valery had to find one of the few five bedroom homes in Hercules in order to move his family in. We hope that the ICMA Next Generation Website got some additional hits following our mention of the efforts of Santa Paula City Manager **Walter J. Bobkiewicz**. Retired City Manager **Dennis Courtemarche**, who lives in Seal Beach, still gets around with a few consulting clients. Following our piece on Northern California city managers with Southern California roots, we got a note from Half Moon Bay City Manager **Marcia Raines** pointing out that she grew up in Glendora and worked in Laguna Beach, Ontario and West Covina prior to heading north. Former Irvine City Manager **Allison Hart**, who served as the League's City Manager Department President, has a Ph.D. Thank you to former Los Angeles County Assistant Sheriff Duane Preimsberger, who made a number of suggestions on how to improve our newsletter. Congratulations to Vista City Manager **Rita Geldert** for success above and beyond. The Vista voters approved a bond issue to finance a new city hall and fire station, and on the heels of that success they approved a ballot measure to change Vista from a general law to a charter city. Back-to-back voter approvals seem to be an indelible stamp of approval of Rita's leadership. Congratulations to **Jerry Miller** who recently retired from his post as Long Beach City Manager. We note that Atherton City Manager **Jim Robinson** has announced his intention to retire at the end of July. It is notable that the folks in the lovely City of Trinidad are considering appointing a City Manager. Pacifica went to Oregon to find its new City Manager **Stephen A. Rhodes**. Congratulations to long-time Monterey Park City Manager **Chris Jeffers** on his appointment to the Glendora City Manager post. Thank you to former City Manager **Ken Caresio** for the nice message.

Jack A. Simpson

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## Good Natured Battle of the Mentors

Aliso Viejo City Manager **Mark Pulone** started a good-natured "battling of the mentors" dialogue. Since we published his suggestion in our June edition with his listing of former City Manager **Gaylord Knapp's** former assistants who became manager, we have received a number of alternative suggestions.

One of the best is **Len Wood's** suggestion that we list retired City Manager **Bruce Altman's** former assistants who became city managers. Len provides a list that includes: **Bud Ovrum, Bill Huston, Denise Ovrum, Hal Schilling, Randy King, Don Duckworth, Jim Gilley, Rich Caplan, Debbie Steman, Mike Sedell** and **Len Wood**. Our hats are off to Bruce and Len.

Of course George A. Carvalho, Don Blubaugh, Dick Powers and others probably make us pale by comparison, but just for drill here's our list: **Frank G. Tripepi, John Jameson, Charlie Wagner, Carlos Urrutia, Wesley Wolf, L. Keyth Durham, Bill Crowe, Charlie Cameron, Doug Prichard, Craig Nealis, Nelson Oliva, Michael Sakamoto, Linda Lowry, Mike Egan** and **Katie Wilson**.

Then Frank Tripepi picked up the ball developing a list of his own that includes: **Robert Dickey, L. Keyth Durham, Gary Chicots, Jeff Stewart, Bob Gutierrez, Marty Lomeli, Andy Katz, Katie Pitcher Wilson, and Tim Kerr**. Notice that a couple of them worked for both of us.

## Women Leading Government

Please visit Cal-ICMA's Women's Leadership Program Website:

[www.womenleadinggovernment.org](http://www.womenleadinggovernment.org)

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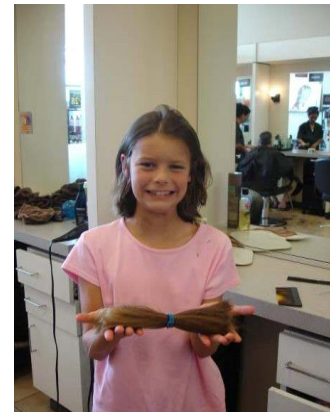
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Thank you for your consideration:

Jack A. and Susan Simpson

We are most proud of our Hearther grand-daughters & daughter Kellee who drastically trimmed their long hair to make contributions to Locks of Love. The hair will be used to make wigs for children who lost theirs through cancer treatments.



Granddaughter Katie shows a sample of what she and her Mom Kellee and sisters Jamie & Jessie trimmed off for love.

## Air Quality Crisis Discussed at Gateway Cities Meeting

At their June breakfast meeting in Paramount, SCAG Executive Director Mark Pisano told the Gateway Cities City Managers that recently confirmed scientifically health impacts verifies that Southern California has an air quality crisis.

He noted that 90% of the pollutant problem is produced by Federal & State regulated sources...trucks, trains, airplanes and ocean going vessels.

Apparently microscopic PM2.5 pollutants affect the development of children's lungs and promote increases in asthmatic cases. He said that AB 1467 & AB 521 are pushing a reduction in pollutants strategy. Mr. Pisano said that in all his years with SCAG this is the worst situation for the region of all-time.

City Managers in attendance to hear of this "terrible situation" included: **Ernie Garcia**, Norwalk; **Greg Korduner**, Huntington Park; **Andrea Travis**, La Mirada; **Gary Milliman**, South Gate; **Art Gallucci**, Cerritos; **Ken Farsing**, Signal Hill; **Ron Bates**, La Habra Heights; **Linda Benedetti-Leal**, Paramount; **Mike Egan**, Bellflower; **Maria Dadian**, Artesia and the Gateway Cities City Manager Chair. Also, among others there were Sam Olivito of the California Contract Cities Association, and Range Rider **Darrell Essex**.