

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

*"Providing thread to help stitch together the fabric of the
City Management Community"*

July, 2021 Special

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Volume No. 14: Issue No. 12



Gracie Lewis enjoying a friendly dolphin on the Big Island of Hawaii during the Lewis Family Summer Vacation. Gracie is the daughter of Pismo Beach City Manager **James R. Lewis**. Jim earned a BS in public policy and management from the University of Southern California (**USC**), and an MPA from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. He interned in 1998 in Auburn before working as the Assistant to the City Manager in Claremont (1998-2004); Assistant City Manager in Atascadero (2004-2013); and his current assignment as Pismo Beach City Manager (2013-present). Jim is a past President of the City Managers' Department of the League.

City Executives in Amador County Cities

There are five (5) incorporated cities in the Amador County: Amador City, Jone, Jackson, Plymouth and Sutter Creek. This issue acknowledges some of the executives currently serving in these Amador County cities.

Amador County cities are in the Sacramento Valley Division of the League of California Cities. Winters, a city in Yolo County, Council Member **Jesse Loren** is the Division President. No Amador County city officials are currently serving as Division officers. Regional Public Affairs Manager **Charles Anderson** provides Division staff assistance.

This issue does not claim to be comprehensive. It highlights some of the cities' professional executives in Amador County. We apologize up front to those we have overlooked. Some career profiles of public staff members are not posted making their information hard to find.

				
				
				
				
				

City Executives in Amador County Cities



Amador County is known for its Zinfandel wine, but many other varietals are produced there as well. Some of the Zinfandel vineyards in Amador County are

more than 125-years old, including the original Grandpère vineyard, planted with Zinfandel before 1869 and believed to be the oldest Zinfandel vineyard in America.

Joining the incorporated cities and towns are a number of unincorporated communities. These include Pine Grove, Pioneer, Volcano, Drytown Fiddletown, Kit Carson, Martell, River Pines and others. All of these places are filled with historical sites and sights.



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Roxanne Diaz is a member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).

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Retired West Sacramento City Manager **Joe Goeden** and his wife **Nola Goeden** enjoying a beautiful afternoon in Old Town Sacramento having a meal with friends at the Rio City Café.



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Fran Mancía may be reached at 559-288-7296. Fran is a member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).



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Joe Gonsalves said: *"Lobbyist are like parachutes; you don't need them often but when you do they had better work."*



Anthony, Jason and Paul Gonsalves are expert local government lobbyists. The firm represents fifty-plus cities and is a key player in city legislation. The firm works closely with the League of California Cities.

Anthony Gonsalves is a longtime member of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) Board.

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City Executives in Amador County Cities

A post office opened in the Amador County community of Pioneer in 1947. Pioneer Station was built around 1925 with a general store selling gas and water and offering camping sites.



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HdL was founded in 1983 by former City Manager **Robert "Bob" Hinderliter**,

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include: Paula Cone; Tom Bachman; Paula Barr; Vikki Beatley; Rob Braulik; Ken Brown; Nichole Cone; Josh Davis; Darlyne Demeduk; David McPherson; Matt Eaton; Ajay Kolluri; Amy Flanigan; Richard Fletcher; Barry Foster; Robert Gray; Joel Hermann; Robin Humphrey; Howard Longballa; Ken Nordhoff, Cheryl Murase; Luis Nunez; Angela Tsui; Wayne Padilla; Bret Plumlee; Robin Sturdivant; David Schey; Tracy Vesely; Susie Woodstock and Bobby Young.

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City Executives in Amador County Cities

Volcano started as a Gold Rush town with miners working in places like Soldiers Gulch and Clapboard Gulch. By 1851 the town had grown to include several homes and commercial buildings. Hydraulic mining began changing the landscape beginning in 1855. Hydraulic mining washed away tons of dirt exposing unique rock formations.



One of California's smallest cities was originally settled in 1849 by several group of gold panners who were drawn to the area looking for their lucky gold strike. One of the groups was the Sunol Group, which

included **Jose Maria Amador**. He obviously made a significant impression on those settling in the area as eventually the creek, the city and the County would carry the name "Amador." The city incorporated June 2, 1915. Amador City has a total area of 0.3 square miles making it the smallest city in the State by area size. At the 2020 census the Amador City population was 185 down from 196 at the 2000 census. The 2019 estimated population is 190. **Joyce Ann Davidson** serves as the City Clerk, and **Holly Groth** is City Treasurer. In addition to her duties as City Clerk, Joyce has been the owner operator of the Amador Mercantile for the past 20-years or so.

Original mining-era buildings in Amador City are now home to several unique shops, restaurants and historic businesses. Places of interest in Amador City include the Imperial Hotel, Saloon & Restaurant (circa 1878), Meyer's Antiques, Miller's Antiques of the Wild West, Little City Studio, Nancy's Gifts and the Bellflower Home and Garden Annex, among others.



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Matt Knabe, Managing Partner



1956 Chevy parked in Long Beach in the 1960s.

Trackdown Posse Roster

Executive Level Posse Roster:

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Mike Sedell, Retired Simi Valley City Manager
Larry F. Pennell, Retired City Manager, Wasco
Kevin O'Rourke, KOLGS/PARS; Retired City Manager
Glenn Southard, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont
Joe Tanner, Retired Vallejo City Manager
Guy Huffaker, Retired Porterville City Manager
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Doug Dunlap, Retired City Manager, Pomona
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Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director, State of CA
Ron Molendyk, Retired City Manager
Anthony D. Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Jason Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Paul Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Greg Devereaux, Retired City Manager
Dr. Richard Rowe, Retired City Manager
Paul Phillips, City Manager, Bell
Lloyd de Llamas, retired **HdL Companies** executive

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Dave Carmany, West Covina, City Manager
Don Penman, Retired City Manager, Arcadia
Sam Olivito, Interim Executive Director, ICA
Roy Pederson, ICMA Past-President
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Rod B. Butler, Jurupa Valley, City Manager
Ray Harris, Ret. County Official, & Hawaiian Gardens CM
Lee C. McDougal, Retired Montclair City Manager
Mark Scott, Lincoln Interim City Manager
Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia, Retired Rocklin City Manager
Jeff Mathieu, Retired Big Bear Lake, City Manager
Doug LaBelle, Retired City Manager
Ray Taylor, Retired City Manager, Westlake Village
Denise Ovrom, Former CM retired from **HdL Companies**
Jim Lewis, City Manager, City of Pismo Beach
Cynthia Kurtz, Retired City Manager, Pasadena



City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown Management

Jack A. and Susan Simpson
 [Photo produced by **Apple Lane**]

www.trackdownmanagement.net

jack@trackdownmanagement.net

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City Executives in Amador County Cities

Jackson, California was founded in 1848 and is named for **Colonel Alden Appola Moore Jackson**. The California Gold Rush with the discovery of gold in the Sierra foothills brought miners, settlers and other pioneers to the region. The Colonel was a local lawyer the towns people had come to admire. Jackson became an important stopping place and important supply and transportation center for neighboring towns. Starting as a watering hole for cattle, Jackson became one of the earliest and lasting of the Mother Lode's communities. In 1853 Jackson, briefly the county seat for Calaveras County, became the county seat of the newly formed Amador County. The city incorporated in December 1905. The 2019 estimated population is 4,840. **Yvonne Kimball** is the City Manager, **John "Jack" George** is the City Clerk and the City Attorney is **Joshua Nelson**.



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City Executives in Amador County Cities

Connie Gonsalves has served on the Jackson
City Council since January 2006. In her private
life she has served AAA as an Insurance Sales
Representative for nearly 35-years. She has
served as the Mayor of Jackson multiple terms.
Connie's husband **John Gonsalves** is the late
Joe A. Gonsalves' youngest of his nine sons.
John's brother **Anthony Gonsalves** and his sons
Jason and Paul have continued the professional
representation firm founded by Joe; **Joe A.
Gonsalves & Son**; a newsletter Sponsor.



City Manager **Yvonne Kimball** was born and
raised in Tianjin, China. She
grew up during the latter
part of Chairman Mao's
dictatorship era. Mao was
a Chinese communist
revolutionary. In 2003,
Yvonne immigrated to the
United States and enrolled
in the MPA program at the
University of Central
Florida. She served as a Tri-City management
intern in Palm Bay, Titusville, Satellite Beach,
Florida in 2006-2008. In October 2008 Yvonne
was appointed City Manager in Bowling Green,
Florida and served in that position until
December 2011. She started service as the Town
Manager in the Town of Dewey-Humboldt in the
Flagstaff, Arizona area in January 2012. She
served as the longest tenure Town Manager in
Dewey-Humboldt. While there she served as a
member of the Board for the Arizona
City/County Management Association. She also
served as a member of the Arizona Governor's
Groundwater User Advisory Committee. Yvonne
started her job as City Manager in Jackson,
California in August 2017. Yvonne earned a BA
in business English from Tianjin Institute of
Technology in Tianjin, China. She also earned an
MPA and a graduate certificate in Urban and
Regional Planning from the University of Central
Florida. In 2016 Yvonne received a 10-year ICMA
Service Award.



"God knows I gave my best in baseball
at all times and no man on earth can
truthfully judge me otherwise."
—**Shoeless Joe Jackson**

City Executives in Amador County Cities

Jackson City Planner **Susan Peters** joined the city staff as City Planner in September 1995; nearly 26-years ago. Susan earned a BA in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MA in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles ([UCLA](#)). The Jackson staff search turned up these names too: **Matt Ospital**; **Dalacie Blankenship**; **Bree Wilder**; **Patti Ungaro**; and **Christopher Mynderup**, Chief of Police.

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Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Monica Davis, President, Community Services
Manager, City of Hayward

"Proof of Life" lunch

Events are scheduled for September. **Rod Wood** has scheduled a Northern California event on September 14 and the Southern California group will meet on September 30. The "Proof of Life" lunch on the 30th will be at the Northwood's Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. The north's venue is not yet tied down. Please get in touch with Rod Wood for inquiries rodjwood@gmail.com RSVP's for the 30th should be made to: jack@trackdownmanagement.net

City Executives in Amador County Cities

Sutter Creek gets its name from the nearby Sutter Creek, which got its name from the early California developer **John Sutter**. John is responsible for the discovery of gold at nearby Coloma in January 1848. This kicked off the California Gold Rush. Sutter Creek became a destination for those seeking their fortune in the gold fields. A post office was established in 1852. The town was not incorporated until February 1913. By 1932, the Central Eureka mine, started in 1869, had reached the 2,300-foot level. By 1939, it was the best-paying mine in Sutter Creek. The mines continued in operation until 1942, when most gold mines were closed during World War II. The 2019 population estimate is 2,622. **Amy Gedney** is the City Manager and **Karen Darrow** is the City Clerk. **Lisa Klosowski** is the Director of Tourism for the city. **Derek Cole** serves as the city's City Attorney.



Amy Gedney has served as the Sutter Creek City Manager since 2014. Amy came to California in 1997 and worked for the Merced County Association of Governments as a Transportation Planner. She joined the city staff in Gustine in 1999. She worked next part-time for the City of Modesto in infrastructure financing. After being a stay-at-home-mom for a time she interviewed for the Sutter Creek City Manager post and was hired as Interim City Manager in January 2014, before being appointed City Manager 6-months later. Amy earned a Master's degree in planning from the University of Tennessee.

Lisa Klosowski serves as the city's Director of Tourism. When she is not working at the Sutter Creek Visitor Center, she is the owner operator of The Music Box Company in Sutter Creek.

City Executives in Amador County Cities

Jodi Steneck is staff Accountant for the City of Sutter Creek. Jodi joined the staff in August 2014. She also serves as the Office Manager for Foothill Resources Ltd. Jodi earned a BS in accounting from National University.

Jeff Gardner is the Sutter Creek and City of Plymouth Finance Director. He is a CPA in Sacramento. Jeff is a Humboldt State University alumnus.



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A "Proof of Life" lunch picture of **Sam Olivito** and retired City Manager **John Bramble**. Sam is back in the saddle as the Interim Executive Director of the *Independent Cities Association (ICA)*.

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Michael Colantuono is Managing Shareholder, and currently is City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley.

Two of the firm's attorneys were named California Lawyers of the Year (2020).

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City Executives in Amador County Cities

lone, once known as "Bedbug" and "Freeze Out," was an important supply center on the main road to the Mother Lode and the Southern Mines during the California Gold Rush. The town is in the lone Valley. It is thought to have been named by **Thomas Brown** around 1849 after one of the characters in **Edward Bulwer-Lytton's** drama *The Last Days of Pompeii*; though there are other competing explanations. The first lone post office opened in 1852. The famous jazz pianist **Dave Brubeck** was raised in the City of lone. lone is known as "The Castle City" for the Romanesque "castle" built of red bricks made by the inmates at Folsom and San Quentin prisons. It housed one of the oldest reform schools in the country. It was home to wayward boys such as the late country music great **Merle Haggard**. The building is a registered historical site. lone was incorporated as a General Law City in March 1953. The cities 2019 population estimate is 8,568. It is now the largest city in Amador County. Veteran City Manager **Michael Rock** is the Interim City Manager and **Janice Traverso** is the City Clerk.



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City Executives in Amador County Cities



Former Lomita City Manager **Michael K. Rock** is the current Interim City Manager for the City of Lodi. He started his public service career in 1993 as a Waste Reduction Coordinator in Yolo County. He became a Management Analyst for the county in

1997. In 1999 he took a Street Manager position in Sacramento, but he returned to Yolo County in 2000 as a Project Director. Michael went to work for the City of Rocklin in 2002 as an Operations Manager where **Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia** served as City Manager (1984-2010). In 2007 Michael was hired as the Public Works Director in the Town of Fairfax. In 2008 he was elevated to serve as the Fairfax Town Manager. In 2012 Michael moved to Southern California when he was appointed City Manager in the City of Lomita. He became the City Manager in Banning in 2015, and then moved to Santa Paula to be City Manager in 2017. In 2019 Michael headed for Yuba City to take over for City Manager **Steve Kroger**. Michael moved on after only about 6-months on the job. He was appointed Lodi's Interim City Manager in April 2021. Michael earned a Master's degree in public policy and administration from California State University, Sacramento.



Finance Manager **Lori McGraw** served as the Lodi City Manager from January until April 2021, when she was abruptly fired. She followed former City Manager

Jon Hanken. After leaving the City Manager position, she returned to the Finance Manager job she previously held starting in 2017. Before coming to Lodi, she worked as a Finance Manager in Hayward.



Retired Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia** and grandchildren Brennan and Elena at a recent Los Angeles Dodger game. The Dodgers won in come-from-behind fashion 8-6 over the San Francisco Giants. It happened on the same day the Angels lost 6-0 to the Oakland A's.



David Caretto and his wife **Cindy Caretto** at a reception to honor his service to the community. David, Big Bear Lake Mayor, resigned from the Big Bear Lake City Council effective June 18, 2021 after nearly 11-years. He thanked his colleagues, city staff and singled out "two exceptional City Managers" whom he worked closely with, **Jeff Mathieu** and **Frank Rush**. Medical and other personal reasons require he and Cindy to relocate. He said they are moving into a new home in Palm Desert. Dave is a former City Manager in Signal Hill and Irwindale.

RICHARDS WATSON GERSHON

<http://www.rwglaw.com/>

RW&G is a full-service law firm, headquartered in Los Angeles with offices in Orange County, San Francisco, and Temecula. **RW&G** has specialized in the representation of public and private sector clients for more than 50 years. The depth and diversity of the firm's experience cannot be duplicated. **RW&G** is comprised of lawyers that are committed to excellence in the legal services they provide and to solving problems of business and the public sector with the highest quality legal services.

Roxanne Diaz is the City Attorney for Hidden Hills, Indio and Maywood. Roxanne also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). **Steven L. Flower, Kevin Ennis, Peter M. Thorson, Gregory W. Stepanicich, Laurence Wiener, Serita Young, David Snow** and **Craig Steele** are among the many other City Attorneys on the **RW&G** staff.

RWG serves as City Attorney for the following cities and towns: Agoura Hills; Artesia; Banning; Beverly Hill; Brea; Buena Park; Calimesa; Covina; Fairfield; Hidden Hills; Highland; Indio; Jurupa Valley; La Mirada; Manhattan Beach; Mill Valley; Monrovia; Moorpark; Norwalk; Rancho Cucamonga; Ross; San Marino; Seal Beach; South El Monte; Temecula; Upland; Westlake Village; and Yucaipa.

RW&G's lawyers have specialized in representing all types of public agencies since 1954. The firm currently serves as City Attorney, Bond Counsel, General Counsel and Special Counsel to more than 50 public agencies throughout California, including airports, cities, towns, community services districts, counties, joint powers authorities, redevelopment agencies, libraries and water districts.

<http://www.rwglaw.com/>

Historically, **Glenn Watson, Richard Richards**, and colleague **Robert G. Beverly** opened the **RWG** firm's first offices in downtown Los Angeles in the fall of 1954. At the time, the firm maintained its founders' focus on real estate and business litigation. The attorneys were joined from the first day and for the next 43 years by **Beth Donald**, who served as both a Legal Secretary and Office Manager. From the early 1970s until her death in 1997, she was the Municipal Law Administrator – responsible for assisting City Clerks in preparing their meeting agendas, assisting City Attorneys in drafting resolutions and ordinances, handling the billing for most of the Firm's cities and maintaining (in her head) an encyclopedic database of California municipal law.

Please visit the **Richards Watson & Gershon** web page at: www.rwglaw.com

Or inquire at one of the **RW&G** offices:

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More Pacific Northwest adventures with former City Manager **Don Duckworth**. Don says he found **Jerry Gonce** on Lopez Island of the San Juan Islands. Don says that Jerry may be retiring soon from the local water board after helping them through capital replacement budgeting. Jerry served as City Manager in Oroville (1969-1973), Pomona (1973-1978) and Corte Madera (1983-1984). He began his public service career in 1960 as an Administrative Assistant in Newport Beach. He also served as Assistant City Manager in Pico Rivera (1963-1969).



Picking Up the Pieces: Santa Barbara City Administrator **Paul Casey** will leave his position in September 2021. Paul has worked for Santa Barbara for 24-years. He joined the city staff in 2002 as the Community Development Director. For a time he held responsibilities of the Community Development Director and the Assistant City Administrator before he was

appointed City Administrator in 2015, replacing the retiring **Jim Armstrong**. Paul says that he will continue working somewhere in some capacity but is not looking for a City Manager position. City Manager **Anna Linn** of California City was awarded a compensation increase, while at the same time the City Council discussed terminating her employment agreement. Anna was hired as the Interim City Manager in April 2019, and has been working as City Manager with a three-years contract since September 2019. During open discussion one resident is quoted as saying, "Stop harassing staff and let them do their jobs." **Celia King** is the Yountville Finance Director. She has worked for the town for more than 16-years. She was promoted from Financial Analyst to Finance Director after working her way up within the Yountville Finance Department. Celia has been the Director since January 2020. Celia earned a BS in business administration. Grand Terrace City Manager **G. Harold Duffy** has been appointed to serve as the Director of Public Works for the City of Oakland. Harold has been with Grand Terrace for the past 6-years. Prior to joining Grand Terrace, he served as the City Manager in the City of Compton for two-and-a-half years. Prior to that he was the City Administrator in Oroville. Planning and Development Director **Steven Weiss** has been appointed Interim City Manager. **Michael "Mike" W. Parness** retired as the City Manager in Napa, California in 2018. He previously served as the City Manager in San Clemente (1989-2002) and Walnut Creek (2002-2006). Mike served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). In 2015 Mike received a 45-year ICMA Service Award. He currently lives in Sisters, Oregon. Longtime Merced Economic Development Director **Frank Quintero** is the new Deputy City Manager in Merced. Frank has worked for the City more than 30-years. He originally joined the Merced city staff as an entry level Planner in April 1990. Frank earned a Master's degree in urban and regional planning from Virginia Tech University.



More Pieces Picked Up: Former Manteca City Manager **Miranda Lutzow** and former Fire Chief **Kyle Shipherd** have filed two separate lawsuits against the city claiming they were required to endure a hostile work environment while employed by the city. The Fire Chief contends that Miranda, as City Manager, was responsible

for creating a hostile work environment. Miranda contends that she was a victim of a hostile work environment created by Manteca City Council Member **Dave Breitenbucher**. Vallejo Mayor Robert McConnell hopes to get community input on hiring a City Manager to replace City Manager Greg Nyhoff who resigned in June. Greg was on medical leave for a time prior to his resignation. Assistant City Manager **Anne Cardwell** is currently the Acting City Manager in Vallejo. Anne joined the city staff in December 2018. She previously worked for the Cities of Martinez and Benicia. Anne earned a BS in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master's in educational psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). New West Hollywood City Manager **David Wilson** is now in office behind the retirement of former City Manager **Paul Arevalo**, who served as City Manager starting in 1999. David previously served as the Assistant City Manager. He has worked for the city for more than 18-years. He was the Director of Finance prior to his appointment as Assistant City Manager. City Manager **Anna Linn** of California City recently received a compensation increase for her good work on the job. At the same time the City may be considering dismissing her. Anna was named Interim City Manager in April 2019. Since September 2019 she has been working under a three-year employment agreement with the City. Her immediate predecessor **Robert Stockwell** resigned May 14 and she was named Interim City Manager. She previously served as the City Manager's Executive Assistant. **Bill Smith** was the Assistant City Manager in Monterey prior to his appointment as City Manager in Manhattan Beach in June 1990. When Bill left to be the Westminster City Manager in 1994, **Geoff Dolan** of Colorado was hired to serve as the Manhattan Beach City Manager. Geoff previously served as the Longmont, Colorado City Manager.



"It's not easy to work with me, I recognize that. It's not easy if those people aren't as perfectionistic as I am." --**Shakira**



Don't forget sunscreen while relaxing on the beach or by a pool.

SHORTS: [Shorts are single sentence posts.]*Lomita City Manager **Ryan Smoot** is the California Contract Cities Association's City Managers/Administrators Committee Chair. ***Frank G. Tripepi**, executive with Willdan and a retired Rosemead City Manager, is a longtime member of the Board of Governors of the Claremont McKenna College Rose Institute of State and Local Government. *Retired Indio and Claremont City Manager **Glenn Southard** is a Principal at *Southard Consulting* in the City of San Clemente. *Former Governor **Pete Wilson** appointed **Dale Geldert**, a former Oceanside Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager, to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in November 1996, where he served until January 1999 as Chair of the California Fire Protection Committee and the Firescope Northern Operations Committee. ***Mark Prestwich**, City Manager in St. Helena and former City Manager in Nevada City, was the 2007 President of the Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC). ***Randy L. Johnsen** is a past Lone City Administrator.

Letters and Notes from Our Readers:

Loved the Newsletter (June Special). I would not have recognized Doug without the noted caption. I enjoyed working with Doug while I was in Cerritos.

You did a great job for the late Howard Chambers.....

I'll tell anybody I see about the POL lunch on the 30th of September. and to RSVP via you.

Jack. BTW - your friendship over the last -- almost 50 years -- has been fun.

Gary Sloan, retired La Mirada City Manager

Thanks so much for featuring the Wasco crew on page 1, above the fold!

Hope you two are settling into your new home, in the desert, during some of the hottest summer temperatures ever recorded. Denise still occasionally reminds me that I never warned her of the temperature shock when comparing Alturas in Modoc County with Wasco in Kern County when we moved south.

Larry Pennell, retired Wasco City Manager