

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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

November, 2021 Special

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Volume No. 14: Issue No. 21

2021 CCMF New & Future City Manager Seminar



Burbank City Manager **Justin Hess**, former City Manager **Reva Feldman**, CCMF Executive Director **Ken Pulskamp**, El Cerrito City Manager **Karen Pinkos** and retired City Manager **Wade McKinney** at the **2021 CCMF New & Future City Manager Seminar**, November 5-7 at the Westin in Pasadena. The Seminar is a longstanding annual workshop hosted by CCMF, geared toward helping new City Managers and those on track to become City Managers. The group is limited to 25 participants. Group discussions are led by long-tenured City Managers who act as facilitators. Karen is a past President of ICMA and Wade is a past longtime President of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).

A Look at the Manager Professionals in San Luis Obispo County Cities

San Luis Obispo County is on the Central Coast of California. The County's 2019 estimated population is 283,111 people. **Wade Horton** is the County Administrative Officer (CAO). Wade was appointed in 2017. He previously served as the county's Public Works Director. **Rebecca Campbell** is the Assistant County Administrative Officer. She previously served as the CAO in Kings County. Rebecca replaced **Guy Savage**, who retired.

There are seven incorporated cities in San Luis Obispo County: Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Paso Robles, Grove Beach, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo.

The County seat is San Luis Obispo. **Junipero Serra** founded the Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa in 1772. San Luis Obispo grew on lands around the mission. The County was founded in February 1850.

A Look at the Manager Professionals in San Luis Obispo County Cities



Arroyo Grande – **Whitney McDonald** worked as an Attorney for the law firm of **Richards Watson and Gershon (RWG)** from August 2007 to November 2010. After she left

RWG, she served as a Deputy County Counsel for the County of San Luis Obispo starting in December 2010. Whitney returned to **RWG** in August 2016 and worked for the firm through February 2020, when she joined the City of Arroyo Grande city staff as Community Development Director. Whitney was appointed Arroyo Grande City Manager in September 2020. When she was selected in 2020 she became the fourth City Manager in Arroyo Grande since 2014. The other City Managers included: **Jim Bergman**; **Dianne Thompson** and **Steve Adams**. Public Works Director **Bill Robeson** served as the Acting City Manager following **Jim Bergman's** exit. Whitney earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles – School of Law (**UCLA**).



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Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Atascadero – Rachel Rickard worked for two different private sector auditing firms between January 1988 and February 1997; one in San Francisco and one in Santa Maria. Rachel joined the city staff in Atascadero as the Director of Administrative Services in February 1997 and worked in that post until June 2013. When City Manager **Wade McKinney** left for a new City Manager job in 2013, Rachel stepped up to fill the City Manager post. Rachel earned a BS in business administration with a concentration in accounting from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. In 2020 Rachel received a 20-year ICMA Service Award.



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Trackdown Posse Roster

Executive Level Posse Roster:

Wade McKinney, Retired Indian Wells City Manager
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
Vern Lawson, Retired, Lancaster
Gary K. Sloan, Retired La Mirada City Manager
Robert T. Dickey, Retired South Gate DPW
Doug Dunlap, Retired City Manager, Pomona
Rita Geldert, Retired City Manager, Vista
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director, State of CA
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
Lloyd de Llamas, Retired City Man./**HdL** Cofounder
John Shirey, Retired City Manager, Sacramento
Charles E. "Chuck" Bryant, Past Hawaiian Garden

Posse Roster:

Gregory Korduner, Retired City Manager
Dave Carmany, West Covina, City Manager
Don Penman, Retired City Manager, Arcadia
Sam Olivito, Interim Executive Director, ICA
Roy Pederson, ICMA Past-President
Gary Milliman, Retired City Manager, Brookings, Oregon
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
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
Ron Molendyk, Retired City Manager Lake Elsinore
Doug LaBelle, Retired City Manager, Chino Hills
Kevin Duggan, Retired City Manager, Mountain View

City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown Management



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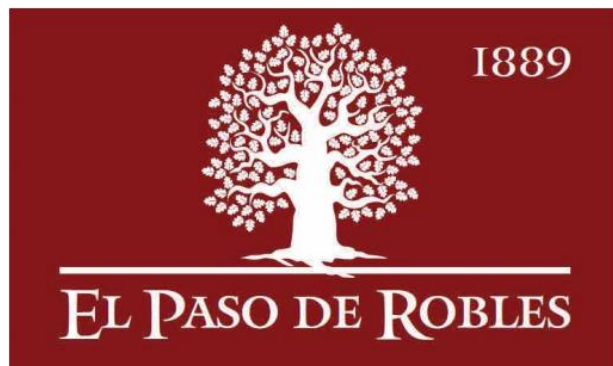
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Paso Robles – **Ty Lewis** began his public service career as a Police Officer in the City of Porterville in January 1996. He joined the City of Bakersfield Police Department in January 2000 as a Police Officer. Ty went to Paso Robles and served as a Commander (March 2002-June 2018) before being selected to serve as Chief of Police (June 2018 -November 2021). Ty was appointed Paso Robles City Manager in August 2021. He earned a BS in business management from the University of Phoenix and an MS in administration from California State University, Bakersfield. He also is a P.O.S.T. Command College Class 60, law enforcement command college grad. Ty is a Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

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Raw Performance Coach **William Ha**, CSCS, earned his BS in Kinesiology from California State University, Long Beach. He is a certified strength and conditioning coach. Call: 714-335-4436

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Grover Beach – **Matthew Bronson** began his public service career as an Intern with the Metro Washington D.C. COG in 1996. Matt came to California in 1997 and served as a Management

Intern in the City of Davis. He joined the Charlotte, North Carolina city staff in 1999 as an Administrative Officer. In 2000 he was promoted to Budget & Evaluation Analyst and worked in that position until 2003. Matt joined the Marin County staff in 2003 as an Administrative Analyst, and in 2005 he was named a Principal Administrative Analyst. Matt became the Assistant to the County Administrator in 2009. In 2010 he left the Marin County staff and became the Assistant City Manager in San Mateo. He worked in San Mateo until 2016 when he was appointed City Manager in the City of Grover Beach. Matt earned a BA in environmental policy analysis and planning from the University of California, Davis and an MPA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also completed a graduate senior executive institute program at the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. In 2019 he received a 20-year ICMA Service Award. Matt served as the 2008 President in of the Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC).



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Monica Davis, President, Community Services
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Melvin Gaines, Finance Director/Treasurer, Principal
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Pat West served nearly 40-years in city government. He has developed successful strategies and paths to issues facing local government. Pat can help you, whether you are a City Manager looking for ways to turn your city around, or a developer needing assistance navigating the complexities of the political and/or entitlement process.



Pat was honored with the League of California Cities 2019 Wes McClure Award for City Managers of Distinction.

Pat has had numerous successful experiences with public-private partnerships.
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Orcas in Monterey Bay where a current population of 80-100 Orcas has been estimated; a 10-year high.
Picture is by **Marnie Luevano**.

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Morro Bay – **Scott Collins**, a San Diego native, began his public service career as a Council Aide in the City of Santa Cruz in January 2001. He went to work as a Constituent Intern for the U.S. Congress in 2004, and in

2005 he joined the ICMA staff as a Research Assistant. Scott was hired as a Budget Analyst in June 2006 for the Jefferson County, Colorado staff. In January 2008, he took a Senior Budget Analyst post for the City and County of Denver. In March 2010 Scott became the Assistant to the City Manager in Boulder, Colorado. In May 2011, Scott joined the Santa Cruz city staff as Assistant to the City Manager, and in July 2016 he was elevated to Deputy City Manager. He left Santa Cruz in November 2017 to become the City Manager in Morro Bay, replacing former Cjty Manager **David Buckingham**. After graduating from Escondido High School, Scott earned a BA in U.S. History from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an MPA from The George Washington University.



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Anthony Gonsalves and two of his sons, **Jason** and **Paul** are expert local government lobbyists. The firm represents 50-plus cities and is a key player in city legislation. The firm works closely with the League of California Cities.

Anthony Gonsalves is a long time Member of the CCMF Board of Trustees

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FAX: 916-441-5061

A Look at the Manager Professionals in San Luis Obispo County Cities



Pismo Beach – **James R. "Jim"**

Lewis began his public service career in January 1998 as an Administrative Intern for the City of Auburn. Jim joined the city staff in the City of Claremont in 1998 and worked as the Assistant to the City Manager until 2004 when he was selected

to serve as the Assistant City Manager in Atascadero. In Atascadero, Jim worked with City Manager **Wade McKinney** and in Claremont he worked with City Manager **Glenn Southard**. In February 2013, Jim was selected to serve as the City Manager for the City of Pismo Beach. Jim earned a BS in public policy and management from the University of Southern California (**USC**), and an MPA from Syracuse University, Maxwell School. In 2020 Jim received a 20-year ICMA Service Award. Jim served as the 2001-2002 President of the Municipal Management Association of Southern California (MMASC). He served as President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 2017-2018. Jim is a former member of the CCMF Board of Trustees. He is the Founder of the Pivot Charter Schools. Jim is an ICMA Credentialed Manager.



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Matt Knabe, Managing Partner



Pictures of "Clean" Wind
Power in the Coachella
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HdL was founded in 1983 by former City Manager **Robert "Bob" Hinderliter**,

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A Look at the Manager Professionals in San Luis Obispo County Cities



San Luis Obispo – **Derek J. Johnson**, San Luis Obispo City Manager, previously served as the Community Development Director, Interim Finance and IT

Director and Assistant City Manager in San Luis Obispo. He was selected to replace City Manager **Katie Lichtig** when she moved to another career opportunity. Before joining the San Luis Obispo city staff, Derek served as the Director of Community Development in the City of Capitola, and as the Director of Long-Range Planning for the County of Santa Barbara. Derek earned a BA in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and he holds certificates in Project Management and Community Mediation from UC Santa Barbara.

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of the **PERS** professional team

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Shelly Stanwyck is the San Luis Obispo Assistant Manager for Community Services. She was appointed to her current position in February 2019. During the past nearly 22-years, she has worked for San Luis Obispo since January 2000. She worked in various positions including Economic Development Manager (January 2000-December 2005); Assistant City Manager (December 2005-June 2010); Director of Parks and Recreation (June 2010-September 2019) and her current Assistant City Manager post. She began her career as an Attorney for a private sector law firm and as the Director of Governmental Affairs for the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce. Shelly earned a BA in anthropology from the University of California, Irvine and a Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Davis – School of Law.



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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).

A Look at the Manager Professionals in San Luis Obispo County Cities

Brigitte Elke is the City of San Luis Obispo Finance Director. She joined the city staff in 2001 as a Principal Administrative Analyst. She worked with the city's Utilities Department. She became the Finance Director in September 2018. Brigitte is fluent in five languages. She was born and raised in Switzerland. She earned a BA in business and Master's in advertising.

Greg Hermann began his public service career in June 2002 as a Program Specialist with the City of San Luis Obispo. In 2009 working for the City of Palo Alto. He was an ICMA Local Government Management Fellow (July 2008-June 2009). Greg worked for the City of Carlsbad as the Assistant to the City Manager/Senior Management Analyst (April 2011-April 2014). He joined the San Luis Obispo city staff in 2014 as a Special Projects Manager. Greg was promoted to Assistant to the City Manager in January 2016, and he became the Deputy City Manager in October 2017. Greg earned a BA from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and an MPA from the California State University, Long Beach.



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Former City Manager **Henry Garcia**; **Justin Hess**, Burbank City Manager; and retired City Manager **Wade McKinney**, CCMF Past President.



Tripepi Smith specializes in three key areas: technology, marketing, and public affairs. The firm's clients include non-profits, private companies and public agencies. The firm provides services throughout California.

The firm was co-founded in 2001 by **Ryder Todd Smith** and **Nicole Smith**. Ryder has a professional background in technology. Nicole is a CPA with strong business management and communications skills.

Tripepi Smith's professional staff includes:

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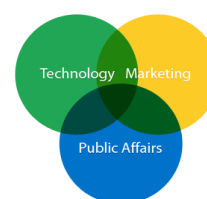
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Tripepi Smith is actively involved with several local government groups and associations with the goal of staying close to trends in local government, learning quickly about best practices and ensuring effective partners with local government. Staff of the firm can be found at industry conferences organized by the League of California Cities, the California Contract Cities Association, the Municipal Management Association of Northern California, the Municipal Management Association of Southern California, the Association of California Cities, the Municipal Information Systems Association of California, and the California Utility Executive Management Association, among others. **Tripepi Smith** is also a sponsor of many of these organizations.

Award-Winning Services:

The California City Management Foundation (CCMF) awarded **Tripepi Smith** the industry partner of the year for support on behalf of the city management profession.

The Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC) awarded **Tripepi Smith** the Booster Award for support of the Association and its membership.



Letters and Notes for Readers:

Hi - So funny! I do love that photo. The photographer was actually **Tom LaBonge!** R.I.P.

--Anne Williams



Love your Charger! Didn't know you were a car guy. I imagine that there are lots of us who also enjoy classic rides. Perhaps you might invite readers to submit photos of theirs. (Mine is a restored 1959 Ford F100, and I'd be glad to participate.)

--Tom DeSantis

Retired City Manager

NOTE: Tom retired as Moreno Valley City Manager in 2019



Enclosed is a photo of my 1959 Ford F-100. Been tinkering with and enjoying it for the past 22 years. Took it to the Temecula Rod Run this year, which is one of our favorite events in town.

I enjoy reading your newsletters and appreciate all the effort you put into making it such a relevant and well-read update.

--Tom

NOTE: Trackdown encourages others to submit pictures of their classic vehicles so that we may share them in the newsletter.



Picking Up the Pieces: Lompoc City Manager **Jim Throop** is leaving his position to become the City Manager for the City of Cupertino. Jim came to Lompoc in 2018 after serving as the Chief Financial Officer to the City of Oxnard. He is an Orange County native and has family roots on the Central Coast. He served as the Director of Administrative Services in Paso Robles from 2007 to 2016. Jim earned a BA in economics from the University of Southern California (**USC**) and an MBA from Chapman University. Lawndale City Manager **Kevin M. Chun** is on Administrative Leave. Kevin started his tenure as the Lawndale City Manager in December 2019. He previously served as the Assistant City Manager in the City of Paramount (2015-2019). Kevin has developed an admirable reputation as a public manager through his service in Lawndale and Paramount, and as the Director of Administrative Services in La Cañada Flintridge (2007-2015); Deputy City Manager in Bellflower (2000-2007) and as a Management Analyst for the City of Irvine (1998-2000). Kevin earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). In 2021 Kevin received a 20-year ICMA Service Award. Sonora City Administrator **Mary Rose Rutikanga** has resigned to take a new job in Africa. She has accepted the position of Director of Management and Operations for the Peace Corps, Africa region, stationed in the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon, Africa. Prior to coming to Sonora, Mary Rose worked as a Senior Administrative Analyst in Calaveras County and as Deputy County Executive Officer in the County of Merced. She worked as a Health and Community Development Volunteer for the Peace Corps in Rwanda in 2009-2011. She earned a BA from California State University, Sacramento and an MPA from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. City of Stockton Deputy City Manager **Maraskeshia Smith**, 45, is the new City Manager in the City of Santa Rosa. Former City Manager **Sean McGlynn** left the city to accept the City Manager position in Escondido. Prior to coming to Stockton, she previously worked for the City of Oakland, where she was Assistant City Administrator for two years. She began her public service career in Cincinnati. She was the Public Works Director in Cincinnati (2015-2018). Maraskeshia comes to Santa Rosa highly qualified. She earned a BA from the University of Kentucky and a Masters from Eastern Kentucky University. In 2019 she received a 10-year ICMA Service Award. Retired City Manager **Jeff Kolin** has been serving as the Santa Rosa Interim City Manager since June. "Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate," said **Thomas Hudson Jones**.



More Pieces Picked Up: Bakersfield Assistant City Manager **Chris Huot** has resigned from his position effective in December so he can accept the Paso Robles Assistant City Manager post. Chris has worked for Bakersfield for more than 10-years, starting in

2008 at the Convention and Visitors Bureau. He moved to the City Manager's Office in 2011. Chris has accepted an Assistant City Manager post in another community. He earned a BA and MA in communications from Texas Tech University. In 2021 Chris received a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

Cornelius Johns, a retired San Francisco Police Captain is the new Interim City Manager in the City of Antioch. Cornelius was the Mayor's campaign manager for his successful election. Cornelius earned a BA and MPA from the University of San Francisco. The new Interim City Manager replaces City Manager **Ron Bernal**, who retires at the end of the year. The Interim City Manager will serve while the recruitment



for a new City Manager is being conducted. **Laura Snideman** is the first woman to serve as the City Manager in the Richmond, California. She was appointed to the Richmond City

Manager position in January 2020. *It is reported that the City Council has approved a separation agreement with Laura in November 2021.* Laura worked as a Housing & Redevelopment Manager in San Carlos (2001-2005) before she became the Director of Economic Development & Housing (2005-2006). Laura moved to San Mateo in 2006 as their Economic Development Manager, and in 2009 she became the Administrative Officer in Half Moon Bay and then the Half Moon Bay City Manager (2010-2015). After working a short time as the Napa County LAFCO Executive Officer in 2014, she became Assistant City manager in Fairfield and worked there until joining the City of Richmond as City Manager. Laura is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and earned a BA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and an MPA from Notre Dame de Namur University. In 2020 Laura received a 20-year ICMA Service Award. Sierra Madre Director of Utilities **Jose Reynoso** has been appointed City Manager. Jose has been serving as Interim City Manager since City Manager **Gabe Engeland** left the city in July. Jose has worked for a number of cities during the past 25-years, including: El Monte, Alhambra, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre. He joined the Sierra Madre staff in 2010 and has worked as the Water Superintendent, and Deputy Public Works Director, as well as Utilities Director and Interim City Manager.



Former Miss Teen Coronado **Katie Hearther** at work for the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum in Oahu, hanging with the WW II submarine USS Bowfin.



November gas prices in the Coachella Valley.



A beautiful rainbow disappears into the waters of Clear Lake in Lake County, California. The picture was taken by **Helaine Mariash Christensen** of Lake County.



Here is that Charger **Tom DeSantis** mentioned.



Still More Pieces Picked Up: Sierra Madre Director of Utilities **Jose Reynoso** has been appointed Sierra Madre City Manager. Jose has been serving as Interim City Manager since City Manager **Gabe Engeland** left the city in July. Jose has worked for a number of cities during the past 25-years,

including: El Monte, Alhambra, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre. He joined the Sierra Madre staff in 2010 and has worked as the Water Superintendent, and Deputy Public Works Director, as well as, Utilities Director and Interim City Manager. Jose earned a BA from the University of La Verne and is pursuing his Master's Degree in Management at the University of Illinois. Former Rosemead (2007-2009) and Monrovia (2014-2019) City Manager **Oliver Chi**, the Huntington Beach City Manager for the past couple of years, is the next Irvine City Manager, replacing City Manager **John Russo**, who left in September 2020. Oliver succeeded City Manager **Fred Wilson** in Huntington Beach. Prior to his City Manager service Oliver worked in Rosemead, Claremont and Arcadia. He also served as the Assistant City Manager in Barstow (2011-2014). Oliver earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**) and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). Oliver is a past President of MMASC (2004-2005). He received a 10-year ICMA Service Award in 2019. Supervisor **Wilma Chan**, a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors was struck and killed by a motorist while she was walking her dog earlier this month. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and cooperated with authorities. Wilma was elected to the Board in 1994. Wilma served in the State Assembly from 2000 to 2006 where she served as Majority Leader. **Craig Middleton**, former Press Secretary and Legislative Aide to U.S. Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi** (March 1988 -January 1993) took his first city job as the City Manager in the City of Belvedere in May 2017. After leaving the Congressional office, Craig worked as the Director of Government Affairs for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy from May 1993 to April 1997. He then worked for the Presidio Trust and as a Principal of Middleton Strategies before being appointed to the Belvedere position. Former Public Affairs Manager for the Alameda County Fire Department **Joanna Leal** is the new City of Vacaville's Public Relations Manager. She will work out of the Vacaville City Manager's Office. Joanna earned an MPA from Golden Gate University.



A scenic view in the Coachella Valley

SHORTS: *Needles City Manager **Rick Daniels** and Assistant City Manager **Patrick Martinez** are in the process of developing a new General Plan for the City of Needles. *Retired American Canyon City Manager (2006-2011) **Richard Ramirez**, "Need Interim Will Travel," served as the Paso Robles City Manager from 1991 to 1996. *Former San Luis Obispo City Manager **Ken Hampian** represents the 3rd District of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors on the Board's Clerk-Recorder Review Committee. *Maywood City Manager **Jennifer E. Vasquez**, who earned an MPA from California State University, Los Angeles, previously worked as the City Manager in South El Monte and Bradbury. *Retired longtime City Manager and "Good Government Advocate" **David Jinkens** authors an awesome local news newsletter from his home in South Lake Tahoe. ***Anthony D. Gonsalves** of the **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** firm is the longest serving member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). *Santa Clarita City Manager and CCMF President **Ken Striplin** was recognized by ICMA with the 2021 Award for Career Excellence in Memory of Mark E. Keane. *NASCAR 2021 Cup Series Champion **Kyle Larson** is from Elk Grove. *NASCAR truck race driver **Hallie Deegan** is a Temecula, California native. ***Todd Stermer** is the new Fresno City Clerk replacing longtime City Clerk **Yvonne Spence** and Interim City Clerk **Briana Parra**. ***Jerry Ramar** is the new Oakdale Chief of Police after serving as Acting Chief since the retirement in August of Chief **Scott Heller**. *City of Richmond City Attorney **Teresa Stricker**, who was appointed City Attorney in October 2020, has resigned. ***Ron Bow** has served as the City Manager in the City of Monterey Park since August 2017. ***



An egret fishes the shallows.