



Retired Cypress utilities executive **Gonzalo Vazquez** attended the December 22 retirement celebration for Anaheim Executive Assistant **Lisa Yanez Hughes**. He wrote: Lisa retired from the City of Anaheim after 24-years of service to the City Manager's Office. I worked with Lisa back in our Bellflower days along with **Mike Egan** and **Marlene Towns**, who also attended the event. Happy retirement to Lisa. Go and enjoy life and those beautiful grandchildren. Hope that you find the perfect Paloma. Anaheim Ducks mascot Wildwing presented Lisa with a custom team jersey at her retirement celebration at the Anaheim Convention Center.

## Stanislaus County City Managers

Our hopes of making the year 2022 a good positive start towards improved health and production got caught up in the year's COVID numbers. Though fully COVID vaccinated, it started on a morning trip to the local urgent care for some breathing difficulties. After being transferred from there by ambulance to emergency at Eisenhower Hospital in Rancho Mirage, we were rolled down the hall for admission to the hospital. It appears that the COVID virus ignored the fact that we were vaccinated. We were released home after a week or so and have lost that and more to recovery.

There are nine incorporated cities in Stanislaus County: Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock and Waterford. **Jody L. Hayes** was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Stanislaus County in August 2017 following the retirement of **Stan Risen**. The county has a 2019 estimated population of 550,660.

## Stanislaus County City Managers

Ceres incorporated in February 1918 and has an estimated 2020 population of 49,302. **Alex Terrazas** is the Ceres City Manager. He took over as Interim City Manager from former City Manager **Tom Westbrook**. Alex worked for the Town of Truckee from 2005 to 2012, leaving the town as Assistant to the Town Manager in July 2016. He went to work as the City Manager in Los Banos in Merced County. Previously, Alex worked as a Legislative Intern with Congress Member **Vic Fazio**, and then went to work as an analyst for the City Manager's Office in Mountain View. He also worked as a member of the staff of the League of California Cities before going to work for Truckee. Alex earned a BA and Master's from California State University, Sacramento.

Hughson incorporated in December 1972. It has a 2020 estimated population of 7,481. **Merry Mayhew** has served as the Hughson City Manager since June 2020. She previously worked as the Director of Finance and Administrative Services (April 2019-June 2020). Merry worked for Stanislaus County for nearly 35-years starting in September 1984. She earned a BA from Western Kentucky University and an MBA in organizational management and human resources from Ashford University.



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## "Proof of Life"

The importance of developing a cadre of friends who are or were city managers continues after the job is done. The next Southern California "Proof of Life" lunch will be: **Thursday, March 31, 2022** at Clearman's North Woods Inn Restaurant at 14305 Firestone Blvd., La Mirada, CA 90638. We will gather at 11:30 am and have lunch at 12. RSVP at: [jack@trackdownmanagement.net](mailto:jack@trackdownmanagement.net)

## Stanislaus County City Managers

Modesto, the county seat of Stanislaus County, was incorporated in August 1884. The 2020 estimated population of Modesto is 218,464. **Joseph Lopez** began his public service career in the personnel department of the County of Sacramento. He joined the Modesto city staff in January 2012 as the Director of Human Resources. He has served as the Modesto City Manager since April 2017. Joe earned a BA in psychology from California State University, Chico, and an MA in industrial and organizational psychology from California State University, Sacramento. He also completed the senior executive program as the Kennedy School at Harvard University.



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Retired City Managers **Fran David** and **Jeff Kolin**, a past President of the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities, serve on the Avenue Advisory Board.

California Offices in El Dorado Hills, Fresno, Pleasanton, Sacramento and Westlake Village.



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

## Stanislaus County City Managers

Newman incorporated in June 1908. Its 2019 estimated population is 11,784. **Michael E. Holland** is the Newman City Manager, **Lewis Humphries** is the Finance Director and **Alicia Mendoza** is the Recreation Director. Mike has served as City Manager for more than 16-years, since January 2006. He earned a BS in natural resources planning from Humboldt State University.

Oakdale goes by the slogan "Cowboy Capital of the World." The city incorporated in November 1906. Its 2019 estimated population is 23,596. City Manager **Bryan Whitemyer** worked as a Management Analyst for the City of Modesto from 2002 to 2007. He joined the Patterson city staff in August 2007 as Assistant City Manager and was appointed City Manager in the City of Hughson in November 2010. Bryan left Hughson to take the Oakdale City Manager position in February 2013. He earned a BA from Brigham Young University and an MPA from California State University, Stanislaus.



Sunrise in Coronado by **Mark Ochendusko**. This is the Boathouse, an historic building that has had a number of uses over the years, including being an early location for the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. It currently houses the Bluewater Boathouse Seafood Grill.



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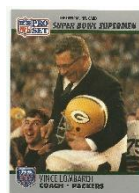
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--Hall of Fame Football Coach  
**Vince Lombardi.**

## Trackdown 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  
**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 Gardens  
**John Russo**, retired City Manager; SynchroniCITY

### Posse Roster:

**Gregory Korduner**, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park  
**Dave Carmany**, West Covina, City Manager  
**Don Penman**, Retired City Manager, Arcadia  
**Sam Olivito**, Retired CCCA Executive Director  
**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

Jack A. and Susan Simpson  
[www.trackdownmanagement.net](http://www.trackdownmanagement.net)

[jack@trackdownmanagement.net](mailto:jack@trackdownmanagement.net)

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## Stanislaus County City Managers

Patterson incorporated as a city in December 1919. Its 2019 estimated population is 22,524. **Ken R. Irwin** is the Patterson City Manager. He was appointed to the position in October 2014. Prior to becoming City Manager, Ken served as the Director of Engineering, Building, & Capital Projects (December 2012-October 2014).



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[kevin@kolgs.com](mailto:kevin@kolgs.com)



**Robert Dickey**, retired South Gate Public Works Director and former Walnut City Manager, at Tahiti City Hall. Bob and his wife Nadean are sailing on a cruise with Viking Ocean Cruises.

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**Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner



**Congress Member Mark W. Hannaford** (1925-1985) served in the U.S. House of Representatives between January 1975 and January 1979. He was succeeded by **Dan Lungren**. Mark served on the City Council for the City of Lakewood from 1966 to 1974. He served as a Political Science Associate Professor at Long Beach City College from 1966-1975. This picture of the Congressman and City Manager **Jack Simpson** was taken in the Congressman's Washington, D.C. office.

## Stanislaus County City Managers

Riverbank, California incorporated in August 1922. The 2019 estimated population is 24,881. In the 1850s the Riverbank area was known as Burneyville, and it was known as the site of the Burneyville Ferry over the Stanislaus River. **Sean Scully** is the Riverbank City Manager, and **Marisela H. Garcia** is the Assistant City Manager and Director of Finance. Sean was hired as the City of Lincoln City Manager in December 2021. He served as the Riverbank City Manager from 2017, and was previously the City Manager in Gustine. Marisela has taken over as Interim City Manager in Sean's absence.



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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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## Stanislaus County City Managers

Turlock was founded in December 1871 by grain farmer **John William Mitchell**. The name is believed to originate from the Irish village of Turlough. Turlock incorporated in February 1908. Its 2019 estimated population is 73,631. It is known to some as the "Heart of the Valley," due to the agricultural production in the area. Former Ceres City Manager **Toby Wells** was appointed Turlock City Manager in March 2020. Toby left Turlock last January to become the City Manager in Manteca. Human Resources Manager **Sarah Eddy** has been appointed Acting City Manager. Sarah joined the Turlock city staff in 1988. She earned a BA and Master's from California State University, Stanislaus.



<https://gonsalvi.com/>

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

The firm was founded by the late former California State Assembly Member **Joe A. Gonsalves**. Until his passing, Joe, his son Anthony D. Gonsalves and Anthony's son Jason Gonsalves served as the first three generation lobbying firm in Sacramento.

**Anthony Gonsalves** and two of his sons, **Jason Gonsalves** and **Paul Gonsalves** 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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no no  
We don't talk about Bruno..."  
From the Disney Movie  
"Encanto."



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## **Stanislaus County City Managers**

Waterford incorporated in November 1969. The community was originally established as "Bakersville" in 1857. The 2019 estimated population is 8,962. **Michael Pitcock** began serving as the Waterford City Manager in November 2017. Prior to that he worked as the Development Services Director and City Engineer for the City of Turlock. He worked for Turlock for 20-years. Michael earned a BS in civil engineering from California State University, Sacramento.



<https://www.icfaauthority.org/>



**Debbie Smith**, Executive Director

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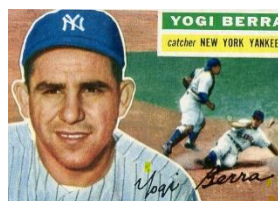
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#### **La Mirada**

Assistant City Manager **Anne Haraksin** at the Los Angeles Rams/San Francisco 49ers NFL Play-off game. The Rams' win qualified the team for the 2022 Super Bowl.



"Think?! How are you supposed to think and hit at the same time?"

---Yogi Berra



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**Picking Up the Pieces:** Jason **Ledbetter** is the new City Manager in the City of Yreka. Jason previously worked as the Executive Director of General Services for the County of Siskiyou. He has worked for Siskiyou County since 2018.

**Randy Johnsen** has served as the Interim City Manager since City Manager **Stephen Baker** retired in June. Jason started his new assignment on January 11. St. Helena City Manager **Mark Prestwich**, one of the good guys according to **Stan Morgan** and many others, has resigned his position to become the next City Manager in the City of Palos Verdes Estates. Mark became the St. Helena City Manager in 2017, after serving as the City Manager in Nevada City for three-years. Mark earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. In 2018 he received a 20-year ICMA Service Award. Mark is a past President of MMANC (2007). Davis Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, Economic Development and Sustainability **Ashley Feeney** is the new City Manager in the City of Citrus Heights. Ashley joined the Davis city staff in March 2016. He previously held positions with home building firms. Ashley earned a BA in economics from Humboldt State University. Retired United States Army Sergeant **Frank G. Tripepi** has secured the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey as the venue for the 2022 Annual City Managers' Dinner. Frank was drafted in 1969 during the Vietnam War following graduation from California State University, Fullerton. He was deployed to Vietnam in January 1970, and injured in 1971 when he fell 45-feet during an enemy bombing of his position, shattering both wrists. Returning home, Frank began his storied career as a public manager, serving 28-years as the Rosemead City Manager. After retiring from the public service, Frank has served as a Senior Vice President for the Willdan Group. CCMF thanks Frank for his help securing the 2022 venue for the annual City Manager Dinner. New Scotts Valley City Manager **Mali LaGoe** previously served as the Assistant CEO in Nevada County (October 2018-December 2021). She went to work for the county in April 2012 as an Administrative Analyst after working in the private sector starting in May 2004. She took the Scotts Valley City Manager post in January 2022 following the resignation of City Manager **Tina Friend**, who is currently the City Manager in the City of Coronado. Mali earned a BA from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln and an MPA from California State University, Northridge.

## Letters and Notes from Readers:

I smiled when I read that Santa Clarita just passed a law requiring a 4/5 vote to sack the city manager. Back in the early 1970s, **George Aiassa** was City Manager in West Covina, and I think it was he who engineered such a law there. Friends called him "Three to Hire! Four to Fire!"

I was beginning my financial advisor career with Stone & Youngberg and worked on a revenue bond issue for the city.

**-Alan Miller** (retired)  
A. M. Miller & Co., Inc.  
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I was informed by Downey staff last week that Mr. Livas was not dismissed. Longtime Downey City Manager **Gilbert Livas** has been dismissed according to news reports. Gilbert came to Downey in 2007 as the Community Development Director. He was promoted to Assistant City Manager in 2010 and he took over as City Manager following the retirement of City Manager **Gerald Caton** in 2011.

**-Grissel Chavez**, Bell Gardens

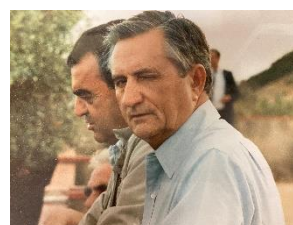
We're very active in 3 car clubs devoted to these old Porsches model 356. Mary Jane's on the right, a



'64 she bought in '65, and mine to the left, a '63 I bought in '82. Last September we drove the '63 to an event in Bend, OR, in Oct the '64 to an event in Silver

City, NM. I'm the first prez and co-organizer of the AZ club, Arizona 356 Outlaws. In front of our home in Scottsdale, AZ. Use it if you can.

**-Roy Pederson**



Former Assembly Speaker Pro Tem **Frank Vicencia** and **Joe A. Gonsalves**, founder of **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**. Joe is also a former Mayor and Council Member in Dairy Valley (Cerritos) and served as a member of the State Assembly.



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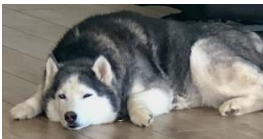
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Torrance, CA 90503



**Gonzalo Vazquez, Lisa Hughes, Marlene Towns, Mike Egan** and Wild Wing at Lisa's Anaheim retirement ceremony.

**Heather Abrams** has been hired to replace Fairfax Town Manager **Garrett Toy**, who resigned over the summer to become the City Manager in Sonoma. **Adam Politzer** has served as Interim Town Manager since Garrett left for Sonoma. **Heather Abrams** is the new Town Manager in the Town of Fairfax effective March 1, 2022. Heather has for the past five-years served as General Manager for the Tamalpais Community Services District near Mill Valley. She has also been serving as the President of the Marin Special Districts Association. Heather previously worked for the City of Menlo Park as Sustainability Manager. She earned a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and an MBA from California State University, Monterey Bay. **George Aiassa** served as the City Manager in Santa Paula (1951-1955); Tulare (1955-1958); and West Covina (1958-1976). He started his public management career as an Administrative Assistant to the City Manager in Mill Valley (1948-1950), and then was the Assistant City Manager in Santa Rosa (1950-1951) before his first City Manager appointment in Santa Paula. George earned a BA from San Jose State College, and an MPA from the University of California. He completed a CORO Foundation certificate. George is listed in the August 2013 issue of the newsletter regarding "California 'West' Cities," on Page 3. Riverbank City Manager **Sean Scully** will resign effective January 14, 2022 to accept the appointment of City Manager in Lincoln in Placer County. Sean has been the Riverbank City Manager since 2017. Riverbank Assistant City Manager **Marisela Garcia** will serve as the Interim City Manager. Sean previously worked for Gustine and Turlock. He earned a BA from California State University, Monterey Bay and an MPA from California State University, Stanislaus. **Mark Scott** is the Interim City Manager in Lincoln.



**More Pieces Picked Up:** Retired veteran City Manager **Henry Garcia** is serving as the Interim City Manager in Eastvale while the current City Manager is on

leave. Eastvale City Manager **Bryan Jones** was placed on paid administrative leave on December 14, 2021. City Clerk and Communications Director **Marc Donohue** and Community Development Director **Gina Gibson-Williams** were asked to serve as co-acting City Managers until Henry was selected. Bryan was appointed City Manager in November 2018, after serving as Interim City Manager starting in June. **Martin Lomeli** began his public service career in 1975 as an Administrative Intern in the City of West Covina. In January 1976 he took a Personnel Coordinator position with the City of LaVerne. In December 1978, Marty went to work with the City of Rosemead and then-City Manager **Frank Tripepi**. He left there in December 1979 to take an Administrative Analyst position with the County of San Luis Obispo. He became the Assistant City Manager in La Verne in January 1981 and was appointed City Manager there in June 1987. Marty retired after 23-years as the LaVerne City Manager and in and he moved to Morro Bay in 2016. He served as the Morro Bay Interim City Manager in 2017.



Are you headed to the [League of California Cities](http://ow.ly/J11v50HIsXU) City Managers Conference this week? <http://ow.ly/J11v50HIsXU> ✓

Catch #TeamTS' Ryder Todd Smith, Jennifer Vaughn, Emily Mason, Molly Lockwood and Kaetlyn Hernandez at:



**Still More Pieces Picked Up:** Walnut City Manager **Rob Wishner** is retiring after serving the City of Walnut for nearly 16-years. Rob was appointed City Manager in November 2006. Rob is a past President of the San Gabriel Valley City Manager's Association. He started his public service career as an Intern in Walnut and then went on to work for Chino and San Marino before returning to Walnut. Rob earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton. Nevada City Interim City Manager **Joan Phillipe** is stepping down for the new City Manager, **Sean Grayson** of the City of Rialto. Sean served as the Fire Chief in Rialto. He previously served as Interim City Manager in Rialto. Assistant Executive Officer **Norman Lefmann** of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA) retired effective December 31, 2021. Norm joined the CJPIA staff in March 2004 as a Senior Risk Manager. Prior to being named Assistant Executive Office, Norm served as the Member Services Director. Previous to joining the Authority, Norm served as an Administrative Officer with the City of Burbank (October 1997-July 2003). He also served as a Adjunct Professor at California State University, Long Beach (January 1998-December 2001). Norm earned a BA from San Diego State University, and an MPA from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Norm is a former participant in the "Proof of Life" program. He and his wife have relocated to South Carolina. **David Carmany** was appointed to the West Covina City Manager position in July 2019. He previously served as City Manager in La Puente, Agoura Hills, Malibu, Pacificia, Seal Beach and Manhattan Beach. Dave earned a BS from the University of Southern California (**USC**). David played in the **USC** Band during his college years. Sixth grade teacher **Julian A. Miranda** of the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, and former Irwindale City Council Member is the new Irwindale City Manager. Julian served roughly 13-years on the Irwindale City Council. His father is a former Chief of Police for Irwindale, who served for several decades. Except for his city council service, Julian has never worked for a city. Fresno City Manager **Thomas Esqueda** is leaving the City



Palm Springs Tramway

Manager position after a 13-month tenure. Assistant City Manager **Georgeanne White** is the new Fresno City Manager.

**SHORTS:** **\*Rob Dmohowski**, who earned a BS in urban planning from Arizona State University, serves as the Senior Planner for the City of Oceanside (December 2020-present). **\*Hughson** City Manager **Merry Mayhew** worked for the County of Stanislaus for more than 34-years starting in September 1984 as a business manager. **\*Tripepi Smith** President **Ryder Todd Smith** is the new Chair of the Claremont McKenna College Rose Institute of State and Local Government Board of Governors.



We need more human contact. Social media unfortunately gave us the chance to separate long before the pandemic hit. Then health protocols in response to COVID-19 delivered even more separation. Having a monitor between you and the person on the other side can generate "keyboard courage" and is bad for human relations. Put me in front of a person, let me see their body language, see their eyes in better-than-8k resolution, shake their hand with sincerity and remind us both that even in disagreement, there is humanity and a shared mission of trying to do the right thing.  
—Ryder Smith, CEO & President of Tripepi Smith