



Kosmont Companies founder **Larry J. Kosmont**, a former City Manager, is shown here at a California Contract Cities Association conference kick-off dinner event. L to R you see **Sam Olivito**, retired CCCA Executive Director, **Jack Simpson** (seated), **Susan Simpson**, Larry and **Sharon Olivito**. Larry has been leading the **Kosmont Companies** since August 1986. He earned an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited



There are ten cities in the County of Ventura including Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Ventura. We recognized the first five cities in the Special May 2023 issue. This issue features the rest. Ventura County was named for the Mission San Buenaventura and established in March 1872. The county seat is the city of Ventura. Ventura County was officially separated from the County of Santa Barbara in January 1873. The Ventura County Chief Executive Officer is **Dr. Sevet Johnson**, and the Assistant County Executive Officer is **Mike Pettit**. **Kaye Mand** is the County Chief Financial Officer and **Shawn Atin** is the Director of Human Resources. The 2020 Ventura County estimated population is 843,843.

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited



Port Hueneme is "The Friendly City by the Sea." **Juan Rodriguez** explored the area and the Channel Islands in 1542. **Thomas Bard** developed the Hueneme Wharf in 1871. The existing street grid of Port Hueneme was laid out in 1888. Port Hueneme is the only deepwater port between the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of San Francisco, and the only U.S. Navy controlled harbor between San Diego Bay and Puget Sound, Washington. Port Hueneme was incorporated in March 1948. The estimated 2019 population is 21,926. The Port Hueneme Interim City Manager is **Tony Stewart** is the Community Development Director and City Planner. **Lupe Acero** is the Finance Director and City Treasurer, and **Anna Hanely** is the Community Services and Recreation Manager. **Gabriela Basua** is the Housing and Facilities Maintenance Director. **Charles Cable** is the City Engineer and Landscape Superintendent.



Interim City Manager **Tony Stewart**, the city planner not the race car driver, began his public service career in June 1995 when he was a Planning Assistant for the City of Artesia. He took a Principal Planner job in Simi Valley in March 1998. He went to San Bernardino and worked as the Deputy Planning Director before he became the Community Development Director for the City of Galt in March 2014. He worked in Reedley for less than a year in 2016 as Community Development Director. He joined the Port Hueneme staff as Director of Community Development and City Planner in April 2017. Tony was appointed Interim City Manager for Port Hueneme in February 2023. Tony earned a BS and an MS in urban planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

PUBLIC
AGENCY
RETIREMENT
SERVICES

PARS

TRUSTED SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

<http://www.pars.org/>

For more than 35 years, **PARS** has provided retirement plans and trust solutions designed exclusively for public agencies. With programs like the **Pension Rate Stabilization Program (PRSP)** and the **PARS OPEB Trust**,

PARS has helped more than 400 clients address unfunded obligations and lower liabilities. **PARS** is the pioneer of the PRSP, a first-of-its-kind program designed to provide local control over assets and potential for greater return to the general fund. With innovative retirement solutions tailored to the unique needs of each agency,

PARS is the largest private provider of multiple-employer Section 115 trusts in California. Since 1984 the **PARS** team has **provided retirement services designed** specifically for each public agency's unique needs aiming to provide superior employee benefits while improving management effectiveness, reducing costs, and simplifying administration.

PARS can craft customized solutions; provide agencies guiding through the process to achieve bottom-line results; and redefine goals and objectives.

Mitch Barker, Executive Vice President
800) 540-6369 ext. 116 or mbarker@pars.org
Kevin O'Rourke, Senior Consultant
(707) 249-5356 or kevin@kolgs.com



Former city managers **Pat West** and **Kevin O'Rourke**, of **PARS**, at a "Proof of Life" lunch. The next Lunch is June 29. Please save the date.



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

Founded in 1986 by former City Manager **Larry J. Kosmont**, Chairman and CEO. **2021 CCMF Corporate Partner of the Year.**

Kosmont Companies serves the needs of cities, counties, quasi-government agencies, private companies, developers, and non-profit organizations, including educational institutions across California.

With unmatched expertise in public / private transactions, Kosmont Companies helps communities thrive by creating sustainable projects.

Kosmont Companies is on the cutting edge of evolving trends, challenges and solutions.

A transactional firm that takes a hands-on approach to economic development focused on successful outcomes.

Mailing Address: 1601 N. Sepulveda Blvd., #382,
Manhattan Beach, California 90266

Headquarters – El Segundo: 2301 Rosecrans Avenue
Suite 4140, El Segundo, California 90245
Telephone: 424-297-1070 | Fax: 424-286-4632



Announcing the new affiliation between the **Kosmont Companies** and the *Rose Institute*, **Larry Kosmont**, President of the **Kosmont Companies**, said, we have grown and nurtured the *Survey* to the point where it is nationally recognized as a valuable and unique tool in business and community planning, but we have taken it about as far as we can go. With the added strength and capabilities of the Rose Institute, especially with the Institutes' sterling reputation for objective research and analysis, we are confident that our new partnership will further enhance the quality and effectiveness of this important publication. Since 2003 and until 2018, the *Rose Institute* continued to expand the scope and accuracy of the *Survey*.

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited

Finance Director **Lupe Acero** began her working career in 1991 with the Simpson & Simpson CPA firm. After working for other private sector companies, Lupe joined the Santa Barbara County Probation Department staff. Lupe came to the City of Port Hueneme in April 2020 as the Deputy Finance Director. Lupe earned a BS in accounting and finance from California State University, Northridge. She is a California Certified Public Accountant (CPA).



<https://nhaadvisors.com/>



NHA Advisors, LLC provides strategic, objective and financially sound advice to public agencies throughout California. Consistently ranked as one of the most active municipal advisors*, NHA Advisors is distinguished from the competition by delivering broad advisory and consulting services to meet the challenging and complex needs of public agency clients. As a fiduciary, the firm develops comprehensive options and strategies that solve for maintaining/enhancing service levels, capital project needs, manage and contain costs and risks such as rising pension costs and promote fiscal sustainability through prudent policies.

Principals include **Mark Northcross**, **Eric Scriven**, **Mike Meyer**, **Rob Schmidt**, and **Leslie Bloom**.

Craig Hill, Managing Principal

NHA | ADVISORS

Financial & Policy Strategies. Delivered.

Tel: (415) 785-2025 x2001

Cell: (415) 518-4130

Email: Craig@NHAadvisors.com

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited



Santa Paula, located on the Santa Clara River Valley, is noted as the "Citrus Capital of the World." Franciscan missionaries led by **Father Junipero Serra** were active in the area following the founding

of the San Buenaventura Mission. Santa Paula is on the 1843 Rancho Santa Paula y Saticoy Mexican land grant. In 1872, Nathan Weston Blanchard purchased land for a townsite. He is considered the founder of the community where he planted seedling orange trees in 1874. The oil industry also began growing in the area in 1890. Santa Paula was incorporated in April 1902. The 2020 population is set at 30,657. Veteran public manager **Dan Singer** is the Santa Paula City Manager, and **Julie Latshaw** is the City Clerk. **Christy Ramirez** is the Santa Paula Director of Finance and City Treasurer.

Wolf & Company Inc.

<https://www.wolfhousing.com/>



Former City Administrator
Wesley Wolf, Founder
Telephone: 949-235-0525
FAX: 213-741-0519

Wolf & Company Inc. provides municipal consulting services, to State and local governments, and not for profit corporations.

Wolf & Company Inc. has a specialized emphasis on: Mobile Home Park Acquisitions-Program Administration and Oversight Agent Services.



Wolf & Company Inc.

1870 Sakai Village Loop
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110, and
560 East Commercial Street, Suite 16
Pomona, California 91767

Telephone: 949-235-0525



Located in the heart of the Coachella Valley at 75702 Varner Road in Palm Desert, the Acrisure Arena is a multi-purpose 10,000+ seat indoor arena. It is the home of the Coachella Valley Firebirds AHL professional hockey team. Concerts are staged there too, including a special concert by **Shania Twain**.



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



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

The **Independent Cities Finance Authority** is an unaffiliated Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with the goal of helping communities fund critical projects. ICFA has assisted funding more than \$500 million in critical community projects, from hospitals to charter schools, public utilities, and housing.

Independent Cities Finance Authority

Post Office Box No. 6740
Lancaster, California 93539-6740

Telephone No. 877-906-0941
info@ICFAAuthority.org

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
Robert T. "Bob" Dickey, Retired South Gate DPW
Doug Dunlap, Retired City Manager, Pomona
Rita Geldert, Retired City Manager, Vista
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director, State of California
Anthony D. Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Jason Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Paul Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Richard Rowe, Retired City Manager
Lloyd de Llamas, Retired City Man./**HdL** Co-founder
John Shirey, Retired City Manager, Sacramento
Charles E. "Chuck" Bryant, Past Hawaiian Gardens
John Russo, Retired City Manager; SynchroniCITY
Joe Goeden, Retired City Manager, W. Sacramento
Lee McDougal, Retired City Manager, Montclair
Mark Scott, Retired City Manager; Interim, Downey
Ron Kiedrowski, Retired San Pablo/La Quinta
Doug La Belle, Retired City Manager, Chino Hills
Don Penman, Retired City Manager, Arcadia

Posse Roster:

Gregory Korduner, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
Sam Olivito, Retired CCCA Executive Director
Roy Pederson, ICMA Past-President
Rod B. Butler, Jurupa Valley, City Manager
Rita Geldert, Retired City Manager, Vista
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director, State of CA
Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia, Retired Rocklin 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, Interim City Manager, Pasadena
Ron Molendyk, Retired City Manager Lake Elsinore
Kevin Duggan, Retired City Manager, Mountain View
Gary Milliman, Retired City Manager, Brookings, Oregon



**City Manager Newsletter by
Trackdown Management**

10 Claret
Rancho Mirage, California 92270

www.trackdownmanagement.net

Cell Phone Nos. 310-418-1035, or 562-896-5424



www.brandywinedev.com



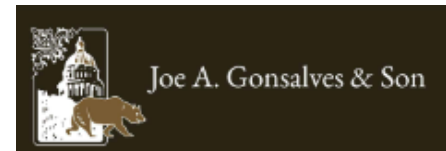
Jim L. Barisic, former Artesia City Manager who also worked in Cerritos and Paramount, and is a Viet Nam veteran, founded **Brandywine** in 1994.

Jim and two of his sons **Brett Whitehead** and **David Barisic**, and **Alex Hernandez** and **Mario Urzua** direct **Brandywine Homes**. Please check the firm's website for current sales!

Units are selling in Carson, and Glendora. Coming Soon are developments in: Long Beach, Whittier, La Verne, Santa Ana, El Monte, Artesia and Apartments in Riverside and Murrieta.

Brandywine Homes focuses on converting underutilized space into needed housing. Call **Brandywine** at 949-296-2400

Brandywine Homes Corporate Office
16580 Aston Street, Irvine, California



<https://gonsalvi.com/>

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

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 the longest serving Member of the CCMF Board of Trustees.

Telephone No. 916-441-0597
FAX: 916-441-5061
925 L Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited



Daniel A. Singer began his public service career in November 1991 as an Administrative Intern in the City of Lafayette. He was hired to serve as the Assistant to the City Manager in Ojai in July 1992.

Dan was promoted to the position of Director of General Services in Ojai in December 1998, and he became the Ojai City Manager in March 2001. Dan moved from Ojai to become the City Manager for the City of Goleta in September 2005. In June 2014 Dan was appointed City Manager in the City of Poway and he worked there until September 2016. In 2017, Dan served on a work project in the City of Del Mar. After nearly 6-years as a special consultant advisor, Dan began his Santa Paula full-time City Manager tenure in August 2019. He earned a BA in psychology from Chapman University and an MA in political science and an MPA from Syracuse University Maxwell School. In 2020 Dan received a 25-year ICMA Service Award. Dan holds a certificate in Conflict Resolution from Syracuse University and has served as a mediator in California and in New York.



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

Dominique Samario, Murrieta, President



Municipal Management Association
of Northern California
Inspiring Local Government Leaders since 1950

John Stefanski, Dublin, President

www.mmanc.org



**Our Team.
Your Communications.**

(626) 536-2173

TripepiSmith.com

<https://www.tripepismith.com/>



"The **Tripepi Smith** team stands ready to help with outreach campaigns, video production, content writing, messaging, graphic work, technology infrastructure and websites."

Ryder Todd Smith, President

Team Tripepi Smith

Will be home to eleven fresh undergraduates, introducing these eager individuals of the new generation to the workplace.

Tripepi Smith welcomes these 2023 graduates:

Cole Williams - San Diego State University
Daniel Ceruti - Chapman University
Devin Antonio - San Diego State University
Kara Cato - Claremont McKenna College
Kiran Kruse - Claremont McKenna College
Liann So - San Diego State University
Madison Garra - San Diego State University
Mackenna Morrice - DePaul University
Mia Valenzuela - Scripps College
Olivia Rizzuto - San Diego State University
Sydney Fitch - San Diego State University



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

HdL was founded in 1983 by former City Manager **Robert "Bob" Hinderliter**. **HdL** expanded and improved with the help of a partnership with former City Manager **Lloyd de Llamas**, the firm's retired Executive Chairman.



Andy Nickerson is the President/CEO. Other members of the **HdL** team include **Vikki Beatley**, **Paula Cone**, **Barry Foster**, **Robert Gray**, **Kimberly Konczak**, **David McPherson**, and **Bobby Young**.

HdL Companies provide revenue enhancement, technology and consulting services. **HdL's** team of professionals currently serves more than 600 agencies nationwide. **HdL Companies** offers support services and software that includes sales, use and transactions taxes, economic development, property taxes, business license fees, transient occupancy tax, short-term rental compliance, rent control, indirect cost recovery, utility users tax, and cannabis regulation and taxation.

120 South State College Boulevard, Suite 200
Brea, California
Telephone 888-861-0220



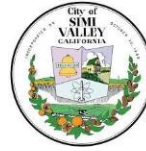
www.rawperformancesc.com

Special group sessions for sports teams, police and fire departments or other groups may be arranged.

Raw Performance Coach **William Ha**, CSCS is a certified strength and conditioning coach.
Call: 714-335-4436

10579 Bloomfield Avenue Los Alamitos, CA 90720
info@rawperformancesc.com

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited



Simi Valley is the home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Former President Reagan was buried there in 2004. The first Europeans to visit Simi Valley were Spanish explorers in the late 1700s. The earliest American farmer in the area was **Charles Emerson Hoar** as identified by historian **Janet Scott Cameron**. Locals raised sheep, cattle and grain, and groves of citrus, walnuts and apricots were planted. Residential development started in the late 1950s. The city was incorporated in October 1969. The 2020 population of Simi Valley is put at 126,356. **Brian P. Gabler** is the City Manager and **Lucy Blanco** is the City Clerk. **Carolyn Johnson** is the Administrative Services Director, **Stratis Perros** is the Environmental Services Director and the Public Works Director is **Ron Fuchiwaki**.



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

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 West 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.

Telephone No. 562-331-9812

"Quality begins on the inside...then works its way out."

---**Bob Moawad**

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited

Brian P. Gabler is the City Manager for the City of Simi Valley. Brian began his public service career as an Administrative Aide for the City of Arcadia in 1983. He went to work in the City of Simi Valley in economic development in June 1986. He rose to become the Director of Economic Development and Assistant City Manager. Brian was hired to serve as the Simi Valley City Manager in April 2019. He has been with the city for more than 37-years. He earned a BA in political science from California State University, Northridge, and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Fullerton City Manager **Eric Levitt** is a former Simi Valley City Manager. After Eric came to Simi Valley in 2013 and left in April 2019 to serve as the City Manager for the City of Alameda. He was the first permanent city manager following the separation of Alameda City Manager **Jill Keimach** in May 2019. After Jill left **Liz Warmerdam** and **David Rudat** served in interim rolls. Eric joined the Fullerton city staff in May 2022. Prior to Simi Valley, Eric was City Manager in Janesville, Wisconsin and Sedona, Arizona. He earned a BA and MPA from the University of Kansas.

Michael J. Sedell retired as the Simi Valley City Manager in July 2012 and Assistant City Manager **Laura Behjan** became City Manager. Mike started his public service career as an Administrative Assistant in Simi Valley in 1972. In 1975 Mike became the Assistant to the City Manager and in October 1979 he was promoted to Deputy City Manager. In 1986 Mike left the city to serve as the Chief of Staff for a Member of the U. S. Congress. He returned to Simi Valley as the Assistant City Manager in January 1990, and he was promoted to City Manager in June 1995. In 2011, he received a 35-year ICMA Service Award. Mike earned an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). He taught at California State University, Northridge. He is a "Proof of Life" participant.



www.chwlaw.us

CH&W has offices in Pasadena and Grass Valley in the Sierra Foothills, **H&W** represents both public and private clients throughout California in municipal law.

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

Expert Public Agency Legal Services. Committed to counsel that is helpful, understandable, and fairly priced.

Call telephone No. 530-432-7357 or 213-542-5700; 916-400-0370; 858-682-3665; 707-986-8091.



<https://www.climatec.com/>

Founded in 1975, **Climatec** has grown from humble beginnings into one of the largest providers of building technology and energy efficiency solutions in the nation – and **Climatec** has been a proud member of the Robert Bosch family since 2015.

Led by a highly credentialed team with more than 300 years of combined industry experience, **Climatec** helps public agencies find general fund relief through renewed infrastructure and funding solutions. The firm has delivered thousands of successful energy efficiency programs to public sector clients, including education, local, county, state and federal governments.



Regional Managers
Ashley Cascio and
Tyler Girtman

Southern California Telephone: **949-474-0955**
Bay Area Telephone: **925-558-2729**



RICHARDS WATSON GERSON

<http://rwglaw.com/>

RWG is committed to excellence in the legal profession. The lawyers of choice for clients seeking reliable, efficient, and effective legal counsel. **RWG** delivers practical advice and solutions tailored to the unique needs of public entities.



Working seamlessly across offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange County, Temecula, and the Central Coast. The **RWG** team of experts provides the full scope of public law services. Practical advice and well-analyzed solutions come from listening carefully and asking the right questions.

Roxanne Diaz is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).
Call **RWG** at No. 213-626-8484



www.usi.com

USI has developed sophisticated employee benefit programs for public entities for more than 30-years. **USI** helps agencies design innovative benefit solutions and provide benefit education to bargaining units.

The power of **USI**, and its ability to bring best-in-class solutions and services to clients and communities, is achieved through the collective knowledge and experience of professionals coming together as ONE.



For more information contact **Gary Delaney** at (424) 390-0010 or gary.delaney@usi.com
Pam Rodriguez, GBDS Manager
Pamela.rodriguez@usi.com
USI Insurance Services

21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 380
Torrance, CA 90503

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited



Characterized by tens of thousands of Oak trees, the area got its name Thousand Oaks from **Bobby Harrington**, a 14-year old boy who won a local name contest in the 1920s. Thousand Oaks was incorporated in October 1964. Its 2020 population is set at 126,966. **Andrew P. Powers** is the City Manager, and **Ingrid Hardy** is the Assistant City Manager. **Melissa Hurtado** is the Assistant to the City Manager. **Laura Maguire** is the City Clerk and **Jaime Boscarino** is the Finance Director.

After working as a Program Development & Marketing Specialist for the City of Raleigh, North Carolina (June 1999-July 2002), **Andrew P. Powers** took a position with the City of Ventura as a Marketing & Public Affairs Specialist. In May 2007 Drew became the Assistant to the City Manager & Public Information Officer for Thousand Oaks. He was appointed Assistant City Manager in March 2013 and after 7 months as "Interim" he went to work as the Thousand Oaks City Manager in January 2017. Drew earned a BS from North Carolina University and an MPA from California Lutheran University.



A world-class golf club with an 18-hole Arnold Palmer Signature Design, the Classic Club in Palm Desert is a golfing jewel of the Coachella Valley.

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited

Clifford G. Finley is the Thousand Oaks Public Works Director. Clifford served as the Deputy Director of Public Works and City Engineer starting in May 2012. He started his tenure as the Director of Public Works in February 2020. Cliff earned a BS in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Tim Giles is the Thousand Oaks Human Resources Director and Risk Services Administrator. Tim served as the Assistant City Attorney in Thousand Oaks for more than 10 years starting in May 1998. He worked as the City of Goleta City Attorney starting in 2008 before he joined a private firm in February 2017. Tim rejoined the city staff in Thousand Oaks in October 2017 as the Risk Services Administrator, and he added the Human Resource Director responsibility in July 2019. Tim earned a BBA from Wichita State University and a JD from Pepperdine University School of Law.



CALIFORNIA
J · P · I · A

Providing innovative risk management solutions for its public agency partners for more than 40 years, the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA) is one of the largest municipal self-insurance pools in the state, with more than 120 member cities and other governmental agencies. Members actively participate in shaping the organization to provide important coverage for their operations. The California JPIA provides innovative risk management solutions through a comprehensive portfolio of programs and services, including liability, workers' compensation, pollution, property, and earthquake coverage, as well as extensive risk management training and loss control services.



Jon Shull
Chief
Executive
Officer

Telephone No. 800-229-2343

www.cjpia.org

Congratulations to Jon on his pending retirement.



<https://www.avenuinsights.com/>

There's never a good time for operational downtime, or a good time to fall short on revenue. For governments to serve their communities, they need solutions they can depend on, run by partners who understand how the public sector works.

That's why thousands of State and local government leaders turn to **Avenu**. Although the name is new, the company roots serving government officials go back nearly 100-years. **Avenu** has California Offices in El Dorado Hills, Fresno, Pleasanton, Sacramento and Westlake Village.



Fran Mancía can be reached at 559-288-7296.

Fran is a member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). Fran was elected as a University of California Alumni Regent in 2016.



MuniEnvironmental's experienced professionals provide **solid waste** and **recycling** expertise that helps cities and other government agencies:

- Review, analyze and optimize rates and expenses
- Audit contract service providers
- Comply with regulatory requirements
- Implement commercial, organics and construction & demolition recycling programs

Jeff Duhamel, CEO/Principal Consultant
562-432-3700 | jeff@munienvironmental.com



California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) Immediate past President **Jeff Wood** Lakewood with retired Duarte Deputy City Manager **Karen Herrera**, El Segundo City Manager **Darrell George** and past President **Steve Tye** of Diamond Bar at the recent CCCA Annual Educational Seminar.
(Picture contributed by Karen)



<https://www.olsonhomes.com/>

The Olson Company is a premier California builder of affordable new home communities.

The Olson Company's mission has been to work hand-in-hand with cities to solve the critical shortage of urban housing by promoting and investing in responsible development that improves quality of life for everyone. The company has successfully partnered with more than 100 cities since 1988.

Todd Olson, SVP
President of Community Development

The Olson Company
3010 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 100
Seal Beach, CA 90740
Telephone: 562-370-2209

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited

Ventura is officially named San Buenaventura. In 1769 a Spanish expedition recorded the first European visitors to the area. Many settlers came to the area following the American Civil War. The original Ventura Pier was built in 1872 and, at the time, was the longest wooden pier in California. It has subsequently been rebuilt following storm damage, especially in 1995. The City of Ventura was incorporated in April 1866. The 2020 population is set at 110,763. **Akbar Alikhan** is the Interim City Manager and **Michael B. MacDonald** is the City Clerk. **Greg Morley** is the Interim Chief Financial Officer, and **Nancy O'Connor** is the Parks & Recreation Director.



www.ekapr.com

Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA) is one of the leading strategic communications and public affairs firms in Southern California. It is led by partners **Matt Knabe**, **Marcus Allen**, **Eric Rose**, **Jeff McConnell**, **Adam Englander** and **Alex Cherin**. We pride ourselves on providing a unique and strategic perspective on a wide variety of issues.

EKA provides services in the areas of government affairs, public relations, political campaigns and crisis management. In addition, **EKA** offers a wide array of professional litigation communication and expert witness services lead by our team of strategists, lawyers, journalists, and media relations specialists.



Together, **EKA** has more than 100-years of combined experience and a multitude of relationships within the City & County of Los Angeles, and the 88 cities within Los Angeles County.

To contact **EKA** please call 213) 741-1500 or email matt@ekapr.com
Matt Knabe, Managing Partner

Public Managers in Ventura County Cities Revisited




Ventura Assistant City Manager **Akbar Alikhan** was named as the Interim City Manager for the City of Ventura in February 2023. Akbar was hired as the Ventura Assistant City Manager in June 2019. He previously served as General Manager for the

Channel Islands Beach Community Services and the City of Thousand Oaks. Akbar earned a BA in economics and an MPA from Cornell University.

Former Ventura City Manager **Alex McIntyre** resigned in December 2022. Alex is currently serving as the Interim City Manager in the City of San Bruno. Before going to Ventura, Alex worked as City Manager in Menlo Park (2012-2018), Lake Oswego, Oregon (2008-2012), and as Chief Assistant County Administrator for the County of Marin (2006-2008). Before working for the county Alex served as the Town Manager in the Town of Tiburon (2000-2006) and the Town of Portola Valley (1997-2000). Alex worked as an executive recruiter for nearly 4 years (1994-1997) after serving as Assistant to the City Manager in the City of Arcadia (1988-1994). He started his public service career as a Management Analyst in Burbank (1985-1988). Alex earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Following the departure of Ventura City Manager **Rick Cole** in 2012, retired Ventura County Chief Executive Officer **Johnny Johnston** started his tenure as Interim City Manager for Ventura. He was appointed by a unanimous vote of the council and signed an employment agreement that paid him \$1.00 for his services. Johnny retired from the county in 2008 after serving 7 years. He is a former city manager for the Cities of Artesia and Ojai. His focus in Ventura was to provide stability and unification.



**A MUNICIPAL PARTNER
YOU CAN COUNT ON**


Founded in 1964, Willdan is a leading, nationwide provider of professional and consulting engineering services. We have worked with nearly 90% of California's cities and counties and have recently expanded our services across the country. With 1,500 employees in over 50 offices throughout 20+ states nationwide, we are ready to serve you!

Willdan is a trusted partner for municipalities, with solutions including:


- Building & Safety
- City Engineering
- Construction Management & Inspection
- Design Engineering
- Planning
- Geotechnical

Other Services Include: Energy & Sustainability, Financial & Economic Analysis, Transportation Electrification, Microgrids, and Smart Cities

At Willdan, we lead with our people!
Meet our management team by clicking [here](#):



Vanessa Munoz, PE, TE
President and CEO, Engineering
562.447.6844
vmunoz@willdan.com



Adel Freij, PE
Director of City Engineering
562.760.7752
afreij@willdan.com

www.willdan.com



El Segundo City Manager **Darrell George**, and Lomita City Manager **Ryan Smoot** at the recent CCCA Annual Seminar.



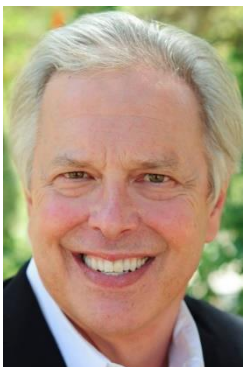
<https://www.avenuinsights.com/>

There's never a good time for operational downtime, or a good time to fall short on revenue. For governments to serve their communities, they need solutions they can depend on, run by partners who understand how the public sector works.

That's why thousands of State and local government leaders turn to **Avenu**. Although the name is new, the company roots serving government officials go back nearly 100-years.

Avenu has brought together the nation's leaders in revenue enhancement and administration to deliver scalable solutions designed for each jurisdiction's needs. From funding insights grounded in regional revenue trends to digital systems that streamline workflows and improve constituent experiences, **Avenu's** solutions are built on proven success at every level of government operation.

Today, **Avenu** offers more administrative and financial support to government officials than any other organization. And with a responsive, client-focused approach, **Avenu** fosters partnerships that give their clients and customers the certainty they need to accomplish more.



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

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).

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 **Avenu** Advisory Board.



Avenu's commitment to helping communities thrive goes beyond customer partnerships. **Avenu** employees, both individually and together, work with philanthropic organizations to do more...for more citizens...wherever possible.

Core Values

Client – Focused: Our customers, partners, and employees are the priority. We provide meaningful expertise in a timely manner by actively listening and doing what we say we will do.

Responsiveness: **Avenu** acts with a sense of urgency for our customers, partners, and employees. We show up on time, always engaged and ready to perform.

Caring: We genuinely care for those around us. We are respectful and lead by example.

Passionate: We conduct our work with passion and are energized by what we do. It inspires us to explore new ideas and technologies and pushes us to work harder.

Integrity: We do the right thing for our customers, partners and employees by upholding the values and principles of **Avenu** in every action and decision.



5860 Trinity Parkway, Suite 120 Centreville, VA 20120



Bellflower City Manager **Jeff Stewart** at the 2023 California Contract Cities Association Annual Seminar. Thank you, **Natalie Salazar** of Crime Stoppers for the picture. Jeff previously served as city Manager in the cities of El Segundo and Los Alamitos



Picking Up Pieces: Former Simi Valley City Manager **Laura Behjan** is a Volunteer at California Lutheran University. Laura began her working career in human resources with the City of Burbank (1989-1988). She joined the City of Simi Valley staff as the Human Resources Manager in January 1989. Laura served as the Administrative Services Director and

Deputy City Manager, and she was promoted to Assistant City Manager in June 1996. When City Manager **Mike Sedell** retired, Laura took the City Manager position in July 2012. Laura retired from the city in February 2012 and became the Executive Director for the Ventura Council of Governments in July 2013. She left that position in March 2016. Laura served as a volunteer to the extended university of the California State University, Channel Islands (2015-2020). In 2020 she began as a volunteer at California Lutheran University. Laura earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. Long Beach Deputy City Manager **Katy Nomura**, who previously served among other agencies with the City of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley Water District and the City of Cupertino, is the new Assistant Town Manager for Los Gatos. Katy was with Long from June 2022 to June 2023. Katy earned a BS from the University of California, Berkeley, an MPA from San Jose State University, and an MBA from the Quantic School of Business and Technology. **Brian Villalobos** is the new Duarte City Manager. Brian has served as the Duarte Public Safety Services Director for 17 years. He replaced



City Manager **Daniel Jordan** who resigned his position to take the La Cañada Flintridge city manager post. Brian's first day as city manager was June 1m 2023. Willits City Manager **Brian P. Bender** is featured in an information feature on the ICMA Credentialed Managers program in the May 2023 issue of PM magazine. Brian was appointed to the Willits City Manager post in January 2021. He is originally from New York but began his public service career in Clinton County, Indiana as a Zoning Administrator. He became the Executive Director of the Clinton County Area Planning Commission. After serving as a planner for the City of Bensenville, Illinois and Planning Director for Winona County, Minnesota, he moved in 2011 to serve as the Planning Director & Floodplain Manager for Powell County, Montana. Brian earned a BA from Plattsburgh State University, New York and an MA in geography from Western Washington University, Washington. Manteca Interim City Manager **Toni Lundgren**, 44, has been tapped to serve as the city manager. The "Interim" has been removed from her title. Toni began her public services career working in parks and recreation. In July 2014 she became the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Manteca. In June 2020, Toni was appointed Deputy City Manager. She has served as Interim City Manager since May 2022, and she is City Manager starting in May 2023. She earned a BA in recreation administration from California State University, Sacramento and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



Be safe out there!
Summer is here and
young people are out
of school.

Enjoy your children
and grandchildren.
Keep them smiling
and safe.



More Pieces Picked Up: Corning City Manager **Kristina Miller** will be the next City Manager for the City of Rio Vista. She will succeed City Manager **Rob Hickey**, who retired. Kristina has served as the Corning City Manager since 2015. She was a staff member for the County of

Tehama from 2006 to 2015. Kristina will start her Rio Vista tenure in the last week of June. **Phil Carter** is the Interim City Manager. Kristina earned a BA in restoration ecology and environmental education and an MA in Geography from California State University, Chico. West Covina City Manager **David Carmany**



submitted his resignation May 18 for "personal reasons..." David has served as the West Covina City Manager since April 2019. David previously served as city manager in La Puente (2014-2018), Manhattan Beach (2010-2013), Seal Beach (2007-2010), Pacific (1997-2003), Malibu (1993-1997) and Agoura Hills (1987-1993). He was a Regional Manager for PARS from 2003 to 2007. David began his public service career as an Administrative Assistant in the City of Lancaster working with then-City Manager **Vern Lawson** (1978-1980). He served as Administrative Assistant to the City Manager in Grand Terrace (1980-1981) and Assistant City Manager in the City of Alhambra from 1981 to February 1987. David earned a BS in public affairs from the University of Southern California (**USC**) where he played in the famous **USC** marching band. In 2018, David received a 35-Year ICMA Service Award. He received the Outstanding Leadership "People Who Care" Award from the County of San Mateo in September 2000. West Covina Assistant City Manager **Paulina Morales** is the Acting City Manager. City Manager **Trevin W. Barber** is stepping down from his position as City Manager in the City of Gonzales after only 4 months in the post. Trevin became City Manager in January. He decided to focus on his career in finance and economic development and be able to spend more time with his family. Trevin succeeded City Manager **Rene Mendez**. Trevin was the Assistant City Manager in the City of Seaside where he served from June 2021 until September 2022. He previously served as a Senior Management Analyst in the City of Gilroy. He also worked for more than 8 years in various positions for the City of Lancaster. Trevin earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MPA from California State University, Bakersfield.

"Most people don't aim too high and miss, they aim too low and hit." --**Bob Moawad**



Adel Freij of **Willdan Engineering** and his wife Jane took a European vacation this year. The magnificent building behind Adel is the Town Hall in Hamburg.

Matthew B. Chidester has been the City Manager for Half Moon Bay since August 2022. Half Moon Bay is the first city he has worked for. He previously worked in various positions for the County of San Mateo (2001-2017) after working for Wells Fargo Bank (1999-2001) and a couple law firms. Matt joined the Half Moon Bay city staff in July 2017 as Assistant City Manager. He earned an Associates of Business Administration degree from the College of San Mateo, a BA from Hawaii Pacific University, and an MS Western Governors University. Benicia Assistant City Manager **Bret Prebula** is the new City Manager for the City of Clayton. Bret worked for the County of Napa for more than 11 years prior to becoming the City of Napa Finance Director in October 2019. Bret was appointed Director of Finance for the City of Benicia in June 2021. He was promoted to Benicia Assistant City Manager in December 2022, and he was appointed City of Clayton City Manager in May 2023. Bret earned a BA and MBA from the University of Phoenix.



Still More Pieces Picked Up: With Community Development Director **Megan Hunter** leaving Salinas to accept the appointment to the City of Soledad City Manager position, Salinas City Manager **Steve Carrigan** appointed **Lisa Brinton** to be the next Director. Lisa has worked in the

Salinas Community Development Department since 2016, starting as a Senior Planner. She has been serving as Assistant Community Development Director. Lisa previously worked for the cities of Seaside and Watsonville. **Lt. Nate Derr** of the Inyo County Sheriff's Department is the new Chief of Police for the City of Bishop. Nate replaces Chief **Richard Standridge**, who is leaving Bishop to be the Chief of Police for the City of Tehachapi. It is anticipated that Nate will begin his new job on June 19, 2023. Chief Standridge has been the Bishop Chief since July 2021. Duarte City Manager **Dr. Daniel Jordan** will be the next La Cañada Flintridge City Manager succeeding retiring City Manager **Mark Alexander**, whose last day will be June 13, 2023. Daniel began his public service career as a Senior Managing Consultant in July 2000. He took a Budget Officer job for the City of Simi Valley in January 2005, and became the La Cañada Flintridge Director of Finance in February 2008. Dan left in July 2017 to become the Director of Finance in the City of Westlake Village and he became the Duarte City Manager in March 2020. He served as an instructor for the University of Southern California from 2003 to 2021. Dan earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine, and an MPP and Doctorate in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University. **Thomas G. Mauk** began his public service career in 1967 as an Administrative Analyst for the City of Los Angeles. In July 1970 he began work as the Assistant City Manager in the City of Montclair, and in April 1976 he began his tenure as City Manager for the City of Norco. Tom was recruited to serve as the City Manager in the City of Whittier starting in October 1980. He served in Whittier until December 1999. After working as the City Manager in La Habra (December 1999 to June 2002) and taking some time off to recharge his batteries, Tom was appointed County Executive Office for the County of Orange (October 2004-August 2012). Tom earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). In 2009 he received a 40-year ICMA Service Award. Tom served as President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities (1995-1996), and he served on the ICMA Executive Board as an ICMA Regional Vice President (1997-2000). City Manager **Brian Dossey** of the Town of Colma will retire at the end of August 2023. Brian served the city for nearly two



Maywood City Manager **Jennifer E. Vasquez** at a "Proof of Life" lunch. Jennifer began her Maywood tenure in May 2019. She is a former City Manager in South El Monte and Bradbury.

decades. He became City Manager in 2017 after serving as Administrative Services Director. He and his wife are relocating to Lake Tahoe.



SHORTS: *Congratulations to the ICMA Local Government Early Career Service Certificate – Spring 2023 recipients; though there is not one from the State of California. *Retired Palmdale City Manager **Jim Purtee** worked for the City of Simi Valley, including the position of Interim Assistant City Manager. ***Jimmed Medina**, who earned a BA and MPA

from California State University, Fullerton, joined the City of Irvine staff in February 2007 in human resources and became the Director of Human Resources & Innovation in January 2019. *Humboldt County Civil Grand Jurors recommend a full study to determine whether McKinleyville should be an incorporated city. *City of Tracy has an ordinance pending that will allow the dismissal of a city manager with a simple majority vote of the City Council. *Retired Tustin City Manager **Jeffrey C. Parker** served as the private community Laguna Woods Village CEO from February 2019 to February 2023. *Ukiah City Manager **Sage Sangiacomo** has served as City Manager since June 2015, and he has worked for the city since 1998. *New Rio Vista City Manager **Kristina Miller** is a member and Chair of the Board for the California Product Stewardship Council. ***Paulina Morales**, West Covina Assistant City Manager, who is the Acting City Manager following City Manager **David Carmany's** resignation, has worked with the city for 19 years. ***Joseph M. Goeden**, who began his public service career in June 1972 as an Administrative Aide in the City of Montebello, served as the West Sacramento City Manager from June 1989 to April 2002. ***Peter B. Feenstra**, a former City Manager in Bellflower, Artesia, South El Monte and Westminster, and Director of Public Relation for the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum and Public Works Director for West Hollywood, passed away in 2001 at the age of 70. *Palm Springs International Airport is recruiting a Marketing & Communications Specialist. *Lakewood City Manager **Thaddeus McCormack** is the newest city manager to be awarded the high honor of the El Gran Matador Award by the California Contract Cities Association. Stay safe out there!***