

# City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



July 2023

Page | 1

Volume No. 16: Issue No. 13



Oxnard City Manager **Alexander Nguyen**, **Mark T. Morodomi** and retired City Manager **John A. Russo**. Alex was appointed City Manager in Oxnard in July 2018. Mark is the Principal Counsel in the Office of the President of the University of California. John served as City Manager for Irvine, Riverside and Alameda following service as the Oakland City Attorney. Alex has worked for the Cities of Oakland, Alameda and Riverside.

## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2



San Mateo County is part of the San Francisco Bay Area, among the nine counties that border the San Francisco Bay. The county came together in 1856 as part of San Francisco County, one of California's 18 original counties in 1850. The county was officially organized on April 18, 1857. Redwood City is the county seat. The county's 2020 population estimate is 764,442. Alphabetically the second group of cities include East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Millbrae and Pacifica. **Mike Callagy** is the County Executive Officer and Clerk of the Board. Mike earned a JD from Santa Clara University.

## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2



From the 1850s through the 1940s, the area that became East Palo Alto ranches. East Palo Alto was a farming community with many Japanese resident who were forced from the area and many were forcibly moved to relocation centers. They did not return after the war. In the 1950s farms were built in the area. East Palo Alto incorporated in July 1983. The 2020 population is set at 30,034. **Melvin E. Gaines** is the City Manager and **James Colin** is the City Clerk. **Marie McKenzie** is the Administrative Services Director and **Azalea Renfield** is the Assistant to the City Manager. The Finance Director is **Tomohito Oku** and **Maurice Baker** is the Acting Community Services Manager. The Chief of Police is **Jeff Liu**.



East Palo Alto City Manager **Melvin E. Gaines** began his public service career in September 2002 working to assess the City of San Jose Youth Commission. After working as a Health Liaison for the County of Santa Clara (2004-2006) and as a Community Facilitator at Santa Clara University (2004-2006). After a few more positions, including a short time in 2009 as a Policy Analyst for a New Orleans City Council Member, Melvin joined the East Palo Alto city staff as an Administrative Analyst in September 2011. He became a Grants/Special Projects Manager for the East Palo Alto Police Department in May 2012. In 2015 he took a Management Analyst position, and he left the city in November 2016 to take a Principal Management Analyst in the City Manager's Office of the City of Mountain View. Melvin was appointed Assistant Town Manager for the Town of Portola Valley in 2021. He became East Palo Alto City Manager in January 2023. He earned an AA from Foothill College, a BS from Santa Clara University and Masters in urban planning and in public policy from the University of Michigan. Go Blue!

COLANTUONO  
HIGHSMITH  
WHATLEY, PC



[www.chwlaw.us](http://www.chwlaw.us)

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

**CH&W** has offices in Pasadena and Grass Valley in the Sierra Foothills,

**CH&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.

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

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

COLANTUONO | HIGHSMITH | WHATLEY, PC

## California Contract Cities Association

<https://contractcities.org/>



**Dr. Julian Gold** of Beverly Hills, President  
**Jennifer Perez** of Norwalk, Vice President  
**Marcel Rodarte** Executive Director

7315 Studebaker Road, Suite 210  
Cerritos, California 90703

Telephone No. 562-622-5533



(626) 536-2173

[TripepiSmith.com](https://www.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



[www.rawperformancesc.com](http://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](mailto:info@rawperformancesc.com)

## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2



Foster City is one of the United States' safest cities. The city was founded in the 1960s built in an engineered landfill at the edge of San Francisco Bay. The city is named for **T. Jack Foster**, a real

estate entrepreneur who was instrumental in the city's original design. Foster City was incorporated in April 1971. The 2020 population is 33,805. **Stefan Chatwin** is the City Manager and **Priscilla Schaus** is the Communications Director and City Clerk. **Sofia Mangalam** is the Community Development Director and **Derek Schweigart** is the Director of Parks and Recreation. **Julie Paping** is the Administrative Services Director, and the Finance Director is **Edmund Suen**. The Chief of Police is **Tracy Avelar**, and the Public Works Director and City Engineer is **Louis Sun**.



<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 **Avenue**. Although the name is new, the company roots serving government officials go back nearly 100-years.

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



**Fran Mancia** 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.



## 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 Clare  
Rancho Mirage, California 92270

[www.trackdownmanagement.net](http://www.trackdownmanagement.net)

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



[www.brandywinedev.com](http://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



<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

## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2



City Manager **Stefan Chatwin** of Foster City served as an officer in the United States Air Force from 1993 to 1999. After leaving the military, Stefan worked a short time in the private sector and then took the Director of

Community Services position in Ogden, Utah. He started as City Manager for Santaquin City, Utah in May 2004, and he moved to the City Administrator position in Hayden, Idaho in March 2009. Stefan came to California in October 2016 to take the City of Imperial City Manager position. In December 2019 he was hired as the City Manager for the City of Fairfield. Stefan left Fairfield in February 2022 and was hired to start in June 2022 as the City Manager in Foster City. Stefan earned a BA in international relations and Aerospace Studies from Brigham Young University.



<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



**Ryder Todd Smith** and **Saara Lampwalla** of **Tripepi Smith** attended the *Texas City Management Association* Annual Conference in June 2023. Ryder is the **Tripepi Smith** President and Saara acts as the Business Development Manager and Managing Editor for the firm's California local government news publication, PublicCEO. Ryder is a Claremont McKenna College alumnus and Saara earned a BS from California Polytechnic University, Pomona.

## 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

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](mailto:mbarker@pars.org)

**Kevin O'Rourke, Senior Consultant** (707) 249-5356 or  
[kevin@kolgs.com](mailto:kevin@kolgs.com)

**2023 ANNUAL  
ICMA CONFERENCE**

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 4 | AUSTIN / TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Registration and Housing Opens  
Wednesday, June 14

[conference.icma.org](http://conference.icma.org)

Title Sponsor

Missouri nSquare  
RETIREMENT



## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2



Half Moon Bay became an agricultural center to Mission San Francisco de Asis. The town, founded in the 1840s, was known first as San Benito. It was renamed Half Moon Bay in 1874. It is now known for Mavericks, a big-wave surf location. Half Moon Bay incorporated in July 1959. Its 2020 population is 11,795. **Matthew Chidester** is the City Manager and **John Dought** is the Assistant City Manager. **Jessica Blair** is the Communications Director and City Clerk.



OC Fair Board Director **Doug Labelle** (on the far right) posed with fellow Board members and "Olivia," the fair's mascot, to celebrate the opening of the 2023 OC Fair on July 14. The fair will feature a special exhibit called "The Art of Music" which will take fair guests on a nostalgic journey through iconic album cover art integrated with new interactive experiences about how people listen and share music today. Doug is a former Chino Hills City Manager. (L to R): OC Fair Board of Directors members **Barbara Bagneris**, **Nick Kovacevich**, "Olivia", **Sandra Cervantes**, and **Doug La Belle**.

*"That's the name of that tune!"*

--**Baretta** (as played by the late **Robert Blake**)

[**Robert Blake**, an Emmy Award winning performer, passed away on March 9, 2023 at the age of 89.]



## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2



Half Moon Bay City Manager **Matthew Chidester** began his working career as a Teller for the Half Moon Bay branch of Wells Fargo bank in August 1999. After working as a Legal Assistant for two different law firms, he went

to work for the County of San Mateo in October 2003 as an Airport Business Manager. In October 2005 Matthew became a Real Property Agent for the County Manager's Real Property Services Division. In August 2014, he went to work as a Budget and Policy Analyst in the County Manager's Office, and April 2016, Matthew was promoted to Principal Management Analyst. He left the county employment in July 2017 to become the Half Moon Bay Assistant City Manager. Matthew was elevated to the City Manager position in August 2022. He is a Half Moon Bay High School graduate, and he has earned an ABA from the College of San Mateo, a BSBA from Hawaii Pacific University and an MS in management and leadership from Wester Governors University. He has served as a volunteer AYSO soccer coach.



These two former City of Bellflower staff colleagues are known to amazingly hold their age. Both play to a much younger age, **Marlene Tomlin Towns** and **+Glenn "Hutch" Hutchinson**. This picture was taken in July 2012 at a Bellflower Staff Reunion organized by **Theresa Teney (Battaglia-Gutierrez)**.



This is **Nicole Tripepi Smith** of **Tripepi Smith** and her late-father **Frank G. Tripepi**. Nicole inherited her dad's intelligence and work ethic. Frank is a longtime former city manager and an executive with **Willdan**. He lost his battle with cancer last year. His friends and family miss him every day.



### 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](http://www.willdan.com)



<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@ICFAuthority.org](mailto:info@ICFAuthority.org)



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

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

Since 1988, The Olson Company 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**  
President of Community Development  
**Telephone: 562-370-2209**

**The Olson Company**  
562-370-2259  
562-430-4413 Fax  
3010 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 100  
Seal Beach, CA 90740

## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2

What is now the Town of Hillsborough was part of a land grant purchased in 1846 by William Davis Merry Howard, the son of a shipping magnate of Hillsborough, New Hampshire. The town was incorporated in May 1910. Its 2020 population is 11,387. **William Li** and **Mandy Brown** are the Senior Management Analysts in the City Manager's office. **Lisa Natusch** is the City Clerk. **Tony Constantouros** served as the Hillsborough City Manager from December 1994 until December 2012.

After working as an Assistant Bank Examiner in 1972 **Anthony Constantouros** served Contra Costa County as an Administrative Services Assistant (1974-1980). In 1980 Tony went to work as a Personnel Officer for the City of Mountain View (1980-1986). He worked as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Milpitas from October 1986 to November 1994. Tony was hired in December 1994 as the City Manager for the Town of Hillsborough (1994-2012). After leaving the city, Tony served as the General Manager for the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (2017-2020). He worked as the Interim General Manager from May 2022 to February 2023. Tony earned a BS in accounting and finance from the University of California, Berkeley and an MBA from the University of San Francisco. He completed other educational programs at Stanford University, **USC** and Harvard University.

**William Li** worked as a Management Analyst for Monterey County (2009-2012) and as a Management Analyst for the City of San Bruno (2012-2017). William joined the Hillsborough town staff in October 2017. He earned a BS in managerial economics from the University of California, Davis and an MBA from the San Francisco State University, Lam Family College of Business.



## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2

Menlo Park was inscribed on a wooden arch erected over an entrance gate to land owned by Dennis J. Oliver and D.C. McGlynn in 1854. In 1863 the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad began running trains to the area. They named the local station "Menlo Park" for the existing sign. The town grew around the original arch. Menlo Park incorporated in November 1927. The 2020 population is set at 33,780. Menlo Park was home to the late **Craig Nealis**, who served as a Rolling Hills City Manager. **Justin Murphy** serves as the City Manager following the 2022 resignation of former City Manager **Starla Jerome-Robinson**. **Judi Herren** is the Menlo Park City Clerk. **Stephen Stolte** is the Assistant City Manager and **Nikki Nagaya** is the Deputy City Manager. **Brittany Mello** is the Administrative Services Director.

Menlo Park City Manager **Justin Murphy** began his public service career as a planning intern. He worked in intern positions in San Jose, Albany and Palo Alto before becoming a Junior Planner for the City of Alameda in 1993. In November 1993, Justin has hired as a Project Planner for the City of San Leandro. Justin joined the Menlo Park city staff the first time in August 1996 as an Associate Planner (1996-1998). He moved up in the department to Senior Planner (1998-2001); Principal Planner (2001-2004); and Development Services Manager (2004-2013). He was appointed Assistant Community Development Director starting in October 2014, and in January 2016 he became the Menlo Park Public Works Director (2016-2019). Justin took the Deputy City Manager position in May 2019 and served as the Menlo Park Interim City Manager in 2022. He was appointed City Manager in July 2022. Justin earned a BA in urban studies from Stanford University and an MPA from the Harvard University Kennedy School. He has been an ICMA Member since 2019.



Angels' fans, retired Cypress public works executive **Gonzalo Vazquez** and his wife Vickie in Colorado for a game, though they missed the 25-1 Angels win.



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

Founded in 1986 by former City Manager **Larry J. Kosmont**, Chairman and CEO. **2021 CCMF Corporate Partner of the Year.** Larry has been a "Proof of Life" participant.

**Kosmont Companies** serves 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.

The firm is an expert in economic development, real estate consulting, financial analysis and redevelopment dissolution.

**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



<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**



**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](mailto:gary.delaney@usi.com)

**Pam Rodrigues**, GBDS Manager  
[Pamela.rodrigues@usi.com](mailto:Pamela.rodrigues@usi.com)

**USI Insurance Services**

[www.usi.com](http://www.usi.com)

21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 380  
Torrance, CA 90503

## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2



Millbrae got its start as a rancho in 1827 where grazing and agriculture were established. The Sixteen Mile House, an historic restaurant and rest stop on was built in 1872. After a decade of heated debate, the city was incorporated in January 1948. The 2020 population is 23,216. The city manager is **Thomas C. Williams** and the City Clerk is **Elaine Tran**. **Joan Cassman** is the City Attorney. **Mike Sung** is the Director of Finance. **Darcy Smith** is the Community Development Director, **Hannah Moran** is the Millbrae Recreation Services Manager, and **Ron Poppp** is the Director of Public Works.

According to the City's web page, **Thomas C. Williams** has served as the Millbrae City Manager since December 2018. He previously served as the City Manager for the City of Milpitas (August 2005-September 2017). Tom started his working career with a private sector firm in Walnut Creek in 1998. He was hired as the Assistant Director of Community Development for the Town of Los Gatos in 2002, and he became the Planning & Community Development Director for San Bruno in 2003. Tom went to the City of Milpitas in 2005 as the Planning & Community Services Director. He was elevated to the City Manager position in 2006 and worked in that post until 2017. Tom earned a BA and completed some graduate studies at San Diego State University.

Millbrae Director of Finance **Mike Sung** came to work for the city in June 2020. Previously he served as Deputy Director of Finance for the City of Fremont starting in 2013. He joined the Fremont city staff in September 2012 as a Finance Operations Manager. He began his public service career working for the City of San Jose starting in January 2008. Mike is a University of California, Berkeley alumnus.

## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2



Pacifica is the site of the oldest European explorer's discovery of the San Francisco Bay. A hike to Sweeney Ridge on November 4, 1769 revealed the bay, which had been missed by earlier explorers due

to the bay's entrance being shrouded in fog. Pacifica is a well-known surfing destination. The City of Pacifica was incorporated in November 1957. **Kevin Woodhouse** is the City Manager, and **Sarah Coffey** is the City Clerk. **Yulia Carter** is the Assistant City Manager. **Christian Murdock** is the Planning Director, **Lisa Petersen** is the Public Works Director and **Irene Camarena** is the Human Resources Manager.

In April 2006, **Kevin Woodhouse** went to work in the City of Mountain View as the Assistant to the City Manager. He was promoted to Deputy City Manager in September 2010. In July 2013, Kevin took the position of Assistant General Manager for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. He left the District in October 2017 to accept the appointment to the Pacifica City Manager post. Kevin earned a BA from Stanford University and an MPA from San Francisco State University. He also completed the Executive Leadership Program at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley.

Pacifica Assistant City Manager **Yulia Carter** began her public service career in Kansas City, Missouri from 2003 to 2007. She was the Risk Manager for San Carlos (2007-2012), Administrative Service Director in Los Altos Hills (2012-2015), and Finance Director (2015-2018) and Deputy City Manager in 2018 in Half Moon Bay. She was the Assistant City Manager in Sausalito (2018-2021). She joined the Pacifica staff in 2021 and was appointed Assistant City Manager in 2022.



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](http://www.cjpia.org)



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](mailto:jeff@munienvironmental.com)





Compare the historic Queen Mary with a modern cruise ship at a dock in Long Beach.  
(Picture by **Samantha Simpson**)

## NHA | ADVISORS

Financial & Policy Strategies.  
Delivered.

<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](mailto:Craig@NHAadvisors.com)

## City Executives in San Mateo County Cities No. 2

Pacifica Public Works Director Lisa Petersen worked for the City of Campbell starting in June 1996 as a Senior Civil Engineer. In May 2014 she went to work for the Town of Los Gatos as the Assistant Public Works Director and Town Engineer. In July 2020 Lisa moved to the City of Pacifica as the Director of Public Works. Lisa earned a BS in civil engineering from San Diego State University.



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

**HdL** was founded in 1983 by former City Manager **Robert "Bob" Hinderlifer**. **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

"Each day silently affirm that you are the type of person with whom you would like to spend the rest of your life." --**Bob Moawad**, Edge Learning Institute



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

**Wolf & Company Inc.**, founded in 1993, is a housing, financial and insurance advisory firm that provides services to state and local governments, not-for-profit corporations with a special emphasis on:

**Mobile home Park Acquisitions - Program Administration and Oversight Agent Services**

**Mortgage Program Administration Services**

**Mortgage Insurance-Product Research and Development**

**Continuing Disclosure Services, Wolf & Company** is also capable to provide other services, such as:

- First Time Home Buyer Programs
- Lease to Own Programs
- Down Payment Assistance Programs
- Mortgage Portfolio Management & Asset Sales Program Administration & Oversight Agent Services
- Strategic Consulting

Since 1993, **Wolf & Company Inc.**, has helped design, market and structure single family mortgage revenue bond issues, whole loan sales transactions, taxable single family mortgage bond programs with down payment assistance, down payment assistance programs, lease to own programs and is a provider of mortgage bond program administration and oversight agent services. **Wolf & Company Inc.** works nationally and internationally.



**Wolf & Company** Founder **Wesley Wolf**, is a former City Administrator, Wes is a "Proof of Life" participant.

## **Wolf & Company Housing and Mortgage Finance Programs**

In today's standard assembly line, affordable housing, and mortgage marketplace, inevitably someone gets left out. We ensure that you, the client, are provided a housing/mortgage product or program drafted to your individual needs, risk parameters, and geographical specifications. At **Wolf & Company**, housing and mortgage products are designed with attentive care, and uncommon resources, customized specifically to meet these individual needs.

**Wolf & Company** is deeply committed to long-term, successful business relationships based on trust and integrity.

Please contact **Wesley Wolf** at 949-235-0525 or [wesley@wolfco.net](mailto:wesley@wolfco.net) You can view the company website at: [www.Wolfhousing.com](http://www.Wolfhousing.com)



### **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



[www.Wolfhousing.com](http://www.Wolfhousing.com)

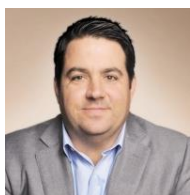
**Wolf & Company Inc.** is a veteran owned company.



[www.ekapr.com](http://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**, **Alex Cherin** and **Kellie Hawkins**. We pride ourselves on providing a unique and strategic perspective on a wide variety of issues.

**EKA** provides lobbying, government affairs, public relations, political campaigns, and crisis management services for a wide variety of clientele. In addition, **EKA** provides professional litigation communication and expert witness services led 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](mailto:matt@ekapr.com).

**Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner



**Picking Up the Pieces:** Registration is now open for the **2023 Annual Conference and Expo of the League of California Cities** in Sacramento, September 20-22, 2023 at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center. The 2023 conference will mark the 125-year milestone anniversary of the annual event. [www.calcities.org/ac](http://www.calcities.org/ac)

Former City Manager **Alex D. McIntyre**, who has served as the San Bruno Interim City Manager, will take the place of former City Manager **Jovan D. Grogan**, who left San Bruno to become the City Manager for **Santa Clara**. After working as a recruiter for Norm Roberts & Associates (1994-1997), Alex served as the Town Administrator in Portola Valley (1997-2000) and Town Manager in Tiburon (2000-2006). He was the Chief Assistant County Administrator for Marin County (2006-2008); City Manager in Lake Oswego, Oregon (2008-2012); Menlo Park (2012-2018); and the City of Ventura (2018-2022). Alex earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). **Carmen Gil** is the new City Manager for the City of Gonzales. Carmen has been working as the Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships for Gonzales since 2020. She served as the Interim City Manager from June 2022 to January 2023. She is a Member of the Board for the Salinas Valley Health Foundation. Carmen earned a BSW in social work from San Jose State University and an MPA from the University of San Francisco. Former Milpitas City Manager **Steve McHarris** filed legal action against the city, claiming grievances and conflict with the City Attorney and certain members of the City Council. He claims that he was coerced when it came to his management of the city staff. Assistant City Manager **Ashwini Kantak** served as Acting City Manager during Steve's absence once his employment agreement was not renewed, and he took a leave of absence due to his father's health issues. **Ned Thomas** was recently appointed Interim City Manager. Ned has served as the Milpitas Planning Director since 2018. **John Keho**, West Hollywood's Director of Planning and Development Services is retiring effective August 1. John served as a planner in Carrollton, Texas (1985-1990) and in Plymouth, Minnesota (1990-1996). He started working in West Hollywood as a planner in January 1997. John rose in the Department to become the Director in February 2019. He has worked for West Hollywood for 26 and a half years. John earned a BA in geography from Texas Tech University and an MUP in urban planning from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certified.



"Everyone appreciates being appreciated. Catch people red-handed in the act of doing something right each day – and praise them for it."

--**Bob Moawad**







**Still More Pieces Picked Up:** City Manager **Armando Vergara** (51) of National City passed away two days after he was appointed to the City Manager position. Armando was appointed on Tuesday, June 20 and passed away on Thursday, June 22. The cause of death has not been

given. Deputy City Manager **Scott Huth** is serving as the Acting City Manager. Armando had been serving as Interim City Manager since late May when City Manager **Brad Raulston** left his position. Armando previously worked as the Director of Community Development and Deputy City Manager. With Antioch City Manager **Cornelius "Con" Johnson** on administrative leave, **Forrest Ebbs** has been serving as Acting City Manager. Forrest worked for the City of Antioch as the Community Development Director for more than 8 years before he was appointed to fill in for Con. Forrest recently was hired by the City of Modesto to serve as a Deputy City Manager. Antioch Economic Development Director **Kwame Reed** is the new Interim City Manager. He previously served as a Senior Analyst in the City of Brentwood (2004-2018) before coming to Antioch as the Economic Development Director in 2018. Kwame earned a BS in city and regional planning from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Former Montebello City Manager **René Bobadilla** is the new City Manager for the City of Santa Fe Springs. He was once in the news in 2021 for turning down the City Manager position for Santa Monica. René served as a civil engineer for the County of Los Angeles from January 1998 until January 2008. He joined the City of El Monte staff in 2008 as a Public Works Maintenance Superintendent. After moving up to Community Development and Deputy City Manager, René was appointed Interim City Manager in October 2009 and El Monte City Manager in January 2010. René served as City Manager in Huntington Park (2012-2014), and Pico Rivera (2014-2018). He became the Montebello City Manager in July 2019. René earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. In 2018 he received a 20-year ICMA Service Award. Hesperia Assistant City Manager **Rachel Molina** is the new Hesperia City Manager. Rachel joined the Hesperia city staff in February 2007 as a Senior Office Assistant in the City Manager's Office. She has served as Public Information Officer, Deputy City Manager and Assistant City Manager. Rachel earned a BA in organizational leadership from Chapman University and an MPA from California Baptist University. Rachel succeeds City Manager **Nils Bentsen**, who is retiring. **Whitney McDonald** is the new Assistant City Manager for the City of San Luis Obispo starting August 14. Whitney has been serving as the City Manager for the City of Arroyo



Retired City Manager **Dennis Courtemarche** and his wife Kathy.

Dennis celebrated a milestone birth last month. He worked as a City Manager in Seal Beach and Pico Rivera.

Grande for nearly 3 years. She joined the Arroyo Grande staff in 2020 as the Community Development Director. Before she joined the city, Whitney was a Senior Attorney for **Richards Watson and Gershon (RWG)**. She 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). Whitney is succeeding Assistant City Manager **Shelly Stanwyck**, who is retiring after working for the city 23 years. Belmont City Manager **Afshin Oskoui** revealed that the city's new Assistant City Manager is **Kathy**



**Kleinbaum**. Kathy has been working as the Assistant City Manager in the City of San Mateo. She joined the San Mateo city staff in October 2013 as a Senior Management Analyst in the city manager's office. She advanced to Deputy City Manager in October 2016 and became the San Mateo Assistant City Manager in January 2019. Previous to working in San Mateo, Kathy was a Senior Project Manager for the Oakland Redevelopment Agency (June 2001-November 2011) and the Economic Development Manager for the City of Los Altos (December 2011-October 2013). Kathy earned a BS in Earth systems from Stanford University and a Masters in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley. **Steven Spedowski** is the next City Manager for the City of San Ramon. He has worked for the city for more than 20 years and has been working as the Interim City Manager. Steven joined the San Ramon city staff in 2001 as a Transportation Specialist. He worked for some time in the Public Works Department and in 2019 Steven became the Deputy City Manager and worked as the Economic Development Director, Public Information Officer and Legislative Liaison. Steve succeeds former City Manager **Joe Gorton**, who retired in January 2023. Steven previously served as an elected member of the Livermore City Council (2014-2018). He earned a BS in criminal justice administration and an MPA from California State University, East Bay.



**Still More Pieces Picked Up:** Former Martinez City Manager **Eric Figueroa** has taken a position as a Local Government Management Consultant. He served as the City Manager in Martinez from April 2019 to January 2023. Prior to his service in Martinez, Eric

worked as the Assistant City Manager in San Ramon (2014-2019). Eric previously was a Public Affairs Manager for the League of California Cities (2006-2014) and the Assistant to the City Manager in San Leandro (2001-2006). Eric earned a BA in government and economics from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business. Eric can be contacted at (510) 325-0072. **Jon France**, a former management official with the Sierra Army Depot in Susanville, is the new Interim City Manager in the City of Baker. Jon is replacing **Jonathan Cannon**, who has served as the Baker City Manager since January 2021. Jon previously worked as an Army civilian senior logistician and project manager. He worked for about 18 years in an Army depot in North Carolina. **Eddie Courtemarche** is the new Principal at McAuliffe Middle School in Los Alamitos. Eddie is the son of retired City Manager **Dennis Courtemarche**. Eddie is a very popular high school basketball coach. He also held teaching positions in government, economics and U.S. history. Eddie earned a BA from Claremont McKenna College and a Master's in education from National University. He is succeeding **Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright, Ed.D.** as he moves up in the school district.

**SHORTS:** **\*Yulia Carter**, the Assistant City Manager for the City of Pacifica since June 2022, served as the Finance Director for the City of Half Moon Bay from April 2015 and May 2017. **\*Menlo Park** Assistant City Manager **Stephen Stolle**, who was previously the Assistant City Manager for Daly City (2020-2022), was a Field Researcher for Amigos de las Aves in Punta Banco, Costa Rica for two months in 2004. **\*Retired City Manager Bill Manis** and his wife have relocated to the State of Idaho. **\*Michele Richards** is the Chief Executive Officer of the OC Fair. **\*Kyria Martinez** is the new County Administrative Officer for the County of King. **\*Folsom** City Manager **Elaine L. Anderson**, who previously worked for the City of Sacramento, became the Folsom City Manager in August 2018. **\*Gregory D. Korduner**, one of the original "Proof of Life" founders, received a 35-year ICMA Service Award in 2010. **\*Former Milpitas** City Manager **Steve McHarris** filed legal action against the city claiming a hostile work environment. **\*Following** the retirement of La Verne City Manager **Bob Russi** in August 2022, veteran retired city manager **Jesse Duff** served as Interim City Manager in La Verne. **\*Bill R. Manis**, a former city manager in Rosemead (2016-2017)



and Upland in 2018, and President and CEO for the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership (2019-2021), began his public service working in economic development for the City of Cerritos (1986-2001). **\*Sutter Creek** is recruiting a new City Manager and the application deadline is July 7. **\*Grapevine** news indicates that retired Indio and Claremont City Manager **Glenn Southard** is having knee surgery. **\*EKA** Partner **Kellie Hawkins**, a CORO Health Leadership Program graduate, served as the Chief Operating Officer for the National Health Foundation (NHF) prior to joining the **EKA** team. **\*Kathi Heimann**, San Ramon Director of Parks & Community Services, worked as a Program Manager from the City of San Leandro (1996-2000) and earned a BA in theater from California State University, Fullerton. **\*Kyria Martinez** is the new County Administrative Officer for the County of King. **\*Michael Busch**, the Chief Executive Officer of Urban Futures Inc., served as the Management Services Director for the City of Indio (2005-2007) and he was a member of the Adjunct Faculty for the School of Policy, Planning and Development at the University of Southern California (**USC**) (2010-2012). **\*Greg Sandlund**, the Planning Director for the City of Sacramento, served in the Peace Corps in Suriname as a Rural Community Education Volunteer (June 2001-July 2003). **\*Anil Comelo** worked as the Richmond Director of Human Resources prior to starting as the City Manager in the City of St. Helena in July 2022. **\*Richmond** Deputy City Manager **Shasa Curl** previously worked as the Community & Economic Development Director in Richmond. **\*New Belmont** Assistant City Manager **Kathy Kleinbaum** is a self-described "...soccer mom" and has enjoyed living in the City of Burlingame. **\*Durant**, Oklahoma, with a population of 18,589 in Bryan County about three hours southerly of Broken Arrow, is looking for its sixth city manager in the past ten years since the dismissal of City Manager **Lisa Taylor**. **\*Tim Potanovic**, a 16-year veteran of the Tehama County Environmental Health Director, is the new Interim City Manager for the City of Corning. **\*San Mateo** Community Development Director **Christina Horrisberger** is the Interim City Manager replacing retiring City Manager **Drew Corbett** in July. \*\*\*