

# City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



September 2023

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Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 15



Digging out from the damage caused by *Tropical Storm Hilary* on Frank Sinatra Drive in Rancho Mirage. The street was completely closed on August 21, 2023, due to flash flood water and mud.

## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange




Orange County, the O.C., has a larger population than 19 States and the District of Columbia. The April 2020 population estimate shows the number of residents at 3,186,989. The county was incorporated in August 1889 and the county seat is the City of Santa Ana. In November 1776, *Mission San Juan Capistrano* became the first permanent European settlement in the area. There are now 34-incorporated cities in the county where avocados and citrus fruit once grew in large orchards. This issue takes a peek at the professionals who serve the cities of the first six cities in the county listed alphabetically: Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa and Cypress.

Jack & Susan Simpson, 10 Claret, Rancho Mirage, California 92270

Jack's Cell | 562/896-5424; Susan's Cell | 310/418-1035

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## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange



Aliso Viejo was the first planned community in California to plan a balance between the projected local work force and the number of projected jobs within its borders. A 900-acre business park, Pacific Park, and the town center, was expected to provide more than 22,000 jobs in order to encourage live-and-work opportunities. The Aliso Viejo Community Association (AVCA) was established to manage local parks and community open space. It was the first community-wide association of its kind in California. The city incorporated in July 2001. The 2020 estimated population is set at 52,176. **David Doyle** is the City Manager and **Mitzi Ortiz** is the City Clerk and Director of Government Services. **Ann Eifert** is the Director of Financial Services and City Treasurer, and **So Kim** is the Community Development Director. Shaun Pelletier is the Aliso Viejo Public Works Director and City Engineer, and Lizzy Mendoza is the Recreation & Community Services Manager.



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

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## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange



City Manager **David Doyle**, one of the good guys, is a former Assistant City Manager for the City of Diamond Bar and came to Aliso Viejo as city manager in 2013. David began his public service career in March 1992 as an

Administrative Intern in Manhattan Beach. He was hired as a Management Assistant in Manhattan Beach in August 1993; became a Management Analyst in September 1994; Assistant to the City Manager in September 1995; and Deputy City Manager in January 2000. David left Manhattan Beach to accept the appointment to the Deputy City Manager position in Diamond Bar in July 2000. David was elevated to Assistant City Manager in July 2005. He was hired as the Aliso Viejo City Manager in 2013. David earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. In 2018 he received a 25-year ICMA Service Award.



**So Kim** joined the Aliso Viejo city staff in August 2022 as Community Development Director. She began her public service career in December 2004 as a Planning Technician for the City of Hermosa

Beach, and she took a similar post with Rancho Palos Verdes in August 2005. So moved up in the Rancho Palos Verdes staff to Assistant Planner (2006-2011), Associate Planner (2011-2014), Senior Planner (2014-2017) and Deputy Director and Planning Manager (2017-2019). In September 2019, So took the Senior Principal Planner position in the City of Laguna Beach and she was promoted to Assistant Director of Community Development in April 2021. So earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



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

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**Kevin O'Rourke, Senior Consultant**

(707) 249-5356 or [kevin@kolgs.com](mailto:kevin@kolgs.com)

## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange



Anaheim has effectively transformed from wine making, orange groves and smudge pots to a beautiful new urban area. Disneyland, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, the NHL Anaheim Ducks and more have brought worldwide attention to the community. Anaheim has the largest population in Orange County at a 2020 figure of 346,824. The city was founded in 1857 and incorporated as the 2<sup>nd</sup> city in Los Angeles County in March 1876. Orange County broke off from L.A. County in 1889. **James Vanderpool** has served as the Anaheim City Manager since September 2020, and **Theresa Bass** is the City Clerk. **Deborah Moreno** is the Anaheim Finance Director and City Treasurer, and **Jean Ibalio** is the Deputy Finance Director. **Greg Garcia** is an Anaheim Assistant City Manager.

Though some are calling for his dismissal due to issues regarding the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce, **James P. Vanderpool** is the Anaheim City Manager. He has been with Anaheim since September 2020 taking over for Interim City Manager **Greg Garcia**, who filled in following the dismissal of City Manager **Chris Zapata**. Jim previously worked for the City of Buena Park for 25 years, serving as City Manager from 2012 to 2020. He served Buena Park as Deputy City Manager and in the city's Public Works Department. He began his public service career as an Intern with the City of Mission Viejo (1993-1995). Jim graduated from Servite High School and earned a BA in public administration from Purdue University and a Master's in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

"People are in greater need of your praise when they try and fail, than when they try and succeed."

---**Bob Moawad**

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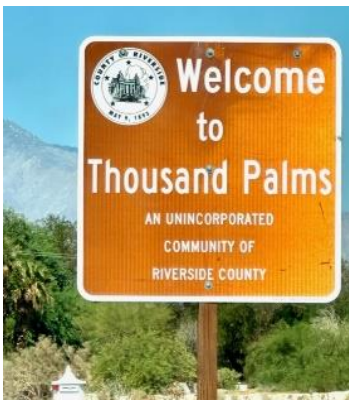
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Bordering Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert, the 2010 census found the population to be 7,715. The postal service was established in 1915.

## 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



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Trackdown Management**  
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## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange

Following the exit of City Manager **Chris Zapata**, who serves as the City Manager for the City of Sausalito, Anaheim Assistant City Manager **Greg Garcia** served as Interim City Manager. Greg has served as Deputy or Assistant City Manager since 2012. He has played a leading role in the city's daily operations, including the city's emergency response to the coronavirus (COVID). Greg's father **Ernie Garcia** is a highly thought of retired City Manager for the City Norwalk. Greg is a graduate of Servite High School in Anaheim. He earned a BA in political science from the University of California, San Diego, and he earned a law degree from University of Notre Dame Law School.

**Deborah Moreno** is the Anaheim Finance Director and City Treasurer. After beginning her working career in the private sector in January 1990, Debbie joined the Anaheim city staff in February 2001 as a Principal Accountant, and in June 2005 she was promoted to Financial Accounting Manager. In January 2006, Debbie took the Finance Director position in the City of La Palma. She returned to Anaheim as the Deputy Finance Director in August 2007. Debbie was appointed Anaheim Finance Director in July 2012. She earned a BS in accounting from California State University, San Bernardino.



**Dominique Samario**, Murrieta, President



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**Debbie Smith**, Executive Director

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Riverside County Sheriff **Chad Bianco** has a Palm Desert office at 73705 Gerald Ford Drive. The Station Commander is Captain **Dean Agnoletto**. Contract law enforcement services are provided to Indian Wells, Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage, as well as the Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

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## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange

Spanish visited the Brea area in 1769. The area came to be a center of crude oil production and later by citrus production. Today Brea is a significant retail center with the Brea Mall and downtown area. The City of Brea incorporated in February 1917 and the 2020 population is set at 47,325. **Bill Gallardo** is the City Manager and **Lillian Harris-Neal** is the City Clerk, and **Kristin Griffith** is the Administrative Services Director. **Jason Killebrew** is the Brea Community Development Director, and **Chris Emeterio** is the Community Services Director and Assistant City Manager. **Michael Ho** is the Public Works Director. **Marty Simonoff** is a well-known Brea official.

**William Gallardo** joined the Brea city staff in April 1990 as a Management Analyst. In September of that year, Bill became the city's Revenue Manager in the Finance Department (September 1990-August 2004). In August 2004, Bill became the city of Brea Finance Director, and he was promoted to Assistant City Manager and Administrative Services Director in April 2010. Bill was selected to serve as the City Manager in July 2015. He has worked for Brea for more than 33 years. Bill earned a BS in business from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona where he was an active member of the Delta Delta Fraternity. In 2020 Bill received a 30-year ICMA Service Award.

**Wayne D. Wedin** served as the Brea City Manager from August 1968 until February 1983. Wayne began his career as an Administrative Intern in Pasadena in 1960 and in Santa Fe Springs in 1961. Wayne was hired to serve as Administrative Assistant and City Treasurer in Santa Fe Springs in June 1962. He became the Assistant to the City Manager (1964-1965) and the Assistant City Manager in July 1965 where he worked until leaving for Brea. Wayne earned a BA and MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). He received a 20-year ICMA Service Award in 1988. Wayne continues to be a "Proof of Life" member.

## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange



**Tim O'Donnell** served as the Brea City Manager for 15 years (July 2000-July 2015). Tim began his public management career in November 1976 as an Administrative Assistant for the City of

Bellflower where he worked with former City Administrator **John Jameson**. Tim became the Human Services Manager for the City of Garden Grove in 1979 and he worked there until January 1983 when he became the Assistant City Manager in the City of Signal Hill. Tim moved to the Assistant City Manager position in Brea in September 1990 and became City Manager in 2000. Tim earned a BA from California State University, Los Angeles. He received a 35-year ICMA Service Award in 2011.



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

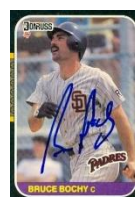
Fran is a member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). Fran was elected a University of California Alumni Regent in 2016.



**Natalie Salazar** of Los Angeles Crime Stoppers at the City of Rosemead's National Night Out with Temple Sheriff's Station Captain **Jorge Meza**.



Buena Park is on land that formerly was part of the Rancho Los Coyotes. Rule of the area moved from the Spanish to the authority of Mexico in 1822. The area went to the United States in 1848 as part of California that was granted statehood in 1850. The Buena Park area has transitioned primarily to residential from the dairy, wine and citrus industries. Orange groves and smudge pots have been replaced with homes and a few tourist attractions. Buena Park is home to Knott's Berry Farm. The city incorporated in January 1953. The 2020 population is set at 84,034. **Aaron France** is the City Manager and **Adria M. Jimenez** is the City Clerk. The Community Development Director is **Matt Foulkes**, and **Jim Box** is the Community Development Director Service Director. **Sung Hyun** is the Buena Park Finance Director. Assistant City Manager **Eddie Fenton** provides Human Resources administration, and **Mina Mikhael** is the Director of Public Works and City Engineer.



"If you're not prepared, it's not pressure you feel, it's fear!"

--**Bruce Bouchy**



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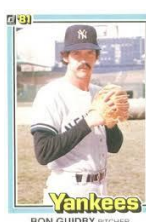
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## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange

**Aaron France** became the City of Buena Park City Manager on March 9, 2021 when he was officially sworn in. Aaron began his tenure with Buena Park in 2005, as an Administrative Analyst in the City Manager's office. In 2012, he became the Assistant to the City Manager. Aaron was promoted to Deputy City Manager in 2017 and he became Assistant City Manager in 2018. He earned a BA in communications and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton. Aaron succeeded City Manager **Jim Vanderpool**, who left to become the Anaheim City Manager.

Buena Park Assistant City Manager **Eddie Fenton** began his public service career as a Human Resources Assistant for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority in November 1999. He worked as a Human Resources Analyst in Santa Monica (2002-2005) and as a Senior Human Resources Analyst in Inglewood (2005-2007). Eddie was self-employed in 2006-2008 and he joined the Buena Park city staff in April 2007 as the Human Resources Manager. He became the Director of Human Resources in July 2012, and in September 2020, Eddie was appointed Assistant City Manager, while retaining the Human Resources Director duties. Eddie is a history alumnus of the University of California, Los Angeles ([UCLA](https://www.ucla.edu/)).

Former Buena Park City Manager **Kevin O'Rourke** (1985-1997) is a past President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities (1997-1998), and he was a Regional Vice President on the Executive Board of ICMA.



"I know it's a hard job, but I have a lot of help. The guys that are in here, they're all going to help me. They're not going to overload me and let me sink."

--Ron "Gator" Guidry



Water features at the Cathedral City Civic Center.

## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange



Costa Mesa gained much of its population during and following World War II due to the nearby Santa Ana Army Air Base. Costa Mesa is the home of the Orange County Fairgrounds and Expo.

Former city manager **Doug Labelle** serves on the fair board of directors. Adjacent to the fairgrounds is the Pacific Amphitheatre. The city is a general law city, and was incorporated in June 1953. It has a 2020 population of 111,918. **Lori Ann Farrell Harrison** is the City Manager and **Brenda Green** is the City Clerk. **Alma Reyes** is the Deputy City Manager and Fatima Gutierrez-Cueva is the Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

**Lori Ann Farrell Harrison** was named to the Costa Mesa City Manager position following a four-month nationwide executive recruitment search. She previously served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Huntington Beach starting in 2017. Lori Ann worked as the Huntington Beach Chief Financial Officer for some seven years. Before her Huntington Beach experience, Lori Ann was the City Controller (2006-2008) and the Chief Financial Officer (2007-2010) for the City of Long Beach. She also served as the Director of Finance for the City of Lomita (2003-2006). Before coming to California, she worked for the State of New York. Lori Ann earned a BA in anthropology and psychology from Barnard College of Columbia University and an MPA from Columbia University. She is fluent in Spanish and English.

Costa Mesa Deputy City Manager **Alma Reyes** worked as an Administrative Analyst in the City of Hawaiian Gardens (2001-2011) prior to joining the Costa Mesa city staff starting as a Waste Management & Recycling Coordinator. She worked her way up to the Deputy City Manager appointment in April 2023. She earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



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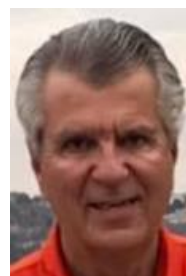
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**Anthony Gonsalves** is a long time Member of the CCMF Board of Trustees

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## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange



Cypress was originally incorporated in 1956 with the name Dairy City, supported by local dairy farmers in an effort to protect their land from developers. Neighboring cities of Dairy Valley, which is Cerritos, and Dairyland, which is La Palma took similar actions. Following the end of World War II, the property became too valuable to farm and the dairies gradually relocated and housing took their place. The city name was changed in 1957. The name was derived from *Cypress Elementary School*, which was originally built in 1895. The late City Manager **Darrell Essex** worked for the city 31-years becoming City Manager in 1962. Darrell passed away in 2019 at the age of 87. **Peter Grant** is the current City Manager and **Alisha Farnell** is the City Clerk. **Alicia Velasco** is the Planning Director. **Matt Burton** is the Finance Director.

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**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.

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## Executive Leadership in Six Cities of the County of Orange



**Peter Grant** served as a Principal Analyst for the City of Huntington Beach starting in January 2000. He then went to work for **The Olson Company** in January 2005. Peter returned to city government in October 2009 as a Strategic

Business Plan Administrator for the City of Irvine. Peter was appointed Assistant City Manager for the City of Redondo Beach starting in December 2010. He was recruited to serve as the Cypress City Manager in July 2014. Peter earned a BA in political science from the University of California, Riverside and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



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**Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner

Cypress Director of Finance & Administrative Services is **Matt J. Burton**, and **Donna Mullally** is the Assistant Director.

**Douglas Dancs, P.E.**, is the Director of Public Works.

Former Director of Recreation & Community Services **Cameron Harding** left Cypress in May 2021 to be the Director of Community Services for the City of Redondo Beach. He previously served as the Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Lomita (September 2012-November 2018). He earned a BA from Western Washington University and a Master's in recreation administration from California State University, Long Beach.





Independent Cities Finance Authority provides local government, nonprofits and other agencies the clout they need to finance important projects that help address California's housing crisis.

Since its inception in 1988, ICFA has helped fund more than \$500 million in critical community projects. Member cities pay no enrollment fees to join or ongoing dues to participate. All underwriting and operational costs are borne by the beneficiaries of the funds.

The ICFA offers member cities many benefits. Through bond funding, the Authority helps create homebuyer assistance programs, generates funds for capital improvements and aids communities in economic development. It is important to learn all about **The Authority** and the benefits it offers.

**Independent Cities Financing Authority is an unaffiliated joint powers authority with the ability to help cities achieve their goals.**

With bonding arranged through The Authority, local governments can help finance the purchase of single-family and multi-family residential properties, including manufactured home communities, to provide new, more affordable housing alternatives.

Ownership and operation of these alternative housing solutions can be vested in local nonprofit.

The Authority also helps fund a variety of capital improvements for municipalities, schools, special districts, and Mello-Roos facilities, as well as projects impacting the economic development of a community.

**Manufactured Home Communities:** In today's troubled housing market, the need for more affordable housing solutions is clear. Learn how The Authority has helped member cities and local non-profit organizations acquire and manage manufactured home communities. [More...](#)

**Bond Funding Programs:** The Authority is empowered to purchase multi-family residential projects, including manufactured home communities. Find out how your community can address the need for affordable local housing through ICFA's innovative funding programs.

**Capital Improvement Programs:** Now cities can fund capital projects and equipment acquisition at a lower cost with help from The Authority. Working in cooperation with major banks, ICFA can provide funding at favorable rates. Find out more here.

The Authority can help communities create the infrastructure and acquire the equipment needed to create a better quality of life for their citizens.

Working in partnership with major financial institutions The Authority can provide bond funding and equipment leasing for major projects for municipalities, schools, special districts and local agencies, including Mello-Roos.

For information on how The Authority can tailor a financing package to meet your specific needs, contact us today!



For more information, please contact:

**Independent Cities Finance Authority**

**Ms. Debbie Smith**

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In partnership with experienced energy solutions providers, ICFA created a Municipal Street Lighting Program to help cities economize by taking control of their lighting utilities.



**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.

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**Picking Up the Pieces:** Benicia Interim City Manager **Mario Guillani** since March 2023 after serving as Deputy City Manager (February 2021-March 2023) is the new Benicia City Manager. Mario joined the Benicia city staff as a Recreation Coordinator in February 1997. He became a Management Analyst in

September 2006 and then served as Economic Development Manager (2010-2021). Mario earned a BA and JD from the University of California, Davis. Mario served on the Board of Education for the Benicia Unified School District (December 2001-December 2005), and he is a Rotary International Past President. He is not a member of ICMA. **Seimone Jurjis**, the Newport Beach Community Development Director since 2017, is the city's new Assistant City Manager. He joins the city's other Newport Beach Assistant City Manager **Tara Finnigan**. Seimone first joined the city staff in 2011. Previous Assistant City Manager **Carol Jacobs** left the city for a job in the private sector in October 2021.



**2023  
ICMA ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 4  
AUSTIN / TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Lodi City Manager **Steve Schwabauer** will leave the city in October to take a General Manager position with a water district. Steve was appointed City Manager for the City of Lodi in May 2014 after working as the Lodi City Attorney for ten years. He earned a BA from the University of California, Davis and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He practiced law with a private firm in Stockton and he came to Lodi in 1999 as Deputy City Attorney and he was named City Attorney in 2004. Steve took the City Manager position in 2014 when City Manager **Rad Bartram** left to be the City Manager in Chino Hills. Former Simi Valley City Manager and Ventura County Chief Executive Officer **Martin L. "Lin" Koester** passed away on July 9, 2018, after a three-year battle with cancer. Lin was a highly skilled and humble public service executive. After serving 6-months as an Interim City Manager in 1978 he was hired as the Simi Valley City Manager. Lin was hired as the Ventura County CEO in 1995 when CEO **Richard Wittenberg** left to work for Santa Clara County. He retired in 1999. He lived with his wife Suzi in their home in Pismo Beach. Lin earned a BS in civil engineering from Oregon State University and an MPA from Pepperdine University. **Meghan McKelvey** has worked as the Department and Membership Services Manager for the League of California Cities since June 2014. She joined the League staff in February 2008 as a Legislative Assistant, and she was promoted to Policy Analyst in December 2010. Meghan has worked closely with the City Managers' Department. She received an Outstanding Service Award from the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) in 2018. Meghan earned a BA from California State University, Bakersfield and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). Former Downey Deputy City Manager (2020-2022) and Moreno Valley Assistant City Manager (2022), **Aldo Schindler** has served as the City Manager for the City of Artesia since November 2022. Aldo began his public service career in 2000 as a Redevelopment Project Officer for the City of Long Beach (2000-2009). He worked as the Director of Community Development in Bell Gardens (2009-2011) and Whittier (2011-2014). Aldo earned a BA in political science and government from San Diego State University and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.

"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**





**More Pieces Picked Up:** Members of the South Tahoe Public Utilities District Board appointed **Paul Hughes** as the General Manager of the District. Paul served the District as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the past 15 years. Paul previously worked in finance with the Cities of Troutdale and Brookings,

Oregon, the Modoc Medical Center and the California State Association of Counties. We salute former city managers **Bud and Denise Ovrom**. These two veteran public management professionals served as the 2023 City Managers in Residence for **USC** Price, hosted by the **USC** City/County Management Fellowship and sponsored by **Hdl Companies**. The program provides students of the **USC** Sol Price School of Public Policy to hear real life experiences and a rare learning opportunity. Veteran El Segundo City Manager **Darrell George** is proud to talk about his city's improvement in its credit issuer rating by Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings. The El Segundo rating has been raised from AA+ to AAA, the highest rating a municipality can be assigned. This upgraded rating is a major contributing factor in continuing the city's reputation as a business-friendly city, according to Darrell. **Joe Perez**, the Community Development Director for the City of Jurupa Valley since November 2020, began his public service career in the City of La Habra Heights in August 1991. He served there as Assistant City Manager and City Manager, leaving La Habra Heights in October 1994 to be the La Puente Assistant City Manager. Joe left La Puente in August 1995 to become the Director of Community Services & Recreation for the City of Paramount, where he worked for nearly 17 years. In September 2012, Joe became the Community Development Director for the City of Bell and in April 2015 he took a similar position with the City of Lawndale. Joe left Lawndale in January 2016 and went to work as the South Gate Community Development Director, leaving that post in 2020 to join the Jurupa Valley staff. Joe is a Lakewood High School graduate and earned a BA in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**). Salinas City Manager **Steven S. Carrigan** is a finalist for the San Bernardino City Manager position. Steve was previously the City Manager for the City of Merced starting in 2016. He was dismissed from Merced in 2020. Before that he worked as the Los Banos City Manager, and as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Sanger (December 2011-April 2013). Steve also worked for the Yuba Sutter Economic Development Corporation (2009); Stockton (2001-2009) and the City of Lathrop (2009-2011). Steve earned a BA from the University of Arizona. Pinole City Manager **Andrew J. Murray** resigned from his position. He began his Pinole tenure in January 2020. He was the Assistant City Manager in Pleasant Hill (2013-2020) and Oakland Assistant to the City Administrator (2012-2013).

## Letters and Notes from Readers:

An interesting edition of the newsletter (August 2023). Solid job of covering numerous and geographically diverse municipal appointees. Nothing else like it on the news racks.

--Jim Barisic

Hope you are feeling better. Enjoyed the current issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown, except the picture of Bob Dickey. Bob must photoshop himself in all these travel photos. I do not know how he travels so much. He must enjoy it. I am ok staying in the states and home. I think you should hire Bob to wear a Trackdown T-shirt.

--Wesley Wolf

Wolf & Company Inc

[Wesley@wolfco.net](mailto:Wesley@wolfco.net)

I didn't see anything in the newsletter so I am not sure if you were aware that Fred Sorsabal (my former boss in Mission Viejo) passed away last month. He hired me in Mission Viejo as his assistant in 1990.

--Dan Joseph

Note: Trackdown apologizes for this oversight.



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**Frederick Sorsabal**

(July, 1937 – July 22, 2023)



**Frederick "Fred" Sorsabal**, 85, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho passed away on Friday, July 22, 2023.

Fred began his public service career as an Administrative Intern in the City of Anaheim in October 1958. Following the completion of the intern program, Fred was hired as an Anaheim Administrative Aide in July 1959, and he was promoted to Administrative Analyst in July 1960. After serving as the Assistant to the City Manager from July 1962 until September 1967, when he took the Assistant City Manager position in San Bernardino in September 1967. In September 1968, Fred became the Assistant City Manager in the City of Costa Mesa, where he served until August 1970 when he was appointed to the Costa Mesa City Manager post. Fred left Costa Mesa in November 1985. He became the El Segundo City Manager in January 1988 and he started as the Mission Viejo City Manager position in April 1989. Fred retired from Mission Viejo in January 1994. Fred earned an AA from Fullerton Junior College and a BA from California State University, Fullerton. In 1992 Fred received a 30-year ICMA Service Award. He participated in the ICMA exchange program to the United Kingdom in 1981. Fred and his wife Marlene would have celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. Longtime Mission Viejo City Manager **Dan Joseph** was originally hired to an executive staff position in 1990 by City Manager **Fred Sorsabal**.



**Still More Pieces Picked Up:** **Rekha Nayar** went to work for the City of Vallejo as Deputy Finance Director in October 2016. She is a California CPA and she earned a BA in economics and statistics from Fergusson College and an MBA from Savitribai Phule Pune University. Rekha was appointed

Interim Finance Director in January 2019 and she became the Director of Finance in March 2019.

**SHORTS:** \*Trackdown congratulations to the El Segundo 12 and Under All-Star Little League team for winning the Little League World Series Championship. \***John Berchtold**, a former Blue Lake City Manager (2010-2016) who received a 40-year ICMA Service Award in 2014, traveled from his Michigan home to work with the City of Jackson with their strategic planning. \*Former South



**Presley Guarino** patiently awaits her Southwest Airlines flight at the Palm Spring International Airport. (PSP).

Gate Administrative Analyst (1994-2002); Orange County Transportation Authority Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board (2002-2004) and Hawaiian Gardens Assistant to the City Administrator; **Rita Gallardo Good** is a Senior Associate Vice President for California State University, Sacramento. \*Five Cities Fire Authority Fire Chief **Steve Lieberman** will retire in December 2023. \*After working in Fullerton for a dozen years **Nicole Bernard** was hired to serve as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Tustin starting in January 2020. \*It was reported August 18 that Anaheim Mayor **Ashleigh Aitken** calls for the resignation of any City Hall leader involved in planning a mock council meeting to polish their pitch for a development agreement for the city's stadium to the Angels' baseball organization. \*City Manager **Inge Elmes** of the City of California City previously worked with the California City Chamber of Commerce. \*Monterey Assistant City Manager **Nat Rojanasathira**, who worked in the Town of Danville for nearly 13-years, finds himself on the cover of the August 2023 issue of PM Magazine that includes his article on emergency preparedness. \***James W. Buell** served as the Stanton City Manager starting in February 1986 after working as the City Manager for Greenfield (1984-1986) and Watsonville (1978-1981). \***Jeffrey McIlwain**, formerly of Cerritos and now a San Diego resident, is on the faculty of San Diego State University's Public Administration program. \*Moorpark Assistant City Manager **PJ Gagajena** is a member of the Advisory Council for the Master of Public Policy and Administration for California Lutheran University. \*Former **Willdan** Energy Solutions Vice President **Katie Wilson**, a former City Manager, earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach, and is serving as a Vice President for TRC Companies, Inc. \***Sandra L. Kerl**, San Diego County Water Authority General Manager since 2019, retired this month after 41-years of public service. \*Bellflower Assistant Planner **Eliana Muñoz** since July 2017 worked as a Planning Intern in Norwalk and Pico Rivera before taking a Youth Employment Program Coordinator post in Hawaiian Gardens. \*\*\*





## “Proof of Life”

Twenty (20) veteran public managers gathered on Thursday, June 29, 2023 for a “Proof of Life” lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. They included:

**Greg Korduner**, retired Huntington Park City Manager. Greg is a Founder of the “Proof of Life” function program. He also served as City Manager in El Monte and South El Monte. He also worked for Norwalk and Artesia. He served as Interim City Manager in Los Alamitos. Greg is an avid golfer and sports fan. He is an Angels and Dodgers fan.

**Wayne Wedin**, who served as the Brea City Manager for 15-years. Wayne also served as a Council Member and Mayor in Brea. He is the President of Wedin Enterprise, Inc., a financial consulting firm.

**Ron Molendyk**, former Lake Elsinore City Manager and Interim City Manager in Perris, who took delivery of a 2023 Corvette C8 Stingray on September 25, 2022. Ron is a past President of the Orange County Corvette Club.

**Mike Egan**, a retired Norwalk City Manager and longtime Bellflower City Manager. Mike recently served as the Interim City Manager in Artesia. He is an enthusiastic **USC** booster.

**Jim DeStefano**, retired Diamond Bar City Manager. Jim was Community Development Director for Chino Hills when he was appointed Diamond Bar City Manager in July 2006. He retired in 2017.

**Don Wagner**, retired Assistant City Manager in Rosemead where he worked with the late City Manager **Frank G. Tripepi**. Don has served as Interim City Administrator in Maywood since retirement, and with Lynwood.

**Don Vestal**, former City Manager for the City of Westminster. Don worked for Westminster for nearly 27 years. He was City Manager from April 1997 to December 2003. He is a U. S. Navy veteran. He worked with **Hdl Companies** from March 2007 to June 2018.

**Bill Crowe** retired as the Assistant City Manager in El Segundo. He previously served as the Rosemead City Manager and early in his career he was Interim City Manager in Paramount before working 10-years as a Deputy to County Supervisor **Peter Schabarum**.

**Mark Alexander** recently retired as the La Cañada Flintridge City Manager from 2003 after joining the city staff in October 1988. He also worked in San Dimas, Glendora and Simi Valley. Earned an MPA at the University of Southern California (**USC**). Mark is an enthusiastic **USC** Trojan booster.

**Gary Chicots** is a former City Manager for South El Monte. He also worked assignments in Rosemead, Hawaiian Gardens, Lawndale, El Segundo, Lynwood and Huntington Park.

**Robert Dickey**, retired South Gate Public Works Director. Bob is a former Walnut City Manager. He worked for the Southern California Edison Co., and with the Cities of Rosemead and Signal Hill. He was a stockbroker in a former life, and is known for his world travel, and his left-handed heroics on the racquetball court.

**Jorge Rifa**, retired as the City Administrator for the City of Commerce where he served for 9 years. He was a longtime Deputy City Manager in the City of Salinas and he previously served as the Soledad City Manager and worked in El Monte and Compton. He is an avid San Francisco Giants' fan.

**Jim Purtee** is a retired City Manager of Palmdale (2015-2019) and also worked for the City of Simi Valley for 27-years. That means Jim knows **Mike Sedell** and **Laura Behjan**.

**Charlie Wagner**, former City of Avalon City Manager and long time SCAG staff member. He also worked for Hawaiian Gardens and the City of Artesia, where his nickname became “Three-two Charley”.

**Jon Shull** is the recently retired Chief Executive Officer of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority. Previously worked for the Cities of Cerritos and Signal Hill.

**Tom Robinson**, retired City of La Mirada City Manager (2008-2013). Tom also worked for Commerce and Cerritos, and since retirement he served as Interim City Manager in La Habra Heights. He is a Management Consultant with his firm TR Management Services, Inc.

**Andy Pasmant**, retired West Covina City Manager. He also served as the City Manager, Deputy City Manager and Director of Community Development in South Gate.

**John Reekstin**, Senior Vice President in Community Development for **The Olson Company**. He previously worked as the Redevelopment Agency Director in Santa Ana.

**Lou Shepard**, retired City of Commerce City Administrator. He also worked as City Manager for Delano, San Pablo, and Signal Hill. Lou also served as the Executive Director of the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency. He also worked for San Leandro and Fremont.

**Jack A. Simpson**, who held positions in Paramount, Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens and Bellflower. Also, served as an Interim department head in La Puente. Former member of the CCMF Board of Trustees. Also, worked with **Willdan**.



**Don Wagner, Mike Egan, Ron Molendyk and Bill Crowe at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada**

The next lunch is planned for Thursday, September 28, 2023.