



Issaquah, Washington City Administrator **Wally Bobkiewicz** previously worked as the City Manager in the City of Santa Paula (2002-2009) and as the Novato Assistant City Manager (1998-2002). Wally is a past member of the CAL-ICMA Board (2006-2008). Wally gets to root for former Dodger **Cody Bellinger** as the Chicago Cubs play for the play-offs.

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



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 looks at the management professionals who serve the cities of the second six O.C. cities listed alphabetically: Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, and Irvine.

			
			
			
			
			
			

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



Dana Point, the Dolphin and Whale Watching Capital of the World, was named for the local headland, which was named for **Richard Henry Dana, Jr.**, author of *Two Years Before the Mast*. In his

book, Dana describes the area and claims that it along with neighboring San Juan Capistrano is the most romantic place on the coast. The area is designated a California Historical Landmark. European explorers and settlers came to the area in 1769 to 1770, The Mission San Juan Capistrano is very close by. **Richard Henry Dana** visited the area in 1835 while sailing aboard the sailing brig Pilgrim on her voyage along the California coast. Dana Point Harbor was built in the 1960s and opened in 1971 with a marina, shops and restaurants, along with the Catalina Express transportation. The city incorporated in January 1989. The 2020 population counted out at 33,107. **Mike Killebrew** is the City Manager and **Shayna Sharke** is the City Clerk. The Assistant City Manager and Director of Administrative Services is **Kelly Reenders**.

City Manager **Michael "Mike" A. Killebrew** joined the Dana Point city staff in September 2007. He was appointed City Manager beginning in April 2020 succeeding City Manager **Mark Denny**, who left the city to accept the City Manager position in the City of Fontana. He is a resident of the city; the first to be appointed city manager. Prior to his city manager appointment, Mike served as the Dana Point Assistant City Manager and Director of Administrative Services for more than 12 years. Before joining the Dana Point city staff, Mike served as the Chief Financial Officer, controller and as an auditor for the City of Long Beach. Mike was named Dana Point Citizen of the Year in 2019. He served as President of the local Rotary Club and was twice named Rotarian of the Year.



**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

21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 380  
Torrance, CA 90503



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)



COLANTUONO  
HIGHSMITH  
WHATLEY, PC



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

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

Long time Dana Point Director of Community Services and Parks, **Kevin Evans** retired after more than 34 years of public service and 27 years with Dana Point. He began his public service career working for the U. S. Navy as a civilian recreation professional. In 1983 he joined municipal government as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Rancho Cucamonga. Kevin became a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Poway in 1987, and in January 1990 he took a similar position with the Capistrano Bay Park and Recreation District. Kevin joined the staff with Dana Point in January 1994 as a Recreation Superintendent. He moved up to Recreation Manager (1998-2007) and Director in July 2007. Kevin graduated from Chula Vista High School, earned an AA from Southwestern Junior College and a BA in recreation administration from San Diego State University. Following retirement, Kevin and his wife Sylvia, are relocating to Mendocino County.

Dana Point Assistant City Manager **Kelly Reenders** started her job in September 2020. She previously worked as Director of Community Development for the City of Santa Ana. She also held positions in San Bernardino County, and the City of Ontario. Kelly earned a BA in business administration from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



Balboa Island Ferry in Newport Beach



"It is your story to create, mold and execute."

—**Dion Sanders**



**Dominique Samario**, Murrieta, President



Municipal Management Association  
of Northern California

*Inspiring Local Government Leaders since 1950*

**John Stefanski**, Dublin, President



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



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

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

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



There are still overhead distribution and transmission lines, though great strides have been made undergrounding electricity lines.

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



Fountain Valley developed on land that became full of farms. One of the main crops was beets that were processed at the Holly Sugar Plant in Huntington Beach. The post office was established in 1899 and the city was incorporated in June 1957. The Fountain Valley name came from its "swamp land" reputation with a very highwater table. The area had a number of artesian wells too. Irrigation and drainage canals were installed to make the land usable for agriculture. Farming remained the main use of land until the 1960s. The 2020 population is set at 57,047. **Maggie Le** is the Fountain Valley City Manager and **Rick Miller** is the City Clerk. **Meghan Wishner** is the Management Analyst in the City Manager's office. **Ryan Smith** is the Finance Director, and **Rob Frizzelle** is the Community Services Director.

## NHA | ADVISORS

Financial & Policy Strategies.  
Delivered.

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  
Financial & Policy Strategies. Delivered.

Tel: (415) 785-2025 x2001  
Cell: (415) 518-4130  
Email: [Craig@NHAadvisors.com](mailto:Craig@NHAadvisors.com)

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



Fountain Valley City Manager **Maggie Le** began her public service career as a Management Analyst for the City of Brea in 2001. In 2008, Maggie took an Administrative Analyst position in Buena Park. She became a Management Analyst for the Placentia administration in November 2010, and in May 2015 she went to the City of Chino as Economic Development Manager. Maggie joined the Fountain Valley city staff in December 2015 as the Assistant to the City Manager. In 2017-2018 she worked as the Interim Director of Human Resources. Maggie became the Fountain Valley Deputy City Manager in March 2021, and she was appointed City Manager starting in June 2022. She earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and a Masters Public Policy Administration, public finance from California State University, Fullerton.



**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



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.



**Alexander Smith**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

**California Joint Powers Insurance Authority**  
cjpia.org | info@cjpia.org | (562) 467-8700



Fountain Valley City Manager's office Management Analyst **Meghan Wishner** started her public service career in July 2017 as an Intern for the City of Thousand Oaks learning public television production and editing. In August 2018 Meghan was an Administrative Assistant at Mt. San Antonio College. She worked for the City of Ontario starting as an Intern in Economic Development in May 2019. She was hired in August 2020 to work in the Ontario Recreation and Community Services Department. Meghan joined the Fountain Valley city staff in September 2021 as a Management Aide in the City Manager's office. She was promoted in October 2022 to Management Analyst. Meghan graduated from Chino High School and earned a BA in communication, with an emphasis in business management from California State University, Channel Islands. Rumor is there is a wedding in Meghan's near future. Meghan's father is retired City Manager **Rob Wishner**, City of Walnut.



## Wolf & Company Inc.



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

Telephone: 949-235-0525

Fax No. 213-741-0519

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



Fullerton had its first European visitors in 1769 when a Spanish expedition passed through on its way to Monterey. The area developed as agricultural

land. Orange and lemon groves stretched out over large areas. Oil wells found their way there too, and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway built there. Residential development expanded following World War II as military veterans returned to start families and careers. The city incorporated in February 1904. The 2020 population is set as 143,617. **Eric Levitt** is the City Manager taking over from Interim City Manager **Jeff Collier**, a retired Whittier City Manager. **Daisy Perez** is the Deputy City Manager and **Lucinda Williams** is the City Clerk. **Ellis Chang** is the Administrative Services Director. **Robert Dunn** is the Fullerton Chief of Police.



Dec. 14-15, 2023 San Diego, CA

# Municipal Finance INSTITUTE

December 14-15, 2023

San Diego Mission Bay Hotel

1775 East Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA

PUBLIC  
AGENCY  
RETIREMENT  
SERVICES

# PARS

TRUSTED SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

For almost 40 years PARS has provided retirement plan 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 over 500 clients address unfunded obligations and lower liabilities. The PRSP is a first-of-its-kind program designed to provide local control over assets and potential for greater return than the general fund. With innovative retirement solutions tailored to the unique needs of each agency.

**PARS** is a leading provider of retirement programs for public agencies and the largest private provider of multiple-employer Section 115 trusts in California.

Learn more at [www.pars.org](http://www.pars.org).

Make inquiries at [info@pars.org](mailto:info@pars.org) or (800) 540-6369 ext. 127; [www.pars.org](http://www.pars.org).

**Dennis Yu, CEBS, Executive Vice President**  
(800) 540-6369 ext. 104 or [dyyu@pars.org](mailto:dyyu@pars.org)

**Mitch Barker, Senior Consultant**  
(800) 540-6369 ext. 116 or [mbarker@pars.org](mailto:mbarker@pars.org)  
**Kevin O'Rourke, Senior Municipal Consultant**  
(707) 249-5356 or [kevin@kolgs.com](mailto:kevin@kolgs.com)

"It takes no more time to see the good side of life than it takes to see the bad."

-The Late **Jimmy Buffett**

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



**Eric Levitt** has more than 25 years of experience working for local governments, and more than 20 years as a city manager. Eric came to Fullerton following the exit of City Manager **Ken Domer** in April 2021.

Ken is currently with the City of Laguna Beach. Eric served as City Manager in the City of Alameda starting in 2019, after working as City Manager in the City of Simi Valley (May 2013-April 2019). Prior to coming to California, Eric began his public service career as an Administrative Intern in Montpelier, Vermont in June 1992. He was hired as an Assistant Community Development Director in Winooski, Vermont in May 1993, where he was elevated to Director of Administrative Services in July 1993. Eric was hired as the Village Manager in Carlisle, Ohio in January 1995 and he served there until July 1996 when he became the Deputy City Manager in Sedona, Arizona. Eric became the Sedona City Manager in August 2001. He went to be the City Manager in Janesville, Wisconsin in December 2008. He worked there until coming to Simi Valley in May 2013. Eric earned a BA and an MPA from the University of Kansas. In 2018 he received a 25 Year ICMA Service Award.



This gym is a place where strength training is used for self-improvement. Special group sessions for sports teams, police and fire departments or other groups may be arranged.

**Raw Performance** Coach/Owner, **William Ha**, CSCS is a certified strength and conditioning coach.

Call: 714-335-4436  
10579 Bloomfield Avenue  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720



**Our Team.  
Your Communications.**

(626) 536-2173

[TripepiSmith.com](https://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

**Cal Cities Annual Conference Registration Is Now Open!**  
Housing is Going FAST. Book ASAP to Get Lodging Within Walking Distance!



**ANNUAL  
Conference and Expo**

**Sept. 20-22, 2023**

SAFE Credit Union  
Convention Center

Sacramento, CA

League of California Cities Annual Conference and Expo at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, Sacramento

## 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  
**Lee McDougal**, Retired City Manager, Montclair  
**Mark Scott**, Retired City Manager; Interim, Downey  
**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 City Manager, Rocklin  
**Ray Taylor**, Retired City Manager, Westlake Village  
**Denise Ovrom**, Former CM retired from HdL Companies  
**Jim Lewis**, City Manager, City of Atascadero  
**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  
**Joe Goeden**, Retired City Manager, West Sacramento



**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



**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 Manager Newsletter by  
 Trackdown Management**

10 Claret  
 Rancho Mirage, California 92270

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



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



Garden Grove was founded by **Alonzo Cook** in 1874. At the time the community was at a small rural crossroads surrounded by farms and orchards. The Pacific Electric Railroad came to the area in 1905.

In 1933, much of Garden Grove was destroyed by the Long Beach earthquake and one person was killed. There was rapid development following the conclusion of World War II. Garden Grove incorporated in June 1956. The 2020 population sets the population at 171,949. **Lisa L. Kim** is the City Manager and **Teresa Pomeroy** is the City Clerk. **John Montanez** is the Director of Community Services and **Patricia Song** is the Director of Finance. **Eric Scott** is the Chief of Police and **Tom Schultz** is the Fire Chief.



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

**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



**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**



Garden Grove City Manager **Lisa L. Kim** began her public service career as a Project Coordinator for the City of Pomona (1994-1998). In November 1998, Lisa took a similar position with the City of West Covina. In April 2000, she joined the City of Orange city staff as Project Manager. Lisa was promoted to Senior Project Manager in October 2005, and in January 2012, she was named Economic Development Manager. Lisa worked for the City of Orange for 16 years. In April 2016, she moved to the City of Garden Grove as the Community and Economic Development Director. Lisa was named Assistant City Manager in addition to her Director's responsibilities in June 2019. She was promoted to serve as the Garden Grove City Manager in March 2023. Lisa earned a BA in urban and regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from the University of Massachusetts Global (UMass Global). Lisa is the 2023 recipient of the *John H. Nail Memorial Award* issued by the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities.



**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

## California Contract Cities Association



**Dr. Julian Gold** of Beverly Hills, President  
**Jennifer Perez** of Norwalk, Vice President  
**Brenda Olmos**, Paramount, Secretary/Treasurer,  
**Marcel Rodarte** Executive Director

7315 Studebaker Road, Suite 210  
 Cerritos, California 90703

Telephone No. 562-622-5533

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



Huntington Beach is named for **Henry E. Huntington** many other places. Henry was a railroad and hotel owner, and a collector of art and rare books. Beach Boulevard

was originally a cattle route. The original Huntington Beach Pier was built in 1904. The City of Huntington Beach was incorporated in February 1909, The 2020 population is set at 198,711. It is know far and wide, especially in the surfing community, as "Surf City." **Alfred Zelinka** is the City Manager. He follows a good number of well-known professionals including **Ray Silver**, past President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities (2002-2003). **Travis Hopkins** is the Assistant City Manager, and **Catherine Jun** is the Deputy City Manager. **Robin Estanislau** is the elected City Clerk. Ashley Wysocki is the Director of Community & Library Services.



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

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



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

**Fran 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 a University of California Alumni Regent in 2016.

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



In 1995, **Alfred Zelinka** worked as a Planner for the City of Phoenix, Arizona before going to work for an Irvine consulting firm in May 1997. After more than 11 years with the private company, Al was hired by the City of Fullerton where he served in community development and planning. In June 2012, Al left Fullerton's Community Development Director position to take a similar post with the City of Riverside. Al was elevated to the Riverside Assistant City Manager position in February 2015, and in June 2018 he was appointed City Manager. Al was selected to serve as the City Manager for the City of Huntington Beach in June 2022. Al earned a BS in public planning from Northern Arizona University and a Master's degree in regional planning from Cornell University.



**Catherine Jun**, Huntington Beach Deputy City Manager since February, was a photojournalism intern for the Denver Post and for the Detroit Free Press in 2003. After a number of research and intern positions, Catherine went to work as a Policy Analyst for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (June 2010-December 2013). She became a Management Analyst II with the City of Bellflower Public Works Department in January 2014. In 2017, Catherine took a Senior Management Analyst position with Bellflower's Economic Development Department. In March 2020, she became the Assistant to the City Manager in the City of Huntington Beach. Catherine was promoted to "Sure City" Deputy City Manager in February 2023. She earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**) and an MPP from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



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. Founded by former Assembly Member **Joe A. Gonsalves**, the firm represents 50-plus cities and is a key player in city legislation. The firm works closely with the League of California Cities.

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



**Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**  
925 L Street, Suite 250  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone No. 916-441-0597  
FAX: 916-441-5061



**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





## 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)

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

Irvine is a master-planned community started by the *Irvine Company* in the 1960s. In 1866, **James Irvine** and a couple of partners acquired the biggest interest in the Irvine area property devoted mainly to ranching and after 1870 tenant farming. In 1878, James acquired the interests of his partners and following his death in 1886 his son, the ranch was inherited by his son **James Irvine II**. He converted the land use to field crops, olives, and citrus. The railroad came to the area in 1888 and the local station was named for **James Irvine**. The town eventually was named Irvine in 1914. Two United State Marine Corps facilities were built on Irvine ranch land sold to the government during World War II. In 1959, the University of California, Irvine began development. The city was incorporated in December 1971. **Oliver C. Chi** is the Irvine City Manager and **Carl Petersen** is the City Clerk. **Chris Slama** is the Community Services Director; **Tim Gehrich** is the Community Development Director; the Administrative Services Director is **Dahle Bulosan**; Human Resources Director is **Jimmee Medina**; **Jaimee Bourgeois** is the Public Works and Transportation Director; and **Michael Kent** is the Chief of Police.



In June 2003, **Oliver Chi** was hired by the City of Arcadia as a Communications & Marketing Specialist II. In November 2004, Oliver joined the Claremont city staff as a Management Analyst, and he

became the Assistant to the City Manager in August 2005. Oliver became the Deputy City Manager and Director of Administrative Services in Rosemead and he served as City Manager (2007-2009) after that. After working as a consultant in 2009-2011, he was hired as Assistant City Manager in Barstow in 2011, and he became the Monrovia City Manager in October 2014. Before coming to Irvine as City Manager in 2021, Oliver served as the Huntington Beach City Manager (2019-2021). Oliver is a past MMASC President (2004-2005). He earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**) and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). In 2019 he received a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

INDEPENDENT  
CITIES ASSOCIATION **ICA**

**SAVE THE DATE February 3-5, 2024**

2024 Winter Seminar, at the  
Mar Monte Hotel, Santa Barbara



Founded in 2015, **MuniEnvironmental, LLC** specializes in providing Solid Waste, Recycling, and Stormwater consulting services to communities, non-profits, and governmental agencies.

**Integrity, Diligence and Honesty** are

**MuniEnvironmental's** underlying principles in providing ethical and impartial services.

We came together to build an environmental firm that will have a positive and lasting ecological impact on local communities — improving the quality of life for future generations.

With more than 50 years of combined experience, the firm has a well-rounded team of professionals that provides the needed expertise and disciplines to assist clients to meet their project goals.

**MuniEnvironmental, LLC** has succeeded in implementing programs that have provided increased recycling rates, auditing services that have recovered unpaid fees, and regulatory compliance programs in the Solid Waste, Recycling and Stormwater industries.

### Jeff Duhamel: CEO/Principal Consultant



**Jeff Duhamel** is a professional Solid Waste and Recycling consultant specializing in Solid Waste facility development and municipal regulatory compliance.

In 1997 **Jeff Duhamel** formed Waste Systems Technology, Inc., a professional consulting firm helping local municipalities, Recycling firms and material recovery facility (MRF) operators meet Recycling and Solid Waste compliance requirements mandated by the State of California and local agencies.

With more than two decades of experience in the Solid Waste industry, **Jeff Duhamel** has consulted to numerous public agencies.

Under contract for the **City of Los Angeles**, **Jeff Duhamel** conducted site feasibility studies for three potential Solid Waste facility locations, preparing preliminary site plans, traffic diagrams, preliminary environmental programming, and project recommendations.

Additionally, Mr. Duhamel has provided local municipalities with Solid Waste consulting and auditing services that have recovered millions of dollars of unpaid fees.

In 2015 Mr. Duhamel founded **MuniEnvironmental, LLC**, a professional environmental consulting firm specializing in Solid Waste, Recycling and Stormwater compliance.



### John A. Telesio: Senior Vice President

John is a waste industry veteran and former owner of Consolidated Disposal Service (CDS) that merges with Republic Services.



### Stephen Howe: Senior Consultant

Stephen Howe joined the firm January 2020. With 27 years in the solid waste and recycling industry experience.



### Trieu Le: Project Manager/Consultant

Trieu joined the company in October 2014. He plays an active role in helping clients both achieve and maintain compliance with State requirements by maintaining and implementing recycling and permit programs at the local level. He also conducts internal and external audits for RFPs and compliance.

**MuniEnvironmental** has the expertise required to help cities meet waste disposal and recycling issues professionally.

### MuniEnvironmental, LLC

Post Office Box No. 12468  
Costa Mesa, California 92627

Telephone: 562-432-3700

General Inquiries Please Direct To:  
[jeff@munienvironmental.com](mailto:jeff@munienvironmental.com)





**Picking Up the Pieces:** Jason Stilwell will retire effective September 22 after 8 years as the Santa Maria City Manager. Jason served as the Assistant Town Manager in Superior, Colorado from 1996 to 2003. In June 2003, Jason became the Assistant County Executive Officer and Budget Director with the County of Santa Barbara. In September 2011, Jason

became the City Administrator for the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea and he worked there until October 2014. In December 2014, Jason was hired as the Interim Director of Information Technology and Financial Planning for San Luis Obispo. He was appointed Deputy City Manager for the City of Santa Maria (2015-2017) and he was appointed City Manager starting in December 2017. Jason earned a BA from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, an MPA from San Jose State University and a Ph.D. in public Affairs from the University of Colorado, Denver. Capitola City Manager **Jamie Goldstein** and Public Works Director **Jessica Kahn** lead the reconstruction and repair efforts for the storm battered Capitola Wharf Pier, an 855-foot landmark that dates to 1857. The pier was broken near its middle by high pounding surf during the January storms that hit the Northern California coastline. Construction crews are set to rebuild and reopen the pier; a \$7.7 million project. The Capitola Wharf was previously damaged in 1983 and before than in 1913. The City of Capitola has a population of just under 10,000. The city was incorporated in January 1949. Retired Irvine City Manager **Sean Joyce** is the new Interim City Manager for the City of Laguna Beach. He is filling in following the release of City Manager **Shohreh Dupuis** in August. Sean recently completed an Interim City Manager assignment in Huntington Beach. He previously served as the Interim City Manager in San Clemente and South Pasadena. Prior to his tenure in the City of Irvine, Sean served as City Manager in Sierra Madre and South Pasadena. Laguna Beach Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, **Gavin Curran** served as Interim City Manager following Shohreh's departure and the appointment of Sean. City Manager **Tim Chapa** retired as the City of Sanger City Manager effective September 9, 2023. Tim was hired as the Sanger City Manager in January 2016. He previously worked as City Manager in Rio Vista (2013-2016) and Arvin (2011-2013). Tim began his public service career with the City of Fresno (1999-2002). He went to work for the City of Sanger as Deputy Public Works Director in 2002. After working as the Development Director (2006-2009), Tim took the Arvin City Manager position. He earned a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from Santa Clara University.

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference."

—Winston Churchill



Perris, California City Manager **Clara Miramontes** explains that the city is "...committed to the long-term health and wellness of residents..." Perris becomes the second city in the United State to approve an ordinance aimed to prohibit "junk food" sales in check out areas of grocery stores. Berkeley is the first city to crack down on junk food sales. Effective by the end of 2023 stores will only be allowed to sell healthy snacks and drinks at the register area. This action is urged by the statewide group Public Health Advocates and the Boys & Girls Club of the Inland Valley. Pasadena Star News writer **Jason Henry** says that El Monte City Manager **Alma Martinez** delayed action to shut down an unpermitted tractor-trailer parking area on property in the City of Industry that is adjacent to El Monte's jurisdiction. Trucks enter and exit the property on El Monte streets.





**More Pieces Picked Up:** Issaquah, Washington City Administrator **Wally Bobkiewicz** began his public service career as an Intern with the League of California Cities starting in May 1987. After serving as an Intern for Syracuse, New York (1988-1989), Wally was hired as a Management Assistant for the City of Long Beach in July 1989. He continued to work for Long Beach as an Administrative Analyst (1990-1992), Assistant to the City Manager (1993-1995), and then the Manager of the Long Beach Telecommunications Bureau (1995-1998). In April 1998, Wally started as Assistant City Manager in Novato (April 1998-September 2002). He was hired as the Santa Paula City Manager in September 2002 and served in that position until July 2009. Wally then served as the City Manager for Evanston, Illinois (August 2009-September 2019), before his appointment in Issaquah. Wally has been active with ICMA, serving on a number of committees. He served as a Regional Vice President on the ICMA Executive Board (2017-2020), and he was a member of the CAL-ICMA Board in 2006-2008. He received a 30 years ICMA Service Award in 2019. Wally earned a BA from the University of Southern California (**USC**) and an MPA from Syracuse University. Glendale Deputy Director of Community Services & Parks **Koko Panossian** is the new Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services in the City of Pasadena. Pasadena City Manager **Miguel Marquez** appointed Koko, who will begin his service in Pasadena on October 2, 2023. Koko worked in Glendale for more than 20 years. He has been the Deputy Director since January 2018. Koko earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine and an MPA and MA in international relations from the University of Southern California (**USC**). Pacific Grove considered retaining the Bob Murray & Associates executive recruitment firm to assist the city find a successor to City Manager **Ben Harvey**, who left office in late July. Ben was hired as City Manager in 2016. Since Ben's exit, Finance Director and Assistant City Manager **Tori Hannah** has been serving as "city manager pro tempore." **Jessica Gonzales**, Director of Economic Development for the City of Corona is the new Chair of the Board of Directors for the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED). Jessica has been with Corona since June 2020. She previously worked as the Economic Development Manager in Anaheim (July 2017-June 2020). She worked in economic development and housing in Lake Forest before that (September 2006-July 2017). Jessica earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPP from Pepperdine University.



**SHORTS:** \*Highland City Manager **Joseph A. Hughes** has announced that he will retire at the end of the year (2023). \*Elected officials in Perris and Berkeley do not think it is government "over-reach" to ban grocery stores from displaying candy, chips, and refrigerators stocked with soda near the checkout aisles. \*Temple City Sheriff's Deputies report that a Ralphs' market manager was attacked while confronting a knife-wielding suspect caught trying to steal from the store. \***Olga Berial**, who earned an MBA from the University of San Diego and previously worked for the City of Chula Vista, is the Marketing and Communications Director for the California JPIA. \***California JPIA** Training Coordinator **Michelle Aguayo** recently celebrated 15 years with the Authority. \*Deputy Director of Public Works **Chau Vue**, who previously served as the Director of Public Works for the City of Bell Gardens, is the new Director of Public Works for the City of Huntington Beach. \***Ronda Perez**, joined the city staff in Palmdale in 2021 as Assistant City Manager and she began serving as Interim City Manager in March 2022, and she was hired as City Manager in February 2023. \*Former Atascadero City Manager **Rachelle Rickard**, who succeeded **Wade McKinney** and preceded **Jim Lewis**, retired in July after working 26 years in local government. \*Lakewood City Manager, a former Santa Fe Springs City Manager, **Thaddeus McCormack** is the 2022-2023 Vice President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities. \*Ontario City Manager **Scott Ochoa**, a Claremont McKenna College alumnus, earned a 9.5% pay increase. \***Marisa Garcia**, Burbank Parks and Recreation Director, has worked for the city for more than 33 years starting in September 1990 as a Clerk with Burbank Water and Power. \***Lyman H. Cozad** served as the President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 1972-1973 during his City Manager tenure in the City of Arcadia.

Providing innovative  
risk management solutions  
for over 40 years





## “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 on Thursday, September 28, 2023.