Marc Grisham, Amalia Cunningham, Jim Schutz, three former City of Pinole colleagues, at what might be called a Pinole city staff Alumni lunch. Retired City Managers, Marc served in Pittsburg, Imperial Beach and Pinole, and Jim in San Rafael. Amalia worked with the Contra Costa County Planning Department. Jim has launched a consulting business and Marc owns Four Fools Winery in Rodeo, an unincorporated area of Contra Costa County.
Fifth Issue on Orange County Cities’ Executive Leadership

San Juan Capistrano is said to be a unique rarity as a community that was established by the earliest people to inhabit the land and continue as an evolving community for more than 220 years. San Juan Capistrano was founded by the Spanish in 1776 with the building of Mission San Juan Capistrano, established by Father Junipero Serra. Though a popular tourist destination due to the mission and the beautiful Pacific Coast, the city did not incorporate until April 1961. Benjamin Siegel is the City Manager and Matisse Reischl is the Assistant City Manager. Maria Morris is the City Clerk. Heidi Ivanoff is the Community Services Manager, and Ken Al-Imam is the Chief Financial Officer. Thomas Toman is the Public Works Director, and the Director of Development Services is Joel Rojas. Shelley Velez is the Human Resources and Risk Manager.

Benjamin Siegel, an ICMA Credentialed Manager, has served as the San Juan Capistrano City Manager since February 2016. Ben began his public service career in 2001 as a Management Intern for Encinitas. He was hired by Lake Forest as a Management Analyst in January 2003. In July 2006, Ben was appointed Assistant to the City Manager for Lake Forest. In March 2012, Ben began his tenure as the Laguna Beach Deputy City Manager and Director of Community Services. He was promoted to the City of Laguna Beach Assistant City Manager and Director of Public Works positions in September 2015. Ben earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton. He also received a certificate in Construction and Development Management from the University of California, Irvine. In 2021 he received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award.

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.

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Retired Fairfield City Manager Kevin O’Rourke and his niece Laura Griffin, celebrating her birthday. She is happy to have had Uncle Kevin with her for her birthday weekend. Kevin served as City Manager in Stanton, Buena Park and Fairfield, and Interim in Stockton, Woodland, and Santa Ana. He is an alumnus of La Salle College. He is a Senior Consultant with PARS and serves as a consultant with KOLGS.
Fifth Issue on Orange County Cities’ Executive Leadership

Population in the area increased following the establishment of Mission San Juan Capistrano by Father Junipero Serra in 1776. The arrival of European settlers increased in the area following the end of the Mexican American War in 1848. Santa Ana was listed as a township of Los Angeles County in the 1860 and 1870 census. Railroad service came to Santa Ana in 1877. The city was incorporated in June 1886, and became the seat of the newly formed Orange County in 1889. During WW II, the Santa Ana Army Air Base brought military personnel to the area. The 2020 estimated population is 310,227.

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Matt Knabe, Managing Partner
Fifth Issue on Orange County Cities’ Executive Leadership

Santa Ana City Manager Kristine Ridge resigned in October. She began her Santa Ana City Manager tenure in May 2019 after serving as the Laguna Niguel City Manager for a little more than a year (2018-2019). Kristine worked for the City of Anaheim for more than 24 years, rising in the organization to the position of Assistant City Manager. Kristine earned a BS in accounting from Arizona State University and an MA in organizational leadership from Chapman University. Assistant City Manager Steven A. Mendoza is the Acting City Manager.

It is difficult to think of Santa Ana city managers without thinking of David Norman Ream. Dave served as the Santa Ana City Manager from 1986 until his retirement in 2011. Dave passed away on December 26, 2020 at the age of 76 after living with advanced Parkinson’s disease for several years. Dave worked for Long Beach and Lakewood prior to joining the Santa Ana city staff as a Financial Analyst. He earned a BA from Arizona State University and an MBA from California State University, Long Beach.

Retired Norwalk and Bellflower City Manager Mike Egan and his wife Teresa A. Egan in Chicago on their way to the University of Southern California (USC) 2023 football game against Notre Dame. They attended the band rally at the Chicago Navy Pier.

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Kevin O’Rourke, Senior Municipal Consultant (707) 249 5356 or kevin kolgs com
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
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
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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
After the railroads shifted product shipping from Anaheim Landing to the rails, Seal Beach became more prominent for fishing and as a popular beach destination on hot summer days. In 1903 realtor Philip Stanton and Isaias Hellman organized a group to lay out the Town of Bayside on the land between Anaheim Landing and the eastern edge of Alamitos Bay. Since there was already a Bayside community in Northern California, the name was changed to Bay City. In 1913 the town was renamed Seal Beach. An amusement park was built called “The Joy Zone" as a marketing technique that had limited success. The city was incorporated in October 1915 and the new city council voted to allow alcohol at the beach-side amusement park. World War I put an end to the local success and Prohibition impacted the resort town’s popularity. After WW II, the Navy purchased much of the Anaheim Landing property to develop the Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. Jill R. Ingram is the City Manager and Gloria Harper is the City Clerk. The Director of Finance is Barbara Arenado and Joe Bailey is the Chief of the Marine Safety and Lifeguards Department. Iris Lee is the Public Works Director and Michael Henderson is the Chief of Police. [Former city managers who are Seal Beach residents include Greg Korduner, Dennis Courtemarche, John Jameson, and Bob Hinderliter.]

Jill R. Ingram began her tenure as the Seal Beach City Manager in July 2011. Jill served as the Assistant to the Superintendent of the Downey Unified School District (1986-2000), the City Clerk for the City of Cypress (2000-2006) and the Clerk of the Board of the Orange County Fire Authority (2006-2008) prior to joining the Seal Beach city staff in 2008. Jill worked as the Assistant to the City Manager (2008-2011), Assistant City Manager (February–March 2011) and Interim City Manager before her appointment to the City Manager position. Jill earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Long Beach. In 2020 she received a 20-year ICMA Service Award.

Arthritis Foundation Leading the fight to conquer Arthritis. Race driver Natalie Decker Urging support!
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Stanton is named for Philip Ackley Stanton, an Assembly Member from 1903 to 1910. He served as Speaker of the Assembly (1909-1910). He was a founder of Huntington Beach and Seal Beach. The first City of Stanton was incorporated in 1911. At the time it was the largest city in Orange County. In 1924, the local voters elected to dis-incorporate to avoid the cost of building roads in the city. In May 1956 Stanton was re-incorporated and became a general law city. The 2020 population for Stanton is 37,962. Hannah Shin-Heydorn is the City Manager and Patricia Vazquez is the City Clerk. Crystal Landavazo is the Community & Economic Development Director, and Zenia Bobadilla is the Community Services Director. Cesar Rangel is the Public Works Director and City Engineer.

Following a private sector beginning in 1998, Stanton City Manager Hannah Shin-Heydorn joined the Lake Forest city staff in February 2009 as the Director of Management Services. Hannah worked there for nearly 8 years before taking a Deputy City Manager position with the City of Signal Hill in September 2016. Hannah became the Signal Hill City Manager in November 2019. In July 2022, she was appointed City Manager for the City of Stanton succeeding City Manager Jarad Hildenbrand, who left the position to become the City Manager in Laguna Hills. Hannah earned a BA in English from the University of California, Berkeley and an MS in management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Aspiring city managers should “…develop a cadre of friends who are city managers. Their perspectives are pure gold in crunch time.”

--Jeffrey L. Stewart, Bellflower City Manager

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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Tustin’s corporate limits are included in Spanish land grants covering much of the area. Of course, after the 1769 Spanish expedition by Father Junipero Serra and his establishing of the Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776, many people gathered into nearby areas. Columbus Tustin founded the city of Tustin in 1868 on land from a former Spanish rancho. The city was incorporated in September 1927. The 2020 population of the City of Tustin is 80,276. Matthew S. West is the City Manager and Erica Yasuda is the City Clerk. Chris Koster is the Director of Economic Development and Jennifer King is the Director of Finance. Chad Clanton is the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Tustin City Manager Matthew S. West worked for the Planning Departments in Upland (1996-1997) and Mono County (1997-1998) before taking a position as an Assistant Planner with Willdan in September 2000. He joined the Tustin city staff as an Assistant Planner in 2001. He became Assistant to the City Manager in 2014, Deputy City Manager in 2016 and Assistant City Manager in 2018. He rose to Acting City Manager in February 2019 and Tustin City Manager in April 2019. Matthew earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
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Tustin Park and Recreation Director Chad Clanton started his public service career as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Garden Grove (2000-2008). Chad joined the Tustin city staff in September 2008 as a Recreation Superintendent. He was promoted to Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation in March 2014, and he became the Director in January 2020. Chad earned a BA in psychology from the University of California, Irvine and an MS in recreation administration from California State University, Long Beach.

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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).

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Retired City Manager Gregory Korduner and his wife Karen Korduner, a retired educator formerly with the Downey Unified School District, on vacation in Italy.

Villa Park was known as “Mountain View” in the 1860s. The post office could not use that name as there was already a Mountain View in Northern California, so the name Villa Park was used. It was an agricultural area then, producing grapes, walnut, apricots and citrus. Villa Park was incorporated in January 1962. The 2019 population estimate is 5,790. Steve Frank is the City Manager and City Clerk for Villa Park. The Assistant City Manager is Mahrooz Ilkhanipour and the Finance Director is Lee Slow.

Steve Franks was the Orange County Community Resources Director when he was hired to serve as the Villa Park City Manager in February 2017. He assumed the position on March 8. He had been in the Orange County Director position since 2008. Steve is a member of the Rotary Club of Villa Park.

“I’ve always looked at myself and criticized myself first, and that’s the way I’m always going to be.”

-Former MLB Pitcher Tim Lincecum
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Westminster has one of the largest Vietnamese populations in the United States. A part of the city is known as Little Saigon. Westminster was founded in 1870 by Reverend Lemuel Webber as a Presbyterian temperance colony. During the early years it is reported that Westminster farmers refused to harvest grapes as they associated grapes with alcohol. Originally called Tri-City because it brought together three communities: Westminster, Barber City and Midway City. The city incorporated as Westminster in 1957. The 2019 population is set at 90,643. Christine Cordon is City Clerk and City Manager for Westminster.

Westminster City Manager Christine Cordon began her public service career in February 2002 as an Office Services Professional for the County of Orange. In July 2005 she joined the City of Costa Mesa city staff and served as an Office Specialist, Administrative Secretary and Acting City Clerk. In November 2012 she took a Special Events Coordinator, and in December 2013 she was made the Costa Mesa Communications and Marketing Coordinator. Christine left Costa Mesa in February 2016 when she was hired as Assistant City Clerk in Westminster. She became the Westminster City Clerk in January 2018. She was appointed Interim City Manager in September 2021, and City Manager in June 2022. Christine earned a BA in psychology with a minor in organizational leadership from Chapman University.

Erin Backs is the Westminster Finance Director, and since July 2017, Jennifer Anderson is the Assistant Finance Director. Jen earned a BA in economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Former Whittier Mayor and Council Member Greg Nordbak and his daughter Amanda at the Anaheim Ducks' opening night on October 16. This was their 30th straight Ducks’ opening night together.

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Yorba Linda City Manager Mark Pulone began his public service career in 1985 as a part-time lifeguard and swim instructor for Santa Fe Springs. He Santa Fe Springs then hired him as an Intern (1989), and Administrative Aide (1991). In 1992 he joined the Lake Forest city staff as an Administrative Assistant, Assistant to the City Manager (1994), Director of Management Services (1997) and Assistant City Manager (2000). He served as City Manager in Aliso Viejo (2005-2013) before his appointment to be the Yorba Linda City Manager. Mark earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach. In 2021 he received a 30 ICMA Service Award.
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Mike Kudron is the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Yorba Linda. Valerie Passarella is the Recreation Supervisor who is responsible for the Cultural Arts Center. Valerie began her public service career in June 2002 as a Recreation Leader for the City of La Habra. She was promoted to a Recreation Specialist position in June 2006. After nearly 7 years with La Habra, Valerie joined the City of Yorba Linda city staff as a Recreation Specialist as the Yorba Linda Community Center. She was promoted to Recreation Coordinator in May 2010. In October 2012 Valeria took the Senior Services Recreation Coordinator post. She became the Communications Coordinator in August 2017 and Recreation Supervisor in March 2020. Valerie earned a BA in liberal arts and another BA in women’s studies from California State University, San Marcos. She is an Alpha Xi Delta member. She is American Red Cross trained in CPR, First Aide, AED and Shelter Fundamental.

The late retired Rosemead City Manager and Willdan Executive Frank G. Tripepi with U.S. Water Polo Hall of Famer and former Banning City Manager Andy Takata, who is the City Administrator for DuPont, Washington, and retired Long Beach and Paramount City Manager Pat West, a runner, biker and swimmer.

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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.

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.

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About Trackdown Management

Trackdown Management was founded by Jack A. Simpson and Susan Simpson. Susan started the firm’s work conducting contract document production service.

Jack worked in city government for more than 30 years. He was the City Manager or City Administrator for a combined 25-years in the Cities of Hawaiian Gardens, Paramount, and Bellflower. Prior to that, he held staff positions in the Cities of Paramount, Artesia, and Cerritos, where he worked for City Managers M.D. “Mac” McKeown, Peter B. Feenstra and William J. Stark. After retiring from Bellflower in 1993, Jack served as the Interim City Administrator in Hawaiian Gardens for 11-months in 1997.

Following city service, Jack worked for Consolidated Disposal Services as part of a team pursuing the establishment of a Southern California Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). A Supreme Court ruling negated the proposed funding mechanism, and the effort was discontinued. Jack served as an Interim Department Head in La Puente with former City Manager Robert Gutierrez. He join Dan W. Heil at Heil Engineering for a time, and then moved to Willdan with Dan. Jack worked with Willdan for more than 10-years in marketing and business development. He left that position in February 2007. It was then that he established the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown to help connect those in city management...to "provide a thread to help stitch together the fabric of the city management community."

Jack served on the Boards of Cal ICMA and CCMF. He earned B.A. and M.S. degrees in Political Science and in Public Administration from California State University, Long Beach.

Past issues of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown are available on the Trackdown Management web page free of charge: www.trackdownmanagement.net

Production of the newsletter is in its 17th year. Please consider helping to keep the effort going by joining the Trackdown Posse or Sponsors group.
Someone asked! The foreground figures are body surfers Kellee Simpson Hearther and Jack Simpson entering the surf at the beach at San Clemente carrying their fins. These two have spent long weekend hours in the surf at San Clemente. Jack started going to this beach about 1962.

Retired City Manager at past CCMF President Wade McKinney with three of his grandchildren on a visit to Missouri. Wade doesn’t age but the kids do!

Letters and Notes from Readers:

Hi! Longtime reader, first time submitter. Hope the attached photo works for an upcoming newsletter. Caption - Recent City of Pinole alumni lunch with retired City Manager Marc Grisham (Pittsburg, Imperial Beach, Pinole), retired City Manager Jim Schutz (San Rafael), and their former colleague at the City of Pinole Amalia Cunningham (previously with the Contra Costa County planning department, now economic development and planning consulting), at a downtown Pinole restaurant surrounded by many of their former redevelopment projects. Jim is launching his consulting business and Marc is the proprietor of Four Fools Winery in Rodeo, CA, among other projects.

--Amalia Cunningham, AICP
amalia.cunningham@gmail.com
510-644-2265 phone

Trackdown Note: Thank you very much Amalia.

I’m surprised to see this political letter in your really good informational communication. Dave Jinkens has a viewpoint on taxation but that ignores today’s reality. We live in a different world from the one in which many of us retired. Homelessness, the lack of affordable housing, the huge immigration problem, LGBTQ and social media are among many issues I’m happy to say, I didn’t have to face. The cost of those issues have been added to the conventional budget issues of the old days so I will refrain from commenting about what any city should or should not do with current budget pressures. I will say that I do not want any of my local services reduced to support something new but I don’t want my city to ignore present day reality.

--Lou Shepard

Trackdown Note: We are sorry to have disappointed you, Lou.

You missed my friend Seimone Jurjis of Newport Beach. Seimone and I worked at Willdan together years ago. He was then the Building Official for El Segundo, and then Newport Beach. He moved up from there to Community Development Director and now Assistant City Manager.

--Shannon Yauchzee (SY)
Picking Up the Pieces: Yucaipa City Manager Chris Mann has been dealing with the community effects of vacant structures and enforcing minimum property maintenance efforts. Chris is a former Canyon Lake City Manager (March 2019-February 2023) who became the Yucaipa city manager in March 2023. Chris is a former Director and President of the Yucaipa Valley Water District (2016-2023). He previously worked as a Deputy Chief of Staff for a member of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. Chris earned a BS in psychology and an MPPA from California Lutheran University. He is the Founder of the Inland Empire Taxpayers Association. Charles A. Montoya is the new City Manager for the City of San Bernardino. Charles began his public service career as a Senior Legislative Analyst for the State of New Mexico (1993-2000). He worked as Chief Financial Officer for Jefferson County, Colorado (2000-2005) and as Director of Finance in the City of Centennial, Colorado (2005-2008), and the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado (2008-2013). Charles was hired to be the Town Manager in Florence, Arizona in January 2013. From 2015 to 2018, he served as the Watsonville City Manager. He has been the Avondale, Arizona City Manager for three and a half years. Charles earned a BA in business administration from New Mexico State University, an MA in public administration from the University of New Mexico and a Master of Legal Studies from Arizona State University. Starting on Monday, October 3, June Du began her tenure as the Finance Director for the City of Los Altos. June was promoted to the position by City Manager Gabriel Engeland. June joined the city staff in 2021 as Finance Manager. She previously worked for the cities of Rio Vista, Willits and San Pablo. She is a Certified Public Accountant and earned a BS in economics from Nankai University and an MS in civil engineering from Ohio University. June also earned an MBA from California University of Pennsylvania. June took over from Interim Finance Director Suzanne Niederhofer.
More Pieces Picked Up: Pictured here is retired City of Simi Valley City Manager Mike Sedell. He retired from the city in 2012. He worked for the city for 37 years, 17 as city manager with unanimous City Council support. Mike is the Treasurer, as a member of the Board for the Museum of Ventura County. In 2013, Mike was appointed a Trustee on the Ventura County Retirement Association Board. Mike earned a BA from California State University, Northridge and an MPA from the University of Southern California (USC). Winters City Manager Kathleen Salguero Trepa retired at the end of October. Joe Gordon filled in as Acting City Manager while Kathleen finished up her transition. Former Vacaville City Manager Jeremy Craig is the new Winters City Manager. Jeremy served as the Director of Finance for the City of Chesterfield, Missouri (2003-2007) before becoming the Finance Manager for the City of Napa in July 2007. In 2009, Jeremy took the Director of Finance and Technology post in the City of Dixon (2009-2011). He joined the Vacaville city staff in August 2011 in a similar position. He was promoted through the organization and was appointed City Manager starting in July 2017. After leaving Vacaville in April 2020, Jeremy did consultant work until his appointment to the Winters city manager post. Jeremy earned a BSBA from Southeast Missouri State University and an MBA from Webster University. Santa Ana City Manager Kristine Ridge resigned at a Special City Council meeting on Monday, October 9. Kristine is listed as “retired” on her LinkedIn page. She began her Santa Ana City Manager tenure in May 2019 after serving as the Laguna Niguel City Manager for a little more than a year (2018-2019). Kristine worked for the City of Anaheim for more than 24 years, rising in the organization to the position of Assistant City Manager. Kristine earned a BS in accounting from Arizona State University and an MA in organizational leadership from Chapman University.

Memories of the September POL 2023

Retired public managers Johnny Johnston drinks iced tea while he and Greg Korduner talk of “old times.”

SHORTS: Richard “Dick” Kopecky, a well-known former Lancaster City Engineer and Willdan executive, is a veteran assessment district engineer. *Former Lodi (1985-1995) and Woodland (1973-1985) City Manager Thomas A. Peterson, an ICMA LIFE member, began his public service career as a Personnel Analyst for the San Diego (1962-1964). *Sheryl Musicant Stewart, retired Lakewood Community Relations Manager, who works for a local consulting firm, has been married to Bellflower City Manager Jeff Stewart since 1993. *Retired Vacaville City Manager Laura Kuhn (2009-2017) served as the President of Vacaville Sunrise Rotary (2015-2016). *Darrell George, El Segundo City Manager, who previously worked as the Duarte City Manager, worked for a time with the Kosmont Companies and with Climatec. *Reva Feldman, a Strategic Partner Executive with Avenu Insights & Analytics is a member of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) 2022-2023 Board of Trustees.