

# City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



November 2023

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Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 20



Retired City Manager **Jeffrey Parker** and Diana as they relax in Mykonos, Greece while on a well-earned vacation. Jeff is an ICMA Life Member. He served as CEO for Laguna Woods Village; (2019-2023) and as City Manager for the cities of Tustin (2011-2019), Claremont (2005-2011), Walnut (1995-2005) and Patterson (1991-1995). He also held positions in West Covina, Poway, and San Juan Capistrano. Jeff

serves as an Executive Coach with Chief Leadership, founded by retired Tustin Police Chief **Charles Celano**, focused on providing executive coaching and leadership training. Jeff earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.

## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"

There are 14 California cities with names that begin with the letter "H". Alphabetically, they start with Half Moon Bay and end with Huntington Park. Trackdown will focus on the "H" cities in two issues. This issue will look at Half Moon Bay through Hercules and the next issue will look at Hermosa Beach through Huntington Park. Seemingly random city groupings are used to provide an interest in cities throughout the State. The objective is to eventually look at managers of all cities throughout California.

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## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"



Half Moon Bay was founded as an agricultural and fishing community in the 1840s when it was called San Benito. After being renamed Spanishtown, it took the name Half Moon Bay in 1874. The city incorporated in July 1959. Its 2020 population is 11,795. Half Moon Bay is about 25 miles southerly of San Francisco. **Matthew Chidester** is the City Manager and **John Doughty** is the Assistant City Manager. **Jessica Blair** is the City Clerk and Communications Director, and **Maggie Rodriguez** is the Assistant City Clerk. **Colleen Lettice** is the Communications Program Manager. **Lisa Lopez** is the Half Moon Bay Administrative Services Director.

**Matthew Chidester** has served as the Half Moon Bay City Manager since August 2022. He started his working career in 1999 with Wells Fargo Bank in Half Moon Bay. In 2001 and 2002 he worked as a Legal Assistant for two different law firms. Matthew took the Airport Business Manager job with the County of San Mateo Department of Public Works in October 2003. He worked for the county's real property services division as a Real Property Agent from 2005 to 2014. In 2016, Matthew became a Principal Management Analyst for the county's Office of Budget, Policy, and Performance. He left the county after nearly 14 years in July 2017 to become the Assistant City Manager for the City of Half Moon Bay. He was appointed City Manager in August 2022. After graduating from Half Moon Bay High School, he earned an ABA from the College of San Mateo, a BSCA from Hawaii Pacific University and an MS in management and leadership from Western Governors University.



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and we need to get the staff  
together and talk."

--Veteran MLB Manager  
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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.

## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"



Hanford is the county seat of Kings County. The city is located on the north shore of Tulare Lake, Historically the largest body of fresh water west of the Mississippi River.

Following the establishment of the State of California, the area was settled by farmers. The lake became extinct as rivers and streams feeding it were diverted for agricultural irrigation. A post office was established in 1887. The city was incorporated in August 1891. Hanford has become an important commercial and cultural center in the south-central San Joaquin Valley. The 2019 estimated population is 57,703. **Mario Cifuentes** is the Hanford City Manager and **Natalie Corral** is the City Clerk. **Christopher Tavarez** is the Finance Director and **Brad Albert** is the Parks and Community Services Director. **Jack Amoroso** is the Interim Chief of Police and **Steve Pendergrass** is the Fire Chief. Former Police Chief **Parker Severs** left to be the Chief for Heber City, Utah. **Russ Sterling** is the Acting Public Works Director.

**Mario Cifuentes II** joined the Hanford city staff as City Manager in November 2019. Prior to the start of his Hanford tenure, Mario worked as the General Services Director for the City of Visalia. He served the City of Visalia for nearly 34 years, starting in April 1986. He worked in Visalia as the animal services manager, airport manager, interim public works director and Deputy City Manager. Mario earned a BBA in organizational leadership from Fresno Pacific University.



Costco lunches were integral in the planning of initial "Proof of Life" program lunches.

## 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  
**Chuck Bryant**, Past City Admin., Hawaiian Gardens

### 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



### **City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown Management**

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**Roxanne Diaz** is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).  
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## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"



Hawthorne was founded in 1905 by real estate developers **B. L. Harding** and **H. D. Lombard**. The community is named for **Nathaniel Hawthorne**. In the 1930s

Hawthorne was known as a "sundown town." Signs warned that African Americans were to be out of Hawthorne by sundown. Hawthorne was incorporated in July 1922. Its 2020 population is 88,083. **Vontray "Von" Norris** is the City Manager and Director of Community Services, and **Dayna Williams-Hunter** is the City Clerk. **Kywanna Bowie** is the Community Services Manager, **Felice Lopez** is the Director of Finance, **Erika Lampkin** is Director of Human Resources, and **Gary Tomatani** is the Chief of Police. **Gregg McClain** is the Planning Director and **Akbar Farokhi** is the Public Works Director and City Engineer.

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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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Fall Newsletter:

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**Sam Olivito**, retired Executive Director for the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) drinks a root beer float during a visit to the State of Washington.



Hawthorne City Manager **Vontray Norris** began his public service career as a Sports Specialist for the Los Angeles Unified School District starting in September 1994. In January 1999 Von joined the City of Carson staff, and in

October 2000 he became a Recreation Director for the City of Los Angeles. He worked for Los Angeles for nearly 17 years before taking the Community Services Manager position in the City of Hawthorne. He was promoted to Director of Parks and Recreation in June 2018. Von was appointed City Manager in April 2021. He earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach and an MPA from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

**Erika (Ausbon) Lampkin**, Hawthorne Human Resources Director, starting in 2006 worked for the cities of Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, South El Monte, and the Compton Unified School District before joining the Hawthorne city staff in January 2022. Erika earned an AA from West Los Angeles College. After attending Bryan College of Court Reporting, she earned an MPA from National University, specializing in organization leadership.



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## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter “H”

Hayward is built on land that was part of a Spanish land grant. **William Dutton Hayward** bought property and opened a grand hotel on the property in 1852. A controversy of the origin of the city's name says it was either named for **William Dutton Hayward** or gold rush millionaire **Alvinza Hayward**. The city grew throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> century based primarily on agriculture and tourism. Much of the city was destroyed by the 1868 Hayward Earthquake. Extensive salt evaporation ponds were developed at the shoreline and became one of the most productive salt area of the world, with Leslie Salt being one of the largest companies. The city incorporated in March 1876. The 2020 population is 162,954. **Kelly McAdoo Morariu** is the City Manager and **Miriam Lens** is the City Clerk. The Hayward Finance Director is **Nicole Gonzales**. Former Assistant City Manager **Jennifer Ott** is the City Manager in Alameda since January 2023.

Hayward City Manager **Kelly McAdoo Morariu** worked for the City of Fremont as a Senior Management Analyst(1999-2006) before taking the Assistant to the City Manager position in Palo Alto in September 2006. Kelly joined the Hayward city staff in October 2010 as the Assistant City Manager. Kelly replaced City Manager **Fran David** following Fran's retirement in 2016. She earned a BA and an MPA from The University of Kansas.

**Nicole Gonzales** was appointed Director of Finance for Hayward in January 2023. She worked for the City of Dublin for nearly 9 years starting in 2007 as a Public Works Technician. She was a Senior Administrative Analyst when she went to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District as a Finance & Budget Analyst in 2015. Nicole joined the Hayward staff in 2017 as a Budget Officer. She was promoted to Deputy Director in 2019 and then Director of Finance. She earned a BA and MPA from California State University, East Bay.



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## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"



Healdsburg is known best for its pinot noir, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, and zinfandel, demonstrating that the

town is a wine and culinary epicenter. It sits at the juncture of the Russian River Valley, Dry Creek Valley, and Alexander Valley all excellent wine producing areas, making Healdsburg an ideal wine tasting base. In 1857, squatter **Harmon Heald** bought property he had lived on since 1850 and gave the town its founding date. Healdsburg, incorporated in February 1867. The 2019 estimated population is 11,845. **Jeff Kay** is the City Manager and **Raina Allan** is the City Clerk and Public Information Officer. **Andrew Sturfels** is the Healdsburg Assistant City Manager. **Mark Themig** is the Community Services Director, and **Katie Edgar** is the Finance Director.



Healdsburg City Manager **Jeffrey M. Kay** worked four years with **Willdan** Financial Services as a Project Manager starting in October 2005. He took a Business Development Analyst position with the City of San Leandro in May 2009. Jeff was promoted to Business Development Manager in 2013, Assistant City Manager in October 2016 and City Manager in January 2018. Jeff left San Leandro at the end of December 2020 and began his tenure as the Healdsburg City Manager in January 2021. Jeff earned a BA in accounting from Vassar College and an MA in city and urban planning from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2022 he received a 10-year ICMA Service Award.

““Weak people revenge.  
Strong people forgive.  
Intelligent People ignore.”  
--Albert Einstein

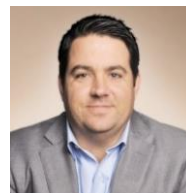


South Gate City Manager **Chris J. Jeffers** and his wife Elaine celebrated 34 years of marriage. Happy Anniversary from Trackdown Management.



**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.

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To contact **EKA** please call 213) 741-1500 or email [matt@ekapr.com](mailto:matt@ekapr.com).

**Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner



**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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**Independent Cities Finance Authority**  
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Telephone No. 877-906-0941

## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"

**Mark Themig**, Healdsburg Community Services Director since 2015, began his community services career in Minnesota after working as an Aquatics Program Supervisor in Japan for the Department of Defense. After working with the University of Minnesota as a Graduate Assistant in Facilities and Aquatics (1989-1990), Mark worked 6 years with the City of Shoreview, Minnesota as an Aquatics and Recreation Program Supervisor. He joined the Ramsey County, Minnesota staff as a Recreation Services Manager in 1996. He worked as the Director of Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources for the City of Shakopee, Minnesota starting in 2000, and then in 2007 he became the Parks & Trails Program Manager for Scott County, Minnesota. After serving as General Manager for the Scott County Parks (2013-2015), he joined the Healdsburg city staff as the Community Services Director in 2015. Mark earned a BA from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and an MA in parks & recreation administration from the University of Minnesota.



Youth soccer programs allow many young people the opportunity to learn game skills and the meaning of teamwork. In this picture is 4-year-old Trackdown granddaughter **Leilyn Ha** playing her first soccer season and having lots of fun!

## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"

Hemet was used by the Mission San Luis Reyas land for cattle ranching during the early 19th century. The name the settlers used for the area was Rancho San Jacinto. Hemet was named by the land development company responsible for developing the land when they filed a plat map in November 1893. Hemet was incorporated in January 1910. The city's 2020 population is set at 89,833. **Mark Prestwich** is the City Manager and **John Paul Maier** is the City Clerk. **Tori Roberts** is the Administrative Services Director and **Monique Alaniz-Flejter** is the Community Development Director. **Noah Rau** is the Hemet Public Works Director and City Engineer. **Eddie Pust** is the Hemet Chief of Police and **Eddie Sell** is the Fire Chief. **Kathye Caines** is the Senior Librarian. **Veronica Allen** serves as a Management Analyst.



Hemet City Manager **Mark Prestwich** began his public service career in 1994 as an Administrative Intern for the City of Long Beach. He worked as a Staff Analyst for the League of California Cities for nearly two years (1995-1997). Mark took a Management Analyst with the City of Sunnyvale in June 1997. In October 1999, he was appointed Assistant to the City Manager in Napa. In July 2006, Mark took a Special Projects Manager and Assistant to the City Manager post for the City of Sacramento where he worked for 8 years. Mark was appointed City Manager in Nevada City starting in June 2014. He moved back to the Napa Valley wine country as the City Manager for the City of St. Helena in July 2017. Mark exited his position in St. Helena in February 2022 to take the Palos Verdes Estates city manager post for a short time. He was appointed to the Hemet City Manager position in February 2023. Mark earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MA from California State University, Long Beach. He served as President of MMANC in 2007.



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**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**



## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"



**Tori Roberts**, City of Hemet Administrative Services Director, started working as the Tire and Lube Express Manager for Wal-Mart in May 2000. Tori worked as an Executive Assistant Manager for Walgreens in Rialto (2006-2011) prior to working for an audit firm and a couple of assurance companies. In October 2019 she took an Assistant Auditor position with the San Bernardino County Auditor/Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector. Tori joined the Hemet city staff as Administrative Services Director in July 2023. She earned a BS in business administration and accounting from California State University, San Bernardino, and she earned a CPA from the California Board of Accountancy in 2015.



After serving as City Manager in the Cities of Lincoln (1981-1991), Paso Robles (1991-1996) and Interim Public Works Director in the City of Modesto (1997-1998), **Rich Ramirez** worked as the City Manager for the City of Hemet (May 1998-June 2000). Rich served as the City Manager for American Canyon (2006-2011) after working as the Sacramento Assistant City Manager (2000-2006). Since his retirement from American Canyon, Rich has taken many "Interim" assignments. He calls his firm: **Rich Ramirez, "Need Interim Will Travel."** He may be reached at (916) 769-7598. Rich earned a BA from Humboldt State University and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

**Lyle W. Alberg** (1930-2011) passed away at Eisenhower Hospital in Rancho Mirage on May 20, 2011, at the age of 81. Lyle served as City Manager in the cities of Montebello; Independence, Missouri; Arcadia and he retired as the Hemet City Manager in 1988. He served two terms on the Hemet City Council after retirement. Lyle earned an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



**Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**

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**

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Telephone No. 916-441-0597  
FAX: 916-441-5061

## California Cities with Names that Begin with the Letter "H"



Hercules went from an explosives company to a vibrant bayside city. The city site was first developed in 1881 as a manufacturing facility of the California Powder Works

producing dynamite and gun powder. The company town that grew around the manufacturing facility became known as "Hercules." Hercules was incorporated as a city in December 1900. A post office was established in 1914. The 2019 Hercules population is set at 26,276. **Dante Hall** is the Hercules City Manager and **Eibéis Melendez** is the Acting City Clerk. **Christopher Roke** is the Recreation Director.

**Dante Hall** worked for the City of El Monte as Deputy City Manager for Community Development starting in March 2004. Dante was promoted to Assistant City Manager in February 2006. In December 2011, he took the City of Moreno Valley Redevelopment and Housing Administrator position. In February 2014, Dante moved north to be the Director of Community Development in Half Moon Bay. In June 2015, Dante became the Assistant City Manager in the City of Foster City and in May 2020 he became Interim City Manager. Dante began his tenure as the Hercules City Manager in July 2021. Dante earned a BA from Azusa Pacific University and an MPA from the Baruch School of Public Affairs of the City University of New York. He also completed the Harvard Kennedy School of Public Policy's public policy certificate program. He is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Dante served at the Chair of the City of Pasadena Planning Commission (2008-2013).



**David Biggs** left Hercules to accept the City Manager position in the City of Orinda. Pictured is retired

Hercules City Manager **Michael Sakamoto** with David at a NoCAL "Proof of Life" lunch.



**David Caretto**, a Palm Desert resident and former City Manager and retired General Manager for SOCWA, and his wife Cindy vacation in Hawaii. Dave is a former Mayor and Council Member for the City of Big Bear Lake and a former city manager for Signal Hill and Irwindale. Dave earned a BA and MA from **UCLA**.



**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**.



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Members of the California JPIA have committed their agencies to risk management best practices—including policy implementation, staff training, and operational guidance—that support proactive efforts to mitigate risk. Not merely an insurance solution, the California JPIA's holistic model positions its member agencies to control costs and remain fiscally strong.

Today, more than 100 public agencies have partnered with the California JPIA to address their risks and implement best practices. Member agencies vary from small, single-purpose entities to cities to special districts. Though diverse in their missions, each member is committed to the implementation of risk management practices and the overall financial health of the pool.



### California Joint Powers Insurance Authority

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## Core Values

**Integrity:** We hold ourselves to the highest ethical and professional standards. We pledge to fulfill our duties and deliver on our commitments.

**Excellence:** We pursue distinction with passion. We proactively assess our performance and strive to continuously improve programs, services, and work product.

**Innovation:** We foster creativity as we explore opportunities and meet challenges.

**Teamwork:** We pursue productive relationships through communication, collaboration, understanding, and respect.

## Philosophy

The California JPIA's philosophy is rooted in its mission to provide innovative risk management solutions, and it is demonstrated through the Authority's many different programs and services. These solutions comprise the Authority's strategic approach to risk management, called LossCAP, that enables members to access expertise in insurance, claims, training, litigation, contracts, governmental entity exposures, and loss control.

One of the enduring principles of the LossCAP program is its emphasis on relationships. Such high-level relationships exhibit trust, knowledge, and dependability in the routine interaction between the Authority and its members. This has allowed the Authority to develop meaningful and productive partnerships with members. The Authority relies on regional risk managers who have primary responsibility for these relationships.

Since the beginning, the California JPIA has placed a strong emphasis on meeting the needs of its members. Over the years, the Executive Committee has pledged resources that have enhanced programs and services that fulfill a commitment to unparalleled risk management solutions and services.



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**Dennis Yu, CEBS, Executive Vice President**

(800) 540-6369 ext. 104 or [dyu@pars.org](mailto:dyu@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)



**Picking Up the Pieces:** Pleasanton City Manager **Gerry Beaudin** has earned an employment agreement amendment providing him with a 6.25% salary increase this year and another increase at the same rate next year. Gerry's monthly salary is increasing from \$24,500 to \$26,031 for the remainder of this year.

Starting in February 2024 the city manager's salary will adjust to \$27,658, which is an annual salary of \$331,896. Gerry has been the Pleasanton City Manager since May 2022. He previously served for nearly 3 years as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Alameda. Gerry earned a BA in urban and economic geography from Queen's University and an MSP from the University of Toronto. **Nicolette Drulias**, Communications and Marketing Manager for the City of Placentia, reports that Placentia has established a Fentanyl Awareness Information and Reduction Initiative in partnership with the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is responsible for many overdose deaths. The unique partnership between the city and school district is seen as a critical step toward addressing this overdoses crisis. Encinitas City Manager **Pamela Antil**, a highly professional city manager, has been named by a Michigan city official in a defamation action against the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Executive Board. Pamela is a member of the ICMA Executive Board. She has served as the Encinitas City Manager since 2020 and was the Assistant City Manager in Santa Barbara before that. The action brought by Port Huron Michigan City Manager **James Freed** proceeds.



**Dominique Samario**, Murrieta, President  
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Anthony Valdez, Bakersfield, Finance  
Director/Treasurer



### A Clean Energy Future is an Important Mission

There is a long list of programs and rebates designed to assist the public with clean energy use. California state leaders have established a climate goal to achieve net-zero emissions by converting to clean energy. Wind and solar energy provide air-quality, public health benefits and greenhouse gas emission benefits as they reduce reliance on combustion-based electricity generation.

## Letters and Notes from Readers:

We love that adorable little girl on the cover (October 2023 Special Issue).

The werewolf is over the top, too.

--Jim Barisic, Brandywine Homes.



You do a great job for all of us!  
Be safe!

--David Jinkens

I read the newsletters and you appear well and active? I am doing good. Retired since 2006. The occasional health issues. Still able to golf, garden, cook, and drink some good wines. Homes in Altadena and Lake Las Vegas. My wife retired 5 years ago after 46 years working for Commerce Parks and Recreation (she started as a 16 year old lifeguard). The picture is me and the late and great Frank Tripepi.



--Steve Blancarte



Sending you a photo of Papa Doug Labelle's 80th birthday family celebration. L to R: Papa Doug, Granddaughter Elle La Belle, wife Bonnie, son Jeff, Daughter Michelle DeCrona, Daughter in Law Melissa La Belle, Grandson Evan LaBelle and Son in Law Pat DeCrona.

--Doug Labelle



**Tony Olivito** and **Sam Olivito**, both veterans of the *California Contract Cities Association* staff, are shown here at Samish Bay, Washington, where the oysters are perfect for simple shucking.



**More Pieces Picked Up: Nicolette Drulias.**

Communications and Marketing Manager for the City of Placentia, reports that Placentia has established a Fentanyl Awareness Information and Reduction Initiative in partnership with the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is responsible for many overdose deaths. The unique partnership between the city and school district is seen as a critical step toward addressing this overdoses crisis. Encinitas City Manager **Pamela Antil**, a city manager who has earned a highly professional reputation, was named by a Michigan city official in a defamation action against the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Executive Board. Pamela is a member of the ICMA Executive Board. She has served as the Encinitas City Manager since 2020 and before that, she was the Assistant City Manager in Santa Barbara. The action brought by Port Huron, Michigan City Manager **James Freed** continues. Rancho Palos Verdes Deputy City Manager **Karina Bañales** is the new city manager for the City of Rolling Hills. She takes over from Interim City Manager **David Ready**. Karina served as a Human Resources Analyst for the County of Riverside for a little more than 12 years and then joined the Palos Verdes Estates city staff as Assistant to the City Manager in May 2015. Karina was elevated to Deputy City Manager in June 2020. She earned an MPA from the University of La Verne.

"How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time."

--Morgan Freeman

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### Still More Pieces Picked Up: Winters

City Manager **Kathleen Trepa** retired after three years in the position, and **Jeremy Craig** is the new City Manager. Jeremy was selected following a recruitment administered by **Bob Murray &**

**Associates**. Jeremy served as the Finance Manager in the City of Napa (2007-2009) and the Director of Finance and Technology for the City of Dixon (2009-2011). He joined the Vacaville city staff in August 2011 as Director of Finance and Technology. Jeremy worked as the Interim Assistant City Manager (2013-2015) before being appointed Assistant City Manager. In February 2017 he served as Interim City Manager until July when he became the Vacaville City Manager. He served in that post until April 2020. Jeremy earned a BSBA from Southeast Missouri State University and an MBA from Webster University. **Joe Gorton** has been serving as Interim City Manager. Stockton City Manager **Harry Black** seemingly has weathered a political storm after a lengthy closed session addressing the discipline, dismissal or firing of the city manager late last month. Harry has been the Stockton City Manager since February 2020. Former Stockton Vice Mayor **Christina Fugazi** is reported to have said during public comment that she was speaking on behalf of "...the 14,000 public employees in the city of Stockton who may have faced...intimidation, bullying, a work environment that may be hostile." No reportable action was taken in the closed session. Before joining the Stockton city staff, Harry worked for two years as the Finance Director (2012-2014) for the City of Baltimore. He served as City Manager for Cincinnati, Ohio from September 2014 to April 2018. Former Santa Ana City Council Member (2006-2018) **Michele Martinez** is the new Interim City Manager for the City of California City. She is a former President of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) and she is a past President of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Michele was appointed by U.S. District Judge **David O. Carter** to serve as a Special Master on the issues of homelessness and the lawsuit by the Alliance for Human Rights against the City and County of Los Angeles regarding homelessness. She is a Commissioner for the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Michele is an Adjunct Professor at Santiago Canyon College in Orange County. She is the sixth city manager for California City in the past three years.

"Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller  
with someone else on your shoulders."

---**Bob Moawad**



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afreij@willdan.com

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**Jerry Gonsalves** and her new boyfriend Ryder. The picture was taken on October 19, 2023. Jerry is the widow of **Joe A. Gonsalves**, former Assembly Member and Founder of **Joe A. Gonsalves and Son**.



**Even More Pieces:** **Lara Christensen** is the City Clerk and Deputy City Manager for the City of Atascadero. Lara earned a J.D. from the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University. She was appointed Deputy City Manager in January 2016. Lara began her public service career in

October 2005 as a Management Analyst for the City of Chino Hills. She served as the Assistant City Clerk in Chino Hills from January 2012 to 2016 when she joined the Atascadero city staff. In 2016 Atascadero voters elected to have the City Clerk position filled by professionals appointed by the City Manager instead of a popular election, and Lara became City Clerk.

**SHORTS:** \*Veteran City Manager **Allen Parker**, who served as City Manager in San Bernardino, Compton, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay and Seal Beach, was the Hemet City Manager from August 2017 to 2019. \*Former Riverside Chief Financial Officer, **Adam Raymond** is the City Manager for the City of Glendora. \*Prior to joining the Fountain Valley city staff in 2015, and serving as City Manager since June 2022, **Maggie Le** previously worked for Brea (2001-2008), Buena Park (2008-2010), Placentia (2010-2015) and Chino (2015). \***Brett Channing** has been the Assistant City Manager for the City of Corona since May 2023, after working for El Cajon (2013-2017), and Lake Forest (2017-2023). \***Laura Vander Neut**, Management Analyst for Lomita, worked as an Assistant Planner in the City of Bellflower (October 2013-September 2014), and earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.

\*Interim City Manager **Mario Giuliani**, who earned a J.D. from the University of California, Davis, was selected to serve as the new City of Benicia city manager. \***Elk Grove** Budget Manager **Shay Narayan** is the new Finance Director for the City of Manteca working with City Manager **Toni Lundgren**, who became city manager in May 2023. \*\*\*



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