

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



November 2023 Special

[Click the logos throughout the newsletter to open links](#)

Volume No. 16 Issue No. 21



Lake County's Rodman Slough Park is an undeveloped park that lies along the north shores of Clear Lake, California. Clear Lake is the largest natural body of freshwater in the State. It is home to an abundance of waterfowl, such as grebes, osprey and egrets. Large Mouth Bass have been caught in the slough. Rodman Slough Park is located at 1635 Nice-Lucerne Cutoff Road, [Lakeport](#), California. Retired City of [Cerritos](#) Center Director **Jerry Simpson** is shown in the picture.

State of California "H" Named Cities Revisited

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](#). This is the second Trackdown issue focused on the "H" named cities. This issue looks alphabetically 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.

Please consider subscribing to the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown. Go to the Trackdown web page, [Click Here](#) and submit your email address. It is free of cost.

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

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

www.trackdownmanagement.net | Jack@trackdownmanagement.net

State of California “H” Named Cities Revisited



Hermosa Beach is one of the beach communities of Los Angeles County. Hermosa Beach was originally part of the 1784 Rancho San Pedro Spanish land grant. In the early days the area

was rolling hills covered with fields of grain, where during some seasons sheep were allowed to graze. The first survey was made in 1901 for the boardwalk, and the first pier was built in 1904. The city was incorporated in January 1907. The 2020 Hermosa Beach population is set at 19,728. **Suja Lowenthal** is the City Manager, and the Deputy City Manager is **Angela Crespi**. **Viki Copeland** is the Finance Director. The Hermosa Beach City Clerk is former Hawaiian Gardens Mayor and Council Member **Myra Maravilla** and the Chief of Police is **Paul LeBaron**. **Joseph SanClemente** is the Public Works Director.



City Manager **Suja Lowenthal** served as the Government & Public Outreach Manager for the West Basin Municipal Water District (1998-2005). In July 2010 Suja was elected to the Long Beach City Council. She served on the City Council until July 2016. Suja was the Long Beach Vice Mayor from July 2014 until July 2016. She worked as a Transit Planning & Community Engagement Manager for the City of Santa Monica (2012-2017) and in August 2017 she became a Senior Advisor to the Santa Monica City Manager. Suja began her tenure as the Hermosa Beach City Manager in September 2018. She earned a BA in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**), and MBA from California State University, Los Angeles and a Doctorate in policy, planning & development from the University of Southern California (**USC**). Suja served as a Member of the Board of Directors for Heal the Bay (2007-2019) and currently service as a Board Member for Climate Resolve.



Patty Ochendusko, wife of retired Coronado City Manager **Mark Ochendusko**, is an expert stand-up paddle boarder. Here she paddles along the La Jolla cliffs. She is on a Riviera Stand Up Paddleboard.



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



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



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.

Since its inception in 1988, 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

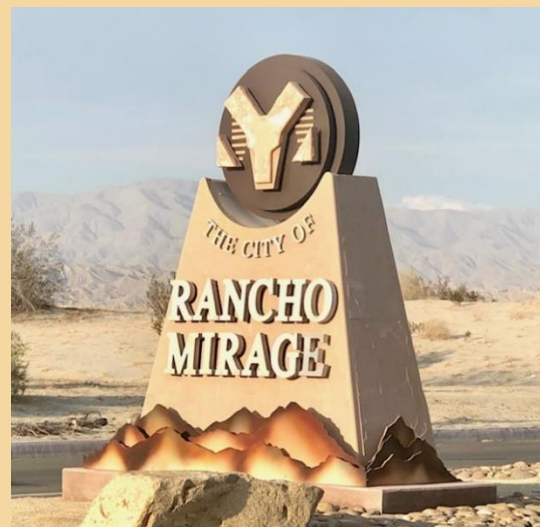
Telephone No. 877-906-0941

State of California “H” Named Cities Revisited



Hermosa Beach Deputy City Manager **Angela Crespi** worked as a City Planner for the City of Carbondale, Illinois starting in August 2006. She served three years as a Field Representative for the Southern Illinois University

Master of Public Administration Program (2008-2011). Angela worked as a Manager for the Orange County Public Works Department in Planning, building, grading & land use permits. In July 2014, Angela took the Fire Department Administrative Manager position in the City of Newport Beach. She became the Finance and Administrative Manager for the Newport Beach Public Works Department in July 2019. Angela joined the Hermosa Beach city staff in May 2021 as the Interim Public Works Director. In April 2022, she took the Interim Community Development Director position, and in March 2021 she began her tenure as the Hermosa Beach Deputy City Manager job. Angela earned a BA and MPA from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. She earned a Project Management Certificate from California State University, Fullerton.



Rancho Mirage was incorporated in August 1973. The city's estimated 2022 population is 17,633 in a corporate area of nearly 26 square miles.

State of California “H” Named Cities Revisited



Hesperia is in the Victor Valley in San Bernardino County. The area was included in a Spanish land grant in 1781. The town site was laid out in 1891 by railroad company land developers of the Santa Fe Railroad.

Hesperia grew slowly until the completion of US Routes 66, 91 and 395 in the 1940s, followed by the completion of Interstate 15 in the late 1960s. In the 1950s the Hesperia Inn and golf course was completed, attracting many Hollywood celebrities. The Hesperia Inn also housed the Jack Dempsey Museum. The incorporated in July 1988, and its 2020 population is set at 99,818. **Rachel Molina** is the City Manager and **Tammy Pelayes** is the Assistant to the City Manager. **Melinda Sayre** is the City Clerk and doubles as the Deputy City Manager. **Casey Brooksher** is the Assistant City Manager and **Rita Perez** is the Human Resources Manager.



Rachel Molina joined the Hesperia city staff in February 2007 as a Senior Office Assistant in the City Manager's office. Rachel served as Public Information Officer, Deputy City Manager and Assistant City Manager. She was

selected to serve as City Manager in June 2023 following the retirement of City Manager **Nils Bentsen**. Rachel earned a BA in organizational leadership from Chapman University, and an MPA from California Baptist University.

Melinda L. Sayre joined the Hesperia staff in 2007 as Assistant City Clerk and became City Clerk in July 2013. In 2020 she doubled as the Director of Government Services, and more recently she was assigned Assistant City Manager responsibilities. Melinda earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.

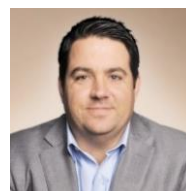


Sal Ortega of La Habra Parks & Recreation and retired Norwalk and Bellflower City Manager **Mike Egan** of **Tripepi Smith & Associates** at the Gourmet Guys fund raising event for the La Habra Children's Museum.



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.

Matt Knabe, Managing Partner

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
Jim Lewis, City Manager, City of Atascadero

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
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

10 Claret
Rancho Mirage, California 92270

Cell Phone: Jack | 562-896-5424

Cell Phone: Susan | 310-418-1035



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



Former City Administrator

Wesley Wolf, Founder

Telephone: 949-235-0525

FAX: 213-741-0519

Wolf & Company Inc. provides municipal consulting services to State and local governments, and not-for-profit corporations.

Wolf & Company Inc. has a specialized emphasis on: Mobile Home Park Acquisitions-Program Administration and Oversight Agent Services.



Wolf & Company Inc.

1870 Sakai Village Loop Bainbridge Island,
Washington 98110, and 560 East Commercial
Street, Suite 16, Pomona, California 91767

Telephone: 949-235-0525

State of California “H” Named Cities Revisited



Hidden Hills is a planned community, designed and developed in the 1950s by **A. E. Hanson**. His earlier projects include Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes Estates. Hidden Hills

was incorporated in October 1961. The city's 2020 population is 1,725. There are 692 housing units in the city built in the median year 1969. The city provides a rural, country way of life. This pastoral setting is highlighted by the absence of sidewalks and streetlights. Horses, llamas, ostriches and an occasional cow will be found on city lots. **Kerry Kallman** is the City Manager for Hidden Hills.

Hidden Hills City Manager **Kerry Kallman** began his local government public service career as a Community Relations Coordinator for the City of Westlake Village in December 2002 working for City Manager **Ray Taylor**. He was promoted to Administrative Analyst in 2008 and Senior Administrative Analyst in 2013. After nearly 13 years with Westlake Village, Kerry was hired by Hidden Hills to serve as City Manager starting in September 2016 succeeding retiring City Manager **Cherie Paglia**. Kerry graduated from Agoura High School and earned a BA in history and social studies and an MPPA from California Lutheran University.

League of California Cities City Managers' 2023-2024 Department Officers

President – **Karen Pinkos**, City Manager, El Cerritos

President-Elect – **Thaddeus McCormack**, City Manager, Lakewood

Vice President – **Kelly McAdoo**, City Manager, Hayward

Immediate Past President – **Justin Hess**, City Manager, Burbank

Department Director – **Jim Lewis**, City Manager Atascadero

At-Large Representatives:

Jennifer Cervantez, City Manager, Rancho Santa Margarita

Sean McGlynn, City Manager, Escondido

Jessica Deakyne, Assistant City Manager, Novato

Maraskeshia Smith, City Manager, Santa Rosa

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

A V E N U

INSIGHTS & ANALYTICS

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 Mancina 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.



Trackdown grandchildren Lei Lei and Koa root for the University of Michigan football team and the Michigan Marching Band. Their older brother Tyler plays euphonium in the band. Michigan is one of the Nation's top rated football teams in 2023. **Go Blue!**



**PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT.
STRENGTHEN OUR CITIES.**

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

State of California "H" Named Cities Revisited



Highland was founded as a townsite in San Bernardino County in 1891. The city was incorporated as a general law city in November 1987. The 2019 estimated population for Highland is 55,417. **Joseph Hughes** is the City Manager and **Betty Hughes** is the City Clerk. **Chuck Dantuono** is the Director of Administrative Services, and **Lawrence A. Mainez** is the Community Development Director. **Carlos Zamano** is the Director of Public Works and City Engineer.

Highland City Manager **Joseph Hughes** has announced his retirement effective December 29. He served 17 years as city manager, succeeding the first Highland City Manager **Sam Racadio** in May 2006. Ralph Andersen & Associates has been retained to help the city find its next city manager.

One cannot speak of the City of Highland without recognizing **Sam Racadio**. Mayor and Council Member and former Highland city manager **Sam Racadio** previously served as the City Manager for the City of Banning (1985-1988). Sam served as the first Highland City Manager from February 1988 until July 2006. In December 2010, Sam began his elected official career as a member of the Highland City Council. Sam earned an AA degree from Mt. San Jacinto College, a BA in sociology from the University of Redlands and an MPA from the University of California, Riverside. **Sam Racadio** served as President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 1999-2000. In 2015 Sam received a 40-year ICMA Service Award. The County of San Bernardino operates the *Highland Sam J. Racadio Library & Environmental Learning Center*.

"Rest is not idle, is not wasteful. Sometimes rest is the most productive thing you can do for the body and soul."

—**Erica Layne**, author of *The Minimalist Way*

State of California “H” Named Cities Revisited



Hollister is the county seat of San Benito County. One of the largest cities in the Monterey Bay area, the city is an agricultural town known for its apricots, olive oil, vineyards, pomegranates and chocolate.

Hollister was founded in November 1868 by **William Welles Hollister** on Mexican land-grant property. The city was incorporated in August 1872. **David Mirrione** is the City Manager and **Jennifer Woodworth** is the City Clerk. **Carlos Reynoso** is the Chief of Police. **Tina Garza** is the Hollister Recreation Supervisor.

After working for the County of Merced as the Director of Workforce Investment (2018-2020) and as the Assistant County Executive (2019-2022), **David Mirrione** joined the Hollister city staff as Assistant City Manager in August 2022. He was the Interim City Manager for six months in 2023, and he was hired to serve as the Hollister City Manager in August 2023. David earned a BA in business administration from Humboldt State University.

Retired City of Moorpark Assistant City Manager **Hugh R. Riley**, served as the Hollister City Manager for a time (1988-1994). He retired from Moorpark in December 2014, and currently serves as the Executive Director for the Ventura Council of Governments. He began his public service career as an Assistant Engineer for Tukumcari, New Mexico in January 1974. Hugh was promoted to Director of Community Planning & Development (1975-1978), Assistant City Manager (1978-1984), Deputy City Manager (1984-1985), and he was City Manager from 1985 until 1988 when he left to become the Hollister City Manager (1988-1994). Hugh served as the City Manager for Temple City (1994-1999) before working as the Moorpark Assistant City Manager (2000-2014). Hugh earned a BA from Pennsylvania State University. In 2014, Hugh received a 40-year ICMA Service Award.



**Our Team.
Your Communications.**

(626) 536-2173

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



"The **Tripepi Smith** team stands ready to help with outreach campaigns, video production, content writing, messaging, graphic work, technology infrastructure and websites."
--Ryder Todd Smith, President



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



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
925 L Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone No. 916-441-0597
FAX: 916-441-5061

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;

COLANTUONO | HIGHSMITH | WHATLEY, PC

State of California "H" Named Cities Revisited



Huntington Beach, known as "Surf City," and home of *Duke's Barefoot Bar and Restaurant* at the iconic Huntington Beach Pier, is named for **Henry E. Huntington**. Huntington Beach is well known

for its nearly 10-miles of beach and an excellent surfing swell. The original pier was built in 1904; a 1,000-foot-long timber structure. Huntington Beach was incorporated in February 1909. Huntington Beach was originally an agricultural area with crops such as lima beans, asparagus, peppers, celery and sugar beets. Holly Sugar was a major employer. *Huntington Beach High School* was built in 1906. Oil was discovered in the city leading to the construction of many wells. The high school teams are known as the Oilers. The 2020 estimated population in 198,711. The city is in the process of changing city managers.

City Manager **Al Zelinka**, who served as the Huntington Beach City Manager since June 2022, resigned and Chief of Police **Eric G. Parra** has been appointed Interim City Manager. The city has lost its second city manager in two years. Prior to Al, City Manager **Oliver C. Chi** resigned to become the City Manager for the City of Irvine. Oliver succeeded City Manager **Fred Wilson** who took a position with Ralph Andersen & Associates after leaving the city. Veteran City Manager **Sean Joyce** served as Interim City Manager in 2021 following Oliver's departure to Irvine.

Fred Wilson was hired as Huntington Beach City Manager to replace Interim City Manager **Paul Emery**, who took the position in 2007 when City Manager **Penny Culbreth-Graft** left to become the City Manager in Colorado Spring, Colorado. When Fred left, **Lori Ann Farrell Harrison** served as Interim City Manager in 2019 before leaving for Costa Mesa. Former City Manager **Ray Silver** served as President of the League City Managers' (2002-2003).

State of California “H” Named Cities Revisited

Huntington Beach's City Clerk is **Robin Estanislau**. **Ashley Wysocki** is the Community Services Director in Huntington Beach, and **Michele Warren** is the Director of Human Resources. **Chau Vu** is the Director of Public Works.



Ashley Wysocki joined the Huntington Beach city staff in May 2020 as the Community & Library Services Manager. She was promoted to Deputy Director in May 2021, and she served as Acting Director starting in March 2023. Ashley was appointed Director beginning in July 2023. She served as the National President of Women in Leisure Services, Chi Kappa Rho in 2020-2021, Ashley started her public service career as a Recreation Leader for the City of Signal Hill in December 2003. She joined the Corona city staff in 2007 as a Recreation Coordinator and she was promoted to Recreation Supervisor in August 2013. She took the Community Services Superintendent post in the City of Rancho Cucamonga in September 2017 before joining the Huntington Beach staff. Ashley earned a BA in recreation and leisure studies from California State University, Long Beach and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino.



Dominique Samario, Murrieta, President
Greg Kwolek, Morro Bay, Vice President



Municipal Management Association
of Northern California
Inspiring Local Government Leaders since 1950

John Stefanski, San Rafael, President
Justin Lovell, West County Wastewater District, V.P.



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



Maintaining and improving the California freeway system is a full-time job. CALTRANS is criticized by drivers when freeway work causes heavy traffic, but most of the time CALTRANS gets it right.



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



Two Trackdown six-year-old grandchildren; **Presley Simpson Guarino** and **Koa Simpson Ha**. The Holiday Season is exciting with young people.

State of California "H" Named Cities Revisited

Huntington Park, where Willdan Founder **Dan Heil** was born, is named for **Henry E. Huntington**. The community became a "streetcar suburb" on the Los Angeles Railway that workers used. It is estimated that to this day about 30% of Huntington Park residents work in Vernon and Commerce factories and businesses. In the early years Huntington Park was almost exclusively a racially white community. Today Huntington Park is mostly a Hispanic hub. The city was incorporated in September 1906. The 2020 estimated population is 57,509. **Ricardo Reyes** is the City Manager and **Raul Alvarez** is the Assistant City Manager. **Sergio Infanzon** is the Director of Communications and Community Relations, and the Director of Community Development is **Steve Forster**. **Jeff Jones** is the Finance Director, and **Cesar Roldan** is the Public Works Director. **Cosme Lozano** is the Chief of Police. **Cynthia V. Norzagaray** is the Director of Parks & Recreation.

Ricardo Martin Reyes is the Huntington Park City Manager since 2017. Rick previously was the Assistant City Manager. Before coming to the city, Ricardo worked as a Deputy Secretary for the California Department of Veterans Affairs. He was the Veterans Employment Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. He earned an AA from East Los Angeles College.



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

State of California “H” Named Cities Revisited

Huntington Park Community Development Director **Steve Forster** joined the city staff in October 2020 as Interim Community Development Director. In November 2022, Steve served as Public Works Director for the City of La Mirada for 23 years (June 1989-February 2013). He worked as Vice President of Business Development and Project Delivery for APA Engineering starting in 2014. Steve earned a BBA from the University of Phoenix.

PUBLIC
AGENCY
RETIREMENT
SERVICES

PARS

TRUSTED SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

For almost 40 years PARS has provided retirement plans and trust solutions designed exclusively for public agencies. With programs like the **Pension Rate Stabilization Program (PRSP)** and the **PARS OPEB Trust**.

PARS has helped 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.

Make inquiries at info@pars.org or
(800) 540-6369 ext. 127; www.pars.org.

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

Mitch Barker, Senior Consultant
(800) 540-6369 ext. 116 or mbarker@pars.org



Kevin O'Rourke,
Senior Municipal Consultant
(707) 249-5356 or kevin@kolgs.com



Retired public managers **Johnny Johnston** and **Gregory D. Korduner** at a 2023 "Proof of Life" lunch.

Greg began his public service career working for the cities of Norwalk and Artesia. He served as City Manager in South El Monte (August 1981-July 1984) and El Monte (July 1984-April 1999). Greg went to work as the Huntington Park City Manager in September 1999 and retired from there in 2010. Greg earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



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





Municipal Services Managers

Vanessa Muñoz, President and CEO;
Adel Freij, Director of City Engineering;
Patrick Johnson, Director of Building & Safety;
Chris Baca, Director of Construction
 Management & Public Works Observation;
Salvador Lopez, Director of Planning;
Jonathan Mitchell, Director of Business
 Development.



"There is nothing more rewarding than the partnership we create with the communities we serve through the various projects we develop, design, and construct.

Through civil engineering, I have the opportunity to touch people's lives and make a difference every day of the week."

---**Vanessa Muñoz**



"Willdan knows municipal agencies—and they know us. It is important to know your clients and to always work in their best interest. Our objective is to ensure our clients' success as they

work to enhance their communities."

---**Adel Freij**

About Willdan:

For more than 55 years, **Willdan** has delivered industry-leading engineering and energy solutions that have transformed government and commerce – having implemented over 100 utility programs and served 230,000 small business, healthcare, hospitality, and education customers nationwide. Today, **Willdan** is leading clients into a future accelerated by change in resources, infrastructure, and technology.

The Willdan Vision:

Willdan transitions communities to clean energy and a sustainable future. Like our people and skills, **Willdan's** vision evolves with time. For more information on how we've grown and where we're going, find the overviews on the web page.

Leadership:

Willdan sets the standard for success in our industry because of our experienced staff of thoughtful leaders, our support system for mentorship and growth within our company, and our focus on innovation to address tomorrow's challenges.

Senior Management:

Thomas D. Brisbin, CEO and Chairman of the Board

Michael A. Bieber, President

Contact Corporate: 800.424.9144
Municipal Services: 800.499.4484
562.908.6200



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.

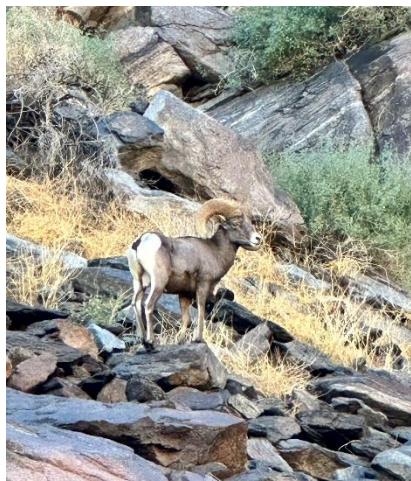
Andy Nickerson is the President/CEO. Other members of the **HdL** team include **Vikki Beatley, Paula Cone, Barry Foster, Robert Gray, Kimberly Konczak, David McPherson, and Bobby Young**.



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



Trackdown's **Susan Simpson** took this picture on a mid-November 2023 Tahquitz Canyon hike out of Palm Springs. On this beautiful day, this Big horn sheep did not seem concerned with the hikers.



Picking Up the Pieces: Longtime Bellflower City Manager **Jeffrey L. Stewart** announced his retirement. Lomita City Manager **Ryan C. Smoot** has been recruited to succeed Jeff. Ryan worked with the Bellflower city manager's office prior to his appointment as Lomita City Manager in 2016. Jeff, who previously served as city manager in Los Alamitos, and El

Segundo came to Bellflower in 2011. He also worked with the executive staff of the late Rosemead City Manager **Frank G. Tripepi**. Ryan began his public service career as a volunteer with the Bellflower city manager's office. He was later hired full-time as the Assistant to the City Manager and Acting Economic Development Director. Ryan earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach. Ojai Interim City Manager **Mark Scott**, a veteran of many years serving cities as a city manager, resigned effective immediately saying that "I just cannot tolerate the discord." Mark served as city manager in the cities of Beverly Hills (1990-2003); Spartanburg, South Carolina (2003-2009); Culver City (2009-2010); Fresno (2010-2013); Burbank (2013-2016); San Bernardino (2016-2017); and Indio (2017-2021). Mark also served as Interim City Manager in Lincoln (2021-2022) and Downey (2022-2023). He began his tenure as the Ojai Interim City Manager in July 2023 following the resignation of City Manager **James Vega**, who left to become the Port Hueneme city manager. Mark received a 40-ICMA Service Award in 2019. Ojai Valley News Reporter **Kimberly Rivers** writes that Mark said, "My rapid departure is my bad, not the Council's." City Manager **Melissa Stevenson Diaz** appointed **Jeff Schwob** in November 2023 to serve as the Redwood City Community Development Director. Jeff is a former member of the City of Fremont's Community Development team when he served as the Director there. Jeff has more than 30 years of local government experience that includes the cities of Alameda, San Rafael, Santa Rosa and Fremont. Jeff has been serving as Interim Community Development Director in the cities of Redwood City and Walnut Creek. Jeff earned a BS in architecture from the University of Oregon. Former Baldwin Park City Council Member and City Clerk **Linda Gair** passed away on November 5, 2023 at the age of 88 years old. Linda joined the Baldwin Park city staff in 1980, when she was first elected City Clerk. After 18 years as City Clerk, Linda was elected to the City Council before retiring in March 2003.



"I run on the road, long before I dance under the lights." --**Muhammad Ali**



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

Pam Rodrigues, GBDS Manager
Pamela.rodrigues@usi.com

USI Insurance Services

21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 380
Torrance, CA 90503



More Pieces Picked Up: Stockton City Manager **Harry Black** received community support for his leadership in the wake of charges by Council Member **Michele Padilla** that the city manager has created a hostile work environment. Eight of 13 speakers at a recent city council meeting expressed support for the city manager. Several individuals, public and city staff, made supportive statements about City Manager **Harry Black**. Congratulations to Mayor **Hipolito Angel Cerros** of the City of Lindsay. However, he may not be the youngest Mayor of all-time as claimed. It might be that **Julia Sylva** was the Mayor of the City of Hawaiian Gardens at an earlier age. Lindsay also has an outstanding young city manager in **Joe Tanner**, who followed in his father's footsteps. The senior **Joe Tanner** is a retired Vallejo city manager. Julia is currently an Adjunct Professor of Law at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, as well as, conducting her own Law Office. She was elected to the City Council at age 20, which made her the youngest and first Latina elected to the city council. Julia is the first Latina Mayor in the U. S. (Hawaiian Gardens, California; 1978 to 1980). Sonoma City Manager **David M. Guhin** was forced to deal with "gross" and "disturbing" public comments. He feels responsible to defend the city council and the community from hate speech. Public antisemitic and



**2024 Sacramento Legislative Tour
Registration Now Open**

racist comments were presented to the Sonoma City Council during the public comment section of a recent City Council meeting. Public commenters called into the city's meeting via Zoom and spewed hateful rhetoric that targets people of color and the Jewish community. City staff quickly muted and terminated the comments. David began his public service in June 1998 as an Assistant Engineer in Stafford County, Virginia. He worked as Assistant City Manager for Santa Rosa (2018-2020) and as the Executive Director of Government Operations for the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (2020-2023), prior to starting May 2023 as the City Manager for the City of Sonoma. David earned a BS in civil engineering from South Dakota Mines and a Master of Organization Development from Sonoma State University School of Extended education. He is the seventh Sonoma city manager in the past three years. Trinidad City Manager **Eli A. Naffah** continues to work part-time as an Associate Professor at the College of the Redwoods where he teaches political science and business law at their Eureka and Crescent City campuses. He began his service to the college in August 2009. Eli was appointed City Manager for the City of Trinidad in March 2019. Eli was an Administrative Intern in La Mirada starting in May 1983, before he joined the Montebello city staff as an Economic Development Specialist in April 1993. Eli worked for Huntington Beach as a Development Specialist (1995-2000) and Economic Development Director in the City of Antioch (2000-2002). In July 2002, Eli became the City Manager for the City of Rio Dell (2002-2005), and he served as the City Manager for Crescent City from May 2006 until May 2008. In 2012, he became the City Manager in Phoenix, Oregon. In 2008, Eli received a 20-year ICMA Service Award. He earned a BA from John Carroll University and a Juris Doctorate from Southland University.

"The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining."
--John F. Kennedy



Still More Pieces Picked Up:

Brentwood City Manager **Tim Ogden** holds a monthly Town Hall appearance for him to address the community on the city and issues facing the city. He calls the sessions: "Town Halls with Tim." Tim worked as

an Administrative Analyst in Modesto (2002-2006) before working in economic development for the City of Riverbank (2006-2011). Tim served as the City Manager for the cities of Waterford (2011-2017) and Manteca (2017-2019) before becoming the Brentwood City Manager in February 2020. Tim earned a BA in family studies from Weber State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. **Anil Comelo** is the City Manager for the City of St. Helena. He worked as the Administrative Services Officer for Contra Costa County. He joined the Beverly Hills city staff as Personnel Manager in January 2007. In November 2011, he became the Human Resources Director, and in December 2013 went to work as the Director of Human Resources Management for the City of Oakland. He took the Deputy Administrative Officer for the Santa Clara Valley Water District in September 2016. Anil became the Director of Human Resources for the City of Richmond in September 2020. He was appointed City Manager for St. Helena in July 2022. He earned a BA and MPA from California State University, East Bay. **Scott McBride** is the new City Manager for the City of Merced. Scott worked nearly 24 years for the City of Atwater starting in 1994. He left Atwater in August 2017 to join the Merced city staff as the Director of Development Services. He became the Atwater Community Development Director in 2012 and he served as Interim City Manager in 2017. Scott earned a BA in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz and an MPA from California State University, Stanislaus. Huntington Beach City Manager **Al Zelinka** retired, and Chief of Police **Eric Parra** has been named Interim City Manager. Al's indicates that he is leaving the city manager position to take care of his aging mother. Al joins at least four other Huntington Beach city executives who have left the city staff this past year. Leadership changes are included in community development, finance, public works and community and library services departments. Al succeeded City Manager **Oliver Chi**, who left to become the Irvine City Manager in 2021. Prior to joining the Huntington Beach staff, Al was the City Manager for the City of Riverside. Burbank City Manager **Justin Hess** announced that **Courtney Padgett** will succeed Burbank Assistant City Manager **Judie Wilke**, who has retired after 32 years of city service. Courtney joined the Burbank city staff in 2017 as an Administrative Analyst with the Burbank Police Department. Courtney earned a BA and MA in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida. Prior to coming to California, she worked for Orange



After a rain there is plenty of water along the Tahquitz Valley hiking trail. Picture taken by Trackdown's **Susan Simpson** on a mid-November morning hike.

County, Florida and Orlando. **Steven A. Mendoza** is the new Acting City Manager for the City of Santa Ana. Steven joined the city staff in May 2018 as the Executive Director of the Community Development Agency, and then as the Santa Ana Assistant City Manager in July 2020. He served as the Acting City Manager from December 2018 until May 2019. Tustin City Manager **Matt West** left office effective October 27, 2023. Matt became Tustin's city manager in April 2019. He joined the Tustin city staff in 2001 as an Assistant Planner. Matt previously worked in the City of Upland Planning Department (1996-1997) and as a Planner for Mono County (1997-1998). Matt worked for **Willdan** as an Assistant Planner from 2000 until September 2001 when he joined the Tustin city staff. He earned a BS in urban & regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Novato City Manager **Adam McGill** has resigned effective December 31. Adam was appointed City Manager in 2019 after serving three years as the Novato Chief of Police. He previously served as the Chief of Police in Newman and in the Town of Truckee. He took the Novato City Manager position following the dismissal of City Manager **Regan Candelario**. Adam served four years as a part-time Adjunct Professor for the Tahoe Campus of Sierra College. He earned a BS in criminal justice from the University of Phoenix and an MS in emergency services administration from California State University, Long Beach. Adam also completed the FBI National Academy, Homeland Security, Law Enforcement Executive Certification program. A successor has not yet been announced. Assistant City Manager **Jessica Deakyne** is the Acting City Manager.



Even More Pieces Picked:

Retired City Manager **Ed Everett** authored an article entitled *Let's Think Differently About Creativity and Innovation*, included in the November 2023 issue of PM: Public Management magazine published by ICMA. Ed served as the City Manager in Belmont

(1984-2001), and he retired as City Manager of Redwood City (1991-2007). Ed worked as the Fire Chief in the City of Palo Alto in 1977-1978. Currently, he is a self-employed consultant, trainer and coach. Ed writes: "Don't wait for someone to give you permission to be creative and innovative. It is easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission." **Barry Tippin** is the City Manager for the City of Redding, California. Barry appointed Captain **Brian Barner** to be Chief of Police of the Redding Police Department following the retirement of Chief **Bill Schueller**. Barry has served as the Redding City Manager since June 2017. He earned a BS in civil engineering from California State University, Chico. Barry replaced City Manager **Kurt Starman**, who retired. Barry first came to Redding as the City Engineer in 2004. He served as Assistant City Manager and as the Redding Electric Utility Director prior to being elevated after Kurt's retirement. He previously worked for the California Department of Transportation in Redding.

SHORTS: *Brentwood Assistant City Manager **Darin Gale** worked as a Field Representative for U. S. House of Representatives, Congressman **Doug Ose** from 2001 to 2003. *Rancho Cucamonga City Manager **John Gillison** earned a 5% salary increase taking his monthly salary to \$30,133. *Orange County Superior Court Judge **Craig Griffin**, saying he needs more time to research the issues, rejected a temporary restraining order to halt the recall election of Santa Ana Mayor Pro tem **Jessie Lopez**. *About 60,000 more people moved from California to Texas than from Texas to California in 2022; analysts point to housing costs, taxes and politics as reasons for the exodus. *Beginning in September 2023, Police Chief **Aaron Roth** has served as the Acting City Manager in Suisun City after City Manager **Greg Folsom** was placed on Administrative Leave. ***Beatrice Medina**, Assistant Director PACE Group at **Willdan** Financial Services, earned a BA in the English language and literature from the University of California, Irvine. *California City Acting City Manager **Joe Barragan** has announced that he will not be a candidate for the City Manager position. *Retired public manager **Michael Rock** served as the Town Manager in Fairfax (2007-2012) and as City Manager in the cities of Lomita (2012-2015), Banning (2015-2017), Santa Paula (2017-2019), Yuba City (2019-2020) and as a contract City Manager for lone (2021-2023). *Retired Laguna Niguel City Manager **Tim Casey**, author of "The Mayor Married Who?" has been a Senior Advisor for the International City/County

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

ANNUAL ALL CITIES HOLIDAY RECEPTION

DECEMBER 13TH, 2023 | **CALIFORNIA CLUB**
Main Lounge
538 Flower St.
Los Angeles, CA 90071

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:

There is no cost for members of the League of California Cities, California Contract Cities Association, or Independent Cities Association

\$100 for guests

- Business Attire Required
- Limited parking available
- Guests are encouraged to carpool, use public transportation, or park in nearby public lots
- Attendance at this event by a public official will constitute acceptance of a reportable gift

Management Association (ICMA) and the League of California Cities since March 2013. *Indio Deputy City Manager **Scott Trujillo**, who has worked for Indio for nearly 18 years, earned a BS from Colorado State University and an MPA from Grand Canyon University. *ICMA Credentialed Manager, **James R. Lewis**, Atascadero City Manager, who served as the President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 2018 and was President of the Municipal Management Association of Southern California (MMASC) in 2001, continues to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). *Stanford University alumnus **James D. Williams**, a former Assistant Administrative Office in Inglewood (1968-1973), served as the Santa Monica City Manager from October 1973 to September 1978. *Public comment speaker time for Claremont City Council meetings has been changed from four minutes to three minutes in response to resident concerns regarding the late hours of many meetings. ***Dr. Parveen Kaur**, who has been a contract service backup Health Officer and Tuberculosis Physician for the City of Pasadena, is serving as the Interim Health Officer for Pasadena. *Retired City and County Manager, **Cynthia Seelhammer** is a Professor of Practice for the School of Public Affairs of Arizona State University. ***Meara Hain**, an alumnus of California State University, Chico, joined the **Tripepi Smith** firm in September 2023. ***Gerald Caton** retired as the city manager for the City of Downey in December 2011. ***