

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



December 2023 Special

Volume No. 16 | Issue No. 23

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December 2023 "Proof of Life" lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. L to R: **Don Jeffers**, **Gregory Korduner**, **Sam Olivito**, **Tom Robinson** and **Robert Dickey**. This group continues to meet after more than 10 years since its inception. Others are encouraged to organize similar groups as **Rod Wood** did in Northern California.

Management in the One "J" and Three "K" California Cities

Cities included in this Special Issue of the newsletter are the cities of Jackson, Kerman, King City and Kingsburg. These four cities are located in the counties of Amador, Fresno, and Monterey. Amador County is in the California Gold Country and is known as "The Heart of the Mother Lode". The county was created from parts of Calaveras and El Dorado counties in 1854. The county is named for a successful gold miner named **José María Amador**. Fresno County was founded in 1872 as a railway station of the Central Pacific Railway. It was incorporated in 1885. The station grew with a store and other businesses to the town of Fresno. Monterey County was among the original California Counties founded in 1850 and included parts of San Benito County in 1874.

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

Management in the One “J” and
Three “K” California Cities

Jackson is the county seat of Amador County and the largest population center is Jackson and the surrounding area. The 2020 population of Amador County has been set at 40,474. **Chuck Iley** is the Amador County Administrative Officer. He was appointed in September 2010 to become the third CAO in the county's history. Chuck has worked in the private and public sectors as a civil engineer.

Fresno is the county seat for Fresno County. The 2020 population is set at 1,008,654. Fresno is the fifth most populated city in California. **Paul Nerland** is the County Administrative Officer. He was appointed CAO starting in December 2021. After working for the City of Fresno (1995-1997), Paul joined the county staff as a Personnel Analyst in September 1997.

Monterey County is located on California's central coast. Salinas is the county seat for Monterey County. The 2020 population for the county is 439,035. **Sonia M. De La Rosa** is the County Administrative Officer for the County of Monterey. California State University, Fresno alumnus, Sonia worked for the County of Fresno for 25 years before her appointment as CAO in Monterey County in January 2023.



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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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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
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Rita Geldert, Retired City Manager, Vista
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director, State of California
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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
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Chuck Bryant, Past City Admin., Hawaiian Gardens
Sam Olivito, Retired CCCA Executive Director

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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
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Ron Molendyk, Retired City Manager, Lake Elsinore
Kevin Duggan, Retired City Manager, Mountain View
Gary Milliman, Retired City Manager, Brookings, Oregon
Joe Goeden, Retired City Manager, West Sacramento
Jim Lewis, City Manager, City of Atascadero
Donald Jeffers, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park



City Manager Newsletter by
Trackdown Management

10 Claret
Rancho Mirage, California 92270

Cell Phone: Jack | 562-896-5424
Cell Phone: Susan | 310-418-1035

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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!

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Management in the One “J” and Three “K” California Cities

Jackson, California is named for Colonel **Alden Appola Moore Jackson**. It was founded in 1848 near a spring of fresh clear water that flowed year-round. It grew into a convenient stopping place on the road from Sacramento to the mines of the California Gold Rush. Jackson was an important supply and transportation town center for the neighboring towns and population centers. Jackson grew as a watering hole for cattle and a durable rock mining area. In 1853 Jackson became the county seat of Amador County. It had previously been the county seat of Calaveras County (1851-1852). Jackson's 2019 estimated population is set at 4,840.



Retired City Manager **Keith Till** getting ready for the Holidays with his cute little granddaughter.



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.
Matt Knabe, Managing Partner



Members of the Jackson city council include Mayor **Steve McLean**; Vice Mayor **Chad Simmons**; and Council Members **Max Godde, Connie Gonsalves**, and **Bob Stimpson**. **Connie Gonsalves**, a former Mayor, is married to **John Gonsalves**. John is one of **Anthony Gonsalves'** eight brothers. Anthony and their father, **Joe A. Gonsalves**, a former State Assembly Member founded the Sacramento professional representation firm, **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**. The firm represents more than 50 California cities.

New City Manager **Carl Simpson** and the elected City Clerk is **John “Jack” Georgette**. **Carleen Kirkpatrick** is the Deputy City Clerk. Police Chief **Christopher Mynderup** served as the Interim City Manager following City Manager **Yvonne Kimballs** resignation to accept the City Manager position for the City of Morro Bay. Yvonne served as the Jackson city manager starting in August 2017. **Dalacie Blankenship** serves as the Jackson Finance and Human Resources Manager.

“Most people don’t aim too high and miss, they aim too low and hit.”

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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).

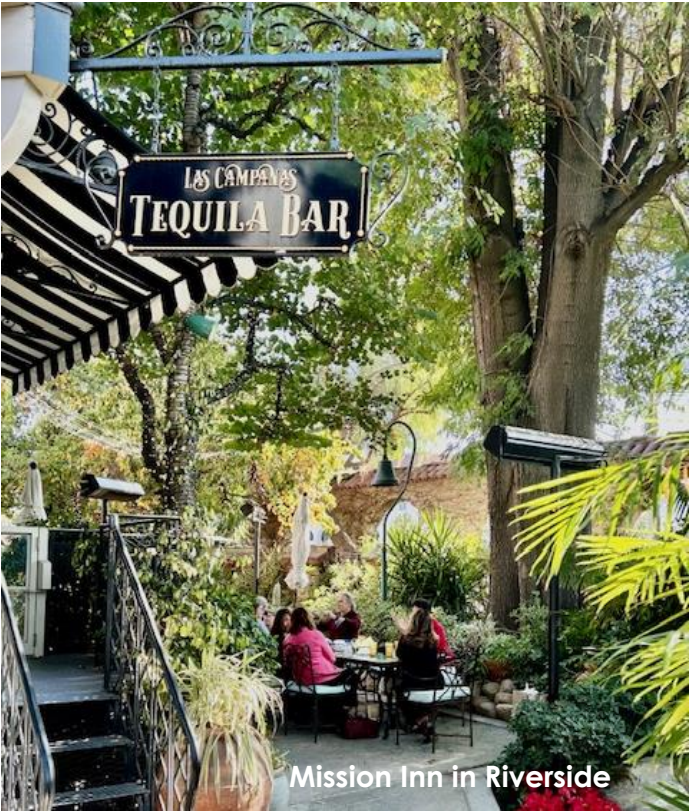
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Management in the One “J” and Three “K” California Cities

Effective in December 2023, new Jackson City Manager **Carl Simpson** comes to California from an Assistant City Manager position in Dallas, Texas. Before joining the Dallas city staff, Carl served as the Code & Housing Enforcement Chief for the City of Sacramento. Prior to working for the city of Sacramento, Carl was the Chief of Code Enforcement Supervisor for Sacramento County and for the City of San Jose. He also worked as an investigator for the San Jose City Attorney's Office. Before that he was a Deputy with the Stanford University Department of Public Safety. Carl earned a BA from San Jose State University and an MPA from the University of San Francisco. He served 8-years in the United States Marine Corps and U.S. Army.

Yvonne Kimball served as the Jackson City Manager from August 2017 until August 2013 when she was recruited to serve as the Morro Bay City Manager. She previously served as the City Manager in Bowling Green, Florida (2008-2011) and as Town Manager for the Town of Dewey-Humboldt, Arizona (2012-2017). Yvonne earned an MPA from the University of Central Florida. Yvonne served as Vice Chair for the Board of Directors for the Amador County Senior Center.



Mission Inn in Riverside



Dominique Samario, Murrieta, President
Greg Kwolek, Morro Bay, Vice President
Jonathan Royas, Santa Paula, Director of Finance/Treasurer

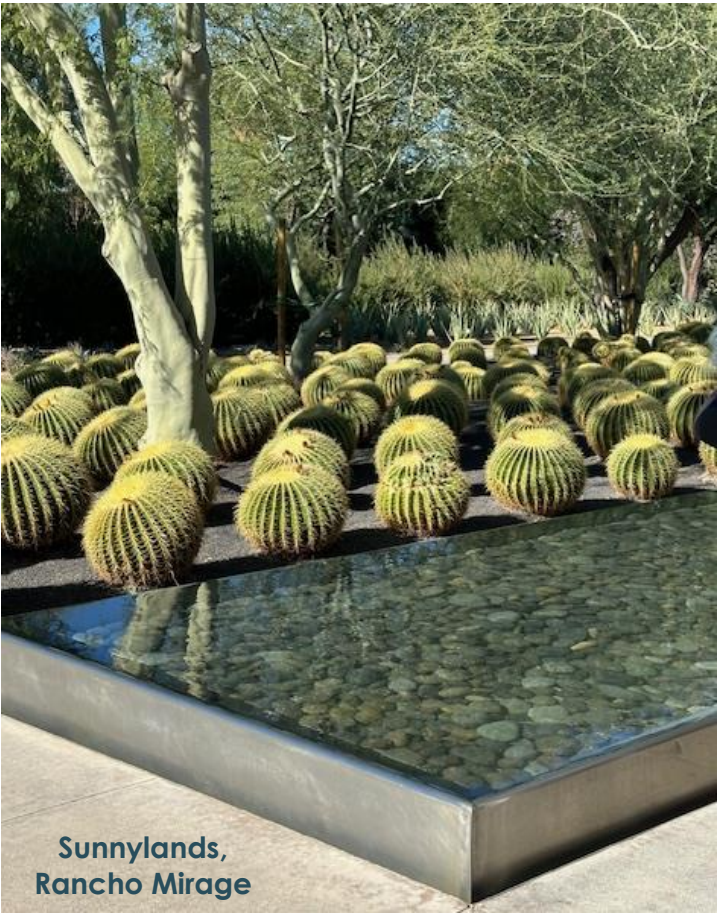


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John Stefanski, San Rafael, President
Justin Lovell, West County Wastewater District, V.P
Anthony Valdez, Bakersfield, Finance Director/Treasurer

Management in the One “J” and Three “K” California Cities

Following Jackson City Manager **Mike Daly**’s retirement, former Blue Lakes city manager **John Berchtold** (2010-2016) helped the City of Jackson with their strategic planning and the recruitment for the city manager position in 2017. After he left Blue Lakes he relocated to a home in Michigan, but still returned to assist Jackson. John earned an AA from Delaware County Community College, a BA from Temple University and a Master’s degree from Central Michigan University. In 2014, John received a 40-year ICMA Service Award.



Sunnylands,
Rancho Mirage



Fresno County city of Kerman developed at a Southern Pacific Railroad watering stop on a line between Tracy and Fresno established around 1891. The stop was called “Collis” for the railroad President **Collis Potter Huntington**. A Collis post office was opened in 1894, closed in 1899 and reopened in 1904. It was renamed “Kerman” in 1906. The name was derived by combining the first three letters of the names of developers **William G. Kerckhoff** and **Jacob Mansar**. Kerman was incorporated in 1946. The 2019 estimated population of Kerman is set at 15,282. **John Jansons** is the Kerman City Manager and **Josie Camacho** is the Interim City Clerk. **Jesus R. Orozco** is the Community Development Director, and **Manuel Campos** is the Assistant Planner. The Kerman Director of Finance is **Josefina Alvarez**. **Theresa Johnson** is the Community Services Director. **Steve Wilkins** is the Chief of Police and **Michael Barajas** is the Public Works Director.

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(800) 540-6369 ext. 104 or dyu@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

Management in the One “J” and Three “K” California Cities



Kerman City Manager **John Jansons** began his public service career as a United States Foreign Service Intern with the United States Department of State in 1997. In 1998, John became an Economic Development Specialist for the City of West Sacramento, working with then-City Manager **Joe Goeden**. In March 2002, John joined the Atascadero city staff as the Deputy Executive Director working with then-City Manager **Wade McKinney**. In 2003, John grabbed an opportunity to work as an Urban Renewal Project Coordinator in Salem, Washington, and in 2006 he took a Project Manager job for Portland, Oregon. John returned to California in October 2008 to serve as the Economic Development Manager for the City of Banning. John served as the Director of Community Investment & Economic Development for the City of Hemet starting in 2010. He was appointed City Manager for the City of Farmersville in 2015. John served as the Town Manager for the Town of Windsor starting in 2017. He joined the Kerman city staff as City Manager in November 2019. John earned a BA from the University of California, Davis. John represents Kerman on the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Advisory Committee. In 2022, John received a 20-year ICMA Service Award.




Seen on the Tahquitz Canyon Trail, Palm Springs



A Southern California Edison Company's analysis shows that electricity demand in California is projected to rise by more than 80% by 2045. They estimate that by then, 90% of vehicles and 95% of buildings will be fully electric. The State's electric grid, shows the analysis, will need to produce three times as much in new utility-scale solar and wind generation and develop the needed energy storage to meet this increased demand.

Management in the One “J” and Three “K” California Cities

John H. Kunkel served as the Kerman City Manager and retired from that position in 2019. John was the Chief of Police for the City of Exeter for 19 years. He then served as the Exeter City Manager before moving to the City Manager's post in the City of Buellton from 2009 to 2013. He also served as the Interim City Manager in Manzanita, Oregon. John earned a BA in the administration of justice, according to Tillamook Headlight Herald writer **Hilary Dorsey**.



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Vanessa Munoz, PE, TE
President and CEO, Engineering
562.447.6844
vmunoz@willdan.com




Adel Freij, PE
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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.



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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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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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Management in the One "J" and
Three "K" California Cities



King City is located on the Salinas River in California's Salinas Valley. It was 1769 when a Spanish explorer expedition camped along the Salinas River just south of today's King City. In the late 1880s the Dutton Hotel was a major stagecoach stop on El Camino Real. The city is named for founder **Charles King**. Charles put 6,000 acres into the production of a wheat crop. In 1886 the Southern Pacific Railroad completed service to King City station to serve the farms and ranches in the southern Salinas Valley. The King City post office first opened in 1887. The city was incorporated in February 1911. Novelist **John Steinbeck**'s father **J. Ernst Steinbeck** was among the first permanent residents of King City and claimed to be the first. Agriculture has played a serious role in King City history. It is contended that between 1910 and 1930, the city became famous worldwide for growing pink beans, especially due to the additional demand brought during World War I. The 2020 population of King City is 13,332. **Steven Adams** is the City Manager and **Erica Sonne** is the City Clerk. **Doreen Liberto** is the King City Community Development Director, and **Mike Howard** is the Finance Director. **Andrea Wasson** is the Recreation Manager. **Russ Nichols** is the Fire Chief and the Chief of Police is **James Hunt**. The Public Works Director is **Octavio Hurtado**.



Carlsbad resident **Nicole Niestemski** surfs all year long.

Management in the One “J” and Three “K” California Cities

ICMA Credentialed City Manager **Steven D. Adams** of King City began his public service career as an Intern with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) starting in March 1982. In September 1982 he took an Administrative Intern position with the City of San Luis Obispo. He took a similar Administrative Intern post in Temple City in August 1983. In January 1984, Steve was hired to serve the City of Glendale and when he left nearly 16 years later in July 1999 he was serving as Deputy City Manager. When left Glendale he took the Assistant City Manager position for the City of Westlake Village in July 1999. Steve was hired to serve as the City Manager in Arroyo Grande starting in September 2000. He worked in that position for nearly 14 and a half years. Steve became the City Manager in King City in November 2015. He earned a BA from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). Steve also completed the requirements for a Land Use and Environmental Planning Certificate from the University of California, Irvine.



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Denise Ovrom, Jack Simpson and John Shirey at the December 2023 luncheon of the Southern California “Proof of Life” group.



HdL was founded in 1983 by former City Manager the late **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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The Mission Inn in Riverside.

Management in the One “J” and Three “K” California Cities

Michael Powers served as the City Manager for King City for 9 years; leaving the city in December 2015. He began his public service career with the County of Fresno in 1990. He worked as a Deputy Special Administrator for the county, leaving there in July 1997 when he became the City Manager for the City of Dunsmuir. Mike became the Ferndale City Manager in March 2004 and served there until September 2006 when he was hired to serve as the City Manager for King City. After leaving King City at the end of 2015, Mike was hired as the Borough Manager for the Kodiak Island Borough in Kodiak, Alaska. Since June 2022, Michael has been working as a Project Manager for the City of Tulare. He earned a BA from California State University, Fresno.



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Olson Company's John Reekstin, a former City of Santa Ana economic development professional, has been a Southern California “Proof of Life” participant.

Management in the One “J” and Three “K” California Cities



Kingsburg is another County of Fresno city located on the banks of the Kings River. The late former Bellflower Mayor and Council Member **William “Bill” Pendleton** used to vacation on the river. Kingsburg was founded as a railroad town set by the Central Pacific Railroad in 1873. In 1874 Kingsburg was labelled “Wheatville” and that year a post office was established with that name. After a few more naming attempts, the city was incorporated as Kingsburg in May 1908. The 2020 population of Kingsburg is 12,380. **Alexander J. Henderson** is the Kingsburg city manager.



ICMA Credentialed Manager and Kingsburg City Manager **Alexander J. Henderson** began his Kingsburg city duties in January 2014. He began his public service career as a Management Intern for the Village of Howard, Wisconsin in 2007. That year he was hired to serve as the Director of Community & Utility Services for the Village of Bayside, Wisconsin, where he worked for about 6 years when in 2011 he was tapped to serve as the Deputy Village Manager. Alex came to California to become the Kingsburg City Manager starting in January 2014. He earned a BA and an MPA from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and completed a Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia. He also attended the University of Oklahoma’s Economic Development institute.

Don Pauley retired as the Kingsburg City Manager after working in the post for 13 years and working in city government for 38 years. He started his Kingsburg duties in 2000. He was the Corcoran city Manager for 9 years before coming to Kingsburg. He earned a BA from the College of St. Thomas and a Master’s from Mankato State University.



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Jeff Duhamel, CEO/Principal Consultant
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The world of communication is changing rapidly and so are the tools. **Englander Knabe & Allen** believes a constant, unrelenting focus on the needs of the firm's clients is not a service but a necessity. **The firm works with city governments to develop public-private partnership opportunities.**

At **Englander Knabe & Allen**, you only work with senior level staff because the firm only has senior level staff. Each of the firm's members bring substantial education, experience, and expertise in developing communications campaigns for Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, entrepreneurial companies, trade associations, government agencies, educational institutions and non-profit organizations. **Englander Knabe & Allen** does not employ account executives; rather, strategy and implementation are provided only by partners and vice presidents.

Englander Knabe & Allen combines powerful processes - Strategic Thinking + Solid Fundamental Tactics - into a communications tool that has provided clients with successful outcomes for more than 40 years.

Contact Information:

Corporate Office

**801 South Figueroa Street, Suite 1050
Los Angeles, California 90017**

Telephone: 213-741-1500

FAX: 213-747-4900

Sacramento Office

**1730 'L' Street, Suite 3
Sacramento, California 95814**

Telephone: 916-492-9512

Mobile: 916-690-0023

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Government Advocacy and Public Affairs

Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA) is a strategic communications firm specializing in government affairs, political campaigns, reputation and crisis communications, association management and litigation support.

EKA produces results for its clients across a diverse range of practice areas. We achieve this through our deep bench of team members augmented by a roster of experienced specialists we enlist to bring specific skills tailored to the client's needs. Only senior-level personnel with significant public and private sector expertise are employed. **EKA** team members have many years of public and private sector experience and deep relationships in government throughout Southern California.

Harvey Englander is the Founding Partner, founding **EKA** in 2005. He has been at the center of California's public and business life for more than 40-years. **Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA)** specialize in developing and implementing Position -A- Strategies for its clients, public or private. **EKA** Partners include **Matt Knabe; Marcus Allen; Adam Englander; Eric Rose; Jeff McConnell; Kellie Hawkins; & Alex Cherin.**

Matt Knabe is the Managing Partner. He is one of the founding partners. Matt specializes in political consulting, public affairs, government relations and issues, and communications strategy and community relations. In addition to his work, Matt is personally involved in giving back to the community. He is currently President of the Paramount Education Project. Matt graduated from Pepperdine University in 1996, where he played for the Pepperdine University Men's Golf Team. It is hard to find someone with better interaction with local city managers, and elected officials than Matt.

Marcus A. Allen is a former Chief Deputy Controller in Los Angeles and Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of operations and finance in the Mayor's office. Prior to working for Los Angeles, among other posts, Marcus worked as the Chief Deputy at the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and as a Public Affairs Planner for the Southern California Gas Company. He earned a BA from **UCLA** and a MPPS from the University of Chicago.

****Don't forget to visit the wonderful menu of the Boathouse on the Bay on the Long Beach waterfront.**



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Alexander Smith
Chief Executive Officer

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

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

The NEXT "Proof of Life" Lunch is planned for
Thursday, March 28, 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

RSVP to Jack Simpson at:
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Picking Up the Pieces: Isaac Whippy is the new City Manager for the City of Fort Bragg. He will take over for City Manager **Peggy Ducey** on January 3, 2024. Isaac is currently the Fort Bragg Director of Finance and will maintain that position too. He has been the Finance Director since May 2022 and served as Assistant Finance Director prior to that. Isaac is from Fiji. He earned a BS in accounting and economics from the University of the South Pacific. He joined the city staff in 2016. Pomona Assistant City Manager **Anita D. Gutierrez** is the Acting City Manager behind City Manager **James Makshanoff's** departure from the position. Anita has worked for Pomona in various positions since 2018 when she joined the city staff as a Planning Manager. She later served as Director of Development Services. James, a former city manager in Azusa and San Clemente, came to the Pomona city manager post in January 2020. After working as a Deputy City Manager in the City of Downey (2003-2005), James went to Azusa as Public Works Director in 2005. He was promoted to Assistant City Manager in 2008 and became City Manager in January 2012. He left Azusa in 2014 to assume the City Manager position in San Clemente, leaving there in 2020 to come to Pomona. James earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Long Beach. He received a 10-year ICMA Service Award in 2022. Suisun City is searching for a new city manager. In the meantime, **Aaron Roth** is serving as the Interim City Manager as well as the Chief of Police for Suisun City. Aaron joined the city staff as Chief in July 2019 after working law enforcement for Martinez and Carmel By The Sea.



"Career highlights? I had two. I got an intentional walk from **Sandy Koufax** and I got out of a rundown against the Mets."

--**Bob Uecker**



More Pieces Picked Up: Longtime City of Lakewood Public Works Director **Lisa Rapp** passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Lisa joined the city staff in Lakewood in October 1990. She retired from

Lakewood in 2022 following a 42-year career in municipal public works. Lisa served as the Lakewood Public Works Director for 26 years. She was the APWA President-Elect and would have served as President during the coming year. Lisa earned a BS in civil engineering from the University of Southern California (**USC**). She played trumpet in the Cerritos College Community Orchestra. R.I.P. **Lisa Rapp!**



Doug Dunford, who has served as the Interim City Manager in the City of Ceres since May, is the new Ceres City Manager. He succeeds City Manager **Alex Terrazas**. Alex was hired in August 2021 after City Manager **Tom Westbrook** resigned to take the City Manager position in Red Bluff. Doug previously served as city manager for Gustine and California City. He is a former Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff starting in 1978. The city of Lindsay in Tulare County has appointed Recreation Director **Armando da Silva** as Interim City Manager while City Manager **Joe Tanner** is on Administrative Leave pending the completion of an investigation report. Joe has been the Lindsay city manager since March 2020. He previously worked for the cities of Monterey Park, Port Hueneme, Moraga, Desert Hot Springs, Rio Vista and San Ramon. Visalia Assistant City Manager **Nick Macia** is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Fresno. Nick worked for Visalia for a decade. Porterville City Manager **John Lollis** is the new Assistant City Manager in Visalia. John has been with Porterville for the past 15 years. San Juan Bautista Assistant City Manager **Brian Foucht** is on administrative leave pending the completion of an investigation. City Manager Don Reynolds estimates that the investigation will conclude by the end of the month.



Happy Holidays to one and all!

This is Jack Simpson and the family Siberian Husky, Lilo, with Werewolf Santa!

Merry Christmas!

SHORTS: ***David Fleishman** of **Richards, Watson & Gershon (RWG)** has been introduced as the new City Attorney for the City of Atascadero where **Jim Lewis** is the City Manager. ***Amy Flanagan** of **HdL Companies** is a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. *Former Azusa City Manager **Fran Delach** is Vice President of Delach Development Resources and an Adjunct Faculty member and City Manager in Residence at the University of La Verne. *North Dakota State University alumnus, **Ronald Kiedrowski** is a former city manager for Show Low, Arizona; La Quinta (1986-1992); American Canyon (1992-2994); and Assistant City Manager in San Pablo (1995-2003). *Indian Wells City Manager Dr. **Chris Freeland**, who earned a PhD in philosophy, American government and politics from Claremont Graduate University, is a former City Manager for West Covina and a former Field Representative for a member of the United States House of Representatives. *Retired Beverly Hills City Manager **Roderick "Rod" Wood**, who is a Special Advisor to the Citrus Heights Water District, has provided the organizational leadership to plan Northern California "Proof of Life" lunches and urges that the "Proof of Life" movement is brought to other areas. ***John F. "Johnny" Johnston** served as the City Manager for the City of Artesia (1968-1971) and in the City of Ojai starting in 1971 before going on to a Los Angeles County and Ventura County management career and serving on the Ojai city council and as Mayor. *City Manager **John Conley** selected **Greg Mayer**, who has worked with the city for 15 and a half years, to serve as the new Director of Engineering for the City of Vista. *San Jose State University reports that it plans to purchase a former hotel tower for housing 700 to 800 students in the new Spartan Village on the Paseo. *Market observers report that it is not waning housing buyer interest in California, but rather a lack of inventory. ***

"Proof of Life"



Eighteen (18) veteran public managers gathered on "Pearl Harbor Day," Thursday, December 7, 2023 for a "Proof of Life" lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada.

Listed in no particular order, they included:

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

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

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

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

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

Jim Barisic, a former Artesia City Manager who also worked for Paramount and Cerritos, is the Founder and Chair of **Brandywine Homes**, headquartered in Irvine.

Denise Ovrom, retired Beverly Hills Assistant City Manager and former City Manager for the City of Temple City. She also served as Assistant City Manager for Brea and Assistant to the City Manager and Finance Director for Claremont. Denise is a Principal with **Hdl Companies**. She is a **USC** alumnus.

Don Knabe, retired Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Don previously served as Chief of Staff for the 1st Supervisorial District, and he is a former Mayor and City Council Member for the City of Cerritos.

Jorge Rifa, retired City Administrator for the City of Commerce. Began his public service career in 1978 with the City of Compton and El Monte before becoming city manager in the City of Soledad. He was a longtime Assistant City Manager in Salinas prior to coming to Commerce.

David Carmany, after serving in Lancaster and Alhambra he served as city manager in Agoura Hills; Malibu; Pacificca; Seal Beach; Manhattan Beach; La Puente; and West Covina. He was also a Regional Manager for PARS in 2003-2007.

Pat West, retired in 2019 as the City of Long Beach City Manager. He worked as Parks and Recreation Director and Community Development Director in **Paramount**. He served as the Paramount City Manager from 1994-2005, when he was hired as the Long Beach Community Development Director. He was appointed City Manager in 2007.

Jon Shull, retired Chief Executive Officer for the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA). He served as an Administrative Assistant for the City of Cerritos and as Assistant to the City Manager in Signal Hill prior to joining the CJJPIA as Assistant Executive Director. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2002 and retired in 2023.

John Shirey, retired Sacramento City Manager in 2016. Previously worked as the Long Beach Assistant City Manager before moving to Ohio to serve as the Cincinnati City Manager. (1993-2001). He was the Executive Director of the California Redevelopment Association before serving as Sacramento City Manager. He is currently the President of the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera.

Don Jeffers, retired as the Huntington Park City Manager who has relocated to the Rancho Bernardo area. He worked in Rialto and Pacifica as an Administrative Assistant. He became Assistant City Manager in Pacifica prior to joining the Huntington Park city staff in 1978. Became City Manager in 1981. **Ray Ghrist** was a guest of Don's. Ray worked for several cities during his public service career.

Sam Olivito, retired Executive Director for the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) where he served for 32 years. Following retirement, he served nearly two years as the Interim Executive Director for the Independent Cities Association. He worked as the Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations for the RTD (1968-1984).

James Hankla, was the Executive Director for the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles before being appointed as the County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) in 1985. Jim served as the Long Beach City Manager from 1987 to 1998. He continues to keep active.

Jack A. Simpson, worked for Paramount, Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens and Bellflower. Also, served Interim in La Puente. Former member of the CCMF Board of Trustees. Worked with **Willdan**.

The next lunch will be on Thursday, March 28, 2024.



The December 7th "Proof of Life" lunch included these five: **Don Jeffers**; **Greg Korduner**; **Sam Olivito**; **Tom Robinson**; and **Robert Dickey**.