

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



January 2024

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Longtime Bellflower City Manager **Jeff Stewart** has retired and is succeeded by Lomita City Manager **Ryan Smoot**. City management can be a family affair. Jeff worked with the late City Manager **Frank Tripepi** for many years. In this picture are Frank's widow, **Rhonda Tripepi**, Jeff, and **Nicole and Ryder Smith**, founders of **Tripepi Smith**.

Management in the First Six California Cities Listed Alphabetically

Cities included in this Issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown are California's first six cities listed alphabetically: Adelanto, Agoura Hills, Alameda, Albany, Alhambra, and Aliso Viejo. These cities are located in the counties of San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Alameda, and Orange. Alpine county, the least populated county in the state had a population of 1,204 in 2020. It is not an incorporated city, though the County of Alpine where Markleeville is the county seat was founded in 1864 in the Sierra Nevada mountains. **Kit Carson** and **John Fremont** were among the first explorers in the area in 1844. There is also an unincorporated Alpine census-designated place (CDP) in the Cuyamaca Mountains of San Diego County. The San Diego County Alpine, which is near El Cajon, had a 2020 population of 14,696.

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Management in the First Six California Cities Listed Alphabetically



Adelanto, which is Spanish for "Advance," is in San Bernardino County. It was founded in 1915 by **E. H. Richardson**, the inventor of the electric iron. He sold the patent and purchased land for a planned community. The post office used the name Adelanto when it opened an office in 1917. Prior to the Great Depression, the area had acres of fruit trees and became known for its fresh fruit and cider. During the Great Depression, poultry ranches replaced orchards. In 1941, the Victorville Army Airfield was established, and in 1950 the airfield was renamed the George Air Force Base. Adelanto survived as a "community services district" until the city incorporated in December 1970. The city allowed a card room named the Hi Desert Casino (1975-1997) that included a fine dining restaurant and bar that attracted people from far and wide. The 2020 population of Adelanto was set at 38,046. **Jessie Flores** is the City Manager and **Brenda Lopez** is the City Clerk.



One of the "Proof of Life" founders, **Gregory Korduner**, retired Huntington Park city manager, and his wife **Karen Korduner**, a retired education from Downey USD, celebrating their shared birthday at the Dal Rae.



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Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Jessie Flores was announced as Adelanto's Interim City Manager in July 2018 when he replaced **Brad Letner**, who only served two months. Jessie started in Adelanto as an Economic Development consultant in May 2017. Jessie previously served on the Adelanto Planning Commission in 2015. After leaving office for a short time, Jessie re-started as the Adelanto City Manager in February 2019. He served as the CEO of Professional Charter Management, Inc. that operated the Adelanto Charter Academy.

One cannot consider Adelanto city managers without a mention of **Particia A. Chamberlain**, who passed away in June 2001 at the age of 71. She was elected to the City Council in 1970 and was recalled over the High Desert Casino issues. She was asked to serve as City Administrator in 1980. Pat retired as City Manager in 1996.

Adelanto has had a number of city managers with excellent public management reputations. **Dr. James Hart**, served as city manager from January 2005 until February 2015. Jim previously served as the city manager in Twentynine Palms (1992-2002) and Ranch Santa Margarita (2002-2004). He earned a Doctorate in Business Administration from California Coast University, an MPA from Brigham Young University and a BA from California State University, Fullerton.



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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
Doug La Belle, Retired City Manager, Chino Hills
Don Penman, Retired City Manager, Arcadia
Chuck Bryant, Past City Admin., Hawaiian Gardens
Sam Olivito, Retired CCCA Executive Director

Posse Roster:

Gregory Korduner, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
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
Jim Lewis, City Manager, City of Atascadero
Donald Jeffers, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park



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Trackdown Management**

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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!

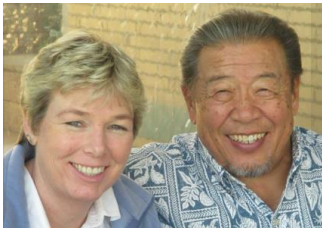
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G. Michael Milhiser, a longtime professional public manager, served as the Interim City Manager in Adelanto in 2018. Mike is a former City Manager in Upland and Ontario, and City Administrator in Montclair. In Adelanto, he replaced Interim City Manager **Cindy Herrera**, who returned to her City Clerk position. Starting in 2007 Mike served as the Chief Administrative Office for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. He is also a Board member for the Monte Vista Water District in Montclair. Mike earned an AA from Chaffey College, a BA from Chapman University, and an MA from Claremont Graduate University.



A former executive of accounting and finance consulting firm, Alexander Grant working with **C. Raymond Wood, Michael A. Sakamoto**, joined the

Bellflower city staff as Finance Director, and was promoted to Assistant City Administrator in Bellflower. Mike went to work as the Adelanto City Manager before going north to be the City Manager in the City of Hercules from 2002 until he retired in April 2007. Mike had worked as an executive for the car dealer **Pete Ellis** before going to Adelanto. Mike has been a participant of the Northern California "Proof of Life" lunch program. Pictured is Mike and his wife Annie.



and the community was known as "Picture City" for a short time. The Agoura Hills post office opened in 1927 and by the 1960s began to grow and develop due in part to the completion of the U.S. Route 101 freeway build through the area. The city was incorporated in December 1982. The 2020 population of Agoura Hills is 20,299.



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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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Nathan Hamburger is the Agoura Hills City Manager and **Ramiro Adeva** is the Assistant City Manager. **Louis Celaya** is the Deputy City Manager, and the City Clerk is **Kimberly M. Rodrigues**. Since **Christy Truelsen** retired in November 2023 as the Director of Finance, the Agoura Hills Director of Finance is **Diego Ibanez**. **Denice Thomas** is the Community Development Director, **Jessica Forte** is the Director of Public Works and City Engineer, and **Amy Brink** is the Director of Community Services.

City Manager **Nathan Hamburger** served as a Senior Management Analyst for the City of Walnut from 1999 until January 2006. He joined the Agoura Hills city staff as Assistant City Manager in January 2006 and was elevated to City Manager in July 2020 following the resignation of City Manager **Greg Ramirez**, who became City Manager in Camarillo. Greg served as City Manager from November 2003. Nathan is a Downey HS alumnus and earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



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.



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Alameda is the 1853 voter selected name for the city. The city was founded in June 1853 following the Mexican American War of 1848. The first post office opened in 1854 and the San

Francisco and Alameda Railroad opened a station in 1864. In 1917, a private entertainment park called Neptune Beach was developed where today it is known as Crab Cove. It became a major amusement and recreation destination in the 1920s and 1930s. It is claimed that the snow cone and the popsicle were sold first at Neptune Beach. The Alameda Works Shipyard was one of the largest and best equipped in the country. The city was incorporated in April 1854. The 2020 population is 78,280. **Jennifer Ott** is the Alameda City Manager and **Amy Wooldridge** is the Assistant City Manager. **Lara Weisiger** is the City Clerk, and the Finance Director is **Margaret O'Brien**. **Erin Smith** is the Public Works Director, and the Acting Recreation and Parks Director is **David Leimsieder**.



After working as a Vice President for a private economic and planning consulting firm (2000-2004), in March 2005, **Jennifer Ott** joined the Alameda staff as a Redevelopment Manager. From 2008 to January 2010, she split her time with redevelopment and as a Special Assistant to the City Manager. She was Deputy City Manager (2010-2011), Chief Operating Officer for Alameda Point (2011-2015), and Base Reuse and Transportation Planning Director (2015-2018). In September 2018, Jennifer took the Deputy City Manager position with the City of Hayward, and she was appointed Assistant City Manager in January 2021. Jennifer returned to the City of Alameda as City Manager in January 2023. She earned a BA in history and Spanish from the University of California, Davis and an MPP from the University of California, Berkeley.



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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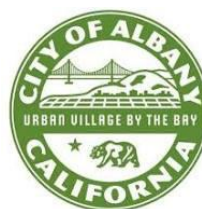
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Albany is located on the easterly shore of the San Francisco Bay northerly of Alameda County. In 1908, a group of local women confronted wagons of Berkeley trash to be dumped in the Albany area. The story goes that the women were armed with a couple of shotguns and a twenty-two-caliber rifle. The women ordered the garbage wagon drivers to leave with their trash, and they returned home without complaint. Shortly after the incident, the city was incorporated as the City of Ocean View in September 1908. In 1909, local voters changed the name to the City of Albany in honor of Albany, New York, the birthplace of the first mayor of the city, **Frank Roberts**. In 2020 the Albany population was set at 20,271. **Nicole Almaguer** is the City Manager, and **Isabelle Leduc** is the Assistant City Manager. **Anne Hsu** is the City Clerk. **Sid Schoenfeld** is the Albany Recreation & Community Services Director. **Jeff Bond** is the Community Development Director, **Cassandra Murphy** is the Interim Finance Director, Mark Hurley is the Public Works Director and City Engineer, and **Penny Ha** is the Human Resources Director. The Chief of Police is **John Geissberger** and the Fire Chief since November 2021 is **James Boito**.

Albany City Manager **Nicole Almaguer** has served in her position since November 20, 2017. Nicole earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MS in environmental science from the University of San Francisco.



Assistant City Manager **Isabelle Leduc**, since 2018, worked as a Senior Services Supervisor for San Leandro (2000-2007), before joining the Albany city staff in 2007 as a Community and Human Services Manager. She earned an MPA from California State University, East Bay.

Trackdown grandchildren Koa and Lei Lei on the Rose Parade route in Pasadena in the early morning hours awaiting their brother Tyler marching with the University of Michigan Marching Band. "Go Blue!"



Management in the First Six California Cities Listed Alphabetically



City of Alhambra

Alhambra is on land that was part of the San Gabriel Mission founded in 1771. Following the Mexican American War, a developer ended up owning the land that became Alhambra. The name comes from author Washington Irving's book, Tales of the Alhambra. The city is promoted as a "city of homes." The city was incorporated in July 1903. The 2020 population is 82,868. **Jessica Binnquist** is the Alhambra City Manager, **Lucy Garcia** is the Assistant City Manager and **Lauren Myles** is the City Clerk. **Pearl Lieu** is the Director of Finance, **Andrew Ho** is the Director of Community Development, **Mariam Ko** is the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management, and **Michael Macias** is the Director of Parks and Recreation. The Public Works Director and Director of Utilities is **Martin Ray**, the Chief of Police is **Garrett Kennedy** and the Fire Chief is **Jeffrey D. Ragusa**.

Writing of Alhambra city managers, one cannot overlook the late **A.C. "Andy" Lazzaretto**, who served as city manager for Walnut, Stanton, Alhambra, Burbank, and Rosemead. Also, the late **Kevin J. Murphy** who served as the Alhambra city manager (1983-1992) before becoming the Newport Beach City Manager and later working with **PARS**. Kevin also worked in Walnut, Stanton and Lancaster. He lost his battle with cancer in July 2011.



City Manager **Jessica Binnquist** worked as an Administrative Analyst for the City of San Marino from March 1996 to July 2009. She joined the Alhambra city staff in July 2009. Jessica became City Manager in April 2019. She earned a BA from Azusa Pacific University and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



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Newsletter Objective

As we said at the start of 2008, we intend to continue producing a unique, compelling and entertaining newsletter for California's top municipal executives and those who serve them and with them. We hope to help preserve some California City Manager history, while at the same time, providing a link...or thread...to connect many of those practicing or who have practiced public management. "Thank you" to our Sponsors and the Trackdown Posse for allowing us to do this.

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Alhambra Assistant City Manager **Lucy Garcia** began her public service career as a Management Assistant for the City of Chino in 1994. She took an Administrative Analyst position with West Covina in 1997. After working as a grant consultant from 2001 to 2004, Lucy took a Community Services Manager position with the City of San Marino. She was promoted to Community Services Director in 2008 and she became Assistant City Manager in January 2011. Between 2017 and 2019, Lucy worked for the City of Rialto as Human Resources and Risk Management Director. She joined the Alhambra city staff in April 2019 as Human Resources Director. Lucy has served as Assistant City Manager since June 2019. She earned a BS and master's in human resource management from the University of Southern California (**USC**), and an MPA from the University of La Verne. She is proficient in Spanish and English. Lucy also earned a Certificate in Public Sector Leadership from Cornell University.



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."

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



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Management in the First Six California Cities Listed Alphabetically



Aliso Viejo is the only city to have incorporated since 2000. The city's original development was as a planned community where once the Moulton Ranch was. The Moulton family took title in the

1890s. The land has been sold in portions that became Leisure World, Laguna Hills and Laguna Niguel. The Mission Viejo Company purchase the remaining property in 1976 for a planned community. Orange County approved the plan in 1979. Aliso Viejo was the first planned community in California to plan a balance between the projected local work force and the number of projected jobs within its borders. The city of Aliso Viejo was incorporated in July 2001. The 2020 population is 52,176. **David Doyle** is the City Manager and **Mitzi Ortiz** is the Director of Government Services. **Ann Eifert** is the Director of Financial Services and City Treasurer. **So Kim** is the Community Development Director, **Shaun Pelletier** is the Public Works Director and City Engineer, and **Cindy Collins** is currently the Interim Recreation & Community Services Manager.



Aliso Viejo City Manager **David Doyle** came to the city in 2013 to replace City Manager **Mark Pulone**, who resigned to accept the Yorba Linda city manager position. David began his public service career as an Administrative Intern for Manhattan Beach in 1992. He became a Management Assistant in 1993; a Management Analyst in 1994; Assistant to the City Manager in 1995; and the Manhattan Beach Deputy City Manager in January 2000. In July 2000, David took the Deputy City Manager position in the City of Diamond Bar and he was promoted to Assistant City Manager in 2005. David earned a BA from the University of California and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. David received a 30-year ICMA Service Award in 2023.



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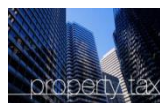


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In 1993, a separate corporation was organized by partners **Paula Cone**, **Martin Coren**, **Robert Hinderliter**, and **Lloyd de Llamas** to provide property tax related services, including allocation audits, trends analysis, tax increment verification, tax allocation bond fiscal services, and related software products.

In 1996, **HdL Software LLC** was established with participants **Nancy Hicks**, **Robert Hinderliter**, and **Lloyd de Llamas** to provide easy-to-use, integrated "counter tools" for the processing and tracking of revenue related functions, such as business licenses, building/planning permits, animal control licenses, and code enforcement violations.

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Paula Cone, President of **HdL Coren and Cone**, the property tax arm of the **HdL Companies**, has more than twenty-years of municipal finance and city management experience.

Robert Gray, President of **HdL Software LLC** has been with **HdL Companies** since 1996. He earned an MBA from Azusa Pacific University.

Sincere Trackdown Condolences to the **HdL** family on the passing of Founder **Robert Hinderliter** on Monday, December 4, 2023, due to pancreatic cancer. Bob is missed by all who knew him.

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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.

Letters and Notes from Readers:

We lost a legend and a maverick in the public works and engineering field. Lakewood's **Lisa Rapp** suffered a sudden massive heart attack and passed away on Monday afternoon. I have a feeling you remember Lisa playing the trumpet at Cerritos College with your grandson. She'll be greatly missed by so many. It's so sad! ☹️ Condolences to Lisa's family and friends.

--**Adel Freij**, Willdan

I hope that you are doing well. Lloyd shared with me the narrative he sent over regarding my Dad's (Robert Hinderliter) passing. Andy Nickerson helped put the obituary together: (Page 17, December 2023 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown.)

Thank you for the support that you and **Frank Tripepi** gave my Dad early on, without it this business may have never grown to what it is today! We are hoping to put together some type of memorial service or celebration of life for my Dad, but with the holidays right around the corner it won't be until after the end of the year. I will keep you posted. Thanks again.

--**Matt Hinderliter**

HdL Companies, Director of Audit Services

Sorry that I won't be able to attend the December 7 "Proof of Life" lunch. I have a noontime County Museum Board meeting which is being held on my boat that day so it would be rude not to show up there! I hope that all is well with you and that you have a great turnout for the lunch. And thank you for always putting the "Proof of Lunch" arrangements together as well as the Trackdown Management Newsletter. Both are truly an excellent way for so many of us to keep in touch.

--**Mike Sedell**

You skipped Holtville in the latest newsletter. Thank you.

Respectfully,

--**Alex Meyerhoff**

Apparently, you forgot to mention the City of Huron in your H cities in California. We may be small but still in California!! (haha). FYI we have a new City Manager starting December 1st. **Virginia Penaloza**.

--**John Kunkel**, Interim City Manager

NOTE: Thank you for all the notes and mail. We especially apologize to Alex and John for missing their cities. We hope that we have remedied those mistakes. Happy New Year to all!



Picking Up the Pieces: California City's Interim City Manager **Michele Martinez** resigned only ten weeks into the job. Michele cited concern for her safety as a reason she left. She is California City's seventh city Manager within the past two years. City Attorney **Victor Ponto** has taken the city manager duties until a Deputy City Manager is hired and a replacement for the City Manager is

found. Sedona, Arizona City Manager **Karen Osburn** is looking to fill up to 10 new city staff positions during the next two fiscal years. The city recently authorized a midyear salary increase for current staff. Director of Public Works **Kurt Harris** is looking to add at least five new employees. Karen has served as Sedona City Manager since March 2021.



She previously worked as Assistant City Manager from March 2012. Karen earned a BASc from Binghamton University and an MPA from Arizona State University. City of Inglewood, home of SoFi Stadium, City Manager **Artie Fields** retired at the end of 2023. Artie served as the Inglewood City Manager for a dozen years starting in 2011. He began his career in 1986 as an Intern with the City of Beverly Hills. He went on to serve in various positions with the cities of Manhattan Beach, Pasadena, Pomona, San Leandro and West Covina. He was appointed City Manager in Salinas in 2008 before he joined the Inglewood executive team as city manager. Artie earned a BA and MPA from the University of Southern California (USC). In 2016 he received a 30-Year ICMA Service Award. Artie is the 2002 recipient of the John H. Nail Memorial Award. **Mark Weinberg** has been appointed to serve as the Inglewood Interim City Manager. **Sandra Spelliscy**, former City Manager at Talent, Oregon, was hired last June as the Interim City Manager for the City of Sutter Creek replacing City Manager **Amy Gedney**. **Tom DuBois** was named City Manager in Sutter Creek starting in November 2023, replacing Sandra. Tom held positions in the private sector and is a former Mayor and City Council Member in the City of Palo Alto (2015-2023). Tom earned a BS in mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University and an MBA from Georgetown University. New Calabasas Assistant City Manager **Scott Trujillo** previously worked in Indio as Deputy City Manager. Scott will begin work in Calabasas on January 22 as support staff to City Manager **Kindon Meik**. He rose in the Indio city organization from a Human Services Supervisor in June 2006 to Deputy City Manager in February 2019. He worked in five different Indio positions along the way. Scott earned a BS in psychology from Colorado State University and an MPA from Grand Canyon University. Scott serves on the ICMA Committee for Assistant Chief Administrative Officers.

Letters and Notes from Readers:

Good morning. Every year since I retired, I organize a holiday breakfast for the current and former Fairfield executive team. The invitation list has grown over the years from nine to more than 30! This year we had 19 managers attend! Happy holidays to everyone in our profession!

--Kevin O'Rourke



I was thinking that it is a long drive for many to our two lunches. Maybe we could see if we can find some other folks to start other chapters around the State to give more folks an opportunity to get together.

If you two think it is a good idea, I will look at how to break the state in areas and see if I can find some volunteers. Really, it's very little work to reserve a restaurant and send a couple of emails.

I would also like to propose to ICMA that they consider this kind of program as an adjunct for retired Managers? Seems like a logical extension of their post-retirement programs.

--Rod Wood

Enjoyed the special Christmas edition (December Special issue) of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown. My favorite part was the GREAT picture of you and Susan - you both look terrific!!!! Happy holidays and warm wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year

---Jill Frechette

So sorry to hear about **Lisa Rapp**. She was a great friend and fellow **USC** Trojan. She will truly be missed!

--Mark Alexander

At the Bellflower City Council meeting of November 13, 2023, action was taken to appoint Lomita City Manager **Ryan Smoot** to succeed Bellflower City Manager **Jeffrey "Jeff" L. Stewart**, who has retired. Jeff is a former city manager in Los Alamitos and El Segundo. Jeff has served as the Bellflower city manager for the past 12 years, starting in January 2012. He previously worked with the cities of Rosemead and West Covina. Ryan began his Lomita tenure as City Manager in 2016. He previously worked in the City Manager's office for the City of Bellflower.

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More Pieces Picked Up: Willie Hopkins Jr. is the new Compton City Manager starting January 8, 2024. Willie is a U.S. Army veteran. He is coming from the position of City Manager for the City of Barstow. He was hired by Barstow in September 2021. Willie served as the

Director of the General Services Agency in Alameda County prior to joining the Barstow city staff. He earned a BA from Alcorn State University. Former Palm Springs City Manager **David Ready** confirmed to The Desert Sun newspaper that he is a candidate for the District 5 City Council seat on the Palm Springs City Council. David served as the Palm Springs city manager for 20 years. Current District 5 Council Member **Lisa Middleton** is not seeking re-election as she is a 19th District State Senate seat candidate. Since retiring as City Manager, David has served short Interim City Manager assignments in Palos Verdes Estates and Rolling Hills. He is also serving as an adjunct professor in the Public Administration program at California State University, San Bernardino. David earned a BA and Doctorate from Kent State University and a Masters from the University of Akron. In 2018 he received a 35-year ICMA Service Award.

Letters and Notes from Readers:

It is with the heaviest of hearts and unbearable sadness that I inform you that **Lisa Rapp** suffered a massive heart attack and passed away yesterday afternoon (Sunday, December 3, 2023). She was at home in the kitchen, when she was found by her niece.

Lisa was just in City Hall over the past couple of days, and said that she was getting ready to go on a cruise. This is obviously crushing news to many of us, and my deepest sympathies go out to Lisa's many, many friends and colleagues in our organization, in our contractor community, and in the many other communities where Lisa was active. That includes the American Public Works Association, where she had just been named National President and was eager to take on an active role in advocating for improved infrastructure and public works across the United States. It also includes the musical community. Lisa was a proud former **USC** band horn player and was still active with a local brass band.

Lisa worked for Lakewood from 1990 until her retirement on April 14, 2022. She worked for the City of South Gate for several years before coming to Lakewood. She was 66 years old.

We have conveyed our condolences on behalf of the city to her husband Richard. At this point, the family does not envision a memorial/celebration of life until sometime in 2024. As you can imagine, the family is devastated and as surprised as we all are. Richard did say that he deeply appreciates the love and support from her City of Lakewood family over the years and during this time of immense loss. Again, my deepest condolences to all, and please keep Lisa and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

--**Thaddeus McCormack**, Lakewood City Manager

Working with City Manager **Marianna Marysheva**, **Paul Spence** is the new Assistant City Manager for the City of Livermore replacing Assistant City Manager **Christine Martin**, who retired. Paul previously worked as the Livermore Community Development Director. He began his public service career in 2001 as an Associate Planner for Livermore. He earned a BA from Pomona College and an MA in urban and regional planning from the University of California, Irvine. Marianna, the City Manager, came to Livermore in May 2022 from Irvine, where she served as Assistant City Manager. She is a member of the ICMA Smart Communities Committee.



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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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Still More Pieces Picked Up: Former Milpitas City Manager **Steven McHarris** is taking legal action against the city for wrongful termination and breach of contract. Steve is seeking more than \$25,000 in relief and attorney fees. He served as the Milpitas city manager from May 2020 to June 2023. It appears that Steve has not been employed since leaving the city. He previously held economic development and planning positions in Soledad, and San Jose. **Christopher Smith** is a new Deputy City Manager for the City of Santa Monica as part of a restructuring of Santa Monica local government. Chris has worked for the city for 13 years. He has been serving as Chief of Staff for the City Manager's office for 8 years. As Deputy City Manager he will be responsible for the city's internal services departments; the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) team and the new chief of staff. He is assuming the title formerly held by **Anuj Gupta**, the city's new Transportation Director. Christopher earned a BA from the University of Washington and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. Long Beach Deputy City Manager **April Walker** began her tenure as the Long Beach Assistant City Manager on December 31, 2023. City Manager **Tom Modica** named April to succeed Assistant City Manager **Linda F. Tatum**, who retired.



SHORTS: ***Nicole Almaguer**, Albany City Manager since November 2017, earned an MS in environmental science from the University of San Francisco. ***New Palm Spring Chief Economic Development Officer Wayne Olson** has previous experience with the City of Palm Desert. ***As** the cost of local government increases, Long Beach City Council Members approved new agreements with the Long Beach City Prosecutors Association, the Long Beach Management Association and the Long Beach Association of Confidential Employees increasing salary, wages, and some benefits, like the increased city contributions to employee deferred compensation plans. ***Parlier City Manager Sonia Hall** has been serving in a toxic working environment soured by in-fighting tensions between council members, including requested police reports and requested action by the District Attorney. ***Sausalito City Manager Chris Zapata** previously served as City Manager in the cities of National City (2004-2012), San Leandro (2012-2018) and Anaheim (2018-2020) before he started as city manager in Sausalito in June 2021. ***Red Bluff City Manager Tom Westbrook** has been working on a new service agreement with GreenWaste of Tehama who has provided solid waste collections services in Red Bluff since 1998. ***Former La Habra Chief of Police Alan Hostetter** was sentenced to 135 months in prison for his role in the January 6 U.S. Capitol protest actions. ***Since 2018, West Sacramento City Manager Aaron Laurel** is originally from the Bay Area and joined the West Sacramento city staff in 2005. ***Lone Pine** is an unincorporated community in Inyo County in the Owens Valley near the Alabama Hills and Mount Whitney with a 2010 population of 2,035. ***Ashley D. Turney** is the new Assistant City Manager for the City of Reno, Nevada where she worked as the Chief Innovation and Experience Officer. ***Atascadero City Manager Jim Lewis** recently introduced **David Fleishman of Richards, Watson & Gershon (RWG)** as the new City Attorney and **Daniel B. Suttles** as the new Atascadero Chief of Police. ***Jim Curtis** is the Indio Community Services Manager who works closely with a team that provides the Coachella and Stagecoach music and arts festivals that draw 100,000 plus visitors a day. ***Former Plumas County Supervisor, Jon Kennedy** is the City Manager for Portola, California since January 2022. ***Jim Goodwin**, the City Manager for the City of Wheatland, was named Town Manager for Paradise in July. ***Palm Desert City Manager Todd Hileman** was the City Manager in Denton, Texas when he was hired in Palm Desert and Village Manager of Glenview, Michigan before that. ***Irvine** joined Pasadena, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica and Los Angeles by banning the use of gas-powered lawn maintenance equipment, including leaf blowers, lawnmowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, edgers and chainsaws. ***