

# City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



February, 2024

Volume No. 17 | Issue No. 03

Click the logos throughout the newsletter to open links ...



Retired City Manager **Tim Kerr** and his family, San Francisco 49ers fans, watched the 49ers earned a spot in the 2024 Super Bowl in Las Vegas by winning the NFC Championship. Sadly, **Patrick Mahomes** led the Kansas City Chiefs to a 25-22 overtime Super Bowl win. Tim served as City Manager in [Turlock](#) (2005-2009), [Ceres](#) (1998-2005) and [Livingston](#) (1990-1998). Tim earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MPA from Syracuse University, Maxwell School.

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One

Cities included in this Issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown are California's third six plus one cities listed alphabetically: [Antioch](#), [Apple Valley](#), [Arcadia](#), [Arcata](#), [Arroyo Grande](#), [Artesia](#) and [Arvin](#). The seven city/town managers of these cities include **Kwame Reed**; **Doug Robertson**; **Dominic Lazzaretto**; **Karen Diemer**; **Matthew Downing**; **Aldo E. Schindler**; and **Jeff Jones**. These cities are include in six different counties including the counties of Contra Costa, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Humboldt, San Luis Obispo, and Kern. In Contra Costa County's [Antioch](#), **Kwame Reed** is the Acting City Manager following the retirement of City Manager **Ron Bernal** and the resignation of **Cornelius Johnson**. Of these cities, not only is [Antioch](#) the second oldest, incorporating in 1872, it has the largest population at 115,201.

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

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

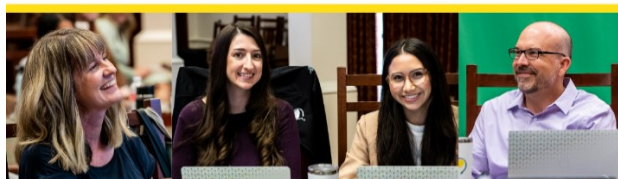
[www.trackdownmanagement.net](http://www.trackdownmanagement.net) | [Jack@trackdownmanagement.net](mailto:Jack@trackdownmanagement.net)

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One

Of this group of cities, Artesia has the smallest population at 16,395 and the oldest of the group is Arcata, incorporated in 1858. Also falling within the alphabetical parameters of this Antioch to Arvin group, are a few unincorporated communities that include Aptos, Arbuckle, Armona, Arnold and Aromas. Aptos is a town in Santa Cruz County and is partly known for Beer Can Beach. Arbuckle is in Colusa County and has a population of 3,484. Armona is a community in Kings County, and Arnold is in Calaveras County. Aromas, originally known as "Sand Cut," is interesting as it is in both Monterey County and San Benito County, straddling the borders.



**Anthony Gonsalves** of the **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** professional representation firm of Sacramento and Trackdown granddaughter **Presley Simpson Guarino**.



**Our Team.  
Your Communications.**

(626) 536-2173

[TripepiSmith.com](http://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



Antioch was formerly name "Smith's Landing" and "Marsh's Landing." Ranch owner **John Marsh** built a boat landing on the San Joaquin River in 1848 at what is now Antioch. In 1849 twin brothers who were Christian Reverends named Smith came to town and in 1851 they convinced the locals to rename their town to Antioch for the Biblical Syrian town of Antioch. An Antioch post office opened in 1851, closed in 1852 and reopened in 1855. The city of Antioch was incorporated in February 1872 and its 2020 population is 115,291. **Kwame Reed** is the Antioch Acting City Manager and **Ellie Householder** is the City Clerk. **Lauren Posada** is the Antioch City Treasurer. **Dawn Merchant** is the Finance Director and **Ana Cortez** is the Human Resources Director. **Bradley Helfenberger** is the Parks & Recreation Director and **Scott Buenting** is the Acting Public Works Director and City Engineer. The Acting Chief of Police is **Joe Vigil**.

"Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues."

---**Confucius**





*Providing innovative risk management solutions for its public agency partners for more than 45 years, the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA) is one of the largest municipal self-insurance pools in the state, with more than 125 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 training and loss control services.*



**Alexander Smith**  
Chief Executive  
Officer

**California Joint Powers Insurance Authority**  
cjpia.org | [info@cjpia.org](mailto:info@cjpia.org) | (562) 467-8700

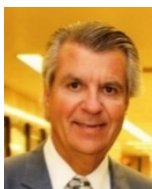


**Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**

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.

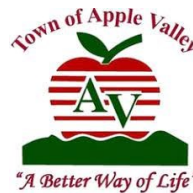
**Anthony Gonsalves** is a long time Member of the CCMF Board of Trustees



**Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**  
925 L Street, Suite 250  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone No. 916-441-0597  
Fax: 916-441-5061

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One

Starting in 1995, **Kwame Reed** worked as a Planner for the San Joaquin Council of Governments and the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission/ACE Train. In July 2002, he joined the city of Oakley staff as an Associate Planner. From 2008 until 2013 he operated a private photo service while he worked as a Senior Analyst for the City of Brentwood (2004-2018). Kwame was hired by the City of Antioch in 2018 as the Economic Development Director. He was appointed Acting City Manager in June 2023. Kwame earned a BS in city and urban planning from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



Apple Valley is in the Victor Valley area of San Bernardino County. In 1885 the railroad came through the Cajon Pass and built a train stop on the Mojave River called Victor. The Apple Valley name was officially recognized when the post office opened there in 1949. The area had ranches and apple orchards. Apple Valley was home to **Roy Rogers** and **Dale Evans**. The Town of Apple Valley was incorporated in November 1988. The 2020 population is 75,791. **Doug Robertson** is the Town Manager and **La Vonda M-Pearson** is the Director of Government Services and Town Clerk.



Wind energy and wind power describes the process by which wind is used to generate electricity.

## **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



**City Manager Newsletter by  
Trackdown Management**

10 Claret  
Rancho Mirage, California 92270

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

*Wolf & Company Inc.*



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.**  
**Effective February 27, 2024**

163 Limestone Road, Claremont, CA 91711  
 Telephone: 949-235-0525



**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



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



The sky before the storm in [Rancho Mirage](#).



**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**, the President of the Homebuilding Division, and **Mario Urzua**, the Chief Financial Officer are the **Brandywine Homes** executive team. Please check the firm's website for current sales!

Units are selling in  
Carson, La Verne, Artesia and Whittier  
Coming Soon are developments in: 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



[Apple Valley](#) Town Manager **Douglas B. Robertson** was selected for the position in November 2017. He started his Town of Apple Valley tenure in January 2018. He succeeded Town Manager Frank Robinson, who retired in July 2017. Doug is the fourth Town Manager following the 1988 town incorporation. He served as the City Manager for the City of [Victorville](#) starting in July 2011 and previously worked as the Deputy City Manager starting in March 2004. Doug earned a BS in psychology and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino.



**Orlando Acevedo** has worked for the Town of [Apple Valley](#) for more than 20 years and has served as the Assistant Town Manager since January 2022. He began his public service career in September 2003 as an Administrative Intern for the City of [Rancho Cucamonga](#) and [Apple Valley](#). He became an [Apple Valley](#) Economic Development Specialist in January 2007. Orlando earned a BA from Azusa Pacific University and an MBA from the University of La Verne. Orlando is a Board Member of the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board.



## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One



Arcadia is the home to Santa Anita Park racetrack where exciting thoroughbred horse racing is presented. The city is named for Arcadia, Greece. Arcadia was incorporated in August 1903. Its 2020 population is set at 56,681. **Dominic Lazzaretto**, son of Andy and Nan, is the Arcadia City Manager and **Justine Bruno** is the Deputy City Manager. **Gene Glasco** is the elected City Clerk. **Roy Nakamura** is the Chief of Police.

Arcadia City Manager **Dominic Lazzaretto** describes himself as a “game changing bureaucrat.” He began his working career on the private sector side working with his father’s consulting firm, A.C. Lazzaretto & Associates from August 1994 to January 2003. He then joined the city staff in the City of La Palma as Community Development Director, and in October 2005 he was appointed Assistant City Manager. Dominic became the La Palma City Manager in July 2007 and worked there until taking the Arcadia city manager position in March 2012. Dominic earned a BS in hotel, restaurant & institutional management from the Schreyer Honors College at Pennsylvania State University and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. He is a Founder of the *Ukraine Relief Effort Arcadia* in November 2022. In 2023 Dominic received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award. He serves as the Co-Chair of the Cal-ICMA Talent Initiative.

Over the years, some giants in the city manager craft have served the City of Arcadia. **Lyman H. Cozad** was city manager in Colton (1957-1964), Beverly Hills (1964-1966) and Arcadia (1966-1977). Lyman was the President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 1972-1973. Lyman passed away in 2001 at the age of 86.

Some of the other heavy hitter Arcadia city managers include **Lyle Alberg**, **George Watts**, **Don Duckworth**, **Bill Kelly** and **Don Penman**.



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](http://www.pars.org).  
Make inquiries at [info@pars.org](mailto:info@pars.org) or  
(800) 540-6369 ext. 127; [www.pars.org](http://www.pars.org).

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

**Mitch Barker, Senior Consultant**  
(800) 540-6369 ext. 116 or [mbarker@pars.org](mailto:mbarker@pars.org)



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

### Arcadia City Managers

1951-1956	<b>William J. Richard</b>
1956-1959	<b>Neil Anderson</b>
1959	<b>Lawrence Cook</b>
1959	<b>Charles Lortz</b>
1959-1966	<b>Harold K. Schone</b>
1966	<b>Wesley McDaniels</b>
1966-1977	<b>Lyman H. Cozad</b>
1978-1981	<b>Lyle Alberg</b>
1981-1992	<b>George J. Watts</b>
1992-1993	<b>Donald R. Duckworth</b>
1994-2007	<b>William R. Kelly</b>
2008-2012	<b>Donald Penman</b>
2012-Present	<b>Dominic Lazzaretto</b>



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

## California Contract Cities Association



**Dr. Julian Gold** of Beverly Hills, President  
**Jennifer Perez** of Norwalk, Vice President  
**Marcel Rodarte** Executive Director

17315 Studebaker Road, Suite 210  
Cerritos, California 90703

Telephone No. 562-622-5533

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One



Arcata was established in 1850 as "Union". The name was changed to Arcata in 1860. In 1850 Arcata expelled all Chinese residents following

Eureka's lead. The city was incorporated in February 1858. Arcata is home to California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, founded in 1913 and considered an excellent university for science majors. The 2020 population of Arcata is set at 18,857. **Karen Diemer** is the Arcata City Manager. She notified the city in January 2024 that she will retire this year. A date has not been set. **Bridget E. Dory** is the City Clerk, and **Danette Demello** is the Assistant City Manager. **David Loya** is the Director and **Jennifer Dart** is the Deputy Director of Community Development. The Director of Environmental Services is **Emily Sinkhorn**. **Bart Silvers** is the Arcata Chief of Police.



**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](mailto:gary.delaney@usi.com)

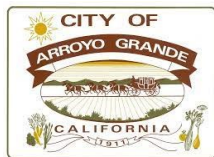
**Pam Rodrigues**, GBDS Manager  
[Pamela.rodrigues@usi.com](mailto:Pamela.rodrigues@usi.com)  
**USI Insurance Services**

21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 380  
Torrance, CA 90503

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One



Arcata City Manager **Karen Diemer** has advised the city that she plans to resign this year, though a specific date has yet to be set. Karen began her public service career as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Eureka in September 1991. In August 1996, she joined the Arcata city staff working in the Department of Environmental Services and Parks and Recreation. Karen worked her way up in that department for more than 18 years. She was appointed Arcata City Manager in November 2014. Karen earned a BA from Humboldt State University. In 2019 she received a 10-year ICMA Service Award.



Arroyo Grande, Spanish for "Big Creek," is in San Luis Obispo County. A railroad depot was built in the area in 1882, stimulating local commerce. The city was incorporated in July 1911. The 2020 population is 18,441. **Matthew Downing** is the City Manager and **Bill Robeson** is the Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director.

After working in the private sector starting in 2004, **Matthew Downing** joined the Arroyo Grande city staff in 2010 as a Planning Intern. In February 2013, Matt went from Assistant Planner to Associate Planner, and in April 2016 he was promoted to Planning Manager. In October 2019, Matt moved to the Planning Manager position in the City of Pismo Beach with then-city manager **Jim Lewis**. He was promoted to Director of Community Development in October 2020. Matt was hired to be the City Manager in Arroyo Grande in January 2024. Matt worked as a Technician for Chem-Dry of San Luis Obispo from June 2004 to May 2011. He now serves as a member of the League of California Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee. Matt earned a BS and a Master of city & regional planning (MCRP) from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

### Attend to Personal Health...It's Important!

Casey Simpson  
- Brand Ambassador

Cellular Absorption Supplements

<https://caseysimpson.iii.earth>



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](mailto:jeff@munienvironmental.com)



A blast from the past!  
Retired Indian Wells,  
Atascadero and Shafter  
City Manager  
**Wade McKinney**,  
past CCMF President  
at the podium.





**Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA)** is one of the leading strategic communications and public affairs firms in Southern California. Partners Matt Knabe, Marcus Allen, Eric Rose, Jeff McConnell, Adam Englander, Alex Cherin and Kellie Hawkins lead it. 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](mailto:matt@ekapr.com). **Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner.



**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.

**Jose Solache**, ICFA President  
Lynwood City Council Member

### Independent Cities Finance Authority

Post Office Box No. 6740  
Lancaster, California 93539-6740

Telephone No. 877-906-0941

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One



Artesia was established after the completion of the Artesia School District in 1875. The name "Artesia" comes from the artesian wells in the area, making it ideal for farming and agriculture. Artesia became

the primary downtown area and housing area for the larger dairy farming area around it. Dutch and Portuguese farmers came to the area. Fearing a potential loss of political "home rule" control, the City of Dairy Valley was incorporated in 1956 leaving out the most populated voter areas of Artesia. Artesia incorporated in May 1959 and Dairy Valley became Cerritos. As property valleys escalated the dairy industry relocated to the Chino area and into the San Joaquin Valley. **Aldo Schindler** is the Artesia City Manager and **Jennifer Alderete** is the Acting City Clerk. **Jamie Murguia** is the Finance Manager and **Ericka Jackson** is the Human Resources Manager. **Okina Dor** is the Community Development Director and **Edith Guerra** is the Parks & Recreation Manager.

Artesia City Manager **Aldo Schindler** began his public service career as a Redevelopment Project Officer for the City of Long Beach in 2000. In November 2009, Aldo became the Director of Community Development for the City of Bell Gardens. Two years later, he took a similar role in the City of Whittier. In April 2014, Aldo moved to the Director of Community Development for the City of Downey. In April 2020 he was named Deputy City Manager in Downey. In 2022 he spent 7 months as the Assistant City Manager for Moreno Valley, and in November 2022 he was hired to be the Artesia City Manager. Aldo earned a BA from San Diego State University and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. He is a CORO Leadership Southern California graduate.

"Right here in the middle of my soul  
Oh...why you got to be so cold."

---**Chris Stapleton** song lyric

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One

Artesia has had some excellent and memorable city managers through the years. **Ed Medley** was the first city manager and he and City Clerk Margaret Rittel managed city hall. **Peter B. Feenstra** was next in line. "Peter B." was a former Assistant City Manager in the City of Paramount when he was hired in Artesia, and he left to be the City Administrator in Bellflower. **Johnny Johnston** was next. He went on to a long public service career and retired as the County Executive Officer in the County of Ventura. Not necessarily in this order but here is an impressive list of professional city managers with Artesia experience. They include **Jim Barisic, E. Eugene Romig, Jerry Schuster, M. D. "Mac" McKeown, Harold Campbell, Lois O'Sullivan, Paul Philips, Maria Dadian, Mike Egan** (interim) and **Bill Rawlings**.



**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**



### 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](http://www.willdan.com)



**MMASC** is one of the oldest and largest Association of its kind in the United States.  
**Dominique Samario, Murrieta, President**



Municipal Management Association  
of Northern California

*Inspiring Local Government Leaders since 1950*

**John Stefanski, San Rafael, President**





**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**.

**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



A pretty evening view of Atascadero City Hall where **Jim Lewis** is the City Manager

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One



Artesia Deputy City Manager **Melissa Gobas Burke** joined the city staff in January 2007 as a Recreation Leader. She became the Special Event Coordinator in August 2007 and was elevated to Parks and Recreation Manager in

June 2010. Melissa began her tenure as Administrative Manager in November 2016. From October 2021 until January 2022, Melissa served as Artesia's Acting City Manager. She started as Deputy City Manager in June 2022. Melissa earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and an MS in recreation administration from California State University, Long Beach.



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

COLANTUONO | HIGHSMITH | WHATLEY, PC

## Management in California's Third Six Cities Plus One



Arvin began with the sale of lots in 1906. The Arvin Post Office was opened in 1914 but the city did not incorporate until December 1960. The city is named for **Arvin Richardson**, who was from one of

the original settling families. The Arvin Migratory Labor Camp was the first federally operated farm labor camp opened by the Farm Security Administration in 1937 as part of President **Franklin D. Roosevelt**'s New Deal. Arvin, "The Garden in the Sun," is in Kern County. In 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed Arvin as having the highest levels of smog of any community in the U. S. The 2020 population is set at 19,495. **Jeff Jones** is the City Manager and Finance Director. **Cecilia Vela** is the City Clerk. **Chris Soriano** is the Arvin City Planner and **Megan Miller** is the Human Resources Manager.

Arvin City Manager **Jeff V. Jones** went to work as the Deputy Financial Officer for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in July 2005. In October 2017 Jeff took the Arvin Finance Director position. He was appointed City Manager in addition to his director post in May 2021. Jeff earned a BA in business administration from Humboldt State University.

**Megan Miller** came to the Arvin city staff from the private sector in August 2021 as the Human & Community Resources Manager. She served as the Acting City Manager starting in October 2022. Megan attended Central Texas College studying human resources management, and the human resources management and services curriculum at Cornell University. She is a graduate of Bakersfield Christian High School.

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships."

---**Michael Jordan**

## 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](mailto:Craig@NHAadvisors.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





“When it comes to affordable in-town living, we walk the walk.”

### CONTEMPORARY NEW HOMES

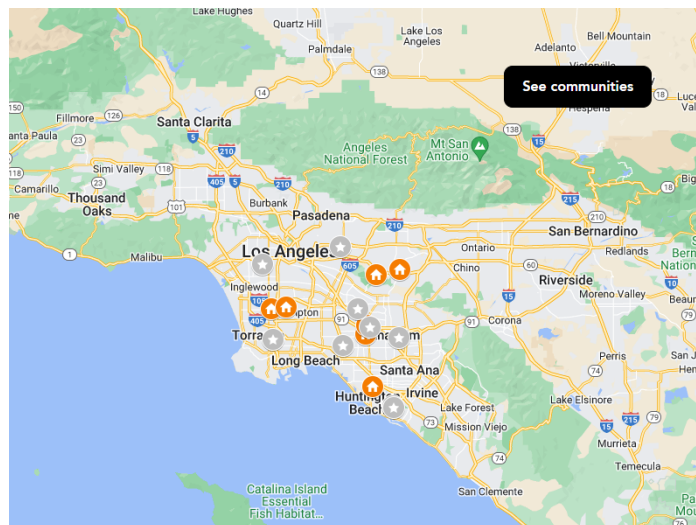
**The Olson Company** is a premier California builder of affordable new home communities in the state's most in-demand urban centers. In partnership with cities and other local and state agencies, Olson works to provide multi-tiered solutions to the critical issues of affordable for-sale housing, community redevelopment, transportation and sustainability. Recognized for creating thoughtfully designed communities within reach of California homebuyers, Olson has built more than 11,000 single-family attached, single-family detached, live/work and mixed-use in-town homes across 100 cities since 1988. Headquartered in Seal Beach, California, Olson is the proud recipient of many top customer experience awards including the 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Elia Homebuyers' Choice first place awards for Overall Purchase and Ownership Experience.



HB Walk, Huntington Beach



Estrella Walk, La Puente



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.

Olson approaches development by listening and seeking to understand the social, cultural and aesthetic qualities of the neighborhoods where it builds. Olson works in collaboration with community stakeholders, city staff and officials to deliver creative solutions for neighbors and future residents. Olson communities lower environmental impacts by relying on existing infrastructure, reducing or eliminating commute times and encouraging walkability to support local businesses, amenities and resources. The Olson success would not be possible without the partnerships enjoyed with more than 100 California cities and neighborhoods.

#### Todd Olson

3010 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 100  
Seal Beach, CA 90740  
(562) 547-8299

#### Lauren Cox

**Executive Assistant to President Olson  
Communities & SVP Corp. Finance  
The Olson Company**  
(562) 370-2259 Phone  
(562) 588-5032 Cell  
(562) 430-4413 Fax



Former City Managers **Mark Alexander**, **Andy Pasmant** and **Mike Egan** at a "Proof of Life" lunch.

## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

The NEXT "Proof of Life" Lunch is planned for  
Thursday, March 28, 2024

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

RSVP to: [jack@trackdownmanagement.net](mailto:jack@trackdownmanagement.net)



**Picking Up the Pieces: Anita Gutierrez**, a former Legislative Deputy to County Supervisor **Gloria Molina**, has been named to the Pomona City Manager position. Anita served on Supervisor Molina's staff from May 2004 to June 2007, when she took a Supervising Regional Planner position with the staff of Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. In November 2018 Anita became a Planning Manager for

the City of Pomona. She served as the Director of Development Services (2019-2023) and she was appointed Assistant City Manager in 2023. Anita became City Manager in Pomona in February 2024. She earned a BA from California State University, San Bernardino, a Master's in urban planning and a Doctor of Education from the University of Southern California (USC). Anita replaces former City Manager **James Makshanoff**. Anita served as Acting City Manager since Jim left in December 2023. **Mark Gluba** is the Pomona Assistant City Manager & Public Information Officer. **Matt Fabry** is the new Public Works Director for the City of San Mateo. He will replace Interim Director **Brad Underwood**, who will return to retirement. Matt has worked as the Director of the Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program in San Mateo County since January 2006. He previously served as an Associate Civil Engineer for the City of Brisbane (2003-2011). He earned a BA in music and a BS in environmental engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Pismo Beach City Manager **Jorge E. Garcia** has a new Community Development Director. **Scot Graham**, who has been serving as the Community Development Director in Morro Bay since July 2014. Prior to that he worked as a Senior Planner for the City of Pismo Beach beginning in the Planning Department in 1998. Scot earned a BA in natural resources and planning from Humboldt State University. Arcata City Manager **Karen Diemer** has advised the city that she plans to resign this year, though a specific date has yet to be set. Karen began her public service career as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Eureka in September 1991. In August 1996, she joined the Arcata city staff working in the Department of Environmental Services and Parks and Recreation. Karen worked her way up in that department for more than 18 years. She was appointed Arcata City Manager in November 2014. Karen earned a BA from Humboldt State University. In 2019 she received a 10-year ICMA Service Award.



Retired Anaheim city manager's office executive **Lisa Hughes** and her husband Aaron.



"One of the hardest things in life to accept  
is a called third strike."

---Robert Frost





**More Pieces Picked Up:** Fort Bragg Finance Director **Isaac Whippy** is the new Fort Bragg City Manager succeeding City Manager **Peggy Ducey**. Isaac is a native of Fiji. He earned a BS from the University of the South Pacific. After working as an accountant in the private sector beginning in 2011, Isaac joined the

Fort Bragg city staff as Assistant Finance Director in February 2016. He became Finance Director in May 2022. He is a co-founder of the FoodRunners in April 2018. Highly respected and dedicated public manager, **Donald Stilwell**, former Lee County, Florida Manager passed away on December 22, 2023 at the age of 85. He was the Lee County Manager for 16 years starting in July 1993. Don served as the County Administrator for San Luis Obispo County (1977-1983) and County Administrator for Del Norte County (1974-1977). A native of Oregon, Don earned a BA from the University of Oregon and an MPA from Lewis & Clark College in Portland. In 1970, he started as Assistant Director of Administration and Finance with the City of Springfield,



Oregon. San Francisco State University graduate with a BA and MPA, **Breyana Brandt** has worked as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Napa since September 2022. Breyana began her public service career as a Recreation Coordinator for the City of South San Francisco in

September 1997. She took a similar position with Redwood City in October 2000. After working as the Childcare Director for Waugh School District (October 2001-October 2006), Breyana took a Recreation Supervisor post in the City of San Leandro. She rose to the Assistant Recreation & Human Services Director position in San Leandro. Breyana was selected to be the Parks and Recreation Director for the Town of Moraga in May 2018 and served there until she joined the Napa city staff. **Stacey Zarazua** is the new Ventura Parks & Recreation Director working with City Manager **Bill Ayub**. She succeeds Director **Nancy O'Connor**, who retired in September 2023. Stacey joined the Ventura Parks & Recreation Department in 2001 as a Recreation Coordinator working in the Youth Sports section. She worked as an Aquatics Supervisor in 2005. Stacey earned a BA and an MPA from California State University, Northridge. Interim Laguna Beach City Manager **Sean Joyce** appointed Laguna Beach Public Works Director **Mark McAvoy** Acting Director of Community Development. Mark is filling in behind the resignation of **Marc Wiener**, who is leaving the city to pursue other professional opportunities. City Engineer **Mark Trestik**, a 23-year veteran of the Laguna Beach city staff, as the Acting Director of Public Works.



**Todd Cusimano** is the City Manager for the City of Mill Valley. Todd worked as the Town Manager for the Town of Corte Madera prior to coming to Mill Valley in September 2022. Todd began his public service career in law enforcement. He served as the Chief of Police for the Twin Cities Police Authority for nearly 19 years providing service to Larkspur, Corte Madera, San Anselmo and other areas served by the Central Marin Police Authority. Todd earned a BA in criminal justice and police science from Kaplan University and an MBA from Columbia Southern University.

**SHORTS:** \*Former Thousand Oaks and El Segundo city manager **Scott Mitnick**, the Town Manager in Moraga, worked as a Budget Analyst in the City of Brea in 1987-1988. \*Retired veteran city manager, **David Jinkens**, a former candidate for the South Lake Tahoe City Council, is a "good government advocate" who earned a BA from the University of California Berkeley and an MPA from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). \***Marti Brown** is the City Manager for the City of Willows and **Amos Hoover** is the City Clerk and Assistant to the City Manager. \***Gary Milliman**, former South Gate and Brookings, Oregon city manager, is serving as the City Manager for the City of Talent in Jackson County, Oregon. \***Steven Wagner**, who has served as the Chief Operations Officer (COO) for the past 22 years for the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) in Santa Ana, will retire following the conclusion of the current school year on June 30, 2024. \***San Leandro** Assistant City Manager **Janelle Cameron** previously worked as the Administrative Services Director for the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District. \***Reggie Hubbard**, who joined the city staff in 1992, has worked as the Vacaville Director of Parks and Recreation since 2022. \***John Takhtalian** is the Assistant City Manager in the City of Glendale where he first joined the city staff as an Administrative Assistant in October 2002. \*Former Public Works Superintendent, **Deston Dishion** has served as the City Administrator for the City of Bishop since 2022 and has worked for the city since December 1995. \*Citrus Heights Water District and Hidden Valley Lake Association Special Advisor **Roderick Wood**, a retired city manager who served in Beverly Hills, Novato, Indian Wells and Escondido, is the founder of the Northern California "Proof of Life" lunch program.



**Still More Pieces Picked Up:** Hayward City Manager **Kelly McAdoo** is the new City Administrator for the City of Santa Barbara. Kelly has served as Hayward City Manager since 2016 and she was the Assistant City Manager prior to that. Kelly began her public service career as an Analyst with the City of Fremont and

as Assistant to the City Manager in Palo Alto. She earned a BA and MPA from The University of Kansas. **More SHORTS:** \*Burlingame City Manager **Lisa Goldman**, who began her public service career as an Administrative Intern in 1990 in Palos Verdes Estates, earned an AB from Harvard University and an MPP from the University of California, Berkeley. **\*Elena Adair** started her tenure as the Finance Director working with City Manager **Michael Webb** for the City of Davis in 2020, and she previously worked for the cities of Alameda, Stockton, and Vallejo. **\*Kofi Antobam**, Rancho Mirage Director of Administrative Services is originally from Ghana, Antobam and came to California in January 2003 to study at La Sierra University in Riverside. **\*Linda Hollinsworth** is the Finance Director and City Treasurer working with City Manager **Ernesto Marquez** for the City of Hawaiian Gardens. **\*Alhambra** Deputy City Manager **Randi Stover** since June 2021 previously worked for the City of Bellflower (2011-2021), the last five years as Assistant to the City Manager (2016-2021). **\*California** State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2024 Legislative Conference is scheduled in Sacramento from April 17 to 19. **\*Diana Sanches** is the new Fort Bragg City Clerk. **\*Kenneth Williams** is the City Manager for the City of McFarland, who is a former Chief of Police and worked nearly 30 years for the Kern County Sheriff's Department. **\*M. Dale Shaddox** served as the city manager for the cities of Yreka (July 1996 to 2000), Cotati and Hollister. **\*Former Benicia** Assistant City Manager (2017-2021), **Alan Shear**, is the Assistant General Manager of the Tamalpais Community Services District in Mill Valley, a city associated with residents of great wealth. **\*Lake Elsinore** City Treasurer **Allen Baldwin** passed away in January at the age of 83. **\*Ken Caresio** worked as a Senior Vice President for the investment banking firm of Chilton and O'Connor starting in January 1987, following his service as the City Manager for the City of Duarte. **\*Lee Vining** is an unincorporated community of a little more than 200 people in Mono County.

## Letters and Notes from Readers:

In the Special January issue, enjoyed seeing Jon and Greg with their nice-looking vintage Ford Mustangs. Reminds me of Frank Tripepi's '67 Mach 1 that he cherished. Close to the same color also. Glad to see you are still writing the monthly newsletter. Blessings to you and your family throughout the coming year. Regards,  
--**Fred Guido**

Hi and Happy February. I am moving the Pomona, CA and Bainbridge Island, WA Wolf & Company offices to Claremont, CA at the end the month. The new office address is 163 Limestone Road, Claremont, CA 91711. The email and telephone numbers are not changing. The moving-company will be packing and moving both offices on February 21 and 22. We unpack in Claremont on February 26 if all goes well. With that said the office will be shut down from February 21 to February 26. We should be up and running again on February 27. Email and phone will be working.

--**Wesley Wolf**

Wolf & Company Inc  
Office: 949 235 0525  
Fax: 213 741 0519  
[Wesley@wolfco.net](mailto:Wesley@wolfco.net)

Keep up the great work. The picture of Anthony Gonsalves, Rita and Dale Geldert is great and brought back some terrific memories. All three have made positive impacts on the profession! (January Special issue 2024).

--**Wade McKinney**



An excellent coffee shop in Upper Lake in Lake County.

The picture was contributed by **Jerry Simpson**.