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April 2024

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Taken at the March 28 "Proof of Life" lunch. Eighteen (18) veteran public managers attended. Pictured here from left to right are retired Arcadia City Manager **Don Penman**, retired Duarte Deputy City Manager **Karen Herrera**, retired La Cañada Flintridge City Manager **Mark Alexander** and retired Diamond Bar City Manager **Jim DeStefano**. Karen currently works with Bob Hall and Associate and California Consulting.

These quarterly luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet and greet each other informally.

### Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter "B"

Cities included in this Issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown are cities listed as an alphabetical continuation of the Special March issue: Bell, Bellflower, Belmont, Benicia, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Big Bear Lake. The seven city managers of these cities include **Michael Antwine**; **Ryan Smoot**; **Afshin Oskoui**; **Mario Guillani**; **Dee Williams-Ridley**; **Nancy Hunt-Coffey** and **Erik Sund**. These cities are included in the counties of Los Angeles, San Mateo, Solano, Alameda, and San Bernardino.

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## Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter “B”



Bell was a Spanish land grant area of Los Angeles County. The Lugo family home, built in 1810, still stands on Gage Avenue and is the oldest house in the County.

The city of Bell was incorporated in November 1927. The 2020 population is 33,559. Bell has come to be known for high city government salary corruption following a Los Angeles Times investigation in July 2010 that found that Chief Administrative Officer **Robert Rizzo** received a salary of \$787,637. Including benefits, Bob received \$1.5 million in his last year. Since that time the city government has been reorganized and professionally adjusted. **Michael L. Antwine II** is the City Manager and **Angela Bustamante** is the City Clerk. The Interim Finance Director is **Rickey S. Manbahal**. **Javier Ochiqui** is the Assistant to the City Manager. The Chief of Police is **Carlos Islas** and **Janine Andrade** is the Community Services Director.

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**Michael L. Antwine II** has served as the City Manager for the City of Bell since April 2022. Mike succeeded veteran city manager **Paul Phillips**. He began his career in December 2001 working for the City of Gardena. Mike was the Assistant to the City Manager when he joined the Azusa city staff as a Senior Management Analyst in July 2007. In October 2008, he took the Deputy Director of Redevelopment position with the City of Compton, and in September 2013 he was named Deputy City Controll and Budget Officer. Michael moved to the City of La Habra in May 2015 to be the Economic Development & Housing Manager. For a little more than a year, Michael worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District as a Deputy Director. In September 2017, Michael joined the Novato city staff as Assistant City Manager. He returned to the City of Compton in October 2019 as Assistant City Manager before he was recruited in Bell. Michael earned a BA and an MPA from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

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## Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter "B"



Bellflower is a former wild game hunting area that had rich farmland and artesian wells. Local investor **F. E. Woodruff** founded the site as Somerset in 1909. The post office name was changed to Bellflower to prevent confusion with Somerset, Colorado. Bellflower became a dairy and apple orchard center settled by Dutch, Japanese and Portuguese people. The name Bellflower is from the bellflower apple, which was grown in local orchards in the 1900s. Bellflower was incorporated in September 1957. Bellflower's main street, Bellflower Boulevard, became the commercial center serving the dairy and farming communities of Paramount (Hynes Clearwater), Cerritos (Dairy Valley), La Palma and Cypress. The 2020 population is 79,190. **Ryan Smoot** is the City Manager and **Mayra Ochiqui** is the City Clerk. **Len Gorecki** is the Director of Public Works and Assistant City Manager. **Tae G. Rhee** is the Director of Finance and City Treasurer, and **Veronica Yates** has worked more than 10 years as a Finance Specialist. **P.J. Mellana** is the Director of Parks and Recreation. **Jim DellaLonga** is the Director of Economic Development and Joel Hockman is the Director of Public Safety.



**Ryan C. Smoot** has a long history with the City of Bellflower. He joined the city staff as a Management Assistant in 2009. Ryan worked as the City of Villa Park Assistant to the City Manager. He returned to Bellflower in 2013.

Ryan served as Assistant to the City Manager from 2013 to 2016, and as the Acting Economic Development Manager from 2015 to 2016. In 2016, Ryan joined the city staff in the City of Lomita as City Manager. He returned to Bellflower following the retirement of City Manager **Jeff Stewart** Ryan became the 14th City Manager in Bellflower history. He earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach.



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## Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter “B”



**Jeffrey L. Stewart** served 12-years as the Bellflower City Manager from January 2012 until his retirement in 2024. Jeff previously served for nearly three years as City Manager in Los Alamitos, and he was elevated from Assistant City Manager to replace the

retiring city manager **Mary Strenn** in 2005 in the City of El Segundo. He left El Segundo in 2008. Jeff also previously worked in Rosemead with former City Manager **Frank G. Tripepi**, and in West Covina. Jeff earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Fullerton.

**Mike Egan** began his public service career with the City of Bellflower when he joined the city staff in 1989. After working in various positions Mike was named Bellflower City Manager following City Manager **Linda Lowry** leaving the position in 1997. Mike is historically the longest serving Bellflower City Manager, working in the position from 1997 until 2011 when he left to be the Norwalk City Manager. Mike retired from Norwalk in 2017. He has become an important member of the **Tripepi Smith** team since. In 2022, he took some time to serve as the Interim City Manager for the City of Artesia. Mike served a term as Chair of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments City Managers. He is a Board Member for the Boys and Girls Club of La Habra.

**Len Gorecki**, Bellflower Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director, is a veteran public manager in Southeast L. A. County. Len was an Intern for Manhattan Beach before joining the Paramount city staff in 1995. He worked more than 19 years for Paramount, before becoming the Director of Public Works in Bellflower in July 2014. Len earned a BS from the University of Southern California (**USC**) and an MPA from California State University, Dominguez Hills.



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--**Ryder Todd Smith**, President

## Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter "B"



Belmont is a quiet residential community in San Mateo County that has wooded hills and wonderful views of the San Francisco Bay. The name is believed to come from the Italian *bel monte*, meaning "beautiful mountain." The city was incorporated in October 1926. Its 2020 population is 28,335. The Belmont city manager is **Afshin Oskoui** and **Kevin Krouse** is the Assistant City Manager. **Brigitte Shearer** is the Parks & Recreation Director. **Ken Stenquist** is the Interim Chief of Police.

**Afshin Oskoui** worked for San Diego for more than 25 years, starting in June 1986 as City Engineer and Chief of Design until July 2011. He also worked as a Deputy Engineering & Capital Projects Director for the City of San Diego starting in June 1995. Afshin joined the Belmont city staff in July 2011 as Public Works Director. In 2019 he served as Interim City Manager and in September 2019 he was hired to serve as the Belmont City Manager. Afshin earned a BS and MS in civil engineering from San Diego State University. He is a registered Professional Engineer.

Since August 2023, **Kathy Kleinbaum** has served as the Belmont Assistant City Manager. Kathy worked as a Senior Project Manager for the Oakland Redevelopment Agency starting in June 2001. In December 2011, Kathy started her tenure as the Economic Development Manager for the City of Los Altos. She went to work for the City of San Mateo in October 2013. She started as a Senior Management Analyst in the City Manager's Office. In October 2016, she started as Deputy City Manager and in January 2019 she became Assistant City Manager. Kathy earned a BS in Earth Systems from Stanford University, and a Masters degree in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Valerie Harnish** is a retired Information Services Director for Belmont. She worked for the city for more than 36 years.



**Erin Stibal**, a former L. A. County Fourth District Field Deputy to **Don Knabe**, is now being recognized for excellent work with the Sheriff's Department.

**Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter “B”**



Benicia is in Solano County in the North Bay area of the San Francisco Bay. It served as the State Capitol in 1853-1854. Benicia was founded in 1947 on land contributed by General

Vallejo in 1846. It was named for the General's wife, **Francisca Benicia Carillo de Vallejo**. In February 1848 the first word of gold found at Sutter's Mill was leaked at a Benicia Tavern. This, it is contended became the start of the California Gold Rush. In March 1850 Benicia became the second California city to incorporate behind Sacramento. Benicia became the original Solano County seat and served until 1858 when the county seat was moved to Fairfield. The 2020 population of Benicia is 27,131. **Mario Giuliani** is the City Manager and **Sarah Shawky** is the Deputy City Manager. **Jeff Tschudi** is the Finance Director and Mike Dotson is the Director of Community Services. Danielle Bonham is the Interim Public Works Director and Mark Menesini is the Interim Chief of Police.

**Mario Giuliani** served as a Recreation Coordinator for the City of Benicia starting in February 1997. Mario became a Management Analyst starting in September 2006. He was Acting Deputy City Manager from October 2016 until November 2010. He became the Economic Development Manager in 2010 and he was promoted to Deputy City Manager. Mario began his Benicia City Manager tenure in August 2023. Mario earned a BA and a JD from the University of California, Davis. He served as a member of the Benicia Unified School District Board of Trustees.

**Sarah (Terherst) Shawky** is the Benicia Deputy City Manager. She joined the city staff in 2018 as a Senior Management Analyst. She has been Deputy City Manager since March 2023. Sarah earned an MPA from Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Monterey.



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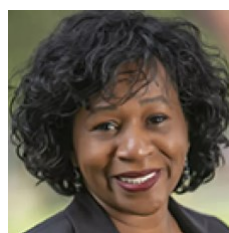
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## Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter “B”



Berkeley is the home to the University of California, Berkeley, the oldest University of California campus. The city is recognized as one of the most socially progressive cities in the U.S. After arriving in the area in 1776 when soldiers established the Presidio in San Francisco under the service to the King of Spain. **Luis Peralta** received a land grant that he named “Rancho San Antonio” where he raised cattle, farmed and hunted game. Berkeley is established on the Peralta land grant. The Township of Berkeley was incorporated in April 1878. During the 1880s Berkeley had segregated housing and anti-Chinese laws. The city’s 2020 population is 124,321. **Dee Williams-Ridley** is the Berkeley City Manager, **La Tanya Bellow** is the Assistant City Manager, and **Anne Cardwell** is Deputy City Managers. **Mark Numainville** is the City Clerk. **Henry Oyekanmi** is the Director of Finance and **Scott Ferris** is the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront. **Jordan Klein** is the Director of Planning and Development, and **Lisa Warhuus** is the Director of Health, Housing and Community Development. David Sprague is the Fire Chief and the Chief of Police is **Jennifer Louis**.



Berkeley City Manager **Dee Williams-Ridley** was the Personnel Services Manager for Sacramento County for nearly 6 years starting in December 2000. She served as San Mateo County Assistant Director of Human Resources between 2006 and 2010. In 2010 Dee was appointed Deputy City Manager for the City of Modesto, and in 2015 she took the Deputy City Manager post in the City of Berkeley. City Manager **Christine Daniel** left after 15 years with the city to be the Oakland Assistant City Administrator in 2015. Dee was elevated to Interim City Manager. She was named City Manager in March 2015. Dee took courses at Oklahoma City University and earned a BA in government from California State University, Sacramento.

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### Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter “B”



Berkeley Deputy City Manager **Anne Cardwell** worked as the Assistant to the City Manager for Benicia starting in January 2014. In 2016, she was hired to serve as Assistant City Manager for the City

of Martinez. Anne moved to the City of Vallejo as Assistant City Manager in December 2018. Anne joined the Berkeley city staff as Deputy City Manager in January 2023.



Archive picture of three highly regarded former city managers. From left to right are the late longtime Lakewood City Manager **Howard Chambers**, retired Downey City Manager **Jerry Caton**, and recently retired longtime Cerritos City Manager **Art Gallucci**.



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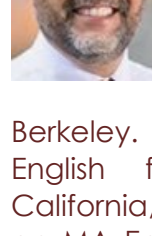


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**Scott Ferris** is the Director of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront for the City of Berkeley.



**Aram Kouyoumdjian** is the Director of Human Resources for the City of Berkeley. Aram earned a BA in English from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and an MA English from California State University, Northridge. Aram also obtained a JD from the University of the Pacific - McGeorge School of Law, specializing in the field of Law.



**Mark Risco** of Willdan Financial and Indian Wells City Manager **Chris Freeland**. Chris earned a BA in political science and a BS in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He also has an MPA from California State University, Long Beach, and a PhD from Claremont Graduate University.



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## Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter "B"



Beverly Hills, known as an affluent community, is well known nationwide for the Rodeo Drive shopping. In 1769 explorers arrived in the area, and in 1828, **Maria Rita Quinteros de Valdez** established a 4,500 acres ranchera. In

1854 **Benjamin Davis Wilson** and **Henry Hancock** bought the property. By the 1880s the ranch was subdivided into parcels of 75 acres and sold for home sites. After some title changes the ranch area was set up for commercial development. In 1906, the property was renamed Beverly Hills for the Beverly Farms in Beverly, Massachusetts. Beverly Hills was incorporated in January 1914. The 2020 population is 32,701. **Nancy Hunt-Coffey** is the City Manager, **Jeff Muir** is the Director of Finance, and **Shelley Ovrom** is the Director of Human Resources. The Community Development Director is **Michael Forbes**, Community Services Director is **Stephanie Harris**, and **Shana Epstein** is the Director of Public Works. The Fire Chief is **Gregory Barton** and the Chief of Police is **Mark G. Stainbrook**.



"Remember, it isn't brain surgery. Most solutions really are rooted in common sense."  
 --**Jeff Stewart**, Retired Bellflower City Manager

## Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter “B”



Beverly Hills former Assistant City Manager **Nancy Hunt-Coffey** is the City Manager. She worked as the Director of Community Services from May 2017 until she was appointed city manager in January 2023. She joined the Beverly Hills city staff in 2008 as an Assistant Director of Community Services Department that manages the city's recreation and parks, library, human services and administrative support divisions. She was appointed Assistant City Manager in 2019. She succeeded City Manager **George Chavez**, who retired. Before coming to Beverly Hills, Nancy worked for the City of Glendale for more than 20 years. She earned a BA in English and Spanish Literature from Occidental College and a Master's degree in information studies from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**).



**Jim L. Barisic**, former Artesia City Manager who also worked in Cerritos and Paramount, and is a Viet Nam veteran, founded **Brandywine** in 1994.

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**Stephanie Harris** is the Director of Community Services for the City of Beverly Hills. She was appointed in March 2023. Former Director **Jenny Rogers** retired. She came to work for the city in 2014 as a Management Analyst in the Community Services Department. She joined the City Manager's staff in 2022 as the Community Outreach Manager. Stephanie worked for the Parks & Recreation Department in the City of Rosemead for 11 years prior to joining the Beverly Hills staff. Stephanie earned a BA from California State University, Los Angeles and an MPA from California State University, Northridge.



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---**Greg Maddux**



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- Andrew Haussler – City of Clovis
- Andrew Keys – City of Lodi
- Angela Cho – City of Monrovia
- Anita D. Gutierrez – City of Pomona
- Carlene Saxton – City of Moorpark
- Chris Escobedo – City of Palm Desert
- Danny Santana – City of Torrance
- Domenica Megerdichian – South Pasadena
- George Gabriel – City of Manhattan Beach
- Gerry Beaudin – City of Pleasanton
- John Conley – City of Vista
- Jonathan Royas – City of Santa Paula
- Justin Martin – City of Laguna Niguel
- Justin Tucker – City of Corona
- Marlene Subhashini – City of Foster City
- Matt Morley – City of Cupertino
- Melvin Gaines – City of East Palo Alto
- Rene Eyerly – City of Santa Barbara
- Richard Rojas – City of Norwalk
- Robert Lopez – City of Norritos
- Tony Comargo – City of Victorville

## Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter “B”



The City of Big Bear Lake is in the San Bernardino mountains on the shores of Big Bear Lake. The population of the Big Bear valley grew quickly during the Southern California gold rush in 1861 to 1912.

In 1933, California Fish and Game released 27 black bears into the area, which caused problems severe enough for the resignation of the Chair of the Fish and Game Commission. Big Bear Lake was incorporated in November 1980. The 2020 population is 5,046. **Erik Sund** is the city manager and **Erica Stephenson** is the City Clerk and Assistant City Manager.



**Erik Sund** began his public service career as a Senior Buyer for the City of Irvine in 2000. He took the Purchasing Manager job in Downey in 2002 and joined the city staff in Long Beach in 2007 as a City Purchasing Agent. Erik left Long Beach in 2012 when he was working as the Assistant Director of Business Services and Fleet to take the Assistant City Manager position in the City of San Clemente. Erik began his tenure as the San Clemente City Manager in June 2020. He left San Clemente a little short of two years later to take the City Manager position for the City of Big Bear Lake in September 2022. Erik earned a BA in social ecology from the University of California, Irvine.

Big Bear Lake Assistant City Manager and City Clerk **Erica Stephenson** joined the city staff in March 2004 as an Administrative Clerk. Since then she has worked as an Account Clerk, Accounting Technician, Financial Analyst, Finance Supervisor, Human Resources Manager, Director of Human Resources, City Clerk and Assistant City Manager since July 2023. Erica earned a BBA from California State University, Northridge.

**Jeff Mathieu**, a former Santa Monica Director of Resource Management, was Big Bear Lake City Manager from July 2006 until he retired in 2019. Jeff earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach.

### Public Managers in Seven Cities that Begin with the Letter “B”

Former Big Bear Lake City Council Member and Mayor **David Caretto**. David also served the city as a Planning Commissioner. Dave is a former City Manager and retired as the General Manager of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority. He served as the City Manager for Signal Hill (1978-1984) and Irwindale (1992-1996). Dave is an alumnus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



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(800) 540-6369 ext. 116 or [mbarker@pars.org](mailto:mbarker@pars.org)



**Kevin O'Rourke, Senior Municipal Consultant**  
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**Pat West** served as city manager in the Cities of Paramount and Long Beach.

**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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**Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** has more than 30-years of experience successfully representing clients before the California State Legislature and California State Departments. Every day the firm's principals and staff are committed to their clients' best interest. The firm works hard and effectively to help move their clients toward their goals. **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** provide personal, professional representation in an honest, legal, and ethical manner. **Anthony, Jason** and **Paul Gonsalves** turn opportunities into results, ideas into realities and expertise into success for those they represent.

**Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** was founded by former Assemblyman **Joe A. Gonsalves**, in 1975. Joe served in the California State Assembly from 1962 through 1974. Prior to that he served on the Dairy Valley City Council, including two years as Dairy Valley Mayor. The City of Dairy Valley is now the City of Cerritos. The firm is led by **Anthony D. Gonsalves** and includes two of sons **Jason A. Gonsalves** and **Paul A. Gonsalves**.



**Anthony D. Gonsalves** joined **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** in January 1977. Anthony previously served as a member of the California State Senate staff for a year and a half. The political process in the State Capitol is exceedingly complex, with more than three decades of experience, Anthony has had the

opportunity to master such complexities. Anthony is widely recognized as one of Sacramento's most successful lobbyists with the longest tenure. He is also a member of the CCMF Board of Trustees.

In December 1998, **Jason A. Gonsalves**, joined Joe A. Gonsalves & Son. This gave **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** the proud distinction of being the first California lobbying firm to have three generations of legislative advocates in one firm at the same time. This distinction continued until Joe passed away in July 2000. Jason has forged a reputation by successfully representing many clients before the Legislature and with various state department and agencies in the areas of local government finance, utilities and commerce, public employees' retirement, workers' compensation, telecommunications, and conflict of interest issues.

In October 2004, Jason's brother, **Paul A. Gonsalves**, joined **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**. Previously, Paul served as a Legislative Aide to Assembly Member Rudy Bermudez. Paul earned a BA in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration from San Diego State University.

**Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** represents more cities than any other California contract lobbying firm. With 50 plus client cities spread throughout California, a growing number of Legislators are prior members of the "Gonsalves Family of Cities".

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Describing **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**, the late California State Senator **Ken Maddy** coined the description: "The Gonsalvi." When asked what he meant by the nickname, Senator Maddy responded "It's like alumni, when you guys are working an issue, you are everywhere." Members of the Legislature continue to refer to the firm as "The Gonsalvi." When considering retaining a professional legislative representation firm, it is recommended that Legislators be asked about the **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** firm.

The firm operates on a very personal...family...and professional level, always working hard to stay well-informed and accomplish client goals.

**Joe Gonsalves** once told a LA Times writer: **"Lobbyist are like parachutes. You don't need them very often, but when you need them, they'd better work."**



**Picking Up the Pieces:** Former Glenwood Springs, Colorado City Manager, **Beverli Marshall** is the new Interim City Manager for the City of Vallejo. Beverli will serve during the recruitment process for City Manager **Mike Malone**, who is retiring. Beverli worked as the General Manager for the Valley

Sanitary District in Indio before moving to Colorado. She has worked for the cities of Berkeley and Orinda, in addition to wastewater districts in Richmond, Martinez and Half Moon Bay. Veteran city manager **Mark Scott** is the new Interim City Manager for the City of Live Oak. He has agreed to serve in the post until late 2024. Live Oak City Manager **Aaron Powell** left the position on March 8 and Parks and Recreation Director **Luis Ciprian** served as Interim City Manager. Mark is a Life Member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Since his retirement, Mark has accepted a good number of "interim" assignments. He was the Interim City Manager in Ojai in 2023, Downey (July 2022-March 2023), and Lincoln in 2021. He retired as the Indio city manager in June 2021. He has also served as city manager for the cities of San Bernardino; Burbank; Fresno; Culver City; Spartanburg, South Carolina; and Beverly Hills. Mark earned a BA from California State University, Fresno and an MBA from Stanford University. **Diego Viramontes** is the new city manager for the City of McFarland. Diego served as the Accounting Manager for the City of Wasco from April 2018 to June 2022 when he joined the McFarland city staff as Finance Manager. He was appointed Finance Director in September 2022 and elevated to city manager in March 2024. Diego earned a BS in accountancy from California State University, Northridge. **Alyssa M. Muto**, the Director of Sustainability and Mobility in San Diego, will become the City Manager for the City of Solana Beach effective May 6. She will fill the position that has been empty since City Manager **Greg Wade** left last year to accept the Chief Executive Officer job for the Clean Energy Alliance (CEA). Assistant City Manager **Dan King** has served as Interim City Manager since January. Alyssa first joined the San Diego city staff as Interim Planning Director in February 2018. She earned a BA and MPA from San Diego State University. Alyssa graduated from Torey Pines High School. Interim City Manager **Larry Bowden** is replaced by the appointment of **H. Stone James** as City Manager for the City of Twentynine Palms. Larry has served as Interim since City Manager **Frank Luckino** resigned to accept a position with Desert Hot Springs last year. Stone has previously served as the Economic Development Director in Cathedral City (October 2017-present). He served as a Planning Commissioner in the City of Indio. He earned a Doctorate from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

## Letters and Notes from Readers:

I am so thankful to everyone who helped and supported me in successfully being reelected to the Chaffey College Governing Board in yesterday's election. I especially thank everyone who helped finance this campaign. Without your generous financial support, the results could have been different. I'm excited to continue serving the Chaffey College District. Again, thank you. Go Panthers!

--Lee McDougal

Associates of **Tripepi Smith** and the **California JPIA** were Moderators at the 2024 California Cities City Manager Conference in Hollywood, February 7-9. **Jennifer Vaughn**, **Jon Barilone**, and **Ryder Todd Smith** of the **Tripepi Smith** team all served as Session Moderators. **Kelly Trainer Policky** of the **California JPIA** staff also provided Moderator service. The 2025 City Managers' Conference is planned for February 5-7 at *The Westin Rancho Mirage*, 71-333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage. Contact League of California Cities Event Program Manager **Erin Wylder** for information. Roseville Assistant City Manager **Dion Louthan** is the new city manager for the City of Sparks, Nevada. Dion began his public service career in parks and recreation, serving as a Recreation Coordinator in Henderson, Nevada starting in October 1998. He was promoted to Recreation Manager in October 2005. Dion joined the Salina, Kansas, city staff in April 2011 as the Director of Parks & Recreation. He became the Roseville Director of Parks, Recreation & Libraries in January 2016. Dion became the Roseville Assistant City Manager in April 2019. He earned a BS in parks, recreation and leisure facilities management from The University of Kansas. Palos Verdes Estates City Manager **Elaine Jeng** is reported to be the next General Manager for the Central Basin Municipal Water District. General Manager **Alex Rojas** was placed on administrative leave and **Victor Ponto** served as Acting General Manager. Elaine previously served as the City Manager for the City of Rolling Hills. She served as City Engineer and Public Works & Utilities Director for the City of El Monte (2015) and as Principal Engineer for Redondo Beach (2011-2015). Elaine was an Associate Civil Engineer for the City of Culver City starting in March 2006 (2006-2011). She earned a BS in civil engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**). Walnut Creek City Manager **Dan Buckshi** acknowledged that Assistant City Manager **Teri Killgore** is leaving the city staff to accept the position of Economic Development Director for the City of Scottsdale, Arizona. Teri earned a BA in sociology from the University of Washington and an MPA from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.



**More Pieces Picked Up:** Former Manteca (2008-2011) and Davis (2011-2014) city manager **Steve Pinkerton** is the General Manager for the Mountain House Community Services District. Steve worked as General Manager for the Incline

Village General Improvement District (2014-2019) after he left Davis. He began his service with Mountain House in August 2019. Steve earned BA degrees from the University of Missouri, Columbia and an MA and MPUP from the University of Southern California (**USC**). The **Kosmont Companies** have been working with the Mountain House community. Canyon Lake and City



Manager **Nicole Dailey** mutually agreed to part ways, effective March 31, 2024. Nicole was hired to serve as city manager in March 2023. She replaced City Manager **Chris Mann**, who left to take the city manager position with the City of Yucaipa. Canyon Lake Administrative Services Director **Mike Borja** is the Acting City Manager. Mike joined the city staff in 2016 and previously served as Acting City Manager in 2019. Nicole previously worked for the City of Lake Elsinore for more than 9 years (May 2013-May 2022). She served as the Lake Elsinore Deputy City Manager at the time she left for the private sector. Nicole earned a BA from San Diego State University and an MBA from the Graziadio Business School at Pepperdine University.



**SHORTS:** \*Succeeding Chief **Jaime Bermudez**, who retired April 1, **Saul Rodriguez** is the new Chief of Police for the City of El Segundo working with City Manager **Darrell George**. \***Michelle Navarro**, Bellflower Recreation Coordinator since 2019, earned a BA in social psychology from California State

University, Long Beach. \*Vallejo Assistant City Manager **Terrance Davis** is the new Public Works Director for the City of Berkeley replacing former Director **Liam Garland**. \*Berkeley officials repeal of the ordinance that bans gas appliances in new construction. \***Brian Tully**, Indio Assistant Chief of Police, is the new Chief replacing Chief **Mike Washburn**, who had served as Chief since 2016. \***Jodi Almasy** is the Deputy General Manager for the Mountain House Community Services District in San Joaquin County, where the community has approved incorporation to become the newest California city. \***Mike Ramirez**, Carpinteria city manager since December 2023, is a professional manager who comes from the ranks of parks and recreation personnel, as he served the cities of Oxnard and Moorpark in recreation before joining Carpinteria in 2021 as Assistant City Manager. \***Samantha Argabrite**, Simi Valley Assistant City Manager and Public Information Officer, earned a BA in communication and media studies, and an MPA from California State University, Northridge. \*Men of



Reform Judaism (MRJ) and the Jack Broscow Brotherhood of the Temple Beth David of Westminster have named retired city manager **Greg Korduner** as "Man of the Year" on March 9, 2024. \*Former Carson City Manager (2019-2022), **Sharon Landers** is the Interim Chief Operating Officer for the Bay Area AQMD. \*El Segundo City Planner **Maria Baldenegro** has previous experience with the cities of Commerce, Bell Gardens, and Monterey Park. \***Bill Smith**, who served as City Administrator in Sonora (1984-1986) and City Manager in Manhattan Beach (1990-1994) and Westminster, graduated with an MS from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1972. \*Since January 2009, **Frances Bengtson** has been the Executive Director for the Soledad-Mission Recreation District. \*After working as the Assistant to the City Manager and Public Services Director for the City of Coronado, **Les M. Jones II** began his tenure as the City Manager in Los Altos Hills in June 1991. \***Vibeke Norgaard** is the City Manager for the City of Sand City in Monterey County starting in Sand City as Assistant City Attorney in May 2018 and became city manager in November 2021. \*Castroville, known as the "Artichoke Center of the World," is an unincorporated community in Monterey County named for **Juan Bautista Castro**. \*Former Town of Danville Administrative Services Director **Nat Rojasathira** has served as the Monterey Assistant City Manager since June 2019. \*CPA **Paul Wood**, City Manager for the City of Greenfield, is a former Finance Manager for the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (2014-2017) and earned a BS in accounting from San Diego State University. \***Tyler Foltz** is the City Manager for the City of Imperial Beach join the city staff in March 2006 as an Assistant Planner. \*Moorpark Assistant to the City Manager **Brian Chong** previously worked for the City of Simi Valley. \*\*\*



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**

The NEXT "Proof of Life" Lunch is planned for Thursday, June 27, 2024

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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





**“Proof of Life”**

Eighteen (18) veteran public managers gathered on Thursday, March 28, 2024, for a “Proof of Life” lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. Listed in random order:

**Ron Molendyk**, former Lake Elsinore City Manager and Interim City Manager in Perris, who took delivery of a 2023 Corvette C8 Stingray on September 25, 2022. Ron is a past President of the Orange County Corvette Club.

**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.

**Karen Herrera**, Retired Duarte Deputy City Manager, worked for Duarte more than 23-years. Also, worked for Downey, Orange, Bell Gardens and Hawaiian Gardens. Senior Client Relations Associate with California Consulting, and Bob Hall and Associates.

**John A. Russo** retired as the Irvine City Manager. He worked as City Manager in Riverside and Alameda after serving as the City Attorney in the City of Oakland. John is past President of the League of California Cities. Founder of consultants Synchronicity Associates.

**Jim Barisic**, a former Artesia City Manager who also worked for Paramount and Cerritos. Jim served as a U.S. Army officer in Vietnam. He is the Founder and Chair of **Brandywine Homes**, headquartered in Irvine.

**Glenn Southard**, a San Clemente resident, is the retired City Manager for Indio and Claremont. Former ACM in San Juan Capistrano and he worked in West Covina and Riverside. Glenn is one of the Founders of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).

**Don Penman** is a retired Arcadia City Manager. He was also chief executive for Baldwin Park and San Fernando and previously worked for Simi Valley. Since retirement, Don has completed many interim assignments, the most recent as Interim City Manager in Ventura.

**Mike Sedell** is a retired Simi Valley City Manager. Mike is well known for working closely with Sacramento on local government issues. He is a Board member for the Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association (VCERA), and the Museum of Ventura County. Known for lobbying skills.

**Wayne Wedin**, who served as the Brea City Manager for 15-years. Wayne also served as a Council Member and Mayor in Brea. He is the President of Wedin Enterprise, Inc., a financial consulting firm.

**Jon Shull** is a retired Chief Executive Officer of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority. Jon previously worked for the Cities of Cerritos and Signal Hill. He joined the CJPIA as Assistant Executive Director with Director Bill Holt. Jon was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2002 and retired in 2023.

**Lloyd de Llamas** is a founder and former President and Executive Chair of **Hdl Companies**. Lloyd served as City Manager for Woodlake, Lawndale and Monterey Park. He served in the California National Guard. He earned a BS from San Diego State University.

**Wesley Wolf** is the President of **Wolf & Company**, a financial advisory services firm. Wes is a former City Administrator for the City of Hawaiian Gardens. Wes is associated with Willdan Financial.

**Mark Alexander** recently retired as the La Cañada Flintridge City Manager from 2003 after joining the city staff in October 1988. He also worked in San Dimas, Glendora and Simi Valley. Earned an MPA at the University of Southern California (**USC**). Mark is an enthusiastic **USC** Trojan booster.

**Mike Egan**, a retired Norwalk City Manager and longtime Bellflower City Manager. Mike recently served as the Interim City Manager in Artesia. He is a member of the **Tripepi Smith** team. He is an enthusiastic **USC** booster.

**Wade McKinney** retired as the Indian Wells City Manager. Wade previously served as City Manager in the cities of Shafter and Atascadero. He started as a Planner in La Puente and Taft. Wade is a longtime past President of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). Wade's dog is Milo.

**Gary Chicots** is a former City Manager for South El Monte. He also worked assignments in Rosemead, Hawaiian Gardens, Lawndale, El Segundo, Lynwood and Huntington Park.

**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 “Proof of Life” lunch will be at the same La Mirada venue will be Thursday, June 27, 2024.

March 28 “Proof of Life” lunch. Eighteen (18) veteran public managers attended. Pictured here from left to right are **Don Penman**, **Karen Herrera**,

**Mark Alexander** and **Jim DeStefano**. These quarterly luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet informally, socialize and get caught up.