

# City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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September Special 2024

Volume No. 17 | Issue No. 14

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College football 2024 has kicked off! Fresno State opened at the Big House at the University of Michigan. Simpson grandson's **Jordan Brown** and **Tyler Simpson Pouncéy** met on the gridiron. Also, the University of Southern California Trojans opened in Las Vegas beating the LSU Tigers 27-20. City Manager **Jim Lewis**, and retired city manager **Mike Egan** were among the **USC** fans.

## Public Managers in California "C" Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord

Cities included in this Special September 2024 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown are a continuation of cities with names that begin with the letter "C." The cities listed alphabetically in this issue including: [Colfax](#), [Colton](#), [Colusa](#), [Compton](#), and [Concord](#). The City Managers include [Colfax](#), **Ron Walker**; [Colton](#), **William R. Smith**; [Colusa](#), **Jesse Carin**; [Compton](#), **Willie A. Hopkins, Jr.**; and [Concord](#), **Valerie Barone**. These five cities are in the counties of Placer, San Bernardino, Colusa, Los Angeles, and Contra Costa.

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--Ryder Todd Smith, President

## Public Managers in California "C" Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord



Colfax, originally known as Alden Grove, Alder Grove, Illinoistown or Upper Corral, is in Placer County.

The town is named for United States Vice President **Schuyler Colfax**, who visited the town in 1865 while he was serving as Speaker of the House. Colfax became the southern terminus of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad from 1876 until the railroad was removed in 1942. The city was incorporated in February 1910, and the 2020 population is 1,995. **Ron Walker** is the City Manager and **Shanna Stahl** is the Administrative Services Officer. **Amanda Ahre** is the Colfax City Clerk. Colfax economizes the city's expenditures with contract services for Finance Director, Planning and Building Inspector services, and city engineer and city attorney.

### Northern California "Proof of Life" Lunch



Kudos to **Rod Wood** for pulling together another Northern California "Proof of Life"- like luncheon in Fairfield. Those who attended with Rod, include **Kevin O'Rourke**, **Jerry Newfarmer**, **Joe Tanner**, **Bob Murray**, **Ted Gaebler** and **Terry Dugan**. Many "Thanks" to **Kevin O'Rourke** for the report and pictures. The lunch was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at Mimi's Café in Fairfield.



Atascadero City Manager **Jim Lewis** and his son **Troy Lewis** at the 2024 University of Southern California (USC) Trojans opening football game in Las Vegas.

*"Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it."*

---Robert Frost



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**Mike Sedell**, Retired Simi Valley City Manager  
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**Glenn Southard**, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont  
**Joe Tanner**, Retired Vallejo City Manager  
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**Doug Dunlap**, Retired City Manager, Pomona  
**Rita Geldert**, Retired City Manager, Vista  
**Dale Geldert**, Retired CDF Director, State of California  
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**Posse Roster:**

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**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  
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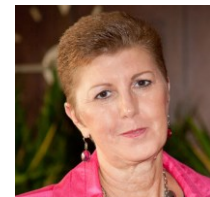
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## Public Managers in California “C” Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord

**Ron Walker** is a former Chief Plant Operator for the Pfeiffer-Big Sur State Park for the California Parks system. He also worked as the Chief Plant Operator for CAL FIRE Konocti Fire Camp, and as General Manager for the Forestville Water District. Ron worked 11 and a half years as the Public Works Director for Live Oak. He started his tenure as the Colfax City Manager in January 2024. Ron earned a BS in business administration from Southern New Hampshire University.

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### Dennis Yu, CEBS, Executive Vice President

(800) 540-6369 ext. 104 or [dyu@pars.org](mailto:dyu@pars.org)

[Dennis has been with **PARS** since October 2007. He earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine, and an MBA from the University of California, Los Angeles ([UCLA](http://UCLA)).]



**Kevin O'Rourke,**  
**Senior Municipal Consultant**

(707) 249-5356 or [kevin@kolgs.com](mailto:kevin@kolgs.com)

[Kevin is a retired city manager.]

## Kosmont-Rose Institute annual survey finds Los Angeles-area cities impose high costs on business.

The 2024 Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey finds that the cost of doing business remains higher in California than in other states in the western United States. Within Southern California, cities in Los Angeles County are the costliest places to do business. Researchers from the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College, in collaboration with El Segundo-based economic development consulting firm **Kosmont Companies**, have conducted business cost surveys since 2003. This year, the Survey collected data on 216 cities—primarily in Southern California—to rank the cost of doing business in these jurisdictions.

“Many businesses are leaving Southern California for other states,” said Ken Miller, Director of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government and an author of the survey report. “This Survey helps show why, by highlighting cost differences between cities in the region and out-of-state.”

For the first time, the Survey presents data for all 174 incorporated cities in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. This comprehensive approach allows for direct comparisons between these cities and shows that the cost of doing business is markedly higher in Los Angeles County than in other parts of the region. This difference can be attributed in part to market forces, such as office rents, and local policies, such as sales taxes and minimum wage requirements.

Santa Monica ranked as the Survey's highest cost city, followed by Culver City, Pasadena, Malibu, Arcadia, Huntington Park, and the City of Los Angeles.

“LA County is a significant center of commerce, yet doing business in the County comes at a high cost,” said **Larry Kosmont**, Chairman and CEO of the **Kosmont Companies**, co-sponsor of the Survey. “While many LA County cities are strategically located and have strong family income and consumer demographics, rent levels and local taxes tend to fall into the Survey's highest-cost categories. These are key decision factors for businesses looking to set up shop or relocate.”

<https://roseinstitute.org/costofdoingbusiness/>

*Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.*

---Thomas Edison



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## Public Managers in California "C" Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord

Former Placer County Transportation Planning Agency Executive Director **Mike Luken** was hired as the Interim City Manager for Colfax to replace City Manager **Wes Heathcock** in June 2023. Wes left to accept the Town Manager position for Loomis where he replaced **Sean Rabé**, who left to be the Auburn City Manager.



Colton, nicknamed the "Hub City" in the Inland Empire in San Bernardino County. The Colton Crossing was one of the busiest at-grade railroad crossing in the country. Constructed in 1882 by the California Southern Railroad to cross the Southern Pacific Railroad track and a grade separation was finally installed in August 2013 replacing the at-grade crossing. After being founded in 1857 and named for **David Doubt Colton**, the city was incorporated in 1887. **Wyatt Earp**'s brother Virgil was the town's first Marshal in 1887. The 2020 population of Colton is set as 53,909. **Bill Smith** is the city manager and **Stephanie M. Vargas** is the Deputy City Clerk. **Deb Farrar** is the Community Services Director, and the Development Services Director is **Heidi Duron**. **Stacey Dabbs** is the Finance Director and **Tom Cody** is the Human Resources & Risk Management Director. **Victor Ortiz** is the Assistant Public Works Director and City Engineer. The Chief of Police is **Henry Dominguez**.

**William "Bill" R. Smith** was appointed Colton city manager in March 2015. He began his public service career in July 1991 as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of San Bernardino. He took a similar position with the City of Ontario in July 1994. Bill joined the Colton city staff in June 2001 as Recreation Manager, and he was promoted to Community Services Director in July 2004. Bill was selected to serve as City Manager in March 2015. He earned a BA from the University of Nebraska and an MPA from Bellevue University. In 2021 he received a 30-Year ICMA Service Award.



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## Public Managers in California "C" Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord

**Charles "Guy" G. Huffaker** served as the Colton city manager from September 1973 to March 1977 when he was hired in Porterville to be city manager (March 1977 to January 2002). Guy began his public service career as an Administrative Assistant for the City of National City in June 1965. In February 1966, Guy was appointed Assistant to the City Manager in the City of Bakersfield, and in October 1969 he went to the City of Montebello as Assistant City Administrator where he worked with **Roy Pederson**. Guy was hired as city manager for Colton in 1973 and move to the Porterville city manager position in 1977. Guy retired from Porterville in 2002. Guy earned a BA from San Diego State College (University). In the year 2000, he was the recipient of a 35-Year ICMA Service Award. Guy was a member of the Board of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). He chaired the annual golf tournament at the League's City Managers' Department meetings for many years. Guy was inducted onto the Porterville Wall of Fame in 2014. He is most proud of his current title: "Grandpa."



San Clemente Pier. This picture was taken by retired City Clerk **Kathie Mendoza** who moved to San Clemente.

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## Public Managers in California “C” Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord



Colusa is the Colusa County seat. The community was called Salmon Bend before the name was changed in 1854. **Charles D. Semple** bought the land grant property to establish town, which was founded in 1850 and called “Colusi.” The post office opened in 1851. The town's name was changed to Colusa in 1854 and became a popular railroad stop. Colusa was incorporated in June 1868. The 2020 population is reported at 6,411. **Jesse Cain** is the city manager and **Shelly Kittle** is the city clerk. The Fire Chief is **Logan Conley**, and the Chief of Police is **Joshua Fitch**. **Mark Tomey** is the Planning Director and **Cliff Burrious** is the Recreation Director.

Colusa City Manager **Jesse Cain** is also currently in charge of the Streets Department, and he serves as the Plant Manager of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Jesse is the Public Works Director in addition to being responsible for his city manager responsibilities. He also serves as a member of the Colusa Groundwater Authority Board of Directors representing the city.



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**Craig Hill**, *Managing Principal*

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## Public Managers in California "C" Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord



Compton is the only Los Angeles County city in this issue's group. Compton is in the Gateway Cities region and known as the "Hub City" due to its central location in the county. Compton is one of the oldest Los Angeles County

cities. It was originally named Gibsonville for one of the tract owners. Later it was tagged with the name Comptonville. The "ville" was dropped to avoid confusion with the Yuba County community of Camp-tonville. It was 1867 when **Griffith Dickenson** **Compton** led a group of 30 settlers into the area on a wagon train from Stockton. The City of Compton was incorporated in May 1888. The city's 2020 population is 95,740. **Willie A. Hopkins, Jr.** is the city manager for the City of Compton and **Triphenia Simmons** and **Marc Puckett** are Assistant City Managers. **Vernell McDaniel** is the City Clerk. **Bryan Spragg** is listed as the Director of Recreation. **Ron Simpson** is the Fire Chief and **Cecil Flournoy** is the Community Development Director. **Donald Grady** is the Human Resources Director.



**Willie A. Hopkins, Jr.** is the city manager for the City of Compton. He is not a member of ICMA. He was hired by the city in December 2023 and his starting date was January 8, 2024. Willie previously served as the City Manager for the City of

Barstow, where he started in September 2021, taking over from Interim City Manager **Jerry Groomes**. Willie served as the Director of the General Services Agency in Alameda County prior to joining the Barstow city staff. Willie is a former Commissioned Officer in the United States Army, where he served from September 1985 to April 1996. He earned a BS in business administration from Alcorn State University. Once he left the Army, he worked in the private sector until taking a General Services Director position with Fulton County, Georgia in August 2003. In October 2008 he was hired to serve as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Pompano Beach, Florida.



**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** served as city manager in the Cities of Paramount and Long Beach. He is a fitness athlete.

**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.

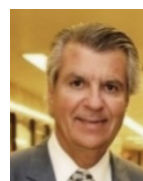
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**Anthony D. Gonsalves** and two of his sons, **Jason A. Gonsalves** and **Paul A. Gonsalves**, are expert local government lobbyists. Founded in 1975 by former Assembly Member **Joe A. Gonsalves**, the firm represents 50-plus cities and is a key player 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



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## Public Managers in California "C" Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord

**Cecil Rhambo**, the Chief of Police for the Los Angeles World Airports since October 2019, served as the Compton city manager in 2017-2019. Chief Rhambo retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 2014. Before joining the Compton city staff, Cecil worked as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Carson. He earned a BA in sociology from Humboldt State University and an MA in organizational leadership from Woodbury University.



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<https://www.mmanc.org/events/annual-conference/>



**Valentina Tripepi Shoop**, sister of the late retired city manager and Willdan executive **Frank G. Tripepi**, her husband **Ron Shoop** and Frank's granddaughter **Reagan Smith** during a recent visit to Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

## Public Managers in California "C" Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord

**P. Lamont Ewell** is a former city manager for Santa Monica and San Diego, as well as Durham, North Carolina. On three separate occasions, Lamont served as Interim City Manager for Culver City, Oakland and Compton. He recently joined the firm of Ralph Andersen & Associates working with executive recruitment. He earned a BS from the University of Maryland.



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Seven year old, **Koa Simpson Ha** of Lakewood in the cockpit on his way home from Michigan where he saw Fresno State University and the University of Michigan play football in the Big House, where his brother Tyler played in the band.

## 2025 Winter Seminar

February 20-25

Mar Monte Hotel, Santa Barbara

<https://www.icacities.org/2025-winter-seminar/>



Concord is the largest Contra Costa County city by population. Concord was founded with the name Todos Santo in 1869. The area in and around Concord was largely agricultural. Crops grown there included grapes, walnuts, almonds, wheat, hay and tomatoes. The City of Concord was incorporated in February 1905. The city's 2020 population is 125,410. The Concord city manager is currently **Valerie Baron** and **Justin Ezell** is the Assistant City Manager. **Joelle Fockler** is the City Clerk and **Jennifer Ortega** is the Community Relations Manager. **Karan Reid** is the Concord Director of Finance. **Leng Power** is the Community Services Manager and **Sophia Huckabay** is the Housing Manager.



Youth sports teams are off and running. This is **Presley Guarino** at soccer practice.





Retired Rialto City Manager **David Carmany** sturgeon fishing in Chilliwack, British Columbia on the Fraser River.



**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!

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## Public Managers in California "C" Cities with Names from Colfax to Concord



Starting in February 2012 **Valerie Barone** served as the Interim City Manager for the City of Concord. She was selected to be the City Manager in 2013. Valerie joined the Concord city staff in 2009 as the Assistant City Manager. Previously she worked as the Community Development Director for the City of Walnut Creek for seven years after working as a Planner in Milpitas starting in 1995. Valerie was the Director of Planning, Recreation and Neighborhood Services in Milpitas when she left for Walnut Creek in 2002. She worked as a consultant in planning for the Redwood City staff from January 1993 through January 1994. Valerie served in the Philippines with the Peace Corps in 1987-1989. She earned a BS in natural resources planning from Humboldt State University, Sacramento. In 2019, Valerie was recognized with a 25-Year ICMA Service Award.

**Craig Blythe** is the General Services Manager and Public Works Division Manager for the City of Concord. Craig was an Electronics Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class for the United States Coast Guard starting in August 2001. He joined the FDA staff in January 2010. He worked for the FDA for a little more than ten years before joining the Concord city staff in March 2020. Craig earned a BA and MPA from San Francisco State University.

## California Contract Cities Association



**Jennifer Perez** of Norwalk, President  
**Renda Olmos** of Paramount, Vice President

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**Justin Ezell** was a Maintenance Worker for the City of Paso Robles from July 2000 to July 2005. Justin became a Water Systems Operator for the City of Sunnyvale in July 2005. In July 2007, he went to work for the City of Redwood City as Public Works Superintendent. Justin was appointed Director of Public Works for the City of Concord starting in September 2012. In September 2021, Justin started his Assistant City Manager tenure.



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## Farrel Arthur Steward

(August 18, 1922 – December 31, 2011)

**Farrel A. “Bud” Stewart** served as the Concord city manager from 1960 to 1986 and again from 1992 until 1994. Bud passed away on December 31, 2011, at the age of 89. He joined the U.S. Army in 1943 and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1944. He was deployed to the European Theater of World War II and saw action in the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded in 1945 and returned to California in 1946. Bud earned a BS from the University of California, Berkeley. He went to work for Concord in November 1953 as City Engineer with Concord’s first city manager **Ray Doran**. Bud designed the first Concord city hall. He became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Concord city manager in April 1960. Bud served as President of the City Managers’ Department of the League of California Cities in 1978-1979. He was ICMA Regional Vice President in 1983-1984. He loved to hike, fly fish, ski and play tennis.

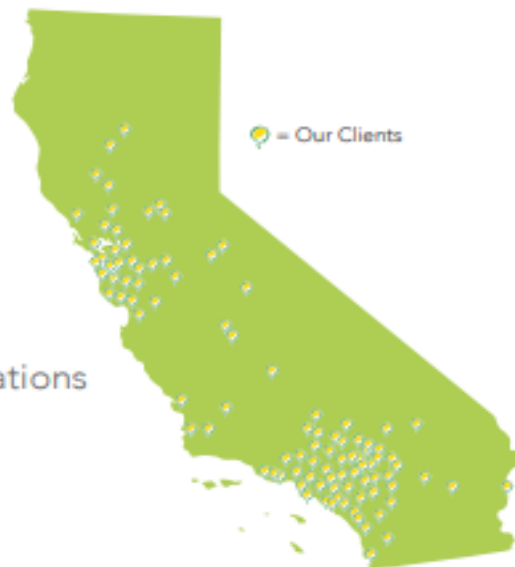


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**Picking Up the Pieces:** Cloverdale City Manager **David Kelley** will leave his position on December 20, 2024. He has served as the Cloverdale City Manager since March 2018. He joined the city staff in February 2016 as the Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director. After working for a private consulting

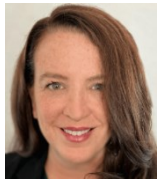
firm starting in 1995, David went to work for the County of Colusa. He left the county in 2001 and worked for a private company in Rocklin. In September 2004, David was hired as a Senior Management Analyst by the Town of Windsor. He became Assistant Town Manager in August 2011 and worked in that post while **Linda K. Kelly** served as Town Manager. David earned a BA in economics from California State University, Chico and an MBA from Sonoma State University. **Tamara Vides** is the new Watsonville city manager. Tamara is a native of Argentina and has worked for the city for some 30-years. She replaces City Manager **Rene Mendez**, who is the new city manager for the City of Salinas. Tamara served as Interim City Manager following Rene's departure. She has worked as Assistant City Manager since October 2020. Tamara earned an MA in recreation administration from San Jose State University. Calexico City Manager **Esperanza Colio Warren** was unexpectedly placed on administrative leave on June 7. She continues to be designated as on administrative leave. **Juan Contreras** has served as the Acting City Manager since June 7. The administrative leave decision came only two years into Colio's five-year employment agreement. No explanation has been given to the public about the administrative leave action. **Maritza Hurtado**, leader of a local Calexico Recall group, wants the city manager fired. Retired City Manager **Kevin Duggan** is serving with the Mineta Transportation Institute (MINETA). Kevin is an Ethics Instructor and Senior Advisor for ICMA and the League of California Cities. He served in local government for more than 40 years, working for Campbell for 18 years, the last 6 as city manager. Kevin worked as the Mountain View city manager from 1990 until his retirement in April of 2011. Kevin is a former ICMA West Coast Regional Director from 2011 to 2019. He was the President of the City Managers' Department of the League in 2008-2009. Kevin was named the recipient of the 2019 ICMA Distinguished Service Award. **Elaine Lister** began her tenure as the city manager for the City of Mission Viejo in July. She took the reins from retired City Manager Dennis Wilberg, who received the prestigious Wes McClure Award from the League of California Cities for his dedication and mentoring of others. Elaine served as the Mission Viejo Director of Community Development from December 2013. She served as the director for 11 years. Elaine was born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland and earned a BS from the University of Glasgow. She also earned an MS from San Diego State University.



**"Proof of Life" lunch:** Thursday, September 19, 2024 at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. This is a picture of retired city managers **Greg Korduner** of Huntington Park and **Mike Egan** of Norwalk.

City of Dublin Assistant City Manager

**Colleen Tribby** has been selected to serve as the next Dublin city manager. Colleen will replace City Manager **Linda Smith** when she retires in October. Colleen started as an Associate Consultant with a private firm in February 1998. She was a Manager and Consultant with MAXIMUS from October 1999 to February 2003. In July 2005, she started with the City of South San Francisco as a Budget & Financial Manager. Colleen joined the City of Dublin city staff in April 2013 as the Director of Administrative Services. In December 2019, she was promoted to be the Dublin Assistant City Manager. Colleen earned a BA in literature and philosophy from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from the European School of Economics. She also completed an executive leadership program at the University of California, Berkeley. While attending Claremont McKenna College (CMC), Making us think about WNBA Rookie **Caitlin Clark**, Colleen was a four-year player and Captain of the CMC Women's basketball team. She has coached girls' basketball in the Tri-Valley area for more than 10 years. She received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award in 2022. Colleen is the fifth Dublin city manager in the past three years. Sunnyvale Director of Finance **Tim Kirby** is the new Sunnyvale city manager. Tim has been serving as Interim City Manager since June 29 following former City Manager **Kent Steffens'** retirement. Tim has worked for the city of Sunnyvale for 29 years, starting with the city in 1995. Tim worked as Utility Billing Manager from 2000 to October 2013. He became the Assistant Director of Finance in 2013, and Tim was promoted to Sunnyvale Finance Director in January 2016. He earned a BA in environmental studies San Jose State University.







**More Pieces Picked Up:** With City Manager **Lori Sassoon** departing the Norco city staff in August 2024, Finance Director **Lisette Free** is serving as Interim City Manager while the recruitment process is pursued. Lisette was hired in Norco in 2017 as accounting manager. She became Finance Director in 2020. Before joining the Norco city staff, Lisette worked 10 years for the County of Orange as a Senior Internal Auditor (2007-2012) and Audit Manager (2012-2017). She earned a BS in accounting from Azusa Pacific University. Lori worked for Walnut, Glendale and San Bernardino before serving as City Manager for Villa Park (2009-2012) and Deputy City Manager for Rancho Cucamonga (2012-2022). She was selected to serve as the Norco city manager in August 2022. Lori earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino. **Courtney Padgett**, Burbank Assistant City Manager, has been named to serve as Interim Chief Information Officer, replacing **Kevin Gray**. Kevin is moving on to serve as the Chief Technology Officer for Metrolink. Though Courtney is accepting the new responsibilities, she will also continue in her role as Burbank's Assistant City Manager. She has been the Assistant City Manager since July 2024. Courtney joined the Burbank city staff in 2017 serving on the Police Department's Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET). She has been the Police Administrator since 2020. Before coming to Burbank, Courtney worked in State and county government positions in Florida. She earned a BA and an MS in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida. Antioch has hired **Bessie Marie Scott** as the city's new city manager. Bessie steps in to replace Acting City Manager **Kwame Reed**. The hiring action was taken on a 3-2 vote. Bessie is the Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety for the City of Seattle, Washington. The Antioch position will be her first as a city manager. Bessie earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MPA from the University of Washington. Dixon City Manager **Jim Lindley** was appointed in February 2012. He previously served as the city manager for the City of Dunsmuir. Jim became the Dunsmuir city manager in June 2010. The previous Dixon City Manager **Nancy Huston** left the city to work as an Assistant County Administrator for Solano County. Jim earned a BA in economics and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino.



**SHORTS:** \***Richard Jacobs**, a longtime Solana Beach resident, formerly of **Willdan** Engineering and a former owner of his own consulting service, graduated from the University of Maine. \***Stanley Morgan** of Vacaville, former Anderson City Council Member and Dairy Valley (Cerritos) Assistant City Manager, went to El Segundo High School.

## Letters and Notes from Readers:

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make it to the September 19 "Proof of Life" lunch. That said we have Proof of Life lunch Northern California set this Tuesday at Mimi's Cafe in Fairfield. Kudos to **Rod Wood**.

--Kevin O'Rourke

Thank you for the invitation - I would love to be there on September 19, but I am already committed to a reunion with the staff I worked with in Pasadena Public Works. Being the Public Works Director was so much fun!! Please keep me on the "Proof of Life" invitation list and I will try and be there next time.

--Cynthia Kurtz

Sad news about **Jeff Kinsell** passing away. Rest in Peace, Jeff. He was brilliant! With Manny passing away only Pam remains. They were a good team.

Always thought Wade was a California boy, he is a good guy.

--Mike Sakamoto

**NOTE:** Pam Newcomb's husband, **Charles Robert Newcomb** passed away on September 3, 2024. Condolences to Pam!

\*Lakewood city council member **Todd Rodgers**, retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, is the new Chief of Police for the Rio Hondo College and charged with building their first police department. \*Former City Manager **Ron Molendyk** is currently working Business Development for Assured Care & Staffing Services based in Anaheim. \*Former South Gate and West Covina city manager **Andy Pasmant** earned a BA from California State University, Los Angeles. \***Edward R. James**, a former U. S. Marine who is a University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) alumnus, who served 10 years as the Concord city manager starting in 1994, served as the Concord Interim City Manager in 2007 and again in 2016. Alameda, where **Jennifer Ott** serves as city manager, is asking residents to immediately report crimes to the police department rather than posting them on social media. \***Matt Morley**, who served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Cupertino from January 2003, is the new city manager for the City of Saratoga starting in June 2024. \*Goleta City Manager **Robert Nisbet** began his Goleta tenure September 2022 and previously served 4 years as City Manager in Half Moon Bay. \***Deborah Dixon**, worked for Gardena and Torrance and the private sector before she joined the City of Lomita about 6 years ago, starting in October 2018 and she was promoted to Human Resources and Risk Manager in November 2023. \*Retired Sacramento City Manager **John Shirey** has been serving as the President of the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera since July 2021. \***Rod Wood** gets kudos for pulling together a Northern California "Proof of Life" lunch program including the September lunch at Mimi's Café in Fairfield.\*\*\*