



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

January 2025

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Atascadero City Manager **Jim Lewis** and his family ring in the New Year at the Happiest Place of Earth. Happy New Year 2025!

California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas

This issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding [El Cerrito](#), [El Monte](#), [El Segundo](#), [Elk Grove](#), [Emeryville](#), and [Encinitas](#). Local government is the closest to the people...where the people can easily reach out and touch decision makers, so to speak. It takes special people to work at this level of government.

We apologize for the tardiness of this initial 2025 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown. Unfortunately, the envoys of pneumonia and the flu invited us for an ICU visit with the good people of the Eisenhower Medical Center in [Rancho Mirage](#). Coupled with our pulmonary fibrosis diagnosis, caution is recommended.

--Jack A. Simpson

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

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www.trackdownmanagement.net | Jack@trackdownmanagement.net

California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas



El Cerrito is one of the 481 incorporated cities and towns in the State of California. This Contra Costa County city was founded by refugees of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. A post office was established in 1909. The refugee camp became known as *Rust*, named for **Wilhelm F. Rust**, the first postmaster. The name of the community was then changed to El Cerrito in 1916. El Cerrito incorporated in August 1917. The 2020 population is 25,962.



Former city managers **Chris Jeffers** and **Jim DeStefano** at the December 2024 "Proof of Life" lunch at the La Mirada Clearman's North Woods Inn. The next "Proof of Life" lunch is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025.



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Karen Pinkos is the El Cerrito city manager. She is a native of Michigan and began her public service career working for the City of Oak Park, Michigan. Karen joined the El Cerrito city staff in 2001. After serving as Assistant

City Manager for more than 12 years, she was appointed City Manager in December 2018. Karen is active in the city manager craft and an ICMA credentialed manager. She served as the President of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) in 2019, and she is the 2024 President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities. Karen is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF), and she is an Executive Board member of California Women Leading Government (WLG). Karen was named 2024 City Manager of the Year by CCMF. She earned a BA and MPA from Oakland University in Rochester Michigan.



"Anytime you do something from the heart, people just know it."
"Alison Krauss is definitely my favorite singer that's ever lived. I've never heard anyone like her."

--Brad Paisley

California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas

Scott Hanin served as the El Cerrito city manager from March 2001 until his retirement in 2018. Prior to joining the city staff, Scott worked as the Executive Director for the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority. Scott earned a BA from the University of Delaware and an MPA from New York University. In 2016 he received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award.

El Cerrito city managers also include **Richard V. “Dick” Brown**, who served as the El Cerrito city manager from 1967 until he retired in 1981. Dick had a long career as a City Manager in the cities of Western Springs, Illinois, and San Fernando and El Cerrito. After retirement, he served as an Interim City Manager in the cities of Kingsburg, Fairfax, Corte Madera and Ross. He moved to Sebastopol in 2000. Dick was an avid tennis player and a longtime volunteer at the Sebastopol Interchurch Food Pantry. He earned a BS in civil engineering from the University of Missouri and an MPA from the University of Kansas. Dick served in the Navy as an officer on the ship, Henrico.

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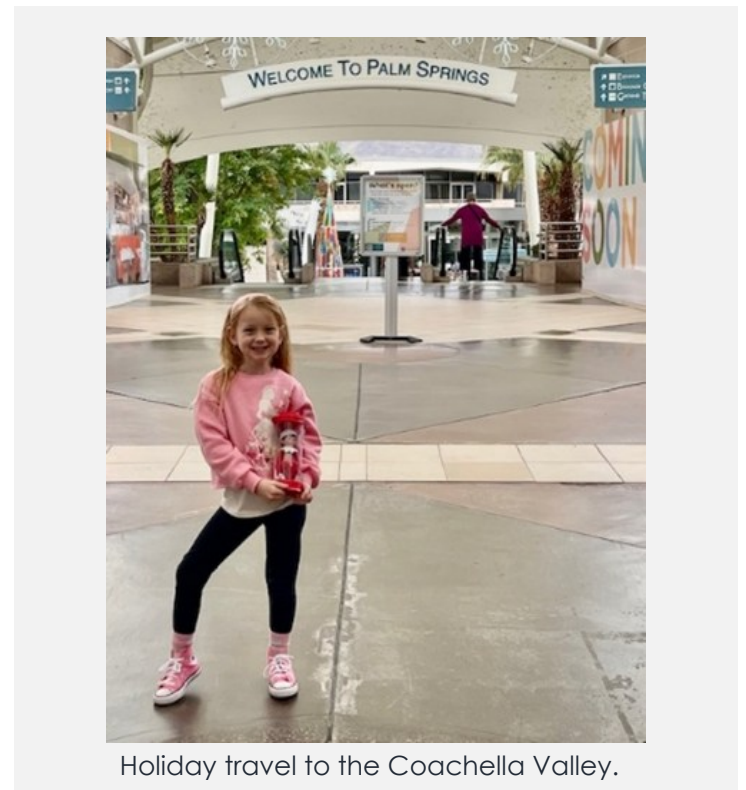
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- Larry F. Pennell**, Retired City Manager, Wasco
- Kevin O'Rourke**, KOLGS/PARS; Retired City Manager
- Glenn Southard**, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont
- Joe Tanner**, Retired Vallejo City Manager
- Guy Huffaker**, Retired Porterville City Manager
- 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
- Joe Goeden**, Retired City Manager, West Sacramento
- Ron Kiedrowski**, Retired City Manager

Posse Roster:

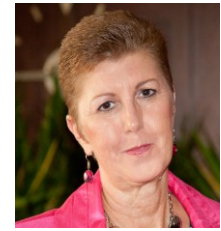
- Gregory Korduner**, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
- Roy Pederson**, ICMA Past-President
- Rod B. Butler**, Jurupa Valley, City Manager
- Rita Geldert**, Retired City Manager, Vista
- Dale Geldert**, Retired CDF Director, State of CA
- Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia**, Retired City Manager, Rocklin
- 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
- Jim Lewis**, City Manager, City of Atascadero
- Donald Jeffers**, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
- Wayne Wedin**, Retired City Manager, Brea
- Karen Herrera**, Retired Deputy City Manager, Duarte



**City Manager Newsletter by
Trackdown Management**

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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.

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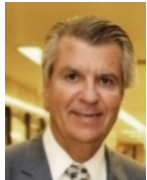
Jeff Duhamel, CEO/Principal Consultant
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Joe A. Gonsalves said: "Lobbyist are like parachutes: you don't need them often but when you do, they had better work."

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 California City Management



Foundation (CCMF) Board of Trustees.

Taylor Gonsalves is the firm's Director of Communications

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son

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Telephone No. 916-441-0597
Fax: 916-441-5061

California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas



El Monte is historically known as "The End of the Santa Fe Trail." As with Bellflower, El Monte became known at "The Friendly City." Located between the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo Rivers, the area

was known to be able to grow any crop between 1770 and 1830. Spanish soldiers and missionaries often took refuge there. El Monte was incorporated in November 1912. The 2020 population is 109,450.

Alma Karina Martinez is the city manager and **Amber Servin** is the Assistant City Manager and Director of Parks and Recreation and Community Services.



Alma Martinez was appointed to the El Monte city manager position in August 2019. She worked as Assistant City Manager from May 2018 until 2019. Alma was the Supervising Staff Mediator for the Los Angeles City Attorney (October 2003 – June 2014). She was the Compton Assistant City Manager (November 2015 – November 2016) prior to her appointment as Lynwood City Manager in 2016. Alma earned a BASc and MA in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

"Proof of Life" organizer **Gregory Korduner** is a former El Monte City Administrator. After working in public works for the city of Norwalk, Greg joined the Artesia city staff as an Administrative Assistant in 1975. He was promoted to Planning Director in January 1977 and became Assistant City Manager in October 1978. Greg became the City Manager for the city of South El Monte in 1981 and he was hired as the City Administrator for El Monte in July 1984. He became the Huntington Park city manager following his El Monte service and he served as interim city manager in La Habra Heights and Los Alamitos after his retirement. Greg earned an AA from Cerritos College, a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. In 2010, Greg received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award. Greg is an often-successful entry into local senior club golf tournaments.



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Both MMASC & MMANC support ICMA's educational, diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.



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California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas



El Segundo is a significant center of the Southern California oil and aerospace industries. A Chevron oil refinery takes up more than a quarter of the city's corporate limits. The city obtained its name (The Second) due to being the

second Standard Oil refinery on the West Coast. El Segundo was incorporated in January 1917. Douglas Aircraft Company's El Segundo operation was one of the major aircraft manufacturing of the dive bomber that received its fame from the Battle of Midway. The 2020 population of El Segundo is 16,731. **Darrell George** is the City Manager and **Barbara Voss** is the Deputy City Manager, while **Rebecca Redyk**, **Dana Hang**, **Elizabeth Winston**, **Yuliana Espinoza**, Director of Finance **Deborah Cullen** and City Planner **Maria Baldenegro** compose the city's executive staff.



El Segundo city manager **Darrell George** worked for the City of Duarte for more than 22 years, starting there in 2003. Prior to serving as the Duarte city manager for 16 years, retiring in December 2019, he worked for the cities of Santa Monica, Downey and Pomona. Darrell started his El Segundo city manager tenure on July 1, 2022, after working as the city's interim city manager from March to June 2022, succeeding city manager **Scott Mitnick**. Darrell earned a BS from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and a Master's degree in planning from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Barbara Voss is the El Segundo Deputy City Manager since December 2018. Barbara previously served as a Community Development Specialist in Chula Vista. She earned a BA from the University of California, San Diego and an MBA from Loyola Marymount University.



Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA) is one of the leading strategic communications and public affairs firms in Southern California. The Founding Partner is **Harvey Englander**, and Partners include 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.

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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. Matt Knabe graduated from Pepperdine University. He was a four-year member of the Pepperdine University Men's Golf Team.

To contact **EKA**, please call 213) 741-1500 or email matt@ekapr.com. **Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner.



Former city managers **Don Vestal**, **Jack Simpson**, **Lloyd de Llamas**, and **Bob Dickey** at a "Proof of Life" lunch on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The next "Proof of Life" lunch is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the North Woods Inn in La Mirada.



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John Reekstin, formerly of the Community Development staff of the City of Santa Ana, Senior Vice President with **The Olson Company** is a “Proof of Life” lunch veteran.

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California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas



Elk Grove is a thriving Sacramento County city. Elk Grove was established in 1850 as a stop for stage-coach travelers between Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Western Division of the Central Pacific Railroad came to the area in 1868. Elk Grove remained a small farming community with little urban development until the late 1980s when local development projects began. The city was incorporated in July 2000 and the 2020 population is 187,985. It is the 26th California city in population size. **Jason Behrmann** is the city manager, the Assistant City Manager is **Jaqui Guzman**, and **Kara Reddig** is the Deputy City Manager.



After serving as Interim City Manager for city manager 9 months starting in May 2018, **Jason A. Behrmann** was appointed Elk Grove city manager starting January 2019. Jason began his public service career in May 1998

as a Finance Intern for the City of Bloomington, Indiana. He took a Management Intern position for the City of San Luis Obispo in January 1999. Jason was hired to serve as an Administrative Analyst for the city of Dublin in July 1999. He was hired as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Galt starting in March 2006. Galt elevated Jason to city manager in November 2009. After nearly 10 years in Galt, Jason took the Assistant City Manager position for the City of Elk Grove. Jason earned a BA from Brigham Young University and an MPA from Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and he received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award in 2019.

Assistant City Manager **Jaqui Guzman** previously worked as Deputy City Manager for Sunnyvale and Cupertino. She earned a BA from Occidental College and an MPP for **UCLA**.



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Roxanne Diaz is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF)

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California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas



Former Elk Grove city manager **Laura Gill**, an ICMA Credentialed Manager, worked as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the County of El Dorado from May 2003 until June 2008, prior to serving as the Elk Grove city manager. Laura worked as the city manager from June 2008 until May 2018. She began her public service career working for the City of Durham, North Carolina in 1987. Laura earned a BA from Wake Forest University and an MPA from the University of North Carolina. She is also a CPA. In 2022 she received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award. Laura is the Chief Executive Officer for the Special District Risk Management Authority.



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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. Michael is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and he is a leading expert in local government legal issues.

Two of the firm's attorneys were named California Lawyers of the Year (2020).

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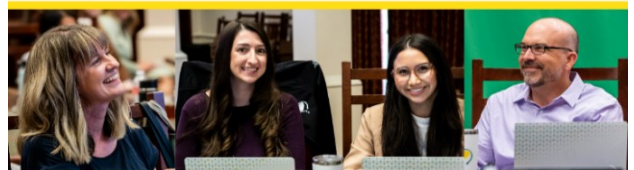


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California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas



During the Spanish and Mexican eras, settlers in the area of Emeryville built a pier near the mouth of the Temescal Creek. This wharf was used to load cattle hides and other ranch products to transfer them to ocean-going ships for long deliveries, including New England-bound vessels. Emeryville's first post office opened in 1884. The town was incorporated in December 1896. The 2020 population of Emeryville is 12,905. **La Tanya Bellow** is the city manager, and **Pedro Jimenez** is the Assistant City Manager.

BRANDYWINE HOMES



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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"No dog ever abandoned his owner because he was old and sick."

-Anonymous

California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas



La Tanya Bellow was selected in November 2024 to be the next city manager for the City of Emeryville. La Tanya has worked with the City of Berkeley since 2018. She is replacing former Emeryville city manager **Paul Buddenhagen**, who resigned to become the next Berkeley city manager. La Tanya earned a BA and an MPA from California State University, East Bay. She is currently working for a doctorate in Public Administration.

Pedro Jimenez is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Emeryville. Pedro served as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Hercules from January 2011 until April 2015. He joined the Emeryville city staff as the Community Services Director in April 2015. Pedro was promoted to Assistant City Manager in July 2022. He earned a BS in recreation and an MPA from California State University, East Bay.

California Contract Cities Association



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At Willdan, we lead with our people!
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Adel Freij, PE
Director of City Engineering
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Former city managers who worked for the Paramount city staff along the way, including **Bill Crowe, Johnny Johnston & Jack Simpson.**



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
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California Managers in Cities from El Cerrito to Encinitas



Encinitas is a northern San Diego County beach city found between Solana Beach and Carlsbad. After Mexican Independence Rancho Las Encinitas was built in 1842. The town of Old Encinitas was pulled together in 1881. The city was incorporated in 1986. The 2020 population is 62,007. Assistant City Manager **Jennifer Campbell** is currently the Interim City Manager for the City of Encinitas as former city manager **Pamila Antil** left the position in November 2024. **Roy Sapa'u** has served as Deputy City Manager since September 2013, and **Dave Knopp** is the Encinitas Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts. **Tom Gallup** is the Interim Director of Finance.



This picture was taken at the "Bridge to Nowhere" on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.

Encinitas Interim City Manager **Jennifer Campbell** served as a Parks and Recreation Superintendent for the City of Goodyear, Arizona in 2008-2012. After working in positions in Maricopa, Glendale, and Glendale Community College, Jennifer joined the Encinitas city staff as Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts in July 2016. She served as Interim City Manager in 2020, and she was promoted to Assistant City Manager in July 2021. Jennifer earned a BA in recreation management from Arizona State University, and a Master's degree in education, with an emphasis in public administration from Northern Arizona University.

Pamela W. Antil served as the Encinitas city manager from October 2020 until November 2024. Her immediate prior assignment was Assistant City Administrator for Santa Barbara (August 2015-October 2020). She previously worked positions in Rancho Palos Verdes, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Novi, Michigan, Palo Alto, San Jose, Millbrae and Campbell. She earned a BA from Central Michigan and an MPA from California State University. Pam received a 25 Year ICMA Service Award in 2022. She is a past member of the ICMA Executive Board as a Regional Vice President (2021-2024). Pam has worked more than 10 years with the League of Women in Government as President and as the CAO. Her current assignment is in Special Projects with the City of San Bruno.

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The HdL Companies are dedicated to helping cities, counties, redevelopment agencies and special districts maximize revenues through allocation audits, financial and economic analysis and through the provision of related software products.

The HdL Companies serves more than 335 local governments across the nation and North America.

HdL was founded in 1983 by **Robert Hinderliter**, a former Director of Finance and City Administrator in Commerce, California. Bob developed California's first computerized sales tax management program and worked to secure the legislation that allows independent verification of the State Board of Equalization's allocation of sales tax revenues to local governments. In 1987, **Lloyd de Llamas** purchased 50% of the corporate stock and the company became *Hinderliter, de Llamas and Associates* with a primary focus on sales tax analysis, allocation audits, and software.

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

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

The three **HdL** affiliates operate as a single, coordinated unit providing a variety of integrated services and software products.

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HdL identifies and recovers sales and use tax allocation errors, helps maximize tax revenues from specific projects and business situations, and provides ongoing data, analyses, and staff expertise to support fiscal planning and economic development.

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HdL's software solutions are designed, implemented, and supported by people who understand the unique challenges and needs of local government. More than a vendor, HdL works as a partner, providing expert analysis and guidance, effective software solutions, and unmatched quality of technical support.

Among The HdL Companies' officials are:

Lloyd de Llamas, Executive Chair-retired, provided sales tax services to local governments since 1987. He served as City Manager in Monterey Park, Lawndale, and Woodlake and as an Assistant in Torrance and San Diego.

Andrew Nickerson, President of the **HdL** Sales Tax arm, has more than 20-years of experience with local governments revenue enhancements and protection. He is a California State Polytechnic University, Pomona graduate.

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

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

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

The HdL Companies

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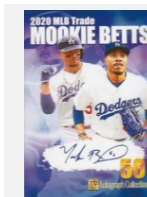
Picking Up the Pieces: Stockton city manager **Harry Black** resigned following entering into a new employment agreement in August 2024. Harry began his tenure as the Stockton city manager in January 2020. He previously worked as the city manager for Cincinnati, Ohio. Stockton Deputy City Manager **Will Crew** will serve as the Acting City Manager until a new city manager is

selected. Following the resignation of Sacramento city manager **Howard Chan**, the city of Sacramento has named **Leyne Milstein** as the Interim City Manager. Leyne has served as the Sacramento city finance director since 2008. She has also worked as one of four Assistant City Managers since November 2017. Leyne earned a BA in political science from the University of California, Davis and an MPA from California State University, Hayward. California Joint Powers Insurance Authority Business Projects Manager **Carl Sandstrom** retired following more than two decades of service to the California JPIA. Carl joined the authority's staff in 2003 as a training coordinator. He took the Risk Manager position in 2004. He took a Senior Management Analyst role in 2007, and he became the Business Projects and Facilities Manager in 2010. Whittier city manager **Brian Saeki**, 50, hired as city manager in 2019, is the new city manager for the City of Vernon effective February 24. Brian is the 8th city manager in Whittier's 127-year history. Prior to joining the Whittier city staff, Brian served as the Covina city manager (2017-2019) and the San Fernando city manager (2014-2017). Brian previously served in positions with the cities of Arcadia, Rosemead and Downey. He earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from California State University, Northridge. Former Pleasanton City Manager **James "Jim" Walker** passed away New Year's Even at the age of 85. He was living as a rancher in New Mexico since retiring in 1990. Jim was born in Alamogordo, New Mexico in July 1939. After moving to California at the age of 10 with his parents. He served in the United State Air Force from 1961 to 1965. He earned a BA from California State University, Sacramento and joined the city staff in Pleasanton in 1967. He worked his way through the Finance Department and after serving as assistant city manager, Jim was appointed Pleasanton city manager in 1980. He left the city in 1990 to fulfill his live-long dream of living on a cattle ranch in New Mexico. Moreno Valley city manager **Mike Lee** retired, stepping down in December 2024. He worked with the city for 10 years, five as City Manager. Mike previously worked with the city of West Covina for more than 13 years. He was Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director when he left to join Moreno Valley. Mike earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from the University of La Verne.



Found in the Coachella Valley.

Clovis has selected **Andrew Haussler** as its new City Manager, replacing retiring City Manager **John Holt** at the end of the year. Andrew is the Assistant City Manager. He has been with the city for 18 years. He has served as the Community and Economic Development Director. Prior to joining the Clovis city staff, he worked for an electrical company and for the County of Fresno. Andrew earned a BA and MBA from Fresno Pacific University. San Francisco Giants baseball fan and 49ers football fan, **Tim Kerr** 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. After leaving city government, Tim worked as the Executive Director for the Downtown Stockton Alliance from May 2010 until November 2012. Tim has been semi-retired since January 2013. **Dr. Ana M. Alvarez**, who has served as the Deputy General Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District since March 2016, is the new city manager for the City of Hayward, effective January 9. The park district is the largest urban park district in the United States with its own police and fire departments managing 73 parks with nearly 127,000 acres in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. She previously worked for the City and County of San Francisco starting in 2009. Before that she held positions in Santa Fe Springs, Oceanside, Burbank and Santa Barbara. Ana earned an MPA from California State University, Northridge and a Doctorate from the University of Southern California (USC). **Cynthia Nava**, who joined the Cerritos city staff in 2002 in Building and Safety, has been hired to replace retired Cerritos City Clerk **Vida Barone**. She has been the Acting City Clerk since September. She worked in the Recreation Services Division before joining the City Clerk's Office in 2018. Cynthia earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State University, Dominguez Hills.



"In order to be great, you have to continue to put in the work."
 ---**Mookie Betts**, Los Angeles Dodgers



More Pieces Picked Up: Unsuccessful Paso Robles city council candidate **Linda George** filed a \$500,000 personal injury claim against the city. She also calls for the termination of City Manager **Ty Lewis**, claiming

misconduct. The city manager submitted a \$2.2 million claim against the city. He was on medical leave allegedly due to stress and returned to his position in November. Santa Ana City Manager **Alvaro Nuñez** announced the appointment of **Robert Rodriguez** as the new Santa Ana Chief of Police. Robert has worked as the Acting Chief of Police since November 2, 2023. He has worked for the Santa Ana Police Department since 2000. The new Chief was born in Tijuana, Mexico and came to the United States as a child. He worked as a Los Angeles Police Officer from 1996 to November 2000. Prior to that he served in the United States Marine Corps (1990-1996). Robert earned a BA in criminal justice from Chapman University, and an MPA from the University of Southern California (USC). **Barbara Salvini**, the Human Resources Director for Newport Beach, accused City Manager **Grace Leung** of covering up an illegal gift of public funds in a lawsuit filed last month, claiming the city manager forced her to change official records to aid in a coverup. This has apparently contributed to a hostile workplace. City spokesman **John Pope** explains that the city denied the claims, and that the allegations are without merit, Barbara has been with Newport Beach since 2015. She worked for 10 years in HR with the City of Laguna Beach. Santa Monica City Manager **David White** is stepping down to return to the City of Berkeley as Deputy City Manager. David served 18 months as Interim City Manager prior to being appointed City Manager. He has previous city manager experience serving 5 years as the City Manager for the City of Fairfield.



SHORTS: **Bruce Mulder**, who has served as the Director of Parks and Recreation in Brentwood since 2014, is the new Director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Vacaville. **Former Claremont** Personnel Manager **Daylene Alliman** is suing the city for alleged discrimination and wrongfully terminating her due to age and health issues. **Jason Ta** new permanent Chief of Police for the city of Vallejo, it is announced by City Manager **Andrew Murray**. **It was 34** degrees as former Walnut City Manager **Robert T. Dickey** and his wife Nadean took a New York City walkabout prior to boarding the Queen Mary II the next day for a trip across the Atlantic Ocean to Southampton, England. **Laguna Niguel** City Manager **Tamara Letourneau** is

pictured on the cover of the December 2024 issue of P.M. Magazine published by ICMA. **Tom Robinson's** Management Consultant firm TR Management Services, Inc. continues to provide Assistant City Manager services to the City of La Habra Heights. **Reva Feldman** of Avenu Insights & Analytics, a current member of the CCMF Board of Trustees, was awarded the CCMF City Manager of the Year Award in 2019 when she served as city manager for the City of Malibu. **Brian Halvorson**, who worked for Santa Maria and Lompoc, is the new City of Indio Community Development Director starting January 6, 2025. **Glendale** city manager **Roubik Golanian** is a professional engineer and started his public service career in 1987 with the City of Ceres as an Engineering Technician. **After serving 10 years on the Long Beach** city council, Hermosa Beach city manager **Suja Lowenthal** went to work for Santa Monica until her appointment in Hermosa Beach in September 2018. **San Bruno** city manager **Alex D. McIntyre** previously held city/town manager positions in Portola Valley, Tiburon, Menlo Park, Ventura and Lake Oswego, Oregon. **Retired from the Anaheim** city manager's office, **Lisa Ynez Hughes**, who previously worked for the City of Bellflower, is recovering from a recent stroke. **Retired Huntington Park** City Manager **Gregory Korduner** has been quite successful in the Dad Miller Senior Men's Golf Club tournaments in Anaheim, garnering First Place more than once. **Former Los Angeles** Dodger MVP **Cody Bellinger** was traded from the Chicago Cubs to the New York Yankees for the 2025 season. **Oakland** City Administrator **Jestin Johnson**, a United States Air Force veteran, is a former IBM executive and worked for local governments in Georgia and Arizona, including as city manager for Bisbee, Arizona. **Mark Rigali** is the newest Captain of the Southwest Riverside County Sheriff's Station and Temecula Chief of Police. **Vacaville** Police Captain **Chris Polen** is the new Vacaville Chief of Police effective January 1, 2025. **Former State of California** Department of Corrections professional, **Daniel Paramo** is the new Interim City Manager for the City of El Centro. **J. R. Wright**, who previously held positions in Merced and Torrance, is the new Chief Information Officer for the City of Culver City, succeeding the retiring **Michele Williams**. **Former Alhambra** and Santa Clara city manager **Julio Fuentes** currently lives in San Dimas. **The late Andrew C. Lazzaretto**, in addition to operating his own consulting firm for many years, worked in the cities of Rosemead, Burbank, Alhambra, Stanton, Montebello, Walnut, and Lynwood. **Red Bluff** City Manager **Tom Westbrook**, a graduate of California State University, Chico, previously worked as the city manager for the City of Ceres (April 2020 – August 2021). **Former city manager Francis Delach** is a member of the Adjunct Faculty at the University of La Verne, and he works as a local government consultant. **United States' Air Force** veteran **Marshall Linn**, a founder and formerly with Urban Futures, works as a Partner with Bayshore Consulting Group, Inc.

“Proof of Life”



The Thursday, December 12, 2024, “Proof of Life” lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in [La Mirada](#). Listed attendees in random order:

Ron Molendyk, former [Lake Elsinore](#) City Manager and Interim City Manager in [Perris](#). 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 with the Cities of [Rosemead](#) and [Signal Hill](#). He is known for his world travel.

Karen Herrera, retired [Duarte](#) Deputy City Manager, also, worked for [Downey](#), [Orange](#), [Bell Gardens](#) and [Hawaiian Gardens](#).

Don Penman is a retired [Arcadia](#) City Manager. He was also chief executive for [Baldwin Park](#) and [San Fernando](#). Since retirement, Don has completed several interim assignments.

Jon Shull is a retired Chief Executive Officer of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA). Jon previously worked for the Cities of [Cerritos](#) and [Signal Hill](#).

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](#).

Mark Alexander 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](#).

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](#).

John DiMario is the Development Services Director for the City of [La Puente](#). He served in [La Mirada](#), [La Palma](#) and [South Gate](#).

Jeff Stewart, retired [Bellflower](#) City Manager who previously served as city manager in [Los Alamitos](#) and [El Segundo](#). Jeff currently works for Willdan.

Greg Korduner, retired [Huntington Park](#) City Manager. Greg is one of the Founders of the “Proof of Life” lunch program. He also was City Manager in [El Monte](#) and [South El Monte](#). He served as Interim City Manager in [Los Alamitos](#).

Tom Robinson, retired City of [La Mirada](#) City Manager (2008-2013). Tom worked for [Commerce](#) and [Cerritos](#). Since retirement he served as Interim City Manager in [La Habra Heights](#), currently serving as Interim Assistant City Manager.

Chris J. Jeffers became the [Glendora](#) city manager in 2007. He joined the [South Gate](#) city staff as city manager, first as

Interim, and retired in December 2023. He took the [Monterey Park](#) city manager position in 1991 and served 16 years.

Jorge Rifa was the [Soledad](#) city manager from 1984-1991 and served as Deputy City Manager in [Salinas](#) from 1991 to 2008. He retired as [Commerce](#) City Administrator in 2017.

Bill Crowe worked for [Paramount](#) (1975-1980) before joining the staff of L.A. County Supervisor **Pete Schabarum** (1980-1990). He served as the [Rosemead](#) City Manager (2002-2006) before retiring as [El Segundo](#) Assistant City Manager.

Lou Shepard began his career in 1957 and worked as City Manager in [Commerce](#), [Signal Hill](#), [San Pablo](#) and [Delano](#). He was also the Executive Director of the [Pasadena](#) Redevelopment Agency.

Larry Kosmont is the Owner, Chair & CEO at Kosmont Companies. He served as Interim City Manager for [Montebello](#), and as in [Bell Gardens](#). He also held executive positions in [Santa Monica](#), [Seal Beach](#) and [Burbank](#). He was the recipient of the John H. Nail award from the League of California Cities in 1980.

Don Wagner, retired Assistant City Manager in [Rosemead](#) where he worked with City Manager **Frank G. Tripepi**. Don has served as Interim City Administrator in [Maywood](#) since retirement.

Don Vestal, a former City Manager in [Westminster](#). Started his public services career in Planning.

Dave Carmany retired as City Manager in [Rialto](#). He served as city manager in [West Covina](#) prior to that. Dave is **USC** alumnus.

Johnny Johnston retired as the Chief Administrative Officer for Ventura County. He served as the [Ventura](#) Interim City Manager after retirement. He previously served as city manager in [Ojai](#) and [Artesia](#).

Adel M. Freij is the Director of Engineering for Willdan Engineering.

Bill Pagett is a retired Senior Vice President with Willdan Engineering. He was the City Engineer for [Paramount](#) and other cities. Bill is known nationally in boat racing circles as a past National K-Boat Champion.

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 on **Thursday, March 27, 2025**.

December 2024 “Proof of Life” lunch. Pictured here from left to right are **Karen Herrera** and **Don Penman**. These quarterly luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet informally, socialize and get caught up.