

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



April 2025

Volume No. 19 | Issue No. 5

[Click the logos throughout the newsletter to open links...](#)



Former city manager **Steve Harding** says that with the exception of **Mark Scott** doing another interim gig, I am pretty sure each of these former city managers are retired. Notice our old buddy **Glenn Southard** over my right shoulder. I can't remember the exact year. I think it was in 1994. It was a League City Manager's training program at Big Sur. I was City Manager in Murrieta at the time. [Thank you to **Steve Harding** for the picture.]

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena

This April 2025 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the cities of Fremont, Fresno, Fullerton, Galt, Garden Grove, and Gardena.

Garberville is a Humboldt County unincorporated community on the south fork of the Eel River. It has a 2025 population of 2,041. Garberville is approximately 200 miles north of San Francisco. The first post office in Garberville opened in 1874. The town is named for **Jacob C. Garber**, the town's first postmaster.

Please take a moment and subscribe
to receive all future issues of the
City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown
without cost.

www.trackdownmanagement.net

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

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

www.trackdownmanagement.net | Jack@trackdownmanagement.net



66TH ANNUAL MUNICIPAL SEMINAR
MAY 15-18, 2025
 RENAISSANCE ESERALDA RESORT & SPA

COMMUNITIES UNIDOS
 POWERING CHANGE THROUGH COLLABORATION

44400 INDIAN WELLS LN
 INDIAN WELLS, CA 92210

www.contractcities.org

NHA | ADVISORS

Financial & Policy Strategies.
 Delivered.

NHA advisors, LLC provides strategic, objective and financially sound advice to public agencies throughout California. Consistently ranked as one of the most active municipal advisors*, NHA Advisors is distinguished from the competition by delivering broad advisory and consulting services to meet the challenging and complex needs of public agency clients.

As a fiduciary, the firm develops comprehensive options and strategies that solve for maintaining/enhancing service levels, capital project needs, manage and contain costs and risks such as rising pension costs and promote fiscal sustainability through prudent policies.

Principals include **Mark Northcross**, **Eric Scriven**, **Mike Meyer**, **Rob Schmidt**, and **Leslie Bloom**.



Craig Hill, Managing Principal
 Financial & Policy Strategies. Delivered.
 Telephone: (415) 785-2025
 Cell: (415) 518-4130
 Email: Craig@NHAadvisors.com

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena



In June 1797, the Fremont area began to take shape as the Mission San José was founded by Spanish **Father Fermin de Lasuén**. The local native population learned to live with the Mission Spanish. In 1827 the first English-specking visitor to Fremont was famous trapper **Jedediah Smith**. The Fremont area grew rapidly during the California Gold Rush. The Palmdale Winery of Fremont was the largest in California until the 1906 earthquake destroyed it. The city was not incorporated until January 1956, the same year that the first Fremont post office opened. The 2020 population is 230,504. General Motors had an assembly plant in south Fremont and the city was known for its drag strip. In the 1980s the plant was used by Toyota and NUMMI. That operation closed in 2010, and part of the plant was acquired in June 2010 by Tesla Motors as its primary production plant, know as the Tesla Factory. **Karena Shackelford** is the city manager, and **Brian Stott** and **Christina Briggs** are the Assistant City Manager. **Allen DeMers** is the Deputy City Manager and **David Persselin** is the Finance Director.



Thank you to **Valentina Tripepi Shoop** for this picture of former city manager **Wesley Wolf**, founder of **Wolf & Company**, and **Ron Shoop** at breakfast in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Ron is a retired L.A.P.D. Sergeant, and Code Enforcement Officer for Corona.

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena



Karena McGee Shackelford was appointed to the Fremont city manager position in October 2021. After beginning her public service career as an Administrative Officer for the City of San Jose in 1999, she joined the Fremont city staff as a Business Manager in March 2006. She worked her way up in the city staff organization to Deputy Director of Public Works in December 2011, to Interim Public Works Director in 2014, Deputy City Manager starting in September 2014, and Assistant City Manager starting in September 2018. Karena earned a BA in business administration from San José State University and an MBA from Saint Mary's College of California. Karena was unanimously selected to be city manager following the dismissal of City Manager **Mark Danaj**.

Fred Diaz was appointed Fremont city manager in October 2004. Fred retired from the position in July 2018; nearly a 14 year tenure. Fred served as city manager for Indio (October 1990 -October 1994) and Tracy (October 1994 – October 2004), prior to joining the Fremont city staff. Fred earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Fullerton. He received the 1987 *John H. Nail Award* for outstanding municipal assistants during the time he worked for the City of Pico Rivera.

Don Driggs was inducted into the University of Pacific Athletics Hall of Fame after a collegiate swimming and water polo career from 1946 to 1950. Throughout his aquatics career at UOP, Don served as team captain for both the water polo teams and the swim teams. After graduating from UOP he became Director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Bakersfield. He joined the newly incorporated city staff for Fremont in 1956 as Director, and he was elevated to Assistant City Manager before becoming City Manager in 1966. He served as Fremont city manager for 15 years until his retirement in August 1980.



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.

EKA provides lobbying, government affairs, public relations, political campaigns, and crisis management services for a wide variety of clientele. In addition, **EKA** provides professional litigation communication and expert witness services led by our team of strategists, lawyers, journalists, and media relations specialists.



Together, **EKA** has more than 100-years of combined experience and a multitude of relationships within the City & County of Los Angeles, and the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. 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,

"Proof of Life" Lunch: Thursday, April 3, 2025



The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be at the Northwoods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada on **Thursday, July 17, 2025**. Please put it on your calendar and plan to be there!

This "Proof of Life" lunch picture shows: **Johnny**

Johnston and **Julio Fuentes**. "Proof of Life" luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet informally. The importance on the luncheons is magnified when a participant passes on unexpectedly like former Palmdale city manager, the late **James "Jim" Purtee**. Others lost include: **Bill Holt**, **Darrell Essex**, **Frank Tripepi**, **Howard Chambers**, **Mary Strenn** and **Ray Harris**. Gather at 11:30 for the noon lunch on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

Executive Level Posse Roster:

Wade McKinney, Retired Indian Wells City Manager
Mike Sedell, Retired Simi Valley City Manager
Larry F. Pennell, Retired City Manager, Wasco
Kevin O'Rourke, KOLGS; 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



MuniEnvironmental's experienced professionals provide **solid waste** and **recycling** expertise that helps cities and other government agencies:

- Review, analyze and optimize rates and expenses
- Audit contract service providers
- Comply with regulatory requirements
- Implement commercial, organics and construction & demolition recycling programs

Jeff Duhamel, CEO/Principal Consultant
 562-432-3700 | jeff@munienvironmental.com



RICHARDS WATSON GERSHON

RWG is committed to excellence in the legal profession. The lawyers of choice for clients seeking reliable, efficient, and effective legal counsel.

RWG delivers practical advice and solutions tailored to the unique needs of public entities.



Working seamlessly across offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange County, Temecula, and the Central Coast. The **RWG** team of experts provides the full scope of public law services. Practical advice and well-analyzed solutions come from listening carefully and asking the right questions.

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

Call **RWG** at No. 213-626-8484



**City Manager Newsletter by
Trackdown Management**

10 Claret
 Rancho Mirage, California 92270

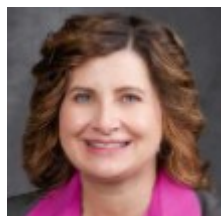
Cell Phone: Jack Simpson | 562-896-5424
 Cell Phone: Susan Simpson | 310-418-1035

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena



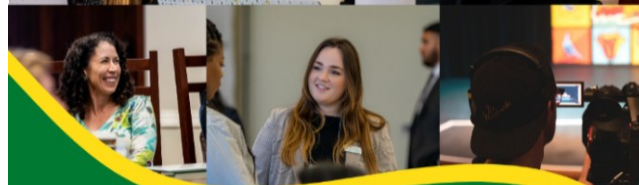
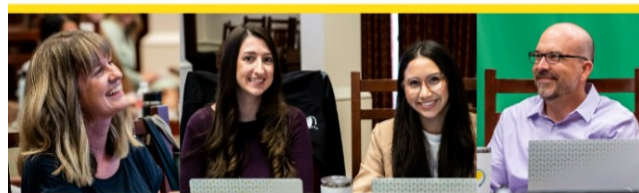
Fresno is the county seat for Fresno County. It is the largest city in the Central Valley region of California. Fresno is the fifth-most populous city in the State, and the thirty-fourth most populous city in the United States. Fresno was founded in 1872

as a Central Pacific Railroad station. Fresno County was formed in 1856 after the California Gold Rush. Fresno was incorporated as a city in October 1885. Between the 1880s and World War II, Downtown Fresno flourished, with electric streetcars, and contained a number of "lavish" and "opulent" buildings. The original Fresno County Courthouse was among the beautiful buildings, though it has been demolished. The 2020 population for Fresno is 542,107. **Georgeanne White** is the Fresno City Manager. Former Fresno city managers include **Wilma Quan**, **Mike Webb**, **Kelly Stachowicz**, **Jerry Dyer**, **Ed Winchester** and **Andy Hall**. **Gerald E. Newfarmer** and Robert M. Christopherson were Fresno city manager.



City Manager **Georgeanne White**'s City of Fresno executive leadership stretches back almost more than two decades. She has served as a Council Chief of Staff, Assistant Department Director, and Chief of Staff for former Mayors **Alan Autry** and **Ashley Swearengin**. She was appointed City Manager in January 2022. She is an alumnus of California State University, Fresno.

Wilma C. Quan began her career in planning. She worked for a land development service starting in 1996 and became a transportation planner for the State of California in 2000. She joined the Fresno city staff in January 2009 as an Urban Planning Specialist. Wilma was appointed Deputy City Manager in February 2014 and Assistant City Manager in July 2016. She was city manager from 2017 to 2021. She replaced city manager **Bruce Rudd** in 2017, who retired after 41 years with the city. Wilma Quan, is currently the Fowler city manager, but has resigned from her Fowler position effective July 8.



**Our Team.
Your Communications.**

(626) 536-2173

[TripepiSmith.com](https://www.tripepi-smith.com)



"The **Tripepi Smith** team stands ready to help with outreach campaigns, video production, content writing, messaging, graphic work, technology infrastructure and websites."
--**Ryder Todd Smith**, President

Marketing – Technology – Public Affairs – Training
Telephone: 626-536-2173

Jerry Newfarmer, President & CEO for Management Partners, Inc., served as the Fresno city manager from 1978 to 1983. Before his Fresno service, Jerry worked a little more than 10 years with the City of Oakland where he was Assistant City Manager from 1976 to 1978. After leaving Fresno, Jerry was the San Jose city manager from 1983 to 1989. He served as the city manager in Cincinnati, Ohio for three years starting in 1990. Jerry earned a BS from San Jose State University and an MA in public administration from the University of California, Berkeley. He is the 1992 recipient of the ICMA Award for Career Development in Memory of L. P. Cookingham. He received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award in 1994.



The Olson Company is a premier California builder of affordable new home communities.

Since 1988, The Olson Company mission has been to work hand-in-hand with cities to solve the critical shortage of urban housing by promoting and investing in responsible development that improves quality of life for everyone.

The company has successfully partnered with more than 100 cities since 1988.

Todd Olson

President of Community Development

Telephone: 562-370-2209

The Olson Company

562-370-2259

562-430-4413 Fax

3010 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 100
Seal Beach, CA 90740



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

The **Independent Cities Finance Authority** is an unaffiliated Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with the goal of helping communities fund critical projects.

Since its inception in 1988, ICFA has assisted funding more than \$500 million in critical community projects, from hospitals to charter schools, public utilities, and housing.

Jose Solache, ICFA President
Lynwood City Council Member

Independent Cities Finance Authority

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

Telephone No. 877-906-0941

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena



Fullerton was founded in 1887. The community was historically a center for groves of Valencia oranges and other citrus crops. Walnuts and avocado groves also helped make Fullerton an agricultural center. Fullerton is known for many things, including the development and refining of the world's first commercial solid-body electric guitar in 1949 by **Leo Fender**. The Fender Telecaster is world renowned. Fullerton was incorporated in February 1904. The 2020 population is 143,617. The Fullerton city manager is **Eric Levitt** and the deputy city manager is **Daisy Perez**. The City Clerk is **Lucinda Williams** and **Steven Avalos** is the Finance Manager.

Wolf & Company Inc.



Former City Administrator
Wesley Wolf, Founder
Telephone: 949-235-0525
FAX: 213-741-0519

Wolf & Company Inc. provides municipal consulting services to State and local governments, and not-for-profit corporations.

Wolf & Company Inc. has a specialized emphasis on: Mobile Home Park Acquisitions-Program Administration and Oversight Agent Services.



Wolf & Company Inc.

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

"Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us."

--U.S. President **John F. Kennedy**

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena

Eric J. Levitt was appointed Fullerton city manager in March 2022, to succeed City Manager **Ken Domer**, who left the city in April 2021. Interim City Managers **Steve Danley** and **Jeff Collier** served until Eric was selected. Eric previously served as city manager for the City of Alameda from 2019 until joining Fullerton. Eric worked as the city manager for the City of Simi Valley for about 6 years starting in May 2013. Eric served as city manager in the cities of Janesville, Wisconsin and Sedona, Arizona before becoming a city manager in California. Eric earned a BA and an MPA from the University of Kansas.

William Carl Winter worked for the City of Fullerton for 20 years and retired as city manager in 1992. Bill was born in Chicago, Illinois in April 1936. He started his public service career as the Director of Finance for the City of South Gate in 1965. He was made Assistant CAO for South Gate in 1970. Bill joined the Fullerton city staff in February 1972. He was appointed Fullerton city manager in October 1979. Bill earned a BS from the University of Idaho. He was a retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander and a Certified Public Accountant. He lived in Villa Park for more than 35 years. Bill passed away in September 2004.



An archive 1980's picture of **Susan Simpson**, along side a current picture of Main Street at Pacific Coast Highway in the City of Huntington Beach admiring the streetlight.



A MUNICIPAL PARTNER YOU CAN COUNT ON

Founded in 1964, Willdan is a leading, nationwide provider of professional and consulting engineering services. We have worked with nearly 90% of California's cities and counties and have recently expanded our services across the country. With 1,500 employees in over 50 offices throughout 20+ states nationwide, we are ready to serve you!

Willdan is a trusted partner for municipalities, with solutions including:

- Building & Safety
- City Engineering
- Construction Management & Inspection
- Design Engineering
- Planning
- Geotechnical

Other Services Include: Energy & Sustainability, Financial & Economic Analysis, Transportation Electrification, Microgrids, and Smart Cities

At Willdan, we lead with our people!
Meet our management team by clicking [here](#):



Vanessa Munoz, PE, TE
President and CEO, Engineering
562.447.6844
vmunoz@willdan.com



Adel Freij, PE
Director of City Engineering
562.760.7752
afreij@willdan.com

www.willdan.com



<https://www.bigbear.com/events/tough-mudder/>

Big Bear Lake's first Tough Mudder is in September 2025. This exclusive co-branded In-N-Out Burger® Tough Mudder Challenge has 5K and 10K courses.





HdL Companies

WHAT WE DO

Simplify
Compliance, licensing, tax and fee administration made easy.

Boost
Maximize revenue with comprehensive solutions including discovery, recovery, and economic development.

Thrive with Better Data
Founded by City Managers for City Managers and staffed by former civil service professionals, HdL Companies understands the challenges of municipal finance and backs you with expertise in local government administration solutions. We empower local governments to thrive with better data and resources.

SINCE 1983 **MORE THAN 800 CLIENTS** **RECOVERED \$3B REVENUE**

Scan for more information

714.879.5000
solutions@hdlcompanies.com

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena



Galt, historically found its beginning during the California Gold Rush. In 1850 a group of ranchers and dairy farmers settled in the area. The town of Galt was founded in 1869 as part of the first transcontinental railroad when the Central Pacific Railroad laid out the town. The name "Galt" derives from the hometown of local rancher **John McFarland**; Galt, Ontario, Canada. The Galt community is in Sacramento County. **Chris Erias** is the Interim City Manager for Galt, **Carly Saunders** is the Interim Finance Director and **Amie Mendes** is the Economic Development Director. **Tina Hubert** is the elected City Clerk.

Chris Erias is the Interim City Manager. He has been working Planning for Galt since March 2024. He previously worked as the Development Services Director for the City of Manteca from September 2020 until March 2024. Chris was appointed Interim City Manager for Galt starting February 2024.

Lorenzo Hines Jr. (August 2020-February 2024) resigned from the city manager position with his final day on the job February 2, 2024. He began his Galt city manager services on August 31, 2020. Prior to Galt, Lorenzo served as the Assistant City Manager for the city of Pacifica. He served as the Finance Director in the Washington cities of Edmonds and Lynnwood.

Ted Anderson served as the Galt city manager for 10 years with his last day being January 31, 2010. Ted began his public service in planning in Utah. He became City Administrator for Nephi, Utah in February 1978 and took the City Administrator position in Midvale, Utah in May 1980. Ted was appointed City Manager for Rifle, Colorado in August 1982. He left Rifle in September 1989, and became the Brighton, Colorado City Manager in February 1990 where he served until December 1996. Ted earned a BA and MPA from Brigham Young University. Ted received a 25 Year ICMA Service Award in 2005. He is the 1994 recipient of the ICMA Public Safety Program Excellence Award in Memory of William H. Hansell, Sr. & Alice Hansell.



Jonathan Royas, Santa Paula, President
Joseph Cisneros, La Palma, Vice President
Rebecca Bernstorff, Long Beach, Director of Finance
 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, CA 93103

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



Candice Rankin Mumby, President
 Sustainability Manager, Walnut Creek
Anthony Valdez, Vice President
 Assistant City Manager, Bakersfield,
Claire Coleman, Treasurer
 Finance Manager, El Cerrito

3620 American River Drive, Suite 230,
 Sacramento, CA 95864

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena



Garden Grove was founded by Alonzo Cook in 1874. It was a small rural farming community until 1905 when the Pacific Electric Railroad arrived. The improved transportation helped the town

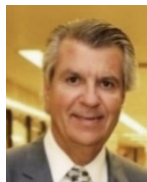
grow. Garden Grove was noted for its orange groves, walnuts, chili peppers and in later years, strawberries. In 1933, the central business area of Garden Grove was heavily damaged by the 6.4 Long Beach earthquake, which claimed one life at the high school. Following the end of World War II the community developed rapidly. Garden Grove was incorporated in June 1956. The 2020 population is 171,949. **Lisa L. Kim** has been the Garden Grove city manager since March 1, 2023. **Liz Vasquez** is the City Clerk. **Patricia Song** is the Director of Finance. **Matt West** is the Assistant City Manager.



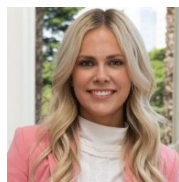
Joe A. Gonsalves said: "Lobbyist are like parachutes; you don't need them often but when you do, they had better work."

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
925 L Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone No. 916-441-0597



Gonzalo Vazquez, Frank G. Tripepi, Lee Whittenberg and Michael Sakamoto in a picture taken at a 2015 funeral.

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!

Now selling: **Avila** - El Monte, **Cabrillo Crossings** - Santa Ana, **Carson Landing** - Carson, and **Mirasol** - El Monte

Coming Soon: **Solara** - Westminster

Brandywine Homes focuses on converting underutilized space into needed housing.
Call **Brandywine** at 949-296-2400

Contract the firm for information about their Local Heroes program incentives and advantages. It is an honor to help local first-responders, teachers, military members, nurses and firefighters.

Brandywine Homes Corporate Office
16580 Aston Street
Irvine, California 92606

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena



Lisa L. Kim joined the city staff for the City of Garden Grove in April 2016 as the Community and Economic Development Director. She took the duties and responsibility of Assistant City Manager in addition to the Director's post in June 2019. Lisa was selected to serve as the Garden Grove city manager in March 2023. Lisa began her public service career as a Project Coordinator for the City of Pomona in October 1994. In October 1998, she took a similar position with the City of West Covina. In April 2000, Lisa took a Project Manager position with the City of Orange. She was elevated to Economic Development Manager in January 2012. After 16 years with the Orange city staff, Lisa was hired by Garden Grove as the Community and Economic Development Director. Lisa earned a BA in urban and regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from UMass Global. Lisa is the 2023 recipient of the *John H. Nail Memorial Award* issued by the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities.

Richard R. Powers served as the Garden Grove city manager from 1972 to 1980. He later was appointed city manager for the City of Norwalk in 1988, taking over for retiring City Manager **J. Richard Streng**. Richard became the first Executive Director of the Gateway Cities COG, a role he held for more than two decades until his retirement in 2017. Richard earned a reputation for being a "master mentor." Many of his former staff went on to successful careers in local government.

Palm Springs City Manager **Scott Stiles**, who worked for the City of Cincinnati, Ohio for more than 27 years, served as the Garden Grove city manager from August 2015 to February 2023. Scott earned a BS from South Dakota State University and an MCP, a Masters in community planning, from the University of Cincinnati.



Expert Public Agency Legal Services. Committed to counsel that is helpful, understandable, and fairly priced.

CH&W has offices in Pasadena and Grass Valley in the Sierra Foothills,

CH&W represents both public and private clients throughout California in municipal law.

Michael Colantuono is Managing Shareholder, and currently is City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley. 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).

<https://chwlaw.us/>

Call telephone No. 530-432-7357; 213-542-5700;
916-400-0370; 858-682-3665

COLANTUONO | HIGHSMITH | WHATLEY, PC



This gym is a place where strength training is used for self-improvement. Special group sessions for sports teams, police and fire departments or other groups may be arranged.

Raw Performance

Coach/Owner, **William Ha**, CSCS is a professional and popular certified strength and conditioning coach.

Call: 714-335-4436 |
10579 Bloomfield Avenue
Los Alamitos, California 90720



Providing innovative risk management solutions for its public agency partners for more than 45 years, the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA) is one of the largest municipal self-insurance pools in the state, with more than 125 member cities and other governmental agencies. Members actively participate in shaping the organization to provide important coverage for their operations. The California JPIA provides innovative risk management solutions through a comprehensive portfolio of programs and services, including liability, workers' compensation, pollution, property, and earthquake coverage, as well as extensive training and loss control services.



Alexander Smith
Chief Executive
Officer

California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
cjpia.org | info@cjpia.org | (562) 467-8700



Casey Simpson
- Brand Ambassador

Cellular
Absorption
Supplements



<https://Caseysimpson.iii.earth>

Some of the most effective vitamins you can buy! Vitamins supplements that are not absorbed can be a waste of money. Contact **Casey Simpson** to discover the vitamin products that provide maximum absorption.

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena



Gardena grew out of a Spanish land grant bestowed in 1784, three years after the establishment of Los Angeles. The area was known as Gardena Valley. Ranchers and farmers moved in following the end of the American Civil War. Union Army Major General **William Starke Rosecrans** bought into the area in 1869. Gardena was incorporated in September 1930. The 2020 population is 61,027. **Clint Osorio** is the Gardena city manager, and **Mina Semenza** is the City Clerk. Stephany Santin is the Parks and Recreation Director. **Diana Schnur** is the Human Resources Manager.



Clint Osorio is the Gardena city manager. Clint joined the Gardena city staff as the Chief Financial Officer in 2014. In 2017 he became the Director of Administrative Services, and in December 2019, Clint was appointed Gardena city manager. Clint earned an MPA from California State University, Northridge.

Mitchell "Mitch" G. Lansdell, who grew up in Cypress, was the Recreation Director for the City of Los Alamitos from 1972 until July 1981. He became the Administrative Services Director in 1981 and served in that position until September 1985 when he joined the Gardena city staff as Assistant City Manager. In the mid-1980s, while Mitch was Assistant City Manager, he competed as a professional triathlete. Mitch became City Manager in 1998, replacing disgraced City Manager **Kenneth Landau**, who served a jail sentence. Mitch earned an amazing reputation as a professional city manager, and he was given a hero's sendoff at a regal retirement party. Mitch worked for the city of Gardena for 32 years total. The American City & County publication selected Mitch as the 2007 Municipal Leader of the Year. He served for a time as the Corona Interim City Manager following his retirement from Gardena.



"Never apologize for being patriotic."
-The Late Country Music Artist
Toby Keith

California Managers in Cities from Fremont to Gardena

John C. Sheehan served as the Gardena city manager starting in 1979. John died during surgery in October 1982, and **Martin H. Reagan** was appointed Acting City Manager. Martin became city manager in March 1983. Martin joined the Gardena city staff in June 1980 as an Administrative Assistant. He was a former corporate attorney and labor negotiator. He earned a BBA and a DJS from Western Reserve University in Ohio. Martin resigned from Gardena in March 1985 at the age of 61 due to the pressure of the job. Assistant City Manager **Kenneth W. Landau**, 30 years old at the time, became the Acting City Manager. Ken had worked for Burbank starting in May 1976 and joined the Gardena city staff in January 1978. He earned a BS and MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



Stephany Santin is the current Gardena Director of Recreation and Human Services. Stephany has worked for the city for more than 15 years, joining the city staff in February 2010 as an Administrative

Assistant to the Chief of Police. After working in transportation, community development and in the city manager's office, Stephany was appointed to her current Director position in October 2019. She served as Assistant to the City Manager for 10 months in 2019. She is responsible for overseeing the Recreation, Human Services, Senior and Custodial Divisions. Stephany earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**) and an MBA from Western Governors University. Stephany is a South Bay resident, actively engaged in the community. She is a member of the Gardena Kiwanis and Gardena Elks Lodge 1919.

"There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit."

- **Ronald Reagan**



Founded in 1986 by former City Manager **Larry J. Kosmont**, Chairman and CEO.
2021 CCMF Corporate Partner of the Year.

Kosmont Companies serves cities, counties, quasi-government agencies, private companies, developers, and non-profit organizations, including educational institutions across California. With unmatched expertise in public/private transactions,

Kosmont Companies is on the cutting edge of evolving trends, challenges, and solutions. A transactional firm that takes a hands-on approach to economic development focused on successful outcomes.

The firm is an expert in economic development, real estate consulting, financial analysis, and redevelopment dissolution.

Mailing Address: 1601 N. Sepulveda Blvd., No. 382, Manhattan Beach, California 90266

Headquarters – El Segundo: 2301 Rosecrans Avenue Suite 4140, El Segundo, California 90245
Telephone: 424-297-1070 | Fax: 424-286-4632



Raising the Flag on Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima. The original picture was taken by Associated Press photographer **Joe Rosenthal** on February 23, 1945, during the final stages of World War II in the Pacific.

Mr. Rosenthal's photograph was the model for the Marine

Corps War Memorial, dedicated in 1954 to honor all United States Marines who died in service since 1775. The memorial, sculpted by **Felix de Weldon**, is located in Arlington Ridge Park.



925 L Street, Suite 250
 Sacramento, California 95814
 Telephone: (916) 441-0597
 FAX No. (916) 441-5061
 Email address: gonsalves@gonsalvi.com

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son has more than 50 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 interests. 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 two of his 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.

Jason's daughter **Taylor Gonsalves**, University of Pacific – McGeorge School of Law, joined the firm as Director of Communications starting June 2024.

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".

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son Services:

Successful, Strategic Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy, Governmental Relations and Grant Funding:

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."

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."

<http://gonsalvi.com>

Telephone No. 916-441-0597



Picking Up the Pieces: Lodi City Manager **Scott Carney** has been placed on leave after reporting issues with overspending. Scott is concerned with "...widespread misuse of public funds and the use of city credit cards to purchase personal items." There is a concern that the city manager may have inappropriately released privileged information publicly. Scott has served as Lodi city manager since

June 2024. He previously worked as the Deputy Director for the California Department of Health Care Services (July 2021-June 2024). Among his former work assignments, Scott served as the Deputy City Manager for Stockton (September 2014-February 2020). Scott earned a Doctor of Education degree from the University of the Pacific, Benerd College. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director **Christina Jaromay** has been appointed Lodi Acting City Manager. Former Sacramento city manager **Howard Chan** has reimbursed the city for the legal fees used to negotiate his contract extension. The acting city manager is **Leyne Milstein**. Howard spent \$3,215 on attorney representation to help negotiate an extension to his employment agreement. Howard currently is an Assistant City Manager with the city, a provision granted in his employment agreement. Brentwood city manager **Tim Y. Ogden** has accepted the General Manager position for the Cosumnes Community Services District. Tim took the Brentwood city manager position in February 2020. Previous to Brentwood,



Tim served as the city manager for the cities of Manteca (July 2017-January 2020), and Waterford (2011-2017). He began his public service career with work assignments in economic development in Modesto, Riverbank, and Ceres. Tim received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award in 2016. He earned a BA from Weber State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Tim is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. He served as a Scout Leader for the Boy Scouts of America from January 2002 until March 2018, and Tim has been known to enjoy playing some basketball in his spare time. City Manager **John Nachbar** of the City of Culver City will retire at the end of the year. John has been the city manager for Culver City since 2010. Before coming to Culver City, John served as City Manager for Overland Park, Kansas and Deputy City Manager for Tucson, Arizona. Prior to his Tucson assignment, John was the City Administrator for Albany, California (1991-1995) and City Manager of Patterson (1987-1991). He began his public service career in 1979 with Wichita Falls, Texas and as Assistant City Manager of Overland Park, Kansas. John earned a BGS and MPA from The University of Kansas. With a year remaining on a three-year employment

agreement as Palmdale City Manager **Ronda Perez**. Ronda joined the city staff in October 2021 as Assistant City Manager. She was made Acting City Manager when City Manager **J. J. Murphy** was placed on administrative leave. Following J.J.'s dismissal, Ronda was named Interim City Manager in



March 2022. She was hired as city manager on February 1, 2023. One of her previous work assignments was with the City of Lancaster, where she worked as a senior operations manager, Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts and Assistant City Manager. Palmdale has been evaluating Ronda's performance as city manager. **Bonnie Lipscomb** is the new Santa Cruz Deputy City Manager. Bonnie is going from the Director of Economic Development and Housing positions to Deputy City Manager. She joined the Santa Cruz city staff in 2007. From November 2000 until September 2007, Bonnie worked in economic development with the City of Vallejo. She earned a BA in cultural anthropology and Pre-Columbian architecture from Tulane University, and a Master's Degree in resource policy and behavior from the University of Michigan. St. Helena Assistant City Manager **Dr. April Mitts** has accepted the Assistant City Manager position for the City of Healdsburg. April joined the St. Helena city staff in November 2014 as the Finance Director. She became the Administrative Services Director in June 2021, and she has been the Assistant City Manager since June 2022. April earned a Doctorate of Public Administration (DPA) from the University of La Verne. **Anil Cornelo** is the city manager for the city of St. Helena. **Dr. Peter Pirnejad** is the Town Manager for the Town of Los Altos Hills. Peter began his public service career as a Planning Assistant for the City of Vernon in January 1998. Since then, he has worked for Westlake Village; Selma; Lodi; Daly City; Palo Alto; Napa; and Foster City. He served as President of the Planning and Community Development Department of the League of California Cities (2013-2014). Peter earned DPPD (Doctor of Policy, Planning and Development) from the University of California San Diego School of Public Policy. He received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award in 2022. Consumer Affairs ranks Roseville as the best city to move to in California. High rankings are given to the economy, outstanding quality of life and excellent community amenities.



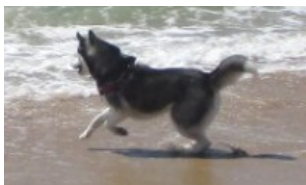
Ralph Holmes; Marshall Linn; Wesley Wolf, founder of **Wolf & Company** & this newsletter's first official sponsor; and **Frank G. Tripepi** of **Willdan**. This picture was taken in Long Beach at the 2014

annual meeting of the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities.



More Pieces Picked Up: Congratulations to retired California Contract Cities Association Executive Director **Sam Olivito** on the successful renewal of his California Driver's License for five more years. Sam will turn 90 years old in July. From January 2018 until July 2020, Willows

City Manager **Marti Brown** served as the city manager for the City of Marysville. Marti became the Willows city manager as Interim in August 2021. She was appointed City Manager beginning in November 2021. Marti had previous work assignments in Berkeley, Sacramento and Arvin. Marti served as a member of the City Council for the City of Vallejo between December 2009 and January 2014. Sunnyvale Public Safety Chief **Phan Ngo** will step down at the end of April 2025. City Manager **Tim Kirby** will appoint an Interim Chief of Public Safety. Phan joined the city staff in 2017. Before that he worked for the San Jose Police Department starting in 1989. His retirement caps 36 years in Silicon Valley law enforcement. Phan became the Director of Public Safety in January 2017. He earned a BA from San Jose State University and an MS in criminal justice from Boston University. Novato City Manager **Amy Cunningham** previously had work assignments in Dublin, Moraga, Walnut Creek, and Half Moon Bay. Amy began her public service career as a Family Support Officer for the District Attorney's Office in the County of San Mateo, starting in June 1996. She worked for Dublin nearly 17 years before moving on to the Town of Moraga and Walnut Creek. She joined the Novato city staff in February 2020 as Finance Director. She became Administrative Services Director in August 2022



SHORTS: *Cottonwood, Arizona is recruiting a city manager and the current city manager for the City of Hanford, **Mario Cifuentez**, is among the final three candidates. *Former Alameda city manager **Debra**

Kurita, an ICMA Credentialed Manager Retired, lives in Fullerton. *Retired city manager **Greg Korduner**, who served as city manager in South El Monte, El Monte, Huntington Park, and as Interim city manager for La Habra Heights and Los Alamitos, tells us that the next "Proof of Life" lunch is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2025, at the La Mirada North Woods Inn Restaurant. ***Jason Simpson**, Lake Elsinore city manager, is excited about the 10,000 square feet addition to the Lake Elsinore library currently under construction. *United State President **Donald Trump** and California Governor **Gavin Newsom** are working together with the California Coastal Commission to prevent unnecessary impediments and delays with rebuilding after the recent California wildfires. ***Matt Huffaker**, who is a former Watsonville city manager (2018-2021), and earned an MPA from California State University, East Bay has served as the Santa Cruz city manager since December 2021. *Anaheim City Manager



Brenda's Birdie Invitational

Golf Tournament is here!

Grab your clubs and get ready to tee off at the Annual CCCA Golf Tournament!

Thursday, May 15 at 7 am

Indian Wells Golf Resort

44-500 Indian Wells Ln, Indian Wells, CA 92210

Jim Vanderpool reports that the city agrees with the recommendations of a recent State audit, including the city's ability to inspect Angels Stadium in Anaheim. ***Cecilia Gallardo-Daly**, Costa Mesa Assistant City Manager, previously worked as the Assistant City Manager for the City of San Clemente. *Los Angeles County District Attorney **Nathan Hochman**, changing the position of his predecessor, will seek the death penalty in rare cases of defendants charged with special circumstance murders. *MMASC Past President, **Laura Biery**, is the Director of Economic Development for the City of West Hollywood. ***Yvette Walker** is a Community Improvement Officer with Claremont Code Enforcement. *Former Palmdale city manager and past President of ICMA, **Dave Childs**, is currently working as a Culture Coach from Coeur D' Alene, Idaho. ***Sibely Calles**, who earned an MPA from the University of San Francisco, a Senior Management Analyst for the City of Daly City, joined the city staff in July 2014. ***Sydney Fitch**, a San Diego State University graduate who earned a BA in communication, is the **Tripepi Smith** team leader for the distribution of the *City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown*. *Sonoma Finance Director **Prapti Aryal** presented a new fraud policy at the March 5 Sonoma city council meeting. ***Aaron Laurel** was appointed to the West Sacramento city manager position in July 2018. *City Council Member **Vince Yu** of Temple City is the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works for the County of Los Angeles. *Fortuna Public Works Director and City Engineer **Brendan Byrd** is leaving the city to become the Executive Director for the Humboldt County Association of Governments. Artesia Deputy City Manager **Melissa (Gobas) Burke** earned an MS in recreation administration from California State University, Long Beach. ***

“Proof of Life”



Twenty veteran public managers gathered on Thursday, April 3, 2025, for a “Proof of Life” lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada.

Greg Korduner, retired Huntington Park City Manager. Greg is one of the Founders of the “Proof of Life” lunch program. He served as City Manager in El Monte and South El Monte. He worked for Norwalk and Artesia. He served as Interim City Manager in La Habra Heights and Los Alamitos. Greg is an avid golfer and sports fan. He is an Angels and Dodgers Major League Baseball fan.

Ron Molendyk, former Lake Elsinore City Manager and Interim City Manager in Peris. Ron took delivery of a 2023 Corvette C8 Stingray on September 25, 2022. He 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.

Tom Robinson, retired City of La Mirada City Manager (2008-2013). Tom worked for Commerce and Cerritos, and since retirement he served as Interim City Manager in La Habra Heights. He is a Management Consultant with his firm TR Management Services, Inc., currently serving as Interim Assistant City Manager for La Habra Heights.

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

Mike Sedell is a retired Simi Valley City Manager (1995-2012). Mike is well known and highly respected for working closely with State government in Sacramento on local government issues. Mike earned an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

John Bramble, a Downey resident, retired as the Merced City Manager. John started his career in Salem, Oregon in 1969. He served as City Manager in Commerce City (1981-1984) and Pueblo, Colorado (1984-1987), City Administrator in Bell (1988-1993), Brighton, Colorado (1996-2008) before Merced (2008-2016). John is an avid golfer and occasionally hits the course with **Greg Korduner**. John received a 40-year ICMA Service Award in 2012.

Lloyd de Llamas is a co-founder of **HdL Companies** with the late **Robert Hinderlitter**. Lloyd received a 30-year ICMA Service Award in 1993. He served as city manager in Woodlake (1968-1971), Lawndale (1971-1976) and Monterey Park (1976-1987).

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 serving until retiring as El Segundo Assistant City Manager. He is a **USC** graduate.

Mike Egan retired as Norwalk city manager (2011-2017) after serving as Bellflower city manager. Since retiring, Mike served as Artesia Interim City Manager in 2022. He is a Director with **Tripepi Smith** consultants.

Wayne Wedin served as the Brea City Manager 1968-1983. He started his career as a Pasadena Intern before joining the Santa Fe Springs city staff. He was Assistant City Manager when he left in August 1968 to be the Brea City Manager. Currently the President of Wedin Enterprises in Brea. He is a past-President of the League City Manager Department (1975-1976).

Julio Fuentes served as San Clara and Alhambra City Manager. Julio is building a career in real estate after more than 30-years in city government (Office: 424-297-1076).

Jeff Collier retired as the Whittier city manager in November 2019. He worked as Acting City Manager in Fullerton in 2021-2022. He also worked in Chino Hills and West Covina.

Don Vestal, a former City Manager in Westminster. Started his public services career in Planning.

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. Mark has been deeply involved with **USC**.

Jim Barisic, a former City of Artesia City Manager, who worked in Paramount and Cerritos, and served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army. He is the founder of **Brandywine Homes**. He is an alumnus of California State University, Long Beach.

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.

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 K-Boat National Champion.

Don Wagner, retired Assistant City Manager in Rosemead where he worked with City Manager **Frank G. Tripepi**. Don served as City Administrator in Maywood since retirement.

Jack A. Simpson, worked for Paramount, Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens and Bellflower. Also, served as an Interim department head in La Puente. Former member of the CCMF Board of Trustees. Worked with **Willdan**.



“Proof of Life” lunches are opportunities to share time and socialize with former colleagues. No one understands the challenges of city managers like those who have served as one.

Jeff Collier, John Bramble and Tom Robinson at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. The next POL lunch will be on Thursday, July 17, 2025. Assemble at 11:30.