

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



October 2025 Special

Volume No. 19 | Issue No. 15

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



Halloween may be officially just one day, October 31, but the celebration of costumes and scary things has become a month-long observation of All Hallows' Eve. Costumes, spooks, ghouls and ghostly galas help sponsor and promote Halloween parties, jack-o-lantern jubilees, trick-or-treating and other gathering and events. Halloween is when stores fill with special treats, and pumpkin patches provide young people Halloween concessions and photo opportunities. However, the celebration is not just for youngsters, as the elderly enjoy decorating too. This is a home decorated in [Rancho Mirage](#) in the Coachella Valley.

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach

This Special Halloween October 2025 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown Management includes information regarding the cities of [Lodi](#), [Loma Linda](#), [Lomita](#), [Lompoc](#), and [Long Beach](#). This grouping includes two cities in Los Angeles County, [Lomita](#) and [Long Beach](#); one in San Bernardino County, [Loma Linda](#); a city in San Joaquin County, [Lodi](#); and one in Santa Barbara County, [Lompoc](#).

City Managers in this issue include Acting City Manager **James Lindsay** in [Lodi](#), **T. Jarb Thaipeir** in [Loma Linda](#), **Andrew Vialpando** in [Lomita](#), **Dean Albro** in [Lompoc](#), and **Tom Modica** in [Long Beach](#). We apologize to former [Livermore](#) city manager **Linda Barton**, for a substandard write up in the October issue. Linda served as the President of the League City Managers' Department in 2010-2011. We missed the ball on our swing to cover [Livermore](#).

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

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach

"Oh Lord, stuck in Lodi again."

--Lyric in a 1969 Creedence Clearwater Revival song



Lodi is among the few California cities that immediately brings a song to mind. Located in the San Joaquin Valley, the "breadbasket of the world," the community grew up around a local school

established in 1859 and the Central Pacific Railroad coming to town in 1869. The community was initially named Mokelumne and/or Mokelumne Station for the nearby Mokelumne River. Among the "guesses" of how the city got its name is that Lodi is a city in northern Italy. More than likely, some of the earliest settlers were from Lodi, Illinois, named for that Italian town. The city of Lodi, California incorporated in December 1906. Its 2020 population is 66,348. **James Lindsay**, retired Saratoga city manager, is the Acting Lodi city manager, and **Olivia Nashed** is the City Clerk.

James Lindsay served as the City of Saratoga city manager for more than a decade; from July 2014 to July 2024. He had joined the Saratoga city staff in October 2011 as the Community Development Director. Jim began his public service career in April 2000 with the City of Milpitas. He was the Permit Center Manager and in July 2003 Jim became the Planning Manager. After short tenures with KB Home and the Metropolitan Planning Group, Jim was hired as the Planning & Neighborhood Services Director in October 2007. After retiring from Saratoga, Jim founded the Sierra View Partners in Auburn. He earned a BA from San Jose State University.

Former Lodi city manager **Scott R. Carney** was removed from the city manager position in October 2025, six months after he was placed on paid administrative leave. Most of Scott's experience was at the State level, though he served as the Deputy City Manager in Stockton from 2014 to 2020. Lodi was his only city manager job.

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



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 Olson 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



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, President of the firm, is a long time Member of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) Board of Trustees.

Jason & Paul Gonsalves are recognized local government experts.

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
1201 K Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone No. 916-441-0597

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach

Henry "Hank" Graves, Jr. served as the Lodi city manager for 28 years. Hank passed away in July 2001 at the age of 79. He died after a year-long battle with cancer. Hank became city manager in 1957. He came to work for the city in April 1952 to serve as administrative assistant and city clerk to then-city manager **Doug Weller**. Hank retired as Lodi city manager in March 1985 at the age of 63. Hank served as President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 1976-1977. He was an alumnus of the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Tom Peterson succeeded **Hank Graves** as Lodi city manager. Tom began his working career as a city hall reporter in San Diego County. He served as the Lodi Assistant City Manager from 1964 to 1973, and he worked as the City Manager from 1985 until 1995. Tom passed away in May 2015 at the age of 81. Tom was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He left Lodi in 1973 to be the Woodland city manager but returned to Lodi 1985 when city manager **Hank Graves** retired. He was inducted into the Lodi Community Hall of Fame in 2011. Tom was born and raised in New Jersey. He earned a BA in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley.



An archive picture of Arcadia City Manager **Dominic Lazzaretto** and Santa Monica City Manager **Oliver Chi**. These two have been developing their craft for many years and both are recognized as highly professional.

"Looking for unbiased, fact-based information is at the foundation of developing meaningful management decisions." ---Anonymous



Personal Health is of Major Importance!



The **Raw Performance** 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.*

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

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

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach



Loma Linda began as a failed attempt to build point of interest tourists' attractions that were repurposed to provide successful convalescent home facilities and a health resort. In February 1906,

The Loma Linda College of Evangelists was established. That institution is now the Loma Linda University. Loma Linda is in the southern San Bernardino Valley. The southern third of the city is known as South Hills. The city was incorporated in September 1970. The city manager is **T. Jarb Thaipejr** and **Lynette Arreola** is the City Clerk. **Lorena Matarrita** is the Community Development Director and **Sonia Fabela** is the Loma Linda Finance Director. The Fire Chief is **Dan Harker**.

COLANTUONO
HIGHSMITH
WHATLEY, PC



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

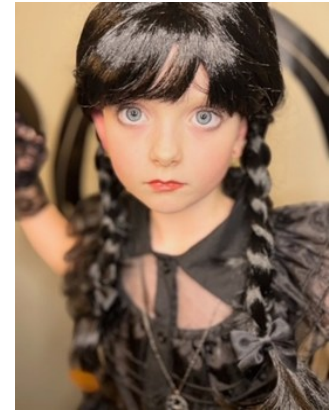
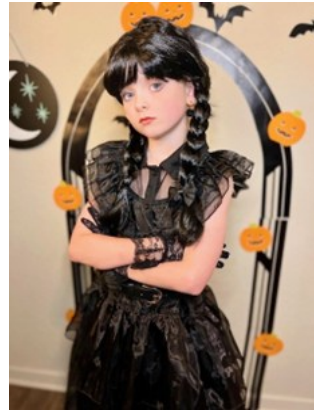
Michael Colantuono is Managing Shareholder, and currently is City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley. Michael is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and he is a leading expert in local government legal issues.

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



"The EYES" say, Happy Halloween 2025

Loma Linda City Manager **T. Jarb Thaipejr** was the Public Works Director for the city prior to his appointment to succeed city manager **Dennis Halloway** in May 2009. Jarb took over the position on July 3, 2009. He joined the Loma Linda city staff in 2001. He is a native of Thailand. Jarb earned a BS in civil engineering from Iowa State University and an MBA from the University of Redlands. He worked as a civil engineer for the city of San Bernardino for 7 years before joining the Loma Linda city staff.

In August 1954, armed with a BS from Emporia Kansas State University, **Robert R. Mitchell** became the Assistant to the City Manager in Ferguson, Missouri. Bob later earned his MPA from the University of Kansas. He worked in Hollidaysburg, and Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, and in May 1963 Bob was appointed City Manager in Webster City, Iowa. He moved to California as a Municipal Finance Analyst in Beverly Hills, and in September 1965, Bob was appointed to the Coachella City Manager position. In November 1968 he became the City Manager in Duarte, where he served until June 1975 when he was appointed City Manager in Baldwin Park. He served as the Acting City Manager in Norco in May 1976. After acting as a Public Policy and Administration college instructor for a time, Bob was appointed City Manager in Loma Linda in March 1977, a position he held for 14-years. He was the Executive Director for the Inland Valley Redevelopment Agency for a year starting in March 1991. Bob received a 35-year ICMA Service Award. Bob lived in Temecula before his passing in May 2015, from a decade fight with Parkinson's disease. He was 86 years old. He was born in July 1928. Bob was a proven professional city manager.

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, City of 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
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, City Manager, Santa Fe, New Mexico
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
Donald Duckworth, Retired City Manager
Richard Rowe, 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**

10 Claret
Rancho Mirage, California 92270

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



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



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



Chairman **Jim L. Barisic**, former Artesia City Manager who also served the cities of Cerritos and Paramount, is a Viet Nam

veteran, founded **Brandywine** in 1994.



Jim, 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, and **Solara** - Westminster

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

Contact 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 Lodi to Long Beach



What is now Lomita was part of the Spanish Empire and in 1767 a part of the Province of the California's. The name "Lomita" is Spanish for "Little hill". Lomita grew as an unincorporated

section of Los Angeles County, and in June 1964 the city incorporated to prevent annexations by adjoining cities. **Andrew Vialpando** is the city manager and **Lina Hernandez** is the Deputy City Manager and Public Works Director. **Deborah Dixon** is the Human Resources & Risk Manager, and **Adrian Fernandez** is the Economic Development Director.



Susan Simpson of *Trackdown* and retired from the In-N-Out Burger travel & events staff, is pictured here at the Fisherman Restaurant at the San Clemente Pier.



Andrew Vialpando began his Lomita city manager tenure in May 2024. Andrew previously served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Paramount since January 2020. On his way to Paramount and Lomita, Andy served on the Long Beach city managers staff, as an Administrative Analyst for La Mirada and with the cities of Santa Barbara and Santa Fe Springs. In Lomita he followed City Manager **Ryan Smoot**, who left Lomita to be the city manager for the City of Bellflower. Andy earned a BA in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton.

Ryan Smoot served as the Lomita city manager from June 2017 to April 2023, and then followed retiring City Manager **Jeff Stewart** to be the city manager for the city of Bellflower. Ryan earned a BA from the California State University, Long Beach. Following Ryan's departure to Bellflower, **Joe Hoefgen** was retained as the Interim City Manager. **Michael Rock**, the current city manager of the city of Lone, served as Lomita city manager from June 2012 until July 2015. **Walker J. Ritter** served as the Lomita city manager for 14 years. He retired in February 1996. The late **Keene Wilson** succeeded Walker in August 1996, coming to Lomita after serving as Bradbury city manager.



**Our Team.
Your Communications.**

(626) 536-2173

TripepiSmith.com

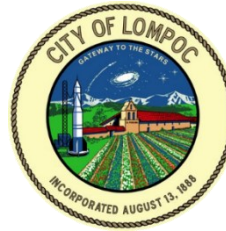


"The **Tripepi Smith** team stands ready to help with outreach campaigns, video production, content writing, messaging, graphic work, technology infrastructure and websites."

--Ryder Todd Smith, President

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

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach



Lompoc is where retired Pomona city manager **Doug Dunlap** calls home. After a notable career in public management, Doug returned to the community where he was a high school football star.

Lompoc is a Santa Barbara County city that is often considered a military town because it is near to Vandenberg Space Force Base. At the southern edge of the city is the site of the original Mission La Purisima that was established in 1787. After an earthquake destroyed the mission in 1812, it was rebuilt about a mile outside of the Lompoc city limits. The coastal branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad opened about 1900. During World War II, Lompoc was the site of Camp Cooke, a United States Army training camp. In 1958 the United States Air Force established an intercontinental ballistic missile base at the former Camp Cooke. The Space Shuttle program cancelled its plans for a Lompoc facility following the Challenger explosion in 1986. The city was incorporated in August 1888. The 2020 population is 44,444. The current Lompoc city manager is **Dean Albroc**, a Lompoc High School graduate, and **Stacey Haddon** is the City Clerk. **Brian Fallon** is the Lompoc City Fire Chief. **Christie Alacon** is the Community Development Director. **Christie Donnelly**, a former resident of Colorado, is the Management Services Director and Finance Director.



Wesley Wolf and Sam Olivito



Vitamins are important to your health!

<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 vitamin products that provide maximum absorption.

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach

Dean Albroc is the Lompoc city manager. He has lived in the city since junior high and is a graduate of Lompoc High School. Dean has worked for the city since 2012, joining the city staff as an accounting and revenue manager. Prior to his appointment to the city manager position in 2021, he worked several years as the Management Services Director. Before coming to work for the city, Dean serves 21 years in accounting for the Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons in Lompoc. Dean earned a BS in accounting from the University of La Verne. Dean was sworn in as the Lompoc city manager on January 18, 2022. He followed City Manager **Jim Throop**, who resigned after working as city manager for three-years.

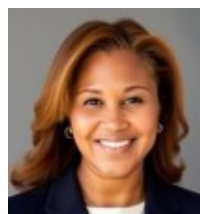
Christie Donnelly is the city of Lompoc Management Services Director and Finance Director and City Treasurer. She joined the city staff in August 2019 as the Accounting and Revenue Manager. Christie worked several positions in Colorado before coming to Lompoc. From August 2015 to October 2018, Christie was the Accounting Manager for the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office in the Greater Colorado Springs Area. She earned a BA from the University of San Diego and an MS in accounting from Regis University.

Jim Throop joined the Lompoc city staff in July 2018 and left after three years to accept the appointment of the Cupertino city manager post. Jim earned a BA in economics from Paso Robles and an MBA from Chapman University. In 2020 he received a 20-years ICMA Service Award.

Patrick Wiemiller was the Lompoc city manager prior to **Jim Throop**. Pat resigned from the position in 2017, and Deputy City Manager **Richard Morgan** became the Interim City Manager until Jim assumed the position in December 2017. Pat worked as Assistant City Manager in Santa Maria after leaving Lompoc. He may be a candidate for Lompoc City Council.



Retired Cerritos center director **Jerry Simpson** at Clear Lake in Lake County, California.



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 Managing Partner **Kellie Hawkins**. EKA prides itself 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.

Retired Long Beach and Paramount City Manager **Pat West** is a Joint Venture Partner with **EKA**.

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. **Kellie Hawkins** earned a BA from Howard University and a master's degree in public health from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

To contact **EKA**, please call 213) 741-1500 or email **Matt Knabe**, Partner.



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 1,700+ 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, Code Enforcement, and Fire
- City Engineering
- Construction Services
- Design Engineering
- Planning

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 Muñoz, 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

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach



Long Beach is the 7th most populous city in the United States, and also the second largest population in Los Angeles County. The land changed hands following Spanish American land

grants and acquisitions. **Jotham Bixby** is considered the "Father of Long Beach." He later established the Bixby Land Company. In the 1870s as many as 30,000 sheep grazed on the property and with sheared twice yearly to provide wool for trade. Eventually the Long Beach Land and Water Company bought the farm- land that extended to the long beach along the Pacific Ocean. The community's name became Long Beach. The town was incorporated in December 1897. Long Beach, as a port city, had a relationship with the U. S. Navy even before the war. Long Beach was part of the Battle of Los Angeles during World War II when observers for the United States Army Air Forces reported shells being fired from the ocean. Anti-aircraft batteries fired into the night, though no planes were ever sighted. Long Beach's population grew substantially during and after World War II, with workers being needed for wartime manufacturing and G.I. Bill recipients seeking out homes. The first planes rolled out from Douglas Aircraft Company's Long Beach plant in December 1941. The 2020 population of the city is 466,742. **Thomas "Tom" B. Modica** is the city manager, **April Walker** is the Assistant City Manager and **Teresa Chandler** is the Deputy City Manager. **Christopher Koontz** is the Long Beach Community Development Director. **Kevin Riper** is the Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Financial Management. **Wally Hebeish** is the Chief of Police and **Dennis Buchanan** is the Fire Chief. **Allison Whyte King** is the Director of Health and Human Services.

Long Beach is "...by far the most successful street race ever staged in American motor racing history..." and
It's "...truly amongst the best I've ever seen."

---**Mario Andretti**

California Contract Cities Association



Brenda Olmos of Paramount, President
Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director
Dr. Mayra Bonilla, Operations Manager
Frank Rodarte, Administrative Specialist

17315 Studebaker Road, Suite 210
Cerritos, California 90703
Telephone No. 562-622-5533
Email: info@contyractcities.org

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach



Thomas "Tom" B. Modica is the Long Beach city manager starting in September 2019. Tom hails from Tucson, Arizona and began his public service career as a Research Assistant with the University of Arizona in 2000, and as an Intern for the City of Tucson,

Arizona (June 2001 – August 2001). He worked doing recreation programs and supervising other recreation employees. Tom was hired by Long Beach as a Management Assistant in July 2002 and began his rise in the city organization. He was promoted to Special Assistant to the City Manager in July 2003; Manager of Public/Government Affairs in January 2005; Deputy City Manager in October 2013; and Assistant City Manager in November 2014. Tom was appointed Acting City Manager when City Manager **Pat West** retired in September 2019, and he became City Manager in April 2020. Tom earned a BA from the University of Karlsruhe, and a BA and MPA from the University of Arizona. In 2019 he received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award. Tom's wife Stefanie volunteers at the Long Beach animal shelter.



Jonathan Royas, Santa Paula, President
Joseph Cisneros, La Palma, Vice President
 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, CA 93103
 Telephone: 877-314-7080

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



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

Retired Long Beach and Paramount City Manager **Pat West** joined the Los Angeles-based public affairs firm **Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA)** as a Joint Venture Partner in August 2025. During his 39 years working in city government, Pat has lived and managed through just about anything a city can experience. Pat first joined Long Beach as Executive Director of its Redevelopment Agency in 2005, before he was appointed city manager in 2007. He served as the Long Beach city manager until 2019. Prior to his Long Beach service, Pat worked for the City of Paramount starting in 1980. He became the Director of Parks and Recreation. After working community development, Pat was appointed city manager for Paramount in 1994. Pat earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine, and Master's degrees from California State University, Los Angeles and California State University, Dominguez Hills. He has been a self-employed consulting since 2019.



Pictured here are former city manager **Ron Molendyk** and public works professional **Bill Pagett** and their wives on an October Corvette Super Sports Club trip to Solvang. Ron is past President of the Orange County Corvette Club. Bill is a former **Willdan** Vice President. Both Ron and Bill are regular "Proof of Life" participants.



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 expert in economic development, real estate consulting, financial analysis, and redevelopment agency 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

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach

Long Beach former city managers start with **Charles E. Hewes** from July 1921 until November 1922. **Charles H. Windham** was No. 2, starting in December 1922 and serving until March 1926. **Charles Henderson** served as city manager for a short time (March 1926-July 1927) before **Henry Callahan** took the office from July 1927 to 1928. Then it was **G.L. Buck** (January 1929-July 1930), **C.C. Lewis** (1930-1931), **E. S. Dobbin** (1932-1933), and **R. M. Dorton** (1934-1939). **J.W. Charleville** took the job in 1939 to 1940, when **Carl Erickson** became city manager (1941-1942). **Herbert C. Legg** was city manager in 1943, and **Samuel E. Vickers** took the job from 1944 and 1945, when **Carl Wirsching** stepped in from 1946 to 1948, and Samuel returned to the city manager's office from 1949 to 1960. Sam served as city manager through all of the 1950s and then **John R. Mansell** served throughout the 1960s (1961-1976). John was followed by **John Dever** (1977-1986), **James C. Hankla** (1987-1998), **Henry Taboada** (1999-2002), and **Gerald Miller** (2003-2006).



**PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT.
STRENGTHEN OUR CITIES.**

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

California Managers in Cities from Lodi to Long Beach

Samuel Vickers served about 14 years as the Long Beach city manager. Sam was the President of the City Manager's Department of the League of California Cities in 1949, and he served as President of ICMA in 1956. Prior to coming to Long Beach, Sam was the city manager of Vallejo for four years. He resigned his Long Beach city manager position in 1961. Sam was the city manager of Vallejo for four years. After leaving Long Beach, he worked as a consultant and Interim City Manager in various cities including Beverly Hills, Newport Beach and Rialto. Sam is remembered for his work on the tidelands oil revenue dispute with the State. He passed away on April 22, 2004, at the age of 88.



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

You must do the thing which you think you cannot do.
—Eleanor Roosevelt

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

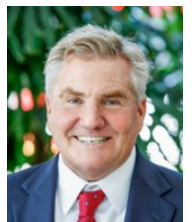
MORE THAN 800 CLIENTS

RECOVERED \$3B REVENUE

Scan for more information

714.879.5000
solutions@hdlcompanies.com

John R. Mansell was appointed to succeed City Manager **Sam Vickers**, and he held the position for the next 15 years. When John passed away in 2004, a Long Beach Press-Telegram article contended that John was an excellent negotiator, talented orator, and mathematical whiz. He was the elected City Auditor for 10 years prior to being city manager. **John E. Dever** followed John as city manager and served there from 1978 to 1987. He is credited with mentoring women in the public service. **Jim Hankla**, who has come to a "Proof of Life" lunch with **John Shirey**, was city manager from 1987 to 1998. **Jerry "Gerald" Miller** passed away at the age of 75 in July 2024. He was beloved by many throughout the community. **Pat West** succeeded Jerry in 2007 and served through 2018. He developed a highly professional reputation among area city managers and throughout the State.



Wolf & Company Inc.

Wolf & Company Inc., founded in 1993, is a housing, financial and insurance advisory firm that provides services to state and local governments, not-for-profit corporations with a special emphasis on:

1. **Mobile home Park Acquisitions - Program Administration and Oversight Agent Services**
2. **Mortgage Program Administration Services**
3. **Mortgage Insurance-Product Research and Development**
4. **Continuing Disclosure Services, Wolf & Company**
is also capable to provide other services, such as:
 - First Time Home Buyer Programs
 - Lease to Own Programs
 - Down Payment Assistance Programs
 - Mortgage Portfolio Management & Asset Sales Program Administration & Oversight Agent Services
 - Strategic Consulting

Since 1993, **Wolf & Company Inc.**, has helped design, market and structure single family mortgage revenue bond issues, whole loan sales transactions, taxable single family mortgage bond programs with down payment assistance, down payment assistance programs, lease to own programs and is a provider of mortgage bond program administration and oversight agent services. **Wolf & Company Inc.** works nationally and internationally.



Wolf & Company
Founder **Wesley Wolf**,
is a former City Administrator.
Wes is a "Proof of Life"
participant.

Wolf & Company Housing and Mortgage Finance Programs

In today's standard assembly line, affordable housing, and mortgage marketplace, inevitably someone gets left out. We ensure that you, the client, are provided a housing/mortgage product or program drafted to your individual needs, risk parameters, and geographical specifications. At **Wolf & Company**, housing and mortgage products are designed with attentive care, and uncommon resources, customized specifically to meet these individual needs.

Wolf & Company is deeply committed to long-term, successful business relationships based on trust and integrity.

Please contact **Wesley Wolf** at 949-235-0525 or wesley@wolfco.net You can view the company website at: www.Wolfhousing.com

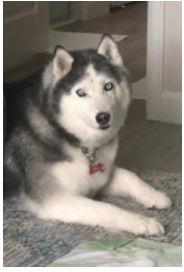


Wolf & Company Inc.

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

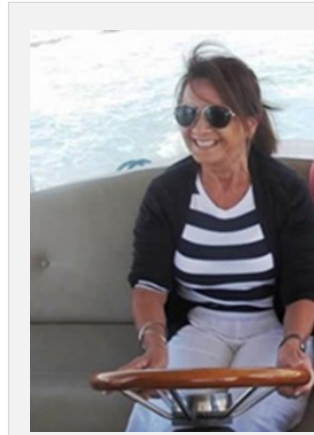


Wolf & Company Inc. is a veteran owned company.



Picking Up the Pieces: Former Anaheim a (2011-2013) City Manager **Bob Wingenroth**, currently the city manager for the City of Surprise, Arizona, is returning to California to be the next city manager for the city of Laguna Hills. Bob earned a BS in accounting and an MBA from Arizona State University. **Jennifer Ott** is scheduled to be appointed to be the

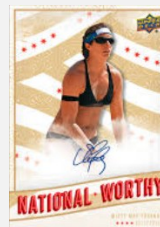
next city manager for the city of Hayward. Jennifer joined the Hayward city staff in September 2018 as Deputy City Manager, and she was promoted to Assistant City Manager. In 2022 she left Hayward to serve as the Alameda city manager. She will become Hayward city manager on December 8, 2025. Jennifer earned a BA in history and Spanish from the University of California, Davis and an MPP from the University of California, Berkeley. Members of the Oakley city council have addressed allegations that Council Member **George Fuller**, who is accused of "bullying and retaliatory actions" against members of the city staff. An independent third-party investigation into the accusations was conducted. **Josh McMurray** was appointed Oakley city manager in November 2021. Assistant City Manager **Danielle Navarro** underlined that city staff would not comment on the matter. Former Lodi City Administrator **Jerry Glenn** passed away last month at his Long Beach home. Jerry joined the Lodi city staff in 1973 to serve as Assistant City Manager, a position he held for 22 years before he was appointed Galt City Manager (1996-1999). Jerry served in the U.S. Navy and graduated from the U.S. Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. Jerry was 90 years old when he suffered a stroke on September 12, 2025. **Steven Ramos** was appointed General Manager for the McCloud Community Services District (CSD) in October 2024. He works with a staff that includes, among others, **Sherry Smith**, Finance Officer; **Eli Jones**, Public Works Superintendent; and **Rachel Mattson**, District Secretary. **Steve Pinkerton** is the City Manager for the City of Mountain House in the San Joaquin County. Mountain House was incorporated in July 2024. In November 1994, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors officially approved the community of Mountain House, and in 1996 the community's master plan was approved. Mountain View is on the foothills of Diablo Range and close to the Altamont Pass. Mountain House is Steve's third city manager job. He previously worked as city manager for the cities of Davis (2011-2014) and Manteca (2008-2011). Due in part by its small population of just 208 residents, Vernon is the most burglarized city in California. In 2023, the city reported 110 burglaries, meaning that more than half of its residents were affected by a burglary. Statistically, the city had a burglary rate of 52.88 per 100 people. The next closest city on the list is Sauget, Illinois with a burglary rate of 7.58 per 100 people. **Brian Saeki** is the Vernon City Administrator. Brian previously worked for the Cities of Whittier, Covina and San Fernando.



Trackdown's **Susan Simpson**, piloting an electric Duffy boat in Long Beach's Alamitos Bay.

She was the driver on countless water ski runs at Clear Lake and out of Golden Avenue in Long Beach.

Former Petaluma City Manager **John Scharer** passed away on September 7 at the age of 90. John was the Petaluma city manager from 1981 through 1996. He was born, **John Louis Scharer**, on December 29, 1934, in Susanville. He grew up in Healdsburg. He served in the United States Air Force for four years starting in 1953. He was a radio operator in Germany during that service. John earned an AA from Santa Rosa Junior College and a BS from Golden Gate University. He joined the Petaluma city staff in 1961 as an accountant in the Water Department. John was a sports fan and enjoyed cheering on the Giants, Warriors and 49ers. Lodi city council members and City Manager **Scott R. Carney** have parted ways. Scott was put on administrative leave in April and the Council is pursuing termination action. Scott was hired to serve as city manager in Lodi in June 2024. He previously worked as a Deputy Director for Administration with the California Department of Health Care Services (July 2021 – June 2024). Scott publicly alleged widespread misuse of city funds and he accused city staff of misconduct. Scott earned a BA from the University of California, Davis, a Master of Social Welfare, Management and Planning from the University of California, Berkeley. Scott also earned a Doctor of Education from the University of the Pacific. **James Lindsay** has worked as Acting City Manager since May 2025. **Kristin Aguila** is the new Senior Assistant City Manager for the City of Cerritos. She will be working with City Manager **Robert A. Lopez**. Kristin joined the Cerritos city staff in 2005 as a Planning Intern. She worked her way up and was appointed Director of Community Development in January 2022. Kristin earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton.



"I would like to instill in people just to work hard. As long as they keep at it, their dreams will happen."

---**Misty May-Treanor**, 3-time Olympic gold medalist in beach volleyball, a Native of Long Beach.



More Pieces Picked Up: Concord City Manager **Valerie Barone** will retire at the end of the fiscal year. She has served more than three decades for public service. Valerie served as a Community Development Specialist for the U.S. Peace Corps in Nagpana, Panay Island, Philippines in May 1987 to October 1989. She joined the city of Milpitas staff in July 1995, where she worked as the Planning, Recreation &

Neighborhood Services Director. In June 2002, she began her tenure as the Community Development Director for the City of Walnut Creek. Valerie was hired to be the Concord city manager starting in February 2012 in an "Interim" capacity, and she became city manager two months later. Valerie earned a BS from California State University, Humboldt and a Masters, Business Administration and Management from California State University, Sacramento. Rancho Santa Margarita, incorporated in January 2000, where **Jennifer M. Cervantez** is city manager. Jennifer was appointed city manager in May 2012 and started her new job on July 9. She replaced retiring city manager **Steve Hayman**. Prior to joining Rancho Santa Margarita, Jennifer worked as the Assistant City Manager for the City of La Habra. She also previously worked with Santa Ana and the League of California Cities staff. Jennifer graduated from Santa Ana High School, and she earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach and an MPP from Claremont University. She is married and has two daughters. Officials of the City of Fullerton filed a complaint with the California Attorney General's Office, raising serious concerns about possible anti-competitive practices in the fire apparatus manufacturing industry. The complaint centers on escalating prices, extended delivery timelines, and restrictive contract terms. Fullerton reports experiencing unprecedented price increases of up to 75% for pumper engines over the past decade and more than 40% for aerial trucks in just the past few years. Additionally, delivery timelines now exceed four years, requiring cities to rely on aging vehicles beyond national safety standards. **Kim Chaudhry** is the Senior Administrative Officer Analyst familiar with the issues.

Please take a few minutes to look at the *Trackdown Management* Facebook page: [Click Here](#)

Some considerations and thoughts, just for edification and "remember whens":

Who remembers *The Rifleman* starring **Chuck Connors** as **Lucas McCain** and **Johnny Crawford**, who played Lucas' son Mark? The television series is set in



the 1880s. Chuck was a former professional basketball and baseball player. He was truly fast with the 1892 Winchester saddle-ring carbine, though the story lines took place before the rifle was produced. Chuck was known to take "in field" with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Speaking of old television shows, how about *Tool Time* with **Tim Allen**? Word is that **Debbe Dunning** of that show is being cast in Tim's new show, *Shifting Gears*! Again, is there someone out there than remembers "Woody's Goodies" on Long Beach's famed Alamitos Bay? **Bobby Allen** (December 28, 1943 – October 5, 2025) was an American racecar driver known for racing winged sprint cars. He passed away at the age of 81. His nickname was "Scruffy." At his death, he owned Shark Racing, a World of Outlaws sprint car team. He won the 1990 Knoxville Nationals Championship. It is reported that 175,000 job applications have been received by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As Illegal immigration crossings and fentanyl seizures have increased, it appears more Americans are stepping up to defend the border.

SHORTS: *California Contract Cities Association past-President **Steve Tye**, a Council Member and former Mayor in Diamond Bar, is a public administration alumnus of California State University, Dominguez Hills. ***Laura Cochran** is the Executive Director of the Southern Humboldt Community Park, a 462 acre park located in Garberville. ***Oakland** Chief of Police **Floyd Mitchell** has resigned from his position effective December 5, 2025. *Highly regarded Los Angeles County Assessor **Jeff Prang**, a former Mayor in West Hollywood and Assistant City Manager for Pico Rivera, is a candidate for re-election. ***Nicole Coburn**, who has been the Assistant County Executive since 2016, has been named County Executive for the County of Santa Cruz. **Happy Camp* is an unincorporated town at "The Heart of the Klamath" in Siskiyou County. *Concord City Manager **Valerie Barone** was awarded the final \$5,000 Harvard Kennedy School scholarship by the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) in 2017-2018. *Cerritos City Manager **Robert A. Lopez**, who earned a BS in civil engineering from Stanford University and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**), joined the Cerritos city staff as a full-time Planning Assistant in February 2002. *Officials of the California cities of Newport Beach and Huntington Beach have voted to leave the League of California Cities over Proposition 1 support. *Former Lakewood city staff member **Theresa (Battaglia-Gutierrez) Teney**, who also worked for the city of Bellflower, lives in Big Bear Lake.

“Proof of Life”



The Thursday, October 16, 2025, “Proof of Life” lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. Listed attendees in random order:

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

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.

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

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

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.

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.

Dave Carmany retired as City Manager in Rialto. He served as city manager in West Covina prior to that. Dave also was city manager in La Puente, Manhattan Beach, Seal Beach, Pacific, Malibu and Agoura Hills. Dave is a **USC** alumnus.

John Bramble, a Downey resident, retired as the Merced City Manager. John served as City Administrator in Bell (1988-1993) and Merced city manager (2008-2016). John is an avid golfer and occasionally hits a course with **Greg Korduner**.

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

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. (Though he didn't make lunch, he stopped after to chat.)

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, December 11, 2025**. It will be the annual Holiday Luncheon. Please save the date and prepare to attend.

October 16, 2025 “Proof of Life” lunch. Pictured here from left to right are **Gregory Korduner** and **Mike Sedell**. These quarterly luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet informally, socialize and keep caught up.



Bill Crowe and **Glenn Southard** discussing events and news of the day.

The group at the bottom of the page gathering for the October “Proof of Life” lunch include **John Bramble**, **Jack Simpson**, **Bill Crowe**, **Jim Barisic** and **Tom Robinson**.

