

# City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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

August, 2019 Special

Volume No. 12: Issue No. 13



**Jennifer Quan** is a Regional Public Affairs Manager for the League of California Cities, and Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Division. Jennifer began her career as a Legislative Aide to the California State Assembly in October, 1999. She joined the League staff in 2001 as a Policy Analyst. Jennifer has been with the League nearly 18-years. She earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine, and a Master's in public policy analysis from the University of Southern California (USC).

## Women Professionals In Cities Listed Alphabetically From Palm Springs

A list of dedicated city government women professionals in cities listed alphabetically starting with the City of Palm Springs is presented in this 22nd in the Trackdown series on women serving California Cities. This issue begins with Palm Springs and takes a look at cities through the City of Paramount alphabetically.

There are many highly qualified and dedicated professional women serving California cities. The list is impressive and addresses the rhetorical question: Where are the women in city management?

Again, we apologize up front to anyone we miss and do not list. The failures of others to not post profiles makes it difficult to be comprehensive.

Jack & Susan Simpson, 16707 Gerritt Avenue, Cerritos, California 90703-1442

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www.trackdownmanagement.net | jack@trackdownmanagement.net

## Women Professionals In Cities From Palm Springs

Palm Springs is a Riverside County city that was incorporated in April, 1938. The area became a fashionable resort in the 1900s. The estimated 2018 population is 48,375. **Dr. David H. Ready, Ph.D.** is the City Manager. **Amy Blaisdell** is the Communications Director and **Nancy Pauley** is the Director of Finance and Treasurer.



**Nancy Pauley** served as the Finance Officer in Laguna Beach for 10-years prior to joining the Palm Springs city staff in December, 2018. Prior to working in Laguna Beach from July, 2008 until December, 2018. Nancy served as the Assistant Finance Director for Skokie, Illinois, and as an Accountant for Oakbrook, Illinois. She was a Deputy Director of the Skokie's Police and Fire Pension Fund, and a member of the Illinois Department of Insurance Pension Task Force Committee. She earned a BBA from Lewis University.



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**Doug Jensen**, Senior Vice President, Client Services, is the West contact at 559-271-6800.

**Fran Mancía**, Vice President of Government Relations, can be reached at 559-288-7296.

Fran may be reached at:

[Fran.Mancia@MuniServices.com](mailto:Fran.Mancia@MuniServices.com)



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**Marcel Rodarte**, Executive Director



**Cynthia Alvarado-Crawford** is the Palm Springs Director of Parks and Recreation. She started her public service career as the CID Manager for the City of San Bernardino in September, 2005. She was

appointed to a Community Recreation Manager post in May, 2015, and then elevated to Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services in December, 2017. She joined the Palm Springs staff in January, 2019. Cynthia earned an AA degree from Cuesta College and a BA in recreation administration from California State University, Long Beach. She also earned an MBA from California State University, San Bernardino.

Palm Springs Director of Maintenance & Facilities **Staci Schafer** previously worked as the Director of Operations for the Palm Springs Convention Center from May, 2007 until December, 2015 when she joined the city staff in Palm Springs.



"The beards aren't throwing any pitches, or taking any swings. It's about the man underneath them."

—**Justin Turner**, Los Angeles Dodgers  
(Some have referred to Justin as "Yosemite Sam" due to his beard.)



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Among other outside activities, Ryder serves on the Board of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College.

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October 16 -18, 2019  
Long Beach, California

<http://www.cacities.org/Education-Events/Calendar>

## Women Professionals In Cities From Palm Springs

Other womens names discovered for Palm Springs include: **Ariana Muñiz**, the Administrative Assistant to the Finance Director; **Heather MacPherson**; **Valerie Wagner**; **Jasmine Waits**; **Norika Kikuchi**; and **Terri Hintz**. Again, we apologize to those we missed.



Palmdale was incorporated August, 1962 in the Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County. The 2018 estimated population is 156,667. **Jim Purtee**, who worked for the City of Simi Valley for 27-years, has been the Palmdale City Manager since October, 2015. The City Clerk is not listed by name on the City's website. **Anne V. Ambrose** is the Palmdale Director of Administrative Services. Anne was appointed to her current position in 2013. She began her public service career as a Workers Compensation Administrator for Wichita State University, Kansas. She joined the Palmdale city staff in 1997 in the crime prevention unit. In 1999 Anne became the Crime Prevention Manager as the City's Director of Public Safety and Community Relations. Anne earned a BA from Kent State University, and an MPA from California State University, Northridge.



Retired Rocklin City Manager **Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia**, wine tasting at Châteauneuf Du Pape in Provence, France.

Carlos said: "They call their city halls Hotel de Ville."

Châteauneuf du Pape is a wine appellation for the best wines in the Cotes du Rhône region."

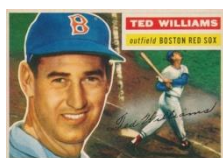


## Women Professionals In Cities From Palm Springs

Santa Clara County's City of Palo Alto, home to Stanford University, was incorporated in April, 1894. The city's 2018 estimated population is 66,666. In 1777, **Father Junipero Serra** established the Mission Santa Clara de Asis, the lands of which include the modern City of Palo Alto. The Palo Alto City Manager is **Ed Shikada** who joined the city staff in April, 2015 as Assistant City Manager and became City Manager in 2019. City Clerk **Donna Grider** retired in November, 2014 after 15-years with the city, planning to relocate to Illinois.



**Michelle Poché Flaherty** is the Deputy City Manager. In 1990 Michelle went to work as a Field Representative of a United States Congress Member. In 1995 she took a job with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in Government Affairs. Michelle became the Chief of Staff for a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 1997. In 1999 she became the Regional Director of the California Trade & Commerce Agency. Michelle then served as Assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation in 2001. She was then appointed Assistant County Manager in Washoe County, Nevada in 2002, and she served in that post until 2006. Michelle has served as the Palo Alto Deputy City Manager since July, 2017. She earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MPA from Penn State University. Michelle received a 20-year ICMA Service Award in 2018.



"Baseball is the only field of endeavor where a man can succeed three times out of ten and be considered a good performer." ---**Ted Williams**



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**Jim Barisic** of **Brandywine Homes** chats with Long Beach City Manager **Pat West**

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**Michael J. Sedell**, Retired Simi Valley City Manager  
**Larry F. Pennell**, Retired City Manager, Wasco  
**Marcia Raines**, Retired City Manager & Principal  
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**Kevin O'Rourke**, KOLGS/PARS; Retired City Manager  
**Glenn Southard**, Retired City Manager, Indio &  
Claremont  
**Joe Tanner**, Retired Vallejo City Manager  
**Denise Ovrom**, Former City Manager &  
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**Charles G. "Guy" Huffaker**, Retired Porterville CM  
**Vern Lawson**, Retired, Lancaster  
**Ernesto Marquez**, Former City Manager  
**Gary K. Sloan**, Retired La Mirada City Manager  
**Richard D. Rowe**, Retired City Manager  
**Robert T. Dickey**, Former Walnut CM; retired South  
 Gate Public Works Director  
**Doug Dunlap**, Retired City Manager, Pomona  
**Rita Geldert**, Retired City Manager, Vista  
**Charles Huffaker**, Retired City Manager, Porterville  
**David Jinkens**, Retired City Manager



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

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**Anthony, Jason and Paul Gonsalves** are expert local government lobbyists. The firm represents fifty-plus cities and is a key player in city legislation.

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Maywood City Manager **Jennifer E. Vasquez** and  
South El Monte City Council Member  
**Gracie Retamozo** at a  
 California Contract Cities Association Event.

## Trackdown Posse Roster:

**Gregory Korduner**, Retired City Manager  
**Howard Chambers**, Retired Lakewood City Manager  
**Dave Carmany**, West Covina, Interim City Manager  
**Ken Bayless**, Ret. GM LA Vector Control & Ret. LASD Chief  
**Don Penman**, Retired City Manager, Arcadia  
**Sam Olivito**, California Contract Cities Association  
**Dr. Bill Mathis**, Mathis Group  
**Roy Pederson**, ICMA Past-President  
**Dale Geldert**, Retired CDF Director  
**Gary Milliman**, City Manager, Brookings, Oregon  
**Doug Dunlap**, Retired City Manager, Pomona  
**Jim Lewis**, Pismo Beach City Manager, Pres. CM/LCC  
**Kevin Duggan**, ICMA & retired City Manager; Past Pres.  
 CM/LCC  
**Rod B. Butler**, Port Hueneme City Manager  
**Ray Harris**, Ret. County Official, fmr Hawaiian Gardens CM  
**John F. Shirey**, Retired Sacramento City Manager  
**Ray Taylor**, Retired City Manager, Westlake Village  
**Lee C. McDougal**, Retired Montclair City Manager  
**Ray Silver**, Retired City Manager, Past Pres. CM/LCC  
**Ron Stock**, City Manager, Weed  
**Mark Scott**, Indio City Manager  
**Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia**, Retired Rocklin City Manager  
**Anthony D. Gonsalves**, **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**  
**Jason Gonsalves**, **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**  
**Paul Gonsalves**, **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**  
**Don Powell**, Retired City Manager  
**Jeff Mathieu**, Big Bear Lake, City Manager



"In this game, if you're not getting  
 better every day, then you're falling  
 behind."

---**Ryan Vogelsong**,  
San Francisco Giants

## Women Professionals In Cities From Palm Springs



**Chantal Cotton Gaines** is the Palo Alto Assistant to the City Manager. In December, 2008 she went to work as a City Management Assistant for the City of Ypsilanti, Michigan. In August, 2010 she was appointed Assistant to the City Manager in College Park, Maryland. She came to San Francisco in 2013 and took a Project Manager post in the private sector, and was then hired in October, 2013 to serve as Assistant to the City Administrator in the City of Oakland. Chantal joined the Palo Alto city staff as Assistant to the City Manager in December, 2017. Chantal earned a BA, MPP and MUP from the University of Michigan. She is active with the Municipal Management Association of Northern California, serving as the Co-Chair for Region 4.

**Rachael Tanner** is the Assistant Planning Director in Palo Alto; **Amy French** is the Chief Planning Official, **Jodie Gerhardt** is the Manager of Current Planning and **Elena Lee** is the Long Range Planning Manager. **Sylvia Star-Lack** is the Transportation Planning Manager.



<https://www.mmanc.org/>

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President, **Carla Hansen**, Assistant to the City Manager, Walnut Creek



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**Michael Colantuono** is Managing Shareholder. Michael currently serves as City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley.

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## Women Professionals In Cities From Palm Springs



Palos Verdes Estates incorporated in December, 1939, and has a 2018 estimated population of 13,404. This Los Angeles County city is located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. **Carolynn Petru** is the

Interim City Manager and **Lauren Pettit** is the City Clerk. Carolynn was named Interim City Manager in May, 2019. She has lived on the Palos Verdes Peninsula since 1966. She is a graduate of Palos Verdes High School, and she earned a BA in environmental planning from the University of California, Davis, and a Master's degree in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Carolyn retired from the City of Rancho Palos Verdes in 2015. She served that community for 29-years.



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## Women Professionals In Cities From Palm Springs



**Karina Bañales** is the Assistant to the City Manager and Human Resources administrator in Palos Verdes Estates. From October, 2011 to 2015 Karina served as a Human Resources Analyst for the County of Riverside. She joined the Palos Verdes Estates city staff in May, 2015. Karina earned an MPA from the University of La Verne.

**Sharon Del Rosario** is the Palos Verdes Estates Finance Director. She began her working career in West Los Angeles in financial planning in the entertainment business in December, 1994. She continued working on the private side in a number of positions until October, 2008 when she became a Supervisor of Nutrition Services Operations for the Torrance Unified School District. She moved to the Montebello Unified School District in January, 2015 as a Senior Accountant and then in June, 2017 a payroll and benefits services manager. She took the Palos Verdes Estates Finance Director position in January, 2018. Sharon earned a BS from the University of Maryland, College Park. She is a CPA in the State of California.



**Janees Williams, Wesley Wolf and Pam Newcomb** at the beautiful Del Mar Horse Race Track.



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## Women Professionals In Cities From Palm Springs



In November, 2018 a major wildfire, the Camp Fire, destroyed most of the Town of Paradise. Paradise was incorporated in November, 1979 in Butte County. Prior to the fire the 2018 population was estimated at 26,800. Eighty-six people died in the Camp Fire, tens of thousands were displaced, and 18,804 buildings were destroyed. It was the deadliest and most destructive fire in California history. **Lauren Gill** is the Paradise Town Manager. She has been the Town Manager since January, 2013. Lauren is a California State University, Chico alum.

**Gina Will** is the Paradise Administrative Services Director and Town Treasurer. She has been the Finance Director since July, 2008. Gina earned a BS in accounting and finance from Golden Gate University.



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**Sylvia Ballin** of the City of San Fernando is the current President of the ICFA Board of Directors.

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**Matt Knabe** is the Managing Partner. Matt is a graduate of Pepperdine University. Matt and his family are residents of Long Beach. Matt's contact information includes

Telephone Number: 213-741-1500, Ext. 520

Email: [Matt@ekapr.com](mailto:Matt@ekapr.com)



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**Roxanne Diaz, Steven L. Flower, Peter M. Thorson, Kevin Ennis, Gregory W. Stepanicich, Serita Young** and **Craig Steele** are among the City Attorneys on the **RWG** staff.

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

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## Women Professionals In Cities From Palm Springs

Paramount is a city in southeast Los Angeles County. It incorporated in January, 1957. The 2018 estimated population is 54,387. The City Manager is **John Moreno**, the Assistant City Manager is **Kevin M. Chun** and the City Clerk is **Lana Chikami**. **Karina Lam Liu** is the Paramount Finance Director, and **Adriana Lopez** in the Public Safety Department Director. **Adriana Figueroa** is the Director of Public Works, knows the Paramount community well since she grew up there and is a former student of the Paramount Unified School District.

**Sarah Ho**, Assistant Public Works Director.

We cannot touch Paramount without the mention of retired City Manager **Linda Benedetti-Leal**, who earned a fine reputation for her professional service.



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**Mark Risco**, President & CEO;  
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**Larry J. Kosmont, CRE®**, is the Founder, President and CEO of Kosmont Companies. He is also Managing Partner of Renaissance Community Fund, which invests and develops mixed use, residential and commercial projects throughout California.

From 1975 to 1986, Larry served as City Manager, Director of Community Development, and Redevelopment Director in the cities of Santa Monica, Seal Beach, Bell Gardens, and Burbank. Larry earned an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**), and a BA from the State University of New York, Binghamton.

In 1995, Larry conceived of and created the Kosmont-Rose Institute "Cost of Doing Business Survey®," which is now recognized as the industry standard for comparing city taxes and economic incentives. The Survey covers 400 cities in all 50 states, and is published annually by California's Claremont-McKenna College.

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**Picking Up the Pieces:** Long Beach City Manager **Pat West**, 65, has decided to resign effective September 20, and enter the private sector. Pat has served as the Long Beach City Manager for the past dozen years. Assistant City Manager **Tom Modica** could become the Interim City Manager. Prior to joining the Long Beach city staff in 2005, Pat worked 25-years for

the City of Paramount. He rose to the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, worked as the Community Development Director and served as City Manager. Pat served as the Assistant Director of the UCLA Recreational Instructional Program before coming to Paramount. **Steven Falk**, who served as the City Manager in the City of Lafayette for 23-years, is the Interim City Manager in the City of Richmond. Steve replaces City Manager **Carlos Martinez**, who was dismissed. Steve also replaces Acting City Manager **Henry Gardner**, who filled in immediately following Carlos' dismissal. Henry is headed to the Oakland-Alameda Coliseum Authority, where he will serve as Interim Chief. Shafter City Manager **Scott Hurlbert** will be leaving his City Manager position. He has been with the City since 2005 and became Acting City Manager in 2014 when he was promoted from Assistant City Manager. Scott and the City "mutually agreed" to accept his retirement effective immediately. Administrative Services Director **James Zervis** is the Acting Shafter City Manager. Arcata City Manager **Karen Diemer** is a former Recreation Supervisor in the City of Eureka (September, 1991-August, 1996). Karen joined the Arcata city staff in 1996 as the Director of Environmental Services, and parks and Recreation (1996-2014). She was appointed City Manager in November, 2014. Karen earned a BA from Humboldt State University. Signal Hill City Manager **Charles Honeycutt** has submitted his resignation effective November 1, 2019. Charlie has worked for Signal Hill for 32-years and City Manager since 2015. He was the Signal Hill Public Works Director starting in 2002. Charlie replaced City



Duarte Deputy City Manager **Karen Herrera** at a recent "Proof of Life" lunch in La Mirada.

Manager **Ken Farfaring** when he retired prior to taking the Carson City Manager position. Charlie first went to work for Signal Hill in 1987. Former Poway City Manager **Dan Singer** is the new Interim City Manager in Santa Paula, as City Manager **Michael Rock** leaves to be the City Manager in Yuba City. After serving as an Administrative Intern in Lafayette, Dan joined the Ojai city staff in 1992 as Assistant to the City Manager (1992-1998). He later worked as the Director of General Services (1998-2001), and City Manager (2001-2005). Dan left Ojai in 2005 to become the City Manager in Goleta (2005-2014). He served as the Poway City Manager in (2014-2016). Evanston, Illinois City Manager **Wally Bobkiewicz** is the next City Manager in Issaquah, Washington. Wally previously served as the City Manager in Santa Paula (2002-2009), Assistant City Manager in Novato (1998-2002), and in executive positions in the City of Long Beach (1993-1998). Wally earned a BA from the University of Southern California (USC), and an MPA from Syracuse University. **Robert L. Kleinert** passed away in March, 2007 at his home in the City of Rocklin when he was 73-years old. Bob was appointed City Manager in Tiburon and served the Tiburon community for 31-years. Bob retired in 2000, ending a career in Tiburon that began in 1969. He was named City Manager in 1973, while serving as Assistant City Manager. Bob was named Tiburon "Citizen of the Year" in 1989 commemorating his 20th anniversary as City Manager.



Posted in the November, 2013 issue: taken at 20-year Reunion of Bellflower



**More Pieces Picked Up:** Retired City Manager **Lauren Wasserman** and his wife **Laurel** are becoming expert tandem bicycle riders. Lauren retired as the City Manager in Encinitas. Starting this month (August, 2019), **Katie Casey** is the city's

new Communications Manager. Casey has 15-years of communications experience. She has been working for the West Basin Municipal Water District in the City of Carson as a Public Information Specialist. Seal Beach Assistant City Manager **Patrick Gallegos** reported on August 20 that the city had not received any permit applications from the Historical Society's Red Car Museum project. The Seal Beach Historical Society is making improvements to the Red Car Museum. The museum is a repurposed railroad car located in Old Town on the Green Belt near the Mary Wilson branch of the Orange County Library. The new Dunsmuir City Manager is **Todd Juhasz**. He takes the helm from Interim City Manager **Randy Johnsen**. Todd has a military background as a member of the United States Air Force. He had been working as a Development Commissioner in Portland, Oregon. Todd's most recent position was in Beaverton, Oregon where he oversaw the transportation, management and infrastructure.

**SHORTS:** Novato Chief of Police **Adam McGill** is the new Interim City Manager following the surprise dismissal of City Manager **Regan Candelario**. \*A new In-N-Out Burger has opened in the City of Bellflower. \*Atherton City Manager **George J. Rodericks**, who previously served as City Manager in Villa Park (2001-2005) and Belvedere (2005-2012), earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. \***Todd Juhasz** is the new Dunsmuir City Manager effective August 19, 2019. \***Elaine M. Ferguson** of Richmond, at the time, served as an Administrative Intern in El Cerrito in November, 1975. \***John M. Simmons** served as the City Manager in the City of Fresno (12/70-3/71) and became a Deputy Director of HUD in Washington, D.C. in December, 1971. \***Joseph F. Curran**, who is the Daly City Director of Library and Recreation Services, is also the Assistant to the City Manager, and earned a Master's degree in public administration and public policy from California State University, Dominguez Hills. \*Chehalis, Oregon City Manager **Jill Anderson** previously served as City Manager in Riverbank, California, and prior to that was Assistant City Manager in Seaside. \*Los Angeles Superior Court Judge **Mitchell L. Beckloff** issued a preliminary injunction ordering Sheriff **Alex Villanueva** to remove Deputy **Caren Carl Mandoyan** from his job.



Former member of the staff of the California Contract Cities Association **Kelli Lofing** on vacation.



Retired Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia** and his wife **Diane** enjoying retirement.

If Assistant City Manager **Tom Modica** is ultimately chosen to fill the position of City Manager in the City of Long Beach, it will further the City's reputation for hiring from within its own organization. In recent years, City Managers **Pat West**, **Jerry Miller** and **Henry Taboada** were all hired from within the city and while **James Hankla**, who was the Long Beach City Manager from 1987 to 1998, was hired from Los Angeles County, where he was Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), he had worked in Long Beach as Director of Community Development and Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency (positions which **Pat West** had also held) before moving to the county. City Manager **Pat West** steps down on September 20, 2019. **Tom Modica** will serve as Interim City Manager.

"A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew."

--**Herb Caen** (1916-1997) San Francisco journalist