

# City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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

December, 2019

Volume No. 12: Issue No. 18



Nadean and **Robert "Bob" Dickey** on the beach in Mozambique in November, 2019. Bob worked for Signal Hill and Rosemead, and is a former City Manager in the City of Walnut. He also worked 10-years for the Southern California Edison Company, and he retired as the Public Works Director for the City of South Gate. Later in November, Bob and Nadean celebrated their anniversary and Thanksgiving in Zanzibar. Bob is one of the World traveling retired City Managers. He and Nadean have been all over the world.

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities

A continued list of women city government professionals in California cities is presented here. Those listed in this 27<sup>th</sup> installment in this issue are those we could find in the five "Rancho" cities of California.

As we have repeatedly said, 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 complete profiles makes it difficult to be comprehensive. Please know that we try.

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

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

[www.trackdownmanagement.net](http://www.trackdownmanagement.net) | [jack@trackdownmanagement.net](mailto:jack@trackdownmanagement.net)

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities

Rancho Cordova was incorporated in Sacramento County in 2003. The 2010 census set the population at 64,776. During the Gold Rush era, circa 1855, the area was called Mayhew's Crossing or Hangtown Crossing. The city takes its name from the Cordova Vineyards and Cordova Village. A Rancho Cordova Post Office was established in 1955. **Cyrus Abhar** is the City Manager and **Micah Runner** is the Deputy City Manager. **Stacy Leitner** is the City Clerk and Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

Rancho Cordova City Clerk **Stacy Leitner**, CMC, CAP, OM, also serves as the Executive Assistant to the City Manager. Stacy became City Clerk in August, 2017 and has been serving as the Executive Assistant to the City Manager since June, 2004. Stacy served as an Instructor for Heald College from April, 1999 to April, 2015. She was also on the College Faculty of Butte College from January, 1999 to December, 2009. Stacy studied business and management at Brigham Young University, and earned a BA from the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University. She also earned a MS from Boise State University. You can learn about Stacy at: [www.agreatdayswork.com](http://www.agreatdayswork.com)



**CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES  
ASSOCIATION**

### **Sacramento Legislative Tour**

January 6 – 8, 2019

Sheraton Grand Sacramento

For Information call the CCCA staff at 562-622-5533

<http://www.contractcities.org>

**Sandra Armenta**, Rosemead, President

**Marcel Rodarte**, Executive Director



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

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

### **Independent Cities Finance Authority**

**Debbie Smith**, Executive Director

Post Office Box No. 6740

Lancaster, California 93539-6740

Telephone No. 877-906-0941

[info@ICFAuthority.org](mailto:info@ICFAuthority.org)

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

**Jose Solache** is the ICFA Treasurer, and

**Marilyn Sanabria**, **Leticia Lopez**, **Emma Sharif**,

**Ricardo Pacheco**, and **Jorge Morales**

complete the Board.



**Maria Chacon Kniestedt** served as a Public Information Officer for the California Department of Consumer Affairs and the Bureau of Automotive Repair from 1991 to 1996. She then spent the next nearly 20-years with a private public relations and marketing firm. Maria joined the city staff in Rancho Cordova in April, 2016 as the Communications and Public Affairs Director. She was awarded an Official Membership with the Forbes Communications Council in September, 2019. Maria earned a BA and MA in the English language and literature from California State University, Sacramento. Maria has taught writing classes at Sacramento City College and at California State University, Sacramento. She is currently a Board Member for the California Capital Airshow.



<https://www.munienvironmental.com/about-us/>

**MuniEnvironmental, LLC** (Muni Environmental) is an expert team of educated and experienced professionals providing consulting expertise in the Solid Waste, Recycling and Storm water Industries.

**Jeff Duhamel,**  
CEO/Principal Consultant



The firm provides consulting services to cities and other government agencies attempting to implement mandated regulatory requirements, as California strives to reach the recycling goal of 75%.

Telephone: 562-432-3700  
3730 East Broadway, Suite EF  
Long Beach, CA 90803



<http://www.hdlcompanies.com/>

Telephone No. 714-879-5000

**HdL** was founded in 1983 by former City Manager **Robert "Bob" Hinderliter**, who successfully championed legislation allowing independent verification of State Board of Equalization records.

**HdL** expanded and improved with the help of a partnership with former City Manager **Lloyd de Llamas**, the firm's Executive Chairman. **Andy Nickerson** is the President of the firm.

**HdL Companies** offers diverse services that include: allocation audits, economic analysis and program software regarding Sales Tax, and Property Tax, and Economic Development Services.

Office: 120 South State College Boulevard  
Suite 200  
Brea, California 92821

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities



**Kim Juran Karageorgiou** is the Administrative Services Director in Rancho Cordova. Kim announced her resignation as the Administrative Services Director for the City of Los Altos in May, 2016 to accept the appointment of Chief Financial Officer for the City of Rancho Cordova. She worked for Los Altos from August, 2014 until 2016. Prior to Los Altos, Kim worked as the Administrative Services Director in the City of Auburn, and she served as the Director of Finance for the City of San Bruno prior to that. Before her career in local government, she worked in a finance capacity for Stanford University. Kim earned a BA and MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



[www.usi.com](http://www.usi.com)

Experience the **USI ONE Advantage®** and learn how their Public Entity Practice can help manage the risks of public sector organizations, providing improved protection and cost control.

**USI** has developed sophisticated employee benefit programs for public entities for more than 30-years.

**USI** helps agencies design innovative benefit solutions and provide benefit education to bargaining units.

For more information contact **Gary Delaney** or **Kristin Yokoyama** at (424) 390-0000

### **USI Insurance Services**

Administrative Assistant to **Gary Delaney** and Team

**Mayra Noriega** [mayra.noriega@usi.com](mailto:mayra.noriega@usi.com)

Office: (424) 390-0010 |

Email: [gary.delaney@usi.com](mailto:gary.delaney@usi.com)

Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 600, Torrance, CA 90503



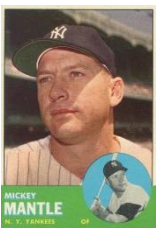
## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities



**Elizabeth Sparkman** is the Rancho Cordova Community Development Director. Elizabeth joined the city staff in January, 2005 as a Senior Civil Engineer. She was appointed Community Development Director in July, 2018, while retaining her engineering responsibilities. Elizabeth earned a BS in civil engineering from California State University, Sacramento, and she is a registered Professional Engineer. One of her hobbies is outrigger paddling. Her favorite quote is from Oscar Wilde: "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."



**Brenda Roach** is the Human Resources Manager in Rancho Cordova. She has been working in human resources since 2001 when she went to work for a painting company in the private sector. She worked in HR for a construction company in Sacramento for more than 13-years before working for an architects and engineering firm. She joined the Rancho Cordova city staff as Human Resources Manager in April, 2008. Brenda earned a BS from Villanova University, and a Masters in human resources and organizational development from the University of San Francisco. She has served as a Board Member for the Sacramento Area Human Resources Association.



"As far as I'm concerned, Aaron is the best ball player of my era. He is to baseball of the last fifteen years what Joe DiMaggio was before him. He's never receive the credit he's due." ---**Mickey Mantle**

## *Wolf & Company Inc.*

<https://www.wolfhousing.com/>



Former City Administrator  
**Wesley Wolf**, Founder  
Telephone No. 909-345-7849  
[wesley@wolfco.net](mailto:wesley@wolfco.net)

**Wolf & Company Inc.**, founded in 1993, provides municipal consulting services, program administration and oversight & insurance advisory serves to state and local governments, housing finance agencies, not-for-profit corporations, insurance companies, mortgage bankers, investment bankers and institutional investors in the tax exempt and taxable municipal market.

**Tammy Ofek** is a registered Municipal Advisor with **Wolf & Company Inc.**

Municipal Advisor **Tammy Ofek**  
[tammyo@wolfco.net](mailto:tammyo@wolfco.net)

**Wolf & Company** is register with the SEC and MSRB as a municipal advisor.

### **Wolf & Company Inc.**

1408 Copper Mountain Drive  
Diamond Bar, California 91765



**Jack Simpson** and **Art Gallucci**, four years ago at the All-Cities Holiday Reception at The Grand in Long Beach co-hosted by the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities and the California Contract Cities Association. **Art Gallucci**, began his career with the old Southeast Parks and Recreation District, and joined the Cerritos staff in 1971 as a Recreation Superintendent. He later headed up the Human Affairs Department from 1973 to 1981, when he was appointed Assistant City Manager. Art was appointed Cerritos City Manager in 1991.

## Trackdown Posse Roster

### Executive Level Posse Roster:

**Wade McKinney**, Retired Indian Wells City Manager  
**Michael J. Sedell**, Retired Simi Valley City Manager  
**Larry F. Pennell**, Retired City Manager, Wasco  
**Marcia Raines**, Retired City Manager & Principal  
with Public Sector Services  
**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 &  
Principal, **HdL Companies**  
**Charles G. "Guy" Huffaker**, Retired Porterville CM  
**Vern Lawson**, Retired, Lancaster  
**Ernesto Marquez**, Former City Manager  
**Gary K. Sloan**, Retired La Mirada 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  
**Joe Goeden**, Retired W. Sacramento City Manager  
**Ron Molendyk**, Retired City Manager

### 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  
**Cynthia Kurtz**, Retired City Manager; Past Pres. CM/LCC  
**Lee C. McDougal**, Retired Montclair City Manager  
**Ray Silver**, Retired City Manager, Past Pres. CM/LCC  
**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**  
**Jeff Mathieu**, Big Bear Lake, City Manager  
**Greg C. Devereaux**, San Bernardino County CEO  
**Doug LaBelle**, Retired City Manager  
**Ron Stock**, City Manager, Weed



<https://gonsalvi.com/>

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



The firm was founded by the late former California State Assembly Member **Joe A. Gonsalves**. Until his passing, Joe, his son **Anthony D. Gonsalves** and Anthony's son **Jason Gonsalves** served as the first three generation lobbying firm in Sacramento.

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

Call the "**Gonsalvi**" at  
**Telephone no. 916-441-0597**  
925 L Street, Suite 250 Sacramento CA 95814



**Henry Boisseranc Park** is a 20-acre park in the City of Buena Park in Orange County. Henry sold some land to **Walt Disney** to build Disneyland, and in return it appears as if this park was established in Henry's name. Henry was married to **Louise Martin Mezel**. Henry was born August 30, 1891 and he passed away on April 16, 1972 at the age of 80-years. Henry's parents were both born in France.

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities

The City of Rancho Cucamonga incorporated in November, 1977 in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains in San Bernardino County. The 2018 estimated population is 177,751. The current City Manager is **John Gillison**.



**Elisa Cox** has been a Deputy City Manager in Rancho Cucamonga since August, 2017. Elisa began working for the City of Sierra Madre in 1995 as a cashier at the Sierra Madre Pool. She joined the city staff full-time in 2005, and served as Deputy Director of

Community & Personnel Services between 2006 and 2008, and then she was promoted to Director of Community & Personnel Services in 2008. Elisa became the Sierra Madre Director of Human Resources in 2012, and she was appointed Assistant City Manager in 2014. Elisa earned a BS from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and an MBA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She also earned a Certificate in Human Resources from the Society for Human Resources Management.



RICHARDS WATSON GERSHON

<http://rwglaw.com/>



**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.

**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.

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

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



**NEWCOMB WILLIAMS**  
**FINANCIAL GROUP**

Securities offered through Stinson Securities, LLC

<http://www.nwfg.com/>

### A Woman-Owned Firm:

**Newcomb Williams Financial Group (NWFG)** is a woman-owned affiliate of an investment banking firm providing underwriting and financial advisory services to public agencies, including school districts, and non-profit corporations.

Experts in mobile home park financings, certificates of participation, general obligation bond financings, tax allocation refunding, revenue and expense projections modeling, utilities and energy financings and implementation of special tax methodologies.



**Pam Newcomb, Janees Williams and William D'Allaird** are among the firm's professionals. Telephone No. 760-860-0222



MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
*Growing Local Government Leaders Since 1950*

MMANC is "Municipal Management Association of Northern California" — a membership organization of local government management professionals located in the 49 counties of Northern California.

MMANC was formed in 1950 to address the professional needs of public management. It is the oldest and one of the largest organizations of its kind in the nation.

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



# STIFEL

[www.stifel.com](http://www.stifel.com)

**Stifel** was founded in 1890 and has become one of the nation's premier wealth management and investment banking firms. Stifel's passion of and commitment to public finance is evidenced by its unparalleled experience in providing bond underwriting services to local agencies of all shapes and sizes.

Comprised of over 20 professionals located in Los Angeles and San Francisco, the **Stifel** team is ready and eager to assist agencies throughout the state.

Contact (213) 443-5000 for more information on how **Stifel** can assist today.

Among the professionals located throughout California are **Raul Amezcua, Sara Brown, Jake Campos, Eileen Gallagher, Tom Jacob, Vince Lazalde** and **Eric McKean**



<http://ekapr.com/>

**Englander Knabe & Allen** is the fastest growing public affairs firm in Southern California.

**EKA's** partners **Harvey Englander, Matt Knabe, Marcus Allen, Eric Rose, Jeff McConnell** and **Adam Englander** provide strategic counsel.

They are expert in local government issues, from land use to public safety, and they help build public/private partnerships.



**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)

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities



**Lori Sassoon** is the Rancho Cucamonga Deputy City Manager responsible for Administrative Services. She joined the city staff in that post in November, 2015. Lori began here public service career as an

Administrative Intern in 1990 in the City of Walnut. In 1991 she was hired in Glendale as an Administrative Assistant, and in 1995 she took another Administrative Intern position with the City of San Bernardino. She was appointed Administrative Analyst in 1995; Senior Administrative Analyst in 1996; Assistant to the City Manager in 1998; and she became the San Bernardino Assistant City Manager in 2004. Lori served for a time in 2009 as the Acting City Manager. Lori left San Bernardino in 2009 to become City Manager in Villa Park, where she worked until 2012. Lori received a 25-year ICMA Service Award in 2017. She served as President of Women Leading Government in 2017-2019. Lori is a past Board Member of MMASC (1998-1999). Lori earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino.

**Nicole Dalton** is the Rancho Cucamonga Community Affairs Coordinator. Nicole joined the city staff in June, 2017 as an Administrative Assistant and was appointed to her current position in April, 2019. Nicole began her working career as an accounting assistant in the private sector. She earned a BA in public relations and advertising from Northern Arizona University.

"Some women choose to follow men, and some choose to follow their dreams. If you're wondering which way to go, remember that your career will never wake up and tell you that it doesn't love you anymore." ---**Lady Gaga**

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities



**Justine Garcia** has been a Management Analyst II in Rancho Cucamonga since March, 2018. Justine began her public service career with the City of Covina as an Account Clerk in November, 2009. She was promoted in 2010 to Administrative Technician, and in 2012 to a Management Analyst post. In January, 2014 Justine became a Transportation Programs Analyst for the City of Glendora. She joined the Rancho Cucamonga city staff in January, 2018. Justine earned a BS from the University of Southern California (**USC**) and an MPA from the University of La Verne.

**Pamela J. Nibert** (formerly **Pane**) is a Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District Management Analyst II. Before coming to Rancho Cucamonga Pam worked 12-years for the City of Corona in various capacities. She joined the District in 2001. Pam earned an AA degree from Riverside City College, and a BBA and MBA from California Coast University.



We are taking an editorial prerogative here to show this picture of our granddaughter **Jessie Hearther** (on the left) and her friend **Inez Anderson** who won the Daniel K. Inouye Future Filmmaker competition in Hawaii for their short film "A Kingdom At Crossroads."



<https://www.tripepismith.com/>

**Tripepi Smith & Associates** fields a professional team that brings a strong background in pursuit of new and innovative approaches and skills in marketing, and workshops in communications training.

Contact **Ryder Smith** or one of his colleagues at

**626-536-2173**

[info@tripepismith.com](mailto:info@tripepismith.com)



**Ryder Todd Smith**, Founder and President of **Tripepi Smith & Associates**

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

**Tripepi Smith is a provider of marketing, technology and public affairs consulting services.**  
*Marketing – Technology – Public Affairs*



**Tripepi Smith & Associates**

Post Office Box No. 52152  
Irvine, California 92619

**Bryn Miller** is a Junior Business Analyst with Tripepi Smith



She brings well developed writing experience and skills to help clients communicate effectively with their audiences. Bryn's client work includes support for the Renne Public Law Group, the City of Vallejo, the Industry Business Council and the California JPIA

"The wilderness holds answers to questions man has not yet learned to ask." --**Nancy Newhall**



PUBLIC  
AGENCY  
RETIREMENT  
SERVICES**PARS****TRUSTED SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.**<http://www.pars.org/>

For more than 35 years, PARS has provided retirement plan and trust solutions designed exclusively for public agencies. With programs like the **Pension Rate Stabilization Program (PRSP)** and the **PARS OPEB Trust**,

PARS has helped over 400 clients address unfunded obligations and lower liabilities. PARS is the pioneer of the PRSP, a first-of-its-kind program designed to provide local control over assets and potential for greater return than the general fund. With innovative retirement solutions tailored to the unique needs of each agency, PARS is a leading provider of retirement programs for public agencies, and the largest private provider of multiple-employer Section 115 trusts in California.

Since 1984 the **PARS** team has **provided retirement services designed** specifically for each public agency's unique needs aiming to provide superior employee benefits while improving management effectiveness, reducing costs, and simplifying administration.

**PARS** can craft customized solutions; provide agencies guiding through the process to achieve bottom-line results; and redefine goals and objectives.

**Mitch Barker, Executive Vice President**

(800) 540-6369 ext. 116 or [mbarker@pars.org](mailto:mbarker@pars.org)



<https://www.cacities.org/Education-Events/City-Managers-Conference>

**City Managers Annual Department Meeting**

**February 5-7, 2020**

The Meritage Resort,  
875 Bordeaux Way  
Napa, California 94558

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities

Rancho Mirage Incorporated in August, 1973 in the Coachella Valley of Riverside County. The estimated 2018 population is 18,336. Rancho Mirage has within its jurisdiction thirteen golf course. Although the first modern settlements date back to the 1920s and 1930s, Rancho Mirage got its claim to fame after World War II. The Annenberg Estate, or Sunnylands, owned by philanthropists **Walter and Leonore Annenberg**, was popular with celebrities, including **Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Patrick Macnee** and **Mary Martin**. Several Presidents of the United States have vacationed at the Annenberg Estate, including **Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan**, and **Gerald Ford**. President Ford later bought a house in Rancho Mirage and was living there at the time of his death in 2006. The current City Manager is **Isaiah Hagerman**, **Kristie Ramos** is the City Clerk.

**Letty Gallegos-Gallardo** is a Human Resources Specialist for Rancho Mirage.



**Joni Almy** is Executive Coordinator for the City of Rancho Mirage. She joined the city staff in July, 1998. Joni has worked for the city for more than 21-years.



## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities

Rancho Palos Verdes was incorporated in September, 1973 on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in Los Angeles County. The city's 2018 estimated population in 41,928. Point Vicente Interpretive Center is a premier whale-watching site that provides opportunities to view the annual migration of the Pacific gray whale from December through April. The Point Vicente Lighthouse, built in 1926, is adjacent to the center and is on the National Register of Historic Places. At another location along the coast, Wayfarers Chapel, designed by **Lloyd Wright** (son of **Frank Lloyd Wright**) and built between 1949 and 1951, is also on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, **Ara Mihranian** is the Rancho Palos Verdes Interim City Manager, **Gabriella Yap** was the Deputy City Manager, and **Emily Colborn** is the City Clerk.



<http://www.willdan.com/solutions/financing-and-revenue-optimization.aspx>

**Willdan Financial Services** can enhance city efficiency, effectiveness, and credibility by helping to generate revenue and optimize its administration. Willdan, founded in 1964, is a nationwide provider of value-added professional technical services.



WFS President & CEO **Mark Risco** is a member of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) Board of Trustees.

**Call Willdan Financial at  
telephone No. 800-755-6864**



## Northern California "Proof of Life" lunch program:

It's Happening!

The first Proof-of-Life Lunch in the north is set for **Tuesday, January 14, 2020, from Noon until 2:00 pm.**

The organizers include: **Rod Wood, Kevin O'Rourke, Rod Gould** and **Jeff Kolin**. They have set the inaugural lunch in Fairfield to make it as easy as possible for as many folks as possible to attend. The venue is **Mimi's Restaurant at 1650 Gateway Boulevard, Fairfield.** The exit is Travis Blvd off the I-80 then Gateway Blvd east across from the shopping center and it is on the north side of Gateway. We picked Mimi's because they have a separate room for groups and most importantly everyone orders off the menu and pays there individual check so no "who's on first and what's on second" figuring out the check.

Our current plan is to have the next meeting in April most likely on Tuesday the 14th in San Jose at Mimi's again because it is centrally located. We will email the verified date and location once we get a venue confirmation. In July it will be in the Sacramento Delta area and in October the Central Valley area on the second Tuesday if possible. Not this year, but an idea of a special Christmas Lunch in December for all "Proof of Life" folks has been suggested at a very central location such as Tracy. We can discuss that idea as well.

**For Information contact Rod, Kevin, Rod or Jeff:**

**Rod Wood:** [rodjwood@gmail.com](mailto:rodjwood@gmail.com)

**Kevin O'Rourke:** [kevin@klogs.com](mailto:kevin@klogs.com)

**Rod Gould:** [rodgould17@gmail.com](mailto:rodgould17@gmail.com)

**Jeff Kolin:** [Forkolin@aol.com](mailto:Forkolin@aol.com)

**Those who have express an interest include:**

Henry Hesling, Richard Kirkwood, Glen Rojas, Ross Hubbard, David Jinkens, Toby Ross, Pat Thompson, Paul Berlant, Steve Baker, Kevin Duggan, Joe Goeden, John Shirey, Mike Johnson, Clay Holstine, Bob Adams, Jim Marshall, Brian Moura, Joe Tanner Debra Figone, Michael Garvey, Bob Murray, Marty Nichols, Michael Frank, and Eugene Palazzo.

**"Proof of Life" Luncheon Program**



<https://www.avenueinsights.com/>

There's never a good time for operational downtime, or a good time to fall short on revenue. For governments to serve their communities, they need solutions they can depend on, run by partners who understand how the public sector works.

That's why thousands of State and local government leaders turn to **Avenue**. Although the name is new, the company roots serving government officials go back nearly 100-years.

Retired City Managers **Fran David**, **John Shirey** and **Jeff Kolin**, a past President of the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities, all serve on the Avenue Advisory Board. California Offices in El Dorado Hills, Fresno, Pleasanton, Sacramento and Westlake Village.

**Fran Mancia** may be reached at 559-288-7296. Fran is a member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).



[www.chwlaw.us](http://www.chwlaw.us)

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 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. The firm was recognized as one of California's Top Ranked Law Firms by Martindale-Hubbell in 2014 and **Michael Colantuono**, **Terri Highsmith**, **Jenni Pancake**, **Michael Alderdice** and **Scott Howard** have each achieved the highest AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

Call telephone No. 530-432-7357 or 213-542-5700.

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities



**Gabriella Yap** began her service as the Rancho Palos Verdes Deputy City Manager in April, 2016. She will start a new position as the Deputy City Manager in the City of Beverly Hills this month (December, 2019). She began her municipal government career in 2004 as a Management Aide in the City of Torrance. She then worked in an Administrative Intern program with the County of Los Angeles for two-years, and in 2006 she was hired as an Associate Analyst in the CEO's office. Gabriella left the county in 2007 to take a Budget & Financial Analyst position with the City of Beverly Hills. In 2010 she was appointed Assistant to the City Manager in La Habra Heights, and in 2011 she was elevated to Assistant City Manager. Gabriella earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**) and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. She also completed the Goldman School of Public Policy Berkeley Executive Seminar at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2018 she received a 10-year ICMA Award.



**Jason Gonsalves** of the **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** professional legislative representation firm of Sacramento. The firm was founded in February, 1975 by Jason's grandfather **Joe A. Gonsalves**, a former Member of the State Assembly. Jason has become an expert on local government legislation. He works with his Dad Anthony and brother Paul. He just recently celebrated a birthday.



## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities

**Lorna Cloke** is a Senior Administrative Analyst in the Finance Department in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. She joined the city staff in 2010 as a Records Manager (Administrative Analyst II), and was elevated to her current position in March, 2018. Lorna earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



**Julie DeZiel** became the Rancho Palos Verdes Human Resources Manager in June, 2019. Julie served as a Human Resources Analyst for the City of El Segundo from November, 2010 to February, 2016 when she joined the Torrance city staff as a Senior Human Resources Analyst. Julie earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach.

**Nancy Penate** is an Administrative Assistant for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Nancy joined the city staff in May, 2017 after working in the private sector starting in 2005. Her private sector positions included a stint as a Legal Administrative Assistant for a law firm. Nancy earned an AA degree from Santa Monica College.



**Lauren Ramezani** has worked as a Senior Administrative Analyst in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes since July, 1996. She currently provides support to the Public Works Department. Prior to joining RPV, Lauren served as an Administrative Analyst in the Engineering Division in the City of Santa Monica from 1990 to 1996. Lauren earned a BS in marketing from the University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign, and an MBA from Roosevelt University.

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." -Oscar Wilde



<http://www.kosmont.com/>



Founded in 1986 by former City Manager **Larry J. Kosmont**, **Kosmont Companies**, a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE), has earned a national reputation and is recognized as expert in real estate, financial advisory and economic development services. The **Kosmont Companies** are committed to bringing public, private, and non-profit organizations together to help communities flourish.

Call and learn how South Gate earned a \$5.1 million Real Estate Bonus.

**Mailing Address:** 1601 N. Sepulveda Blvd., #382,  
Manhattan Beach, California 90266  
Telephone: 424-297-1070 | Fax: 424-286-4632

### Market Analyses

**Kosmont Companies** thoroughly research the potential for a city's future development to be self-sustaining. **Kosmont Company** experts will determine whether the market holds enough existing or potential demand for development to be viable.

## Kosmont Expands – West By Midwest

**Kosmont Companies** has expanded its team and services into Arizona and the Midwest

The success of the **Kosmont Retail NOW!®** platform gives cities, counties and EDC's real time demographic, retail and development data inputs along with actionable implementation. We are now able to offer this platform in the Western U.S. and into the Midwest. **Joseph Fackel** joins the Kosmont team to lead this effort in areas such as Illinois, Iowa, Texas, etc. **Bob Tunis** has joined the Kosmont team as well and will lead Kosmont's services in Arizona.

**Kosmont Companies**

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities

Rancho Santa Margarita is Orange County's youngest cities, incorporating in January, 2000. The estimated 2018 population in 48,325. **Jennifer M. Cervantez** is the current City Manager and **Amy Diaz** is the City Clerk. **Laura Lopez** is the Public Information Officer.



**Jennifer M. Cervantez** became the City Manager in Rancho Santa Margarita in 2012. She replaced City Manager **Steve Hayman**, who retired for medical reasons. Jennifer began her career in 1998 as a Staff Analyst with the League of California Cities. She joined the city staff in Santa Ana as a Management Assistant in 2000. Jennifer joined the staff in the City of La Habra in December, 2002 as the Assistant to the City Manager. She was promoted to Assistant City Manager in 2008. Jennifer is an alumnus of Santa Ana High School. She earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach, and an MPP from Claremont University.



December 4 "Proof of Life" lunch included some who are still in service. Here are **Anne Haraksin** and **Ernie Hernandez**. Anne is Assistant City Manager in La Mirada and Ernie is City Manager in Hawaiian Gardens.



## California JPIA

<https://cjpia.org/>

Providing innovative risk management solutions for public agencies for more than 40-years, the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA) is one of the largest municipal self-insurance pools in the state, with more than 100 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, earthquake coverage, and extensive risk management training and loss control services.

**Jonathan Shull**, Chief Executive Officer  
8081 Moody Street  
La Palma, California 90623  
Telephone No. 800-229-2343



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

MMASC is one of the oldest and the largest associations of its kind in the nation and is recognized by both the International City / County Management Association (ICMA) and the League of California Cities. The organization's more than 800 members represent local governments serving an estimated 22 million residents.

**Izzy Murguia** of Poway is the current President  
**Kristen Nelson**, Indian Wells, is Vice President

## Women Professionals in California's "Rancho" Cities



**Wendy Starks** is Rancho Santa Margarita's Principal Planner. Wendy began her career in 2003 working for private sector planning consulting firms in Irvine and San Juan Capistrano. In 2010 she took a Researcher position with the University of California, Irvine, and was promoted to Clinical Research Coordinator, Supervisor for the planning, policy and design department. In December, 2015 Wendy went to work for the City of Rolling Hills as an Associate Planner. She joined the Rancho Santa Margarita staff in August, 2016. Wendy earned an AA degree from Irvine Valley College, and a BA and Master's in urban and regional planning from the University of California, Irvine. She is also a certified planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Others found include: **Cheryl Kuta**, Director of Development Services; **Stefanie Turner**, Finance Director; and **Hazel McIntosh**, Contract Solid Waste & Storm Water Program Manager.



**Picking Up the Pieces:** Retired Costa Mesa City Manager **Allan L. Roeder** is the new Interim City Manager in the City of La Palma. Allan will fill in behind retiring City Manager **Laurie A. Murray**. Since his retirement, Allan has served as the Interim City Manager in Fullerton and Garden Grove. **Brian Saeki**, Covina City Manager, is the new Whittier City Manager following the retirement of City Manager **Jeff Collier**. Brian is a resident of Monrovia and has served as the Covina City Manager for the past three-years. Before Covina, Brian was the City Administrator in San Fernando. He worked for the Cities of Downey, Rosemead and Arcadia prior to that. Hemet Interim City Manager **Christopher R. Lopez** is the city's newest City Manager. The "Interim" is removed from his title. Chris became the Hemet Deputy City Manager in June, 2018.



[www.brandywinehomes.com](http://www.brandywinehomes.com)



Former Artesia City Manager **Jim Barisic** founded **Brandywine** in 1994. Jim and his three sons **Brett Whitehead**, **Mark Whitehead** and **David Barisic** direct **Brandywine Homes**.

Some of the Projects that are selling are in the Cities of Anaheim, Arcadia, Monrovia, Norwalk, Torrance, Yorba Linda, Baldwin Park, and in Yorba Linda, Long Beach, La Puente and Whittier.

Call **Brandywine** at 949-296-2400



**Renaissance Plaza**  
Stanton, California

A **Brandywine Homes**  
Development

**Brandywine Homes Corporate Office**  
16580 Aston Street, Irvine, California 92606

Former Downey Assistant to the City Manager **Shannon DeLong** has been appointed Assistant City Manager in Whittier, succeeding retiring Assistant City Manager **Nancy Mendez**. South Lake Tahoe City Manager **Frank Rush** has been selected to serve as the next City Manager in Big Bear Lake. Frank's resignation in South Lake Tahoe is effective January 24, 2020. He has been in South Lake Tahoe for nearly a year, coming from the Town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina. Frank will start in Big Bear Lake on February 3, 2020, where City Manager **Jeff Mathieu** who is retiring. Bakersfield Chief of Police **Lyle Martin** will retire next month. With City Manager **Alan Tandy** also retiring, whoever is the new City Manager will appoint a new Chief. Assistant Chief of Police **Greg Terry** will serve as the Interim Chief until a recruitment is completed. **S. Anthony Donato**, who served as the Pittsburg, California City Manager from 1969 to 1995, died at his Concord home on March 23, 2019. He was 89-years old. City Manager **Garrett Evans** called Anthony the "visionary behind redevelopment." Pittsburg used the redevelopment agency tool for many projects to improve and rebuild the City.





**More Pieces Picked Up:** Former La Habra Heights Assistant City Manager **Gabriella Yap** is a new Deputy City Manager in the City of Beverly Hills. She currently serves as Deputy City Manager in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Gabriella has earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and an MPA from

California State University, Long Beach. She is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. She will start in Beverly Hills, December 9. **William D. "Bill" Hawkins** of *The Hawkins Company* has been retained to assist the City of Long Beach find a replacement for retired City Manager **Pat West**. Long Beach is located on the Pacific Coast between Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The City has a population of 470,000, and is a well-organized full-service city. Contact Bill for additional information at 213-308-0945. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by December 27, 2019. Applicants may submit a letter of interest and a resume to WD Hawkins electronically to: [cm.colb@thehawkinscompany.com](mailto:cm.colb@thehawkinscompany.com)

Former Torrance Assistant City Manager **Mary Giordano** passed away in October, 2019 at the age of 73. Mary retired after a 30-year career in 2018. She died September 28 in hospice care at home after a recurrence of the cancer she had fought for several years. Mary began her career in Torrance as the City's third Finance Director in 1987. She had previously served as the Controller for the City of Long Beach. She became the Torrance Assistant City Manager in 1995, working with City Manager **LeRoy Jackson**. **Robert A. Nelson** served as President of MMANC while working with the City of Fremont. Bob later served as the City Manager in Del Mar (1979-1986) and as Seal Beach City Manager (1986-1990). Retired City Manager **David Jinkens** of South Lake Tahoe produces a newsletter publication entitled: **Not Necessarily in the News**. It is packed full of interesting information. Anyone interested may contact David at: [djinkens@charter.net](mailto:djinkens@charter.net) Retired City Managers **Rod Wood**, **Kevin O'Rourke**, **Rod Gould**, and **Jeff Kolin**, all past Presidents of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities, are the "Formation Team" for a NorCal Proof of Life Program. Anyone interested in joining the effort should contact them. Rod is leading the group. Email him at: [rodjwood@gmail.com](mailto:rodjwood@gmail.com) Heartfelt condolences to **Beth Fawett** of the **Newcomb Williams Financial Group** whose husband recently passed away unexpectedly. Our prayers for comfort go out to Beth and her family and friends. Thanks to **Pam Newcomb** for keeping us informed.



**Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner at **Englander Knabe & Allen**, relaxing after competing at a city golf tournament. Matt is an excellent golfer and played on the Pepperdine University golf team.

**SHORTS:** \*Retiring Palmdale City Manager **Jim Purtee** is the recipient of the 2019 **Larry Chimbole Public Service Award** presented by the Mountain Division of the League of California Cities. \*Santa Fe Springs City Manager **Ray Cruz** previously served as the City Manager in the City of Rolling Hills. \***Robert A. Nelson** served as President of MMANC while working with the City of Fremont. Bob later served as the City Manager in Del Mar (1979-1986) and as Seal Beach City Manager (1986-1990). \*Veteran retired City Manager **Larry Pennell** is the new Interim City Manager in the City of McFarland. \***Sandy Kerl** is the new General Manager of the San Diego County Water Authority. \***George E. Morgan** served as Palo Alto City Manager from February, 1966 until November, 1971, and Beverly Hills City Manager from November, 1971 to June, 1978 before; he became the General Administrator for Lane County, Oregon. \***Lorena Roca**, Hemet Finance Director, is the Chair of the Finance Directors' Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG). \***Teena Clifton** retired in June, 1982 after serving as the Rolling Hills City Manager beginning in February, 1964, and following retirement in 1982 she relocated to the Napa Valley. \***Frank E. James** served as the Sonoma City Manager from March, 1974 until August, 1979. \***John W. Jameson** was appointed City Manager in the City of Signal Hill in 1975, and he later served as the Bellflower City Administrator. \***Karalee Darnell**, formerly with **Tripepi Smith & Associates**, is a Government Affairs Representative for the Southern California Edison Company; an Adjunct Political Science Professor at California State University, Fullerton; and a member of the City of Yorba Linda Planning Commission. \*Rancho Palos Verdes City Manager **Doug Willmore** is from Manassas, Virginia. \*Long-time Bakersfield City Manager **Alan Tandy** is retiring after 27-years in the saddle. \*\*\*