



Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco on Quarantine Day
No. 6, March 22, 2020. By California Photography

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

Trackdown's list of women city government professionals in California cities continues in this issue. This is the 32nd installment of this list. Those we found working in the cities alphabetically from the City of San Carlos to the City of San Fernando are included in this issue.

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

Of course, we miss deserving folks from time-to-time. Again, we apologize to anyone we miss. It is not always completely our fault. The failures of others to post complete profiles makes it difficult to be comprehensive. Please believe that we try our best to include all worthy individuals.

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

San Carlos incorporated July, 1925 in San Mateo County on the San Francisco Peninsula. The estimated 2018 population is 30,364. San Carlos, "The City of Good Living," was the first city in California to open a charter school...the San Carlos Charter Learning Center. **Jeff Maltbie** is the City Manager and **Carlos Contreras** is the Assistant City Manager.



San Carlos Assistant City Manager **Tara Peterson** served as the Administrative Services Manager in the City of San Leandro from July, 1998 until October, 2013. After 15-years of service in San Leandro, Tara joined the San Carlos city staff in 2013 as

the Assistant to the City Manager (2013-2015). She was appointed Assistant City Manager in October, 2015. In addition, she served as the Interim Public Works Director from January, 2018 until April. Tara earned a BA in political science and government at the University of California, Berkeley. She earned an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Rebecca Mendenhall is the San Carlos Administrative Services Director. She worked in the private sector in the software industry, including a Director of Revenue post and as a Controller between 1998 and 2005. Rebecca joined the San Carlos city staff as Finance Officer in September, 2005. She stepped in as Acting Administrative Service Director in September, 2010, and was appointed to the position in July, 2011. Rebecca earned a BBA in business administration and accounting from the University of Nebraska, Omaha.



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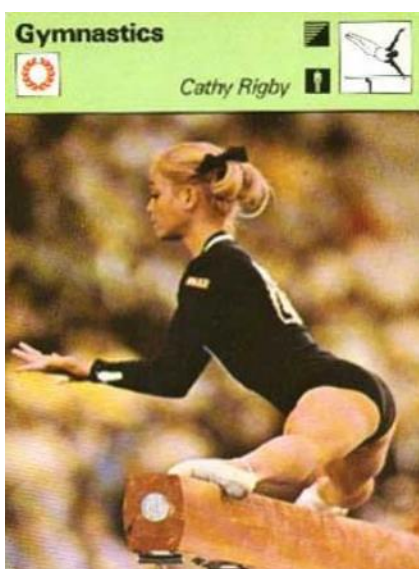
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"There's no disgrace in failure, the disgrace is not to try." —**Cathy Rigby**

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

Lisa Porras is the San Carlos Planning Manager. She began her career as a Planner for the County of Santa Barbara in 1999. In January, 2001 she went to work as a Senior Planner in the City of Ventura. In September, 2007 Lisa took a Senior Planner position in the City of Benicia. After more than 5-years in Benicia, she moved to San Carlos as the Principal Planner in January, 2013. Lisa earned a BA in geography from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She also completed course work in urban design and planning at the University of Washington.

Sarah Bowab is an Associate Planner in San Carlos. Sarah previously worked for the City of Ontario Planning Department, the City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Department, and the City of Newark's Community Development Department. Sarah earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a Master's degree in urban planning from San Jose State University. Sarah lives in Redwood City and enjoys traveling, tennis and salsa dancing.



Retired City Managers **Doug Dunlap** and **Gregory Korduner**; two "Proof of Life" founders.

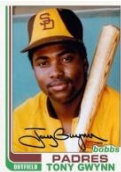
Trackdown Posse Roster

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
Kevin O'Rourke, KOLGS/PARS; Retired City Manager
Glenn Southard, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont
Joe Tanner, Retired Vallejo City Manager
Denise Ovrorn, 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, Retired South Gate DPW
Doug Dunlap, Retired City Manager, Pomona
Rita Geldert, Retired City Manager, Vista
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director, State of CA
Charles Huffaker, Retired City Manager, Porterville
David Jinkens, Retired City Manager
Joe Goeden, Retired W. Sacramento City Manager
Ron Molendyk, Retired City Manager
Anthony D. Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Jason Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Paul Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son

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
Gary Milliman, City Manager, Brookings, Oregon
Doug Dunlap, Retired City Manager, Pomona
Kevin Duggan, Retired City Manager; Past Pres. CM/LCC
Rod B. Butler, Jurupa Valley, City Manager
Ray Harris, Ret. County Official, & 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
Jeff Mathieu, Retired Big Bear Lake, City Manager
Greg Devereaux, San Bernardino County CEO
Doug LaBelle, Retired City Manager
Ron Stock, Retired City Manager, Weed



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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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"Last Surfer:" Pacific Beach's Crystal Pier
 Photo by retired City Manager **Mark Ochendusko**.

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

San Clemente is an Orange County coastal city that was incorporated February, 1928. The San Clemente beach and pier provide popular spots for people to gather. In 1969, U. S. President **Richard Nixon** established the "Western White House" on the southerly end of the city. Following his resignation, President Nixon retired to San Clemente. He sold the home in 1980. The San Clemente estimated 2018 population is 64,857. The Interim City Manager is veteran retired City Manager **Robert Dunek**, **Erik Sund** is the Assistant City Manager, and **Joanne Baade** is the City Clerk.



Cecilia Gallardo-Daly was appointed to the San Clemente Community Development Director position in May, 2015 following the retirement of Director **Jim Holloway**. She previously worked a dozen years in the Development Services Department of the City of San Diego. In addition to her work experience with San Diego, Cecilia also served in the cities of Sierra Madre, Rosemead, Rancho Cucamonga and Austin, Texas. She earned a BA and a Master's degree in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**).



San Clemente Pier



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Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

Samantha Wylie is the Recreation Manager for the City of San Clemente. She joined the city staff in 2003; 17-years ago. Samantha earned a BA in communication and media studies from Chapman University, and an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University.

Courtney Farrell-Bellucci is a Senior Administrative Assistant in the City of San Clemente. Courtney began her working career in the private sector starting in 2007. After working for firms in Encinitas, New York and Oceanside, she went to work as an Administrative Assistant for the North County Transit District headquartered in Oceanside starting in May, 2015. Courtney joined the San Clemente city staff in June, 2016. She earned an AA degree from Mira Costa College, and a BA from Southern New Hampshire University.



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

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

San Diego is found about 120 miles southerly of the City of Los Angeles. San Diego has been called "the birthplace of California;" the Presidio and Mission San Diego de Alcala, established in 1769, was the first European settlement in what is now California. It is the home of Major League Baseball's Padres, where Hall of Famer **Tony Gwynn** played. The city is the county seat for San Diego County, and was incorporated in March, 1850. The 2018 estimated population of the City of San Diego is 1,425,976. In 2006 the local government model was changed from a council-manager plan to a strong mayor government. City Manager **Lamont Ewell** resigned in 2006 following election results that placed executive powers and authority with the office of the Mayor. Lamont succeeded City Manager **Michael Uberuaga** who retired. Currently the City Clerk is **Elizabeth Maland**, and **Andrea Tevlin** serves as the Independent Budget Analyst. **Mara W. Elliott** is the City Attorney.



For 25-years **Andrea Tevlin** served with the city staff in the City of Phoenix, Arizona. She worked as a Deputy City Manager, Chief of Staff to the Mayor and as the city Budget Director. In January, 2006 Andrea started work as the City of San Diego Independent Budget Analyst. She earned a BA from Carroll College and an MPA from Arizona State University.



<https://www.cacities.org/Education-Events/Calendar/2020-Annual-Conference-Expo?feed=events>

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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).



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Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

Samantha Brumit is a San Diego Program Coordinator. She is from Hebron, Kentucky, and moved to Louisville in 2008, where she went to school and worked for the City of Louisville. Sam joined the San Diego city staff as a Program Coordination in October, 2016. She earned a BA in psychology and sociology, and a Master's degree in urban planning, and a graduate certificate in real estate development from the University of Louisville. Sam is a Louisville Cardinals fan, and enjoys hiking, yoga and playing the piano.

Tina Christiansen served as the San Diego Director of Planning. She worked in municipal government community development and planning posts for some 27-years before she was appointed Interim Director of Community Development in the City of Coronada in December, 2017. She also worked in Solana Beach and Irvine. She is also a well-regarded west coast artist from San Diego to the State of Washington.

"Proof of Life" Scheduled for June 24, 2020



The March 25 "Proof of Life" lunch was cancelled. While there were no reported cases of COVID-19 among veteran "Proof of Life" participants, the lunch was cancelled in keeping with the necessary social distancing required to beat the virus.

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

San Diego is an extremely large political subdivision with a massive staff, which includes many professional women. Some of the other women we discovered include: **Jeanne Culkin**, Supervising Management Analyst; **Linda Dederman**, Associate Management Analyst; and **Veronica Murillo**, **Lisa Byrne**, **Angela Colton**, and **Jillian Kissee**.



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Jillian Kissee joined the San Diego Office of the Independent Budget Analyst (JBA) in February, 2017 as a Fiscal & Policy Analyst. Jillian previously worked as the Principal Consultant to State Senate Committee on Appropriations. Prior to that she served as a Finance Budget Analyst with the California State Department of Finance in Sacramento. Jillian earned a BA in political science and a MPP (Master's of Public Policy) from Pepperdine University.



"If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours."

---**Dolly Parton**

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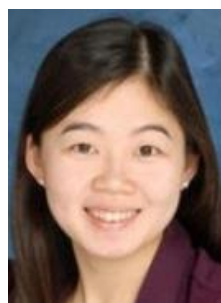
Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

San Dimas is a city in the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County. The city



incorporated in August, 1960. Its 2018 estimated population is 33,982. The current City Manager is **Ken Duran**, the Assistant City Manager is **Brad McKinney**, and **Debra Black** is the City Clerk.

Ann F. Garcia served as the Assistant to the City Manager and Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of Brawley between April, 2000 and December, 2005. Ann joined the San Dimas city staff in January, 2007 as an Administrative Aide. She was promoted to Administrative Analyst in July, 2014, and then Senior Management Analyst in July, 2019. Ann earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She speaks English and Spanish.



San Dimas Associate Planner **Anne Nguyen** began her public service career in October, 2015 as a Planning Intern in San Dimas after working in the private sector and for the University of Notre Dame. Anne joined the La Habra city staff in

January, 2017 as an Assistant Planner, and she returned to San Dimas as Associate Planner in June, 2018. In addition to her public agency duties, she served as a Writing Tutor at Mt. San Antonio College from 2015 to 2019. After attending Mr. San Antonio College, Anne earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Notre Dame.

"Bully-grandstanding is unacceptable behavior for anyone, but especially for a city manager."

--Anonymous

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando

After working at San Antonio Community **Jennifer Williams** as a Health Information Technician in 2006-2007, Jennifer took a Planning Intern position with the City of West Covina in July, 2007. In September, 2010 Jennifer was hired to serve as an Assistant Planner in the City of Upland. She joined the San Dimas city staff in January, 2013 as an Associate Planner. Jennifer earned a BS in urban and regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



Kristie Esparza is an Administrative Analyst for the City of San Dimas. In June, 2009 Kristie worked as a Community Resources Assistant in the City of Covina. In January, 2016 she moved to Pomona where she became a Community Services Specialist. In March, 2018 Kristie took the Community Services Coordinator in Transportation position in the City of Glendora. In June, 2019 Kristie took an Office Coordinator post in San Dimas. She was appointed to an Administrative Analyst position in December, 2019. Kristie earned a BA in English language in literature from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Other San Dimas women discovered include: **Connie Arellano**, **Dominique Borba**, **Fabiola Zelaya Melicher**, **Jennifer Williams**, **Latoyia Ward**, **Lauren Marshall**, **Nicolette Drulias**, and **Paige Rode**. Also, **Theresa Bruns**, Director of Parks and Recreation retired at the end of June, 2018. She earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



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Retired Wasco City Manager **Larry F. Pennell** celebrated his 75th birthday this past month. Cheers Larry!



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1980s archive picture of retired City Manager **Michael Sakamoto**, and **Susan Simpson**.

Women in California Cities From San Carlos to San Fernando



San Fernando was incorporated in August, 1911 in the San Fernando Valley in the County of Los Angeles. The city is bordered on all sides by the City of Los Angeles. The 2018 estimated population of San Fernando is 24,510. **Nick Kimball** is the City Manager and **Elena G. Chavez** is the City Clerk. **Julie Fernandez** is the Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

Margarita Solis is the City Treasurer in San Fernando. The position is an elected post.

Senior Accountant, **Sonia Gomez-Garcia**, a 25-year employee of the city was promoted to Interim Finance Director in 2017. She returned to the Senior Accountant position once a new Director was appointed.

Lauren Guerra is the Public Works Department Administrative Coordinator.

Virginia Diediker is the Cultural Arts Supervisor in San Fernando.

As previously written, it is always a simple task to find bad news, like a 23-year old woman busted by the police for selling fentanyl. On the other hand, it seems that some communities hide their hardworking public servants and shield their identity on their official web pages. It takes time and effort to flush out names and profiles when city web pages do not list staff members. We apologize for not having an abundance of time; or the computer smarts to find all deserving women. Our research efforts may not provide comprehensive information but we try. Deserving people on the front lines deserve recognition. We are hopeful that you enjoy reading about those we find. ***

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Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley serves as general counsel or city attorney in the Cities of Auburn, Barstow, Calabasas, Grass Valley, La Habra Heights, and Sierra Madre, the Auburn, the Barstow Redevelopment Agency, the Sierra Madre Community Redevelopment Agency. The firm serves as special counsel to local governments throughout California. Current and recent clients include the cities of Belmont, Berkeley, Bradbury, Brentwood, Burbank, Calexico, Cerritos, Chula Vista, Concord, Culver City, Cupertino, Fremont, Glendale, Huntington Beach, Lathrop, Livermore, Lodi, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Marina, Monterey, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Newport Beach, Oakland, Oxnard, Palo Alto, Pasadena, Redding, Redondo Beach, Redwood City, Richmond, Riverside, San Juan Batista, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santa Maria, Santa Rosa, Sausalito, Simi Valley, South Gate, South Lake Tahoe, Sunnyvale, Torrance, Tracy, Tulare, Vallejo, Ventura, Vista and Yuba City; and Marin, Nevada, Riverside, San Benito and Solano Counties.

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Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley periodically distributes a newsletter that highlight new developments in the law.

<http://www.cllaw.us/index.php?pg=newsletters>



Picking Up the Pieces: Vacaville has changed City Managers by not exercising the option to extend the employment agreement of City Manager **Jeremy Craig**, and appointing Assistant City Manager **Aaron Busch** to be Interim City Manager. Jeremy has been City Manager since July, 2017. Jeremy succeeded City Manager **Laura Kuhn** when she

retired. Aaron joined the Vacaville city staff as Assistant City Manager in 2017. He previously worked in Rancho Cordova as the Community Development Director. Before that he held position in Yuba City, Roseville and Rancho Mirage. A sincere *Trackdown* apology to San Bruno's **Tami Yuki** and San Carlos' **Tara Peterson**. Mistakenly, Tara's picture was attached to Tami's profile information in the March, 2020 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by *Trackdown*. We apologize for our mistake. Sierra Madre has retained former Los Angeles County Sheriff's Commander **Rodrick Armalin** as their new Chief of Police. Rod spent more than 30-years with the Sheriff's Department. The new Chief will be working with Sierra Madre City Manager **Gabriel Engeland**. Corona Assistant City Manager and Administrative Services Director **Kerry Eden** joined the City of Corona staff in December, 1996 as the Finance Director. She was promoted to her current post in April, 2015. Kerry is a University of Redlands alumnus. Santa Barbara Director of Finance **Robert Samario** is retiring after working for the city 24-years. He was appointed Finance Director in July, 2010 after he worked as the Assistant Finance Director for 14-years. From 1986 to 1996, Robert worked with the audit firm of Moreland & Associates. In addition to his city duties, he served as a Financial Consultant for ICMA from starting in 2011. Robert did course work at St. John's University, and earned a BBA from California State University, Fullerton. Ojai Mayor **John F. Johnston** retired as the Chief Administrative Officer of the County of Ventura. He previously served as City Manager in Artesia (October, 1968-October, 1971) and City Manager in Ojai (October, 1971-June, 1974). Johnny earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach and an MPA from the University of Southern California (USC). **Philip Vince**, former Point Arena City Manager, Moraga Town Manager (2004 -2008) and Martinez City Manager (July, 2008 - October, 2013), currently lives in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Phil earned a BA in European history from Saint Mary's College of California, and an MPA from San Francisco State University.



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT
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Contract Cities Family,

As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and with all of our member's health and safety as a priority, our executive board has voted unanimously to cancel our 2020 Annual Municipal Seminar.

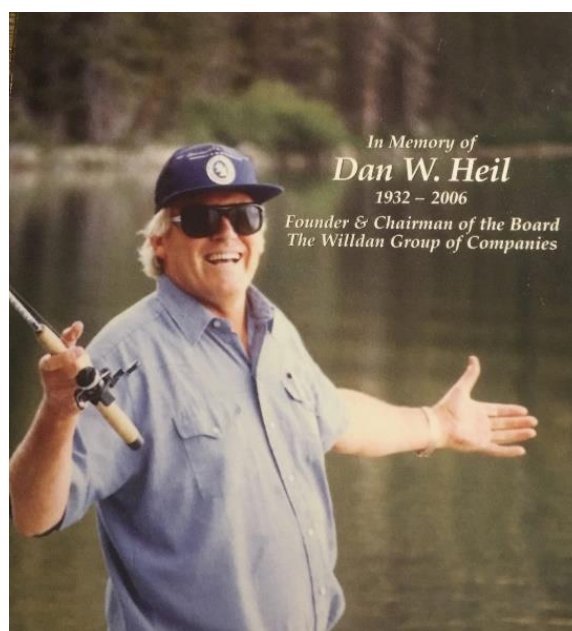
We understand that many of you are being looked upon by your constituencies to lead them through this difficult time and we are sensitive to your needs to remain close to home for the foreseeable future.

We will be issuing full refunds to all registrants in the coming weeks. We will keep you all posted on our future events as we navigate these unprecedented times. Thank you all for your leadership and understanding. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

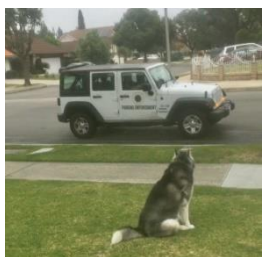
Best regards,
- CCCA Staff



For inquiries contact staff at info@contractcities.org or (562) 622-5533



Remembering an old friend: **Dan W. Heil**



More Pieces Picked Up: **Joe Tanner, Jr.** is the new City Manager in the City of Lindsay. Joe's father is retired Vallejo City Manager **Joe Tanner**. Joe Jr. started his public service career in the City of San Ramon in December, 2005 as an

Economic Development Intern. He worked there as an Administrative Analyst from October, 2007 until June, 2012. Joe served as the Interim City Manager in the City of Rio Vista in 2013 before he was appointed Director of Administrative Services in Desert Hot Springs. In April, 2018 he became the Director of Administrative Services in the Town of Moraga. He worked as the Interim Deputy City Manager in Port Hueneme in 2019 and he spent a couple of months as the Interim Management Services Director in Monterey Park starting in January, 2020. Joe earned an AA degree at Diablo Valley College, a BA from St. Mary's College of California, and an MBA from John F. Kennedy University. Community Development Director **Tom Westbrook**, 45, will serve as the City of Ceres Interim City Manager next month when City Manager **Toby Wells** steps down to become the City Manager in Turlock. Tom joined the Ceres city staff in January, 2001 as an Associate Planner. He previously worked Yuma County, Arizona for two-years. He also served as an intern for the City of Patterson. Toby served 6-years as the Ceres City Manager and previously the Public Works Director. **Christina Crosby** joined the South San Francisco city staff in October, 2005 as a Management Analyst. Christina became the Financial Services Manager in March, 2015. She served as the Interim Finance Director from January, 2019 to July, 2019. Christina earned a BS in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business. Lafayette Assistant Administrative Services Director **Jennifer Wakeman** earned a BA from Boston College and an MPA from California State University, East Bay. She was the Finance Manager in the Town of Moraga from November, 2002 until September, 2006 when she took a Senior Accountant post in the City of Walnut Creek. Jennifer joined the Lafayette city staff in March, 2014.



Best wishes from the Simpsons of Trackdown Management. May we all be healthy and safe from the coronavirus.

Susan and Jack Simpson
(1980s picture)



Honored to spotlight the Colantuono Highsmith & Whatley legal firm in this issue.

SHORTS: *Laguna Niguel City Manager **Tamara Letourneau**, and Santa Barbara Assistant City Administrator **Pamela Antil** both serve as members of the Board of the League of Women in Government. ***Jessica Balandran**, an Administrative Analyst for the City of Vernon who previously served as a Senior Administrative Analyst in Cudahy, is from Harlingen, Texas. *South San Francisco Director of Finance **Janet Salisbury**, a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**), previously worked as the Director of IT, Finance, Contractas and Administration in the City of Oakland. *Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Controller **Amy Aguer** served as Administrative Services Director in the City of Desert Hot Springs between July, 2013 and August, 2014. *Retired City of Cypress City Clerk **Denise Basham** (2006-2019) served as an Administrative Secretary in the City of Lakewood between 1983 and 1988. *Former Blue Lakes City Manager **John Berchtold**, who conducted the City Manager recruitment in Jackson, is currently living in Michigan and has a condo in Kentucky. *Retired City of Cerritos Director of Community Development (1971-2004) **Ali Soliman** is now an independent architecture and planning professional consultant. *United States Federal Bankruptcy Judge **Christopher Klein** issued a ruling staking out ground for bankrupt municipalities to alter their workers' pensions, a contract that the California Public Employees' Retirement System argues cannot be touched. ***Manuel A. Rede** was the City Manager in the City of Lake Elsinore in 1982.



Rancho Cucamonga's first two City Managers **Jack Lam** and **Lauren Wasserman** at a soccer tournament in Carlsbad.