



An interesting grouping of retired City Managers with both Northern and Southern California represented. The picture was taken at a **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** Legislative Orientation. From right to left are: **Kevin O'Rourke**, **Jack Simpson**, **Joe Tanner** and **Frank Tripepi**. Kevin is a past President of the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities, and a past ICMA Regional Vice President. Kevin retired from Fairfield, but since has served as Interim City Manager in Stockton, Woodland and Santa Ana. He is currently a Senior Consultant for **PARS**. Jack retired from Bellflower; Joe from Vallejo; and Frank from Rosemead. Frank is currently a Senior Vice President for Willdan.

## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

This Special August, 2020 issue addresses some of the women who work in California cities alphabetically listed between Stockton and Tehama. We continue to identify women professionals who work in California's cities. This is the 42nd issue dedicated to women in cities.

There are many well qualified and dedicated women serving in California's cities. The list is impressive. Our effort addresses the rhetorical question: Where are the women in city management?

Of course, it is impossible to report career profiles that are not there. When individuals fail to post information, it is undiscoverable. We apologize to those we miss. Please believe that we try hard to include all those who belong.

## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

Stockton is the county seat of San Joaquin County in the California Central Valley. The city was founded by Captain **Charles Maria Weber** in 1849. The city is named for **Robert F. Stockton**. Built during the California Gold Rush, Stockton's port serves as a gateway to the Central Valley. Stockton's University of Pacific (UOP), chartered in 1851, is the oldest university in California. **Harry Black** is the City Manager and **Eliza Garza** is the City Clerk. The 2019 estimated population is 312,697. Stockton is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest city in California by population. It incorporated in July, 1850.



**Carrie Wright** became the Director of Economic Development in the City of Stockton in July, 2019. She previously served as the Associate Executive Director of the Cal Aggie Alumni

Association at the University of California, Davis from April, 2016 to June, 2019. Before that Carrie work as a Program Director for the California Exposition and State Fair (2013-2016), and Director of Marketing and Business Development for the Western Fairs Association (2008-2013). Educationally, Carrie earned a BS in environmental design from the University of California, Davis.

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"Please don't smear more blood of that spilled in the past; don't add new shame to the old shame."

**--Anonymous**



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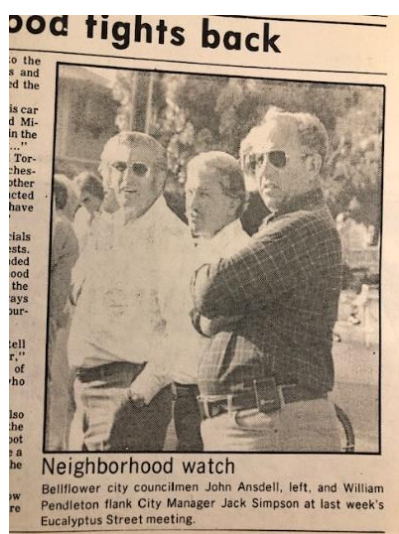
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A 1980s archive press clipping showing a small bit of "micro-history" in the City of Bellflower. Left to right are the late **John Ansdell**, **Jack Simpson**, and **Bill Pendleton**. John and Bill were Council Members.

## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

**Jodi Almassy** was named Director of Public Works for the City of Stockton in June, 2020. Jodi joined the Stockton city staff in 1998 as an as an Engineering Intern. She was hired as a Junior Engineer in 2005 and promoted in 2006 to Assistant Engineer. From there she worked her way up to Deputy Public Works Director. Jodi is a native *Stocktonian*, born and raised and educated in the city. She earned a BS in civil engineering from the University of Pacific. She has qualified as a Professional Engineer licensed in civil engineering.



**Suzanne Daveluy**, Deputy Director of Community Services and City Librarian, has worked for the City of Stockton for nearly 31-years. She joined the Stockton city staff in October, 1989. Suzanne earned a BA from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master of Library & Information Science (MLIS) from San Jose State University.

Others women serving the City of Stockton include:

**Courtney Christy**, Assistant to the City Manager;

**Vanessa Piccinini**, Program Manager;

**Marisa Guerrero** is the Interim Director of Human Resources; and

**Connie Cochran**, Community Relations Officer.



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Walnut City Manager **Rob Wishner** about to dig into an amazing shrimp cocktail while escaping the Saturday heat at Woody's Wharf in Newport Beach.

## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

Suisun City incorporated in October, 1868 in Solano County. The city takes its name from the Suisun Bay. The 2019 estimated population is 29,663. The First Transcontinental Railroad connected to downtown Suisun City via the California Pacific Railroad in 1868-1869. The location made the area ideal for commerce and transportation during the California Gold Rush. The City Manager is **Greg Folsom**, and the **Linda Hobson** is the elected City Clerk. **Donna Pock** is the Deputy City Clerk and Secretary to the City Manager.



**Lakhwinder Deol** is the Suisun City Director of Finance and Administration. Lakhwinder began her working career with accounting position in the private sector. She worked for an accounting and bookkeeping firm; a building products company; a trucking company; and Sutter Health in Sacramento. In January, 2013, she went to work for the California State Department of Finance as a Finance Performance Evaluator. Lakhwinder was appointed Director of Finance in the City of Atwater in August, 2014. In April, 2019 she took the Director of Finance position in the City of Gustine, and she joined the Suisun City staff in May, 2020. Lakhwinder earned a BS in accounting from the University of Phoenix, and an MBA from California State University, Sacramento.



"They will never forget you till somebody new comes along."  
—**Don Henley, John Souther** and **Glenn Frey** song by the Eagles

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**Larry F. Pennell**, Retired City Manager, Wasco  
**Kevin O'Rourke**, KOLGS/PARS; Retired City Manager  
**Glenn Southard**, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont  
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**Vern Lawson**, Retired, Lancaster  
**Ernesto Marquez**, Former City Manager  
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**Rita Geldert**, Retired City Manager, Vista  
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### Posse Roster:

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**Howard Chambers**, Retired Lakewood City Manager  
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**Ray Tayler**, Retired City Manager, Westlake Village

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--Tony Gwynn, San Diego Padres



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## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

**Rayna Jones** is a Recreation Specialist Supervisor for Suisun City. Rayna is an entrepreneur who has worked on both the public and private sector. She worked as a class instructor in Clovis and Fresno in 2003. In March, 2016 Rayna started as a Class Instructor for the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department, working in the Fairfield Community Center. In addition to these positions, she has operated a private business known as *CylentBazaar* starting in July, 2013. Rayna joined the Suisun City staff in 2015 as a Recreation Special and Preschool Lead Teacher. She was appointed Recreation Specialist Supervisor in August, 2019. Rayna has studied child development and psychology at for the City of Suisun City.

**Elizabeth Luna** is the Accounting Services Manager for Suisun City.



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**Carla Hansen**, President, Assistant to the City Manager, City of St. Helena  
**Monica Davis**, Vice President, Community Services Manager, City of Hayward  
**Milas Smith**, Finance Director/Treasurer, Environmental Programs Manager, City of Pacific Grove



## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

Sunnyvale, a major part of the Silicon Valley, was incorporated in December, 1912. The community got its "Sunnyvale" name in 1901. Located in Santa Clara County, Sunnyvale is the 7<sup>th</sup> most populous city in the San Francisco Bay Area. Sunnyvale's 2019 estimated population is 152,703. **Kent Steffens** is the City Manager; **Teri Silva** is the Assistant City Manager; **Jaqui Guzman** is the Deputy City Manager; and **Connie Verceles** is the Assistant to the City Manager.

Sunnyvale Assistant City Manager **Teri Silva** began her working career as an Executive Assistant and Personnel Coordinator for the Soledad Unified School District in 1989. She became the Human Resources Director for the District in 1996. Teri took the Human Resources Officer post in the City of Salinas in 1999. In 2009, she was assigned the additional duties of Acting Assistant City Manager in Salinas. Teri joined the Sunnyvale city staff in 2010 as the Director of Human Resources, and she was appointed Assistant City Manager in January, 2018. Teri earned a BA from Golden Gate University, and Masters in Human Resources from Chapman University.



Retired longtime Bellflower City Clerk **Debra Bauchop** visited Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge with family this month.



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## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama



**Tina Murphy** has served as the Sunnyvale Director of Human Resources since May, 2018. She began her working career in 1999 as a Personnel Analyst with the California Public Utilities Commission. In 2001 Tina took a Management Analyst position with the City of Santa Clara. In 2008 she was promoted to Assistant Director of Human Resources. After working for Santa Clara for 14-years, Tina became the Human Resources Director for the City of Milpitas in October, 2015. She joined the Sunnyvale staff as Director in May, 2018. Tina grew up in Georgia and earned a BA in psychology from the University of Georgia. She also earned a Master's degree in industrial and organizational psychology from San Francisco State University.



**Jaqui Guzman** began working in 2004 as a Parent Involvement and Leadership Facilitator for the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center in Redwood City. In September, 2007 she was hired by the Legislative Analyst's Office as a Fiscal and Policy Analyst in Sacramento. Jaqui joined the San Jose staff in July, 2009 as a Management Fellow. In July, 2010 she was hired as a Budget Analyst. She took a Senior Management Analyst post in Cupertino in 2012, and was the Acting Human Resources Manager (2014-2015). She was appointed Assistant to the City Manager in 2015. Jaqui became the Cupertino Deputy City Manager in 2016. She became the Sunnyvale Deputy City Manager in 2018. Jaqui earned a BA from Occidental College and an MPP from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**). She is a past President of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley (September, 2010-August, 2016).



## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama



Susanville, formerly known as Rooptown, is the county seat of Lassen County. The former logging and mining town was incorporated in August, 1900.

Susanville is named for **Susan Roop**, the daughter of an early settler. The Susanville Post Office was established in 1860.



Today Susanville is the site of two State prisons. The 2019 estimated population is 15,010. **Mike Wilson** is the City Administrator, **Heidi Whitlock** is the City Clerk, and

**Jessica Ryan** is the City Attorney.

**Debi Savage** is the Susanville Assistant to the City Administrator and Finance Director.

Sutter Creek is a city in Amador County. The name is taken from the nearby Sutter Creek, which was named for **John Sutter**, who discovered gold at nearby Coloma in January, 1848 triggering the California Gold Rush. Sutter Creek was a destination for fortune hunters. A post office was established in 1852, and Sutter Creek was incorporated as a General Law City in February, 1913. **Amy Gedney** is the City Manager and Public Works Manager, and **Karen Darrow** is the City Clerk.



Sutter Creek City Manager **Amy Gedney** also serves the city as their Public Works Manager. Amy was first appointed Interim City Manager in January, 2014. She previously worked for Modesto, and as the City Manager in Gustine.

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—Yogi Berra



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## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

Formerly known as Moron, Moro and Siding Number Two, the City of Taft is in Kern County on the far southwesterly section of the county. Taft is situated in a major petroleum and natural gas production region. Oil was discovered in the area as early as the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The city was incorporated in November, 1910. Its 2019 estimated population is 9,272. **Craig Jones** is the City Manager and **Yvette Mayfield** has been the City Clerk since September, 2013. Longtime newsletter supporter, **Stephen L. Wright** served as City Manager in Taft from 1977 to 1989.

**Michelle Kincaid** is the Administrative Assistant to the City Manager. She came to work for the City of Taft in March, 2018 after working in the private sector in personnel services and training businesses. Michelle is a local resident and graduated from Taft Union High School.



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## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

Among other women identified on the Taft city staff are: **Teresa Statler- Binkley** is the Taft Director of Finance; **Christy Lowe** is the Administrative and Operations Coordinator; **Darnell Porter**, Deputy City Clerk; **Bryanna Jones**, Human Resources Assistant; and **Guadalupe Castillo**, Superintendent of Parks.

Tehachapi is a Kern County city in the Tehachapi Mountains. Originally known as "Old Town," Tehachapi came to be in the 1860s. It is a registered California Historical Landmark for being the oldest settlement in the Tehachapi Valley. The city was incorporated in August, 1909. Its 2019 estimated population is 13,011. **Greg Garrett** is the City Manager and **Tori Marsh** is the City Clerk.

**Ashley Whitmore**, Administrative Manager and Deputy City Clerk. Ashley has been with the City of Tehachapi since December, 2008. Ashley also serves as the Tehachapi Airport Manager.



**Hannah Chung** is the Director of Finance. Hannah joined the Tehachapi city staff from Enron Wind Energy, where she was the Accounting Manager in their Manufacturing Division. She also worked in other accounting positions in the private sector. Hannah earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and she has attended MBA courses there too.

**Marianna Gutierrez** came to work at Tehachapi city hall as a Deputy City Clerk in October, 2017. She is now listed as an Administrative Assistant II. Marianna worked in private sector position starting in 2007 until joining Tehachapi. She earned a BA from California State University, Northridge.



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**Kevin O'Rourke, Senior Municipal Consultant**

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Another painting by the late **Keene Wilson**, a retired City Manager, who refined his artistic skills at the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art. Keene was a former Army airborne/ranger/green beret and served with Special Forces in Viet Nam. Keene was married to **Debbie Kurita**, also a retired City Manager. Keene passed away unexpectedly on September 17, 2018. [www.keenewilson.com](http://www.keenewilson.com)

## Professional Women in Cities from Stockton to Tehama

Tehama, the "Little City of Big Trees," is a city in Tehama County. Tehama's population peaked in the 1890s at about 2,000 residents. Tehama was one of the earliest California settlements north of Sacramento. The 2019 estimate population is 373. **Carolyn Steffan** is the Tehama City Administrator and City Clerk. **Elizabeth Celano** is the City Treasurer.



**Carolyn Steffan** retired as the Superintendent of the Los Molinos Unified School District before taken the Tehama City Administrator/City Clerk post. Carolyn was a teacher and then a teaching-principal at Vina

Elementary School after she received her BS and teaching credential from the University of California, Davis. She taught in Yuba City prior to returning to Tehama, where she grew up. Carolyn also serves on the Tehama County Board of Education.

That does it for this issue. We look forward to any suggestions or questions you may have. We again apologize to those we did not include in this issue. Cheers!

## Notes and Letters

Thank you for the profile! I was on vacation when this came in so I just now was able to read this edition.

--**Samantha Argabrite**, Simi Valley

Deputy City Manager/Public Information Officer

Always great updates and articles.

--**Mike Sakamoto**, Retired City Manager

Great newsletter, as usual. Feels like you keep us connected, especially in these times!

--**Wade McKinney**, Retired City Manager



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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.

**Kosmont Companies** is a leader in negotiating residential, retail, mixed use, hospitality, office and industrial projects that have revitalized hundreds of communities and neighborhoods. With more than a quarter century of advisory services to the public sector, **Kosmont Companies** is the most capable consulting firm in California to design and implement a sustainable economic development strategy.

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**Picking Up the Pieces:** It has been nearly a year since Finance Director **Marcus Pimentel** left the City of Santa Cruz. The new Finance Director is **Kim Krause**. Kim is formerly the Finance Director in the City of Placentia. Kim earned a BS in accounting from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. In addition to Placentia, Kim has worked in

cities in California, Washington and Oregon. Glendale City Manager **Yasmin Beers** will retire effective in October, 2020. Yasmin is closing out a 33-year. She joined the Glendale city staff as an Administrative Assistant in 1995, and began working her way up in the organization. Yasmin was appointed City Manager in February, 2018, after working as the Interim City Manager for about a year. She served as President of Soroptimist International of Glendale in 1999-2000. In 2011, the Glendale Chamber of Commerce recognized her as "Woman of the Year." Yasmin earned a BA in political science from California State University, Northridge, and an MA in organizational leadership from Woodbury University. An investigation into a failed \$20 million City of Industry solar energy project regarding possible corruption is being conducted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. As part of the investigation, search warrants were served at the homes of former State Senator **Frank Hill**, businessman **William Barkett**, and Bell City Manager **Paul Phillips**, a former Industry City Manager. The Cordoba Corp., that oversaw the proposed solar energy farm project for the city, was also served search warrants. Former District Attorney **Steve Cooley** is representing **Paul Phillips**. **Alicia Velasco** is the new Planning Director in the City of Cypress. Alicia has spent the past 13-years with the City of Lomita, serving as their Community and Economic Development Director since July, 2018. Alicia earned a BA in geography from California State University, Fullerton, and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



**Jeff Stewart**, City Manager, City of Bellflower

**Torrey Contreras** is the Senior Assistant City Manager in the City of Cerritos. He has worked for Cerritos for nearly 26-years; joining the city staff as an Assistant Planner in December, 1994. He worked as a Planning Intern for Cerritos in June, 1991 and he worked as a Planner for the City of Lake Forest after that (January, 1993 – December, 1994). Torrey worked is way up in the Cerritos organization after returning to the city in 1994. He served as the Director of Community Development between May, 2005 and continues with the position's responsibilities though he was also appointed Senior Assistant City Manager in March, 2019. Torrey earned a BS in landscape architecture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton. **Maria Lara** is the new McFarland City Manager. She joined the city staff in 2015 as Grants Director and was appointed Community Development Director in 2017.



Rancho Cucamonga's first two City Managers: **Jack Lam** and **Lauren Wasserman**



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**More Pieces Picked Up:** El Cajon Principal Engineer **Jeffrey Manchester** reported on the Broadway Creek Improvement using about \$2 million in grant money. The project is in the design and permitting phase with anticipated construction in early 2021. The primary focus of the project is to restore the creek vegetation and habitat along

with improvements to reduce the risk of flooding. San Diego River Park Foundation's **Sarah Hutmacher** is serving as the Contractor's Project Manager and volunteer coordinator. The project team includes the County of San Diego, Priest Development, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer are project partners.

**SHORTS:** \*Twenty-three year Chico Police Department veteran **Matt Madden** is the new Chico Chief of Police replacing the retired Chief **Mike O'Brien**. \***Bobby Hatfield**, who sang with **Bill Medley** as the *Righteous Brothers*, grew up in Anaheim, and attended Fullerton Junior College and California State University, Long Beach, was a resident of Newport Beach at the time of his death in November, 2003. \*Fairfield's elected City Clerk **Karen L. Rees** earned a BA in psychology from Sonoma State University. \*Lemon Grove City Manager **Lydia Romero**, a California State University, Long Beach graduate, worked as a Staff Analyst for the League of California Cities (October, 1995-June, 1998). \***Susan Stanton**, former Greenfield City Manager, is among the finalist being considered for the City Manager position in Reno, Nevada. \***Diana O'Dell**, Principal Planner for the City of Redwood City, who worked for the City of Sunnyvale for nearly 16-years, earned a BA from the University of California, San Diego, and an MPA from the University of San Francisco. \***Kelli Lofing**, formerly of the California Contract Cities Association, works as a Property Administrator at TNT Fireworks, as well as, serving as Executive Assistant at Olivito and Associates. \*Eastvale Finance Director **Amanda Wells** is the city's former Accounting Manager, who joined the city staff in July, 2019, and she previously worked in the City of Rialto as Finance Manager. \*Singer **Debbie Gibson** was born August 31, 1970. \*Sparks, Nevada Assistant City Manager **Doug Thornley** is the new Revo, Nevada City Manager. \*Before he became Hawthorne in 1971, **Don Mansfield** served as City Manager in Camarillo and Rolling Hills Estates.



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Retired City Manager **Jack Simpson** and **Paul Lukacs** at Angel Stadium in Anaheim on May 3, 2018. We saw **Albert Pujols** hit career hit 2,999. He currently has 3,217 hits (August 23, 2020).



An archive photo on **Candice Fullenkamp** and the late **Nelson Oliva**, a former City Manager. Candice is currently a Community Executive Officer for the Rancho Santa Margarita Landscape & Recreation Corporation. Candice and Nelson worked together in the City of Bellflower, where she was the Director of Parks & Recreation. She also worked as a Director for the City of Pacific. Nelson served as City Manager in Hawaiian Gardens and the City of Hercules.

Nelson passed away in 2014. A large tree in Bellflower's Caruthers Park was named in his honor.