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May 2024 Special

Volume No. 17 | Issue No. 08

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Hollywood Heroes statue in [Cathedral City](#).

## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood

Cities included in this Special May 2024 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown are cities listed as an alphabetical continuation of the May issue: [Brentwood](#), [Brisbane](#), [Buellton](#), [Buena Park](#), [Burbank](#), and [Burlingame](#). These six cities include city managers **Tim Y. Ogden**; **Jeremy Dennis**; **Gilbert “Scott” S. Wolfe**; **Aaron France**; **Justin Hess**; and **Lisa K. Goldman**. These cities are found in the counties of Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Orange, and Los Angeles. **Justin Hess** has worked for the City of [Burbank](#) for more than 20 years and serves as the Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF), and he is also the President of the City Managers' Department of League of California Cities.

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## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood



Brentwood is in Contra Costa County in the East Bay area of the San Francisco Bay. The city was originally laid out in 1837 on property owned by **John Marsh**, one of the wealthiest people in California at the time. The first Brentwood post office was established in 1878. Brentwood began as an agricultural, and as a center for rural farming. The city incorporated in January 1948. The 2020 population is 64,292. **Tim Y. Ogden** became the Brentwood City Manager in February 2020. **Alexis Morris** is the Director of Community Development and **Kerry Breen** served as the Director of Finances & Information Systems. **Allen Baquilar** is the Director of Engineering and City Engineer. **Sukari Beshears** is the Director of Human Resources and Risk Manager, and **Bruce Mulder** is the Director of Parks and Recreation. The Brentwood Director of Public Works is **Casey Wishert**, and the Chief of Police is **Tim Herbert**.



Brentwood city manager **Tim Y. Ogden** worked as an Administrative Analyst with the City of Modesto in 2002. In 2006 he was hired to serve as the Economic Development Manager for the City of Riverbank, and after working in Ceres for a short time in 2007, he was appointed Director of Economic Development & Housing in Riverbank. In 2011 Tim was hired as the City Manager for the City of Waterford. He left Waterford in 2017 to become the City Manager for the City of Manteca. Tim was appointed Brentwood City Manager in February 2020. He earned a BA in family studies from Weber State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Tim received a 10-year ICMA Service Award in 2016. Tim is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. He is a past President of the Central Valley City Manager Division of the League of California Cities.



Former City Administrator and longtime financial management expert **Wesley Wolf** of **Wolf & Company** and **Susan Simpson** of Trackdown in May 2024.

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**Wesley Wolf**, Founder  
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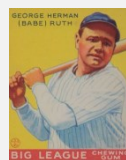
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---**George Herman “Babe” Ruth**





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## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood

**Darin Gale** is the Assistant City Manager with responsibility in economic development, public policy and government affairs for the City of Brentwood. In 1998 to 2001, Darin was a Registration Manager for the California Building Industry Association (BIA). He served as a Field Representative to Congressman **Doug Ose** from 2001 to 2003 when he went to work for the Sacramento Metro Chamber in government relations. Darin joined the Yuba City staff in May 2009 as an Interim Director of Development Services. While with the city staff in Yuba City he rose to the position of Deputy City Manager in January 2018. Darin joined the city of Sacramento staff as a Senior Development Project Manager in December 2019. After working nearly 5 years as a consultant in Yuba City, Darin was hired by the City of Brentwood as Assistant City Manager in January 2022. He earned an AA from Brigham Young University, a BA in economics from California State University, Sacramento and an MBA from Drexel University.



*Providing innovative risk management solutions for its public agency partners for more than 45 years, the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA) is one of the largest municipal self-insurance pools in the state, with more than 125 member cities and other governmental agencies. Members actively participate in shaping the organization to provide important coverage for their operations. The California JPIA provides innovative risk management solutions through a comprehensive portfolio of programs and services, including liability, workers' compensation, pollution, property, and earthquake coverage, as well as extensive training and loss control services.*



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- Jason Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**
- Paul Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**
- Richard Rowe**, Retired City Manager
- Lloyd de Llamas**, Retired City Man./**HdL** Co-founder
- John Shirey**, Retired City Manager, Sacramento
- John Russo**, Retired City Manager; SynchroniCITY
- Lee McDougal**, Retired City Manager, Montclair
- Mark Scott**, Retired City Manager
- Doug La Belle**, Retired City Manager, Chino Hills
- Don Penman**, Retired City Manager, Arcadia
- Chuck Bryant**, Past City Admin., Hawaiian Gardens
- Sam Olivito**, Retired CCA Executive Director
- Joe Goeden**, Retired City Manager, West Sacramento

**Posse Roster:**

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- Roy Pederson**, ICMA Past-President
- Rod B. Butler**, Jurupa Valley, City Manager
- Rita Geldert**, Retired City Manager, Vista
- Dale Geldert**, Retired CDF Director, State of CA
- Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia**, Retired City Manager, Rocklin
- Ray Taylor**, Retired City Manager, Westlake Village
- Denise Ovrom**, Former CM retired from **HdL Companies**
- Cynthia Kurtz**, Interim City Manager, Pasadena
- Ron Molendyk**, Retired City Manager, Lake Elsinore
- Kevin Duggan**, Retired City Manager, Mountain View
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**Roxanne Diaz** is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).

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## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood



Brisbane is a San Mateo County city located immediately south of San Francisco. Originally known as Visitacion City, Brisbane was laid out in 1908 adjacent to a new rail line. The name change to Brisbane

was in 1920. The city was incorporated in November 1961 and the 2020 population is 4,851. The city has come to be known as “*The City of Stars*” because of a local tradition that dates back to 1939 as part of the Christmas/Hanukkah season celebration. Residents and businesses place large lighted stars throughout the city. **Jeremy Dennis** is the city manager and **Ingrid Padilla** is the City Clerk.

Brisbane city manager **Jeremy Dennis** began his public service career as Assemblyman **Lou Papan**'s District Director in March 1999. After holding a private sector position (2003-2004), Jeremy became the Chief of Staff for San Mateo Board of Supervisors' member **Rich Gordon** in May 2004. He was hired by San Mateo County as a Budget Analyst and Management Analyst in February 2008. In December 2010, Jeremy started work with California State Assembly member **Rich Gordon** as District Director. In July 2015 Jeremy was hired as an Advance Planning Manager for the City of Palo Alto. He became the Portola Valley Town Manager in March 2016 and left that position in March 2023. Jeremy joined the City of Campbell as a part-time Interim Housing Manager in June 2023. When Brisbane City Manager **Clay Holstine** retired, Jeremy was appointed to the Brisbane city manager position in May 2024. He earned a BA from the University of California, Davis and a Master's degree from The London School of Economics.



Traffic heading for the Coachella Valley, 2024.



Retired City Manager **Greg Korduner** at a San Diego Padres versus the Los Angeles Dodgers game, 2024. The late Hall of Famer **Tony Gwynn** had a .338 career batting average during his 20 years of MLB baseball.



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**Jason Gonsalves** and friends at a 2024 California Contract Cities Association conference kick-off dinner.



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

**Anthony Gonsalves** and two of his sons, **Jason Gonsalves** and **Paul Gonsalves**, are expert local government lobbyists. Founded by former Assembly Member **Joe A. Gonsalves**, the firm represents 50-plus cities and is a key player in city legislation. The firm works closely with the League of California Cities

**Anthony Gonsalves** is a long time Member of the CCMF Board of Trustees



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Wesley Wolf, Mike Egan, Wade McKinney and Ron Molendyk

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**

The NEXT **"Proof of Life"** Lunch is planned for Thursday, June 27, 2024

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

RSVP to: [jack@trackdownmanagement.net](mailto:jack@trackdownmanagement.net)

**Public Managers in Six More "B" Cities Starting with Brentwood**



**Noreen Leek** is the Brisbane Parks & Recreation Director. After she worked as a private sector Event Coordinator from 2005 to 2008, Noreen joined the city staff in Daly City as an Administrative Assistant.

In February 2008, she joined the Menlo Park city staff as a Recreation Coordinator, and she was promoted to Recreation Supervisor and then Community Service Manager. Noreen went to work for the City of Brisbane in August 2015 as a Recreation Manager. She was elevated to Parks & Recreation Director in March 2021. After graduating from Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory High School and attending classes at Saint Mary's College of California and Skyline College, Noreen earned a BA in parks, recreation and leisure studies from San Francisco State University. She also earned an MBA from Notre Dame de Namur University.



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## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood



Buellton is a destination community in the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County. The city is named for **Rufus T. Buell**, an early settler. It has been a tourist destination since the 1920s with the opening of the

former Pea Soup Andersen’s Restaurant in 1924 that closed this year (2024). Along with nearby Solvang the area has gained in tourism due also to many nearby wineries. **Gilbert “Scott” S. Wolfe** is the City Manager and **Linda Reid** is the City Clerk and Human Resources Director. **Shannel Zamora** is the Buellton Finance Director.



Buellton city manager **Gilbert “Scott” S. Wolfe** began his public service career as a Junior Planner for the City of Palmdale in June 1989. In 1991 he became an Assistant Planner for Thousand Oaks, and in February 1996 he joined the Westlake Village city

staff as an Associate Planner. After working for a private sector planning firm (2000-2002), he was hired as a Principal Planner for the City of Moorpark. He returned to Westlake Village as a Senior Planner in April 2005 and he was appointed Planning Director in July 2011. He added Deputy City Manager responsibilities in 2016. Scott left Westlake Village in 2019 to join the Buellton city staff as City Manager. Scott is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. In 2023 he received a 30 year ICMA Service Award. Scott is a Past President of the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company, a professional theater company. Scott earned a BA and an MPA from California Lutheran University.

**Shannel Zamora** is a local government revenue specialist. She has served as the Buellton Finance Director since January 2015. Shannel earned a BBA in accounting from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



**HdL** was founded in 1983 by former City Manager the late **Robert “Bob” Hinderliter**. **HdL** expanded and improved with the help of a partnership with former City Manager **Lloyd de Llamas**, the firm’s retired Executive Chairman.



**Andy Nickerson** is the President/CEO. Other members of the **HdL** team include **Vikki Beatley, Paula Cone, Barry Foster, Robert Gray, Kimberly Konczak, David McPherson,** and **Bobby Young**.

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--**Ryder Todd Smith**, President



Full moon over Coachella Valley

## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood



Buena Park has gained worldwide notoriety for being the location of Knott's Berry Farm theme park. The city's site is part of Rancho Los Coyotes. It was under Mexican rule in 1822 and then the United States in 1848. The surrounding area was planted with orange groves. The city was founded in 1887 but was finally incorporated in January 1953. The 2020 population is 84,034. **Aaron France** is the city manager and **Adria M. Jimenez** is the City Clerk and Director of Government & Community Relations. **Mina Mikhael** is the Director of Public Works and City Engineer, and **Eddie Fenton** is Assistant City Manager and Director of Human Resources. **Sung Hyun** is the Director of Finance.



**Jim L. Barisic**, former Artesia City Manager who also worked in Cerritos and Paramount, and is a Viet Nam veteran, founded **Brandywine** in 1994.

Jim and two of his sons **Brett Whitehead** and **David Barisic**, and **Alex Hernandez**, the President of the Homebuilding Division, and **Mario Urzua**, the Chief Financial Officer are the **Brandywine Homes** executive team. Please check the firm's website for current sales!

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## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood



Buena Park City Manager **Aaron France** has worked for the city for more than 15 years. He joined the city staff in 2005 as an Administrative Analyst and was named Assistant to the City Manager in 2012 working with then-city manager **Jim Vanderpool**. Aaron became Deputy City Manager in 2017 and Assistant City Manager in 2018. When Jim left to take the Anaheim City Manager position, Aaron was appointed Interim City Manager in 2020. He became City Manager in March 2021. Aaron earned a BA in communications and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton.



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**Michael Colantuono** is Managing Shareholder, and currently is City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley.

Two of the firm's attorneys were named California Lawyers of the Year (2020).

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***--Anonymous***



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Buena Park Assistant City Manager **Eddie Fenton** worked in Santa Monica (2002-2005) and Inglewood (2005-2007) before joining the city staff for Buena Park in April 2007 as the Human Resources Manager. He was promoted to Director of Human Resources in July 2012, and they added Assistant City Manager Responsibilities in September 2020. Eddie began his public service career as a Human Resource Assistant with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (1999-2002). He is a **UCLA** alumnus.



Pat West served nearly 40-years in city government. He has developed successful strategies and paths to issues facing local government. Pat can help you, whether you are a City Manager looking for ways to turn your city around, or a developer needing assistance navigating the complexities of the political and/or entitlement process.

Pat West served as city manager in the Cities of Paramount and Long Beach.

Pat West was honored with the League of California Cities 2019 Wes McClure Award for City Managers of Distinction.



Pat has had numerous successful experiences with public-private partnerships.

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### Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood

Burbank is a city in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles County. The city was named for **David Burbank** who was a Burbank area sheep rancher in 1867. Burbank has been called the “Media Capital of the World.” In 1876 the San Fernando Valley became the premier wheat growing area of Los Angeles County. The area that became Burbank was settled in the 1870s and 1880s. Founded in May 1887, Burbank was incorporated in July 1911. The 2020 population is 107,337. **Justin Hess** is the City Manager and **Courtney Padgett** is the Assistant City Manager. **Kimberley Clark** is the elected City Clerk. **Jennifer Becker** is the Financial Services Director.



**Justin Hess** is the Burbank City Manager. His official start date as City Manager was October 1, 2019. Justin served as the Acting City Manager starting in June 2019 following City Manager **Ron Davis**’ retirement. Justin began his public service career with the City of Burbank more than 20 years ago as an intern in the Burbank Planning Division. After working as an intern from July 1997 until June 1998, Justin was hired to work as an Assistant Planner. Justin was named the 2022 City Manager of the Year by CCMF. He serves as the Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Association (CCMF). Justin earned a BA in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**) and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). He received a 25-year ICMA Service Award in 2022. He has completed special certificate programs with Stanford University and Harvard University.



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To contact **EKA**, please call 213) 741-1500 or email [matt@ekapr.com](mailto:matt@ekapr.com). **Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner.

## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood

**Courtney Padgett** is the City of Burbank Assistant City Manager. She assumed that position on December 31, 2023, taking the post following the retirement of Assistant City Manager **Judie Wilke**. Courtney joined the Burbank city staff in 2017 after working state and county governments positions in Florida. She worked for the Orange County Corrections Department in Orlando, Florida. Courtney earned a BA and an MS in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida. She is a member of the Municipal Management Association of Southern California (MMASC) and Women Leading Government.



**Marisa Garcia** is the Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Burbank. Marisa joined the Burbank city staff in 1991 as a trainee for Burbank Water and Power (BWP). In 2002 she moved to the Public Works Department and in 2005 she became a Senior Administrative Analyst for the Parks and Recreation Department. In 2019, Marisa was appointed Park, Recreation and Community Services Director. She is a life-long Burbank resident and graduated from John Burroughs High School. Marisa earned a BA in English from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**) and an MPA from California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

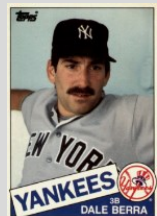


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“You can’t compare me to my father.  
Our similarities are different.”  
--**Dale Berra**



Retired City Manager **Chris Jeffers** at an Angels MLB game in Anaheim with his wife Elaine. Chris served as city manager in Monterey Park, Glendora and South Gate. Chris completed the OC Half Marathon on May 4.

## Public Managers in Six More “B” Cities Starting with Brentwood



Burlingame is a San Mateo County city developed on property that was owned by San Francisco merchant **William Davis Merry Howard**. When William passed away in 1856 **William Ralston** acquired the land and in 1868 named it for his friend **Anson Burlingame**, the United States Ambassador to China. Many homes were purchased following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and the city of Burlingame was incorporated in June 1908. The 2020 population is 31,386. **Lisa Goldman** is the city manager and **Meaghan Hassel-Shearer** is the City Clerk. **Jeremy Kirshner** is the Assistant to the City Manager. **Margaret Glomstad** is the Burlingame Parks & Recreation Director and **Carol Augustine** is the Finance Director. **Syed Murtuza** is the Burlingame Public Works Director.



Burlingame city manager **Lisa K. Goldman** began her public service career as an Administrative Intern for the City of Palos Verdes Estates in August 1990. She worked as a Legislative Assistant to Representative **Henry A. Waxman** from June 1992 to July 1995. Lisa served as the Intergovernmental Relations Manager for the City of Fremont from June 1999 to February 2007 when she was hired by the City of Alameda to be a Deputy City Manager. She served as Acting City Manager for Alameda in 2010-2011, and she was appointed Assistant City Manager starting in June 2011. Lisa was selected to start as the Burlingame city manager in December 2012 following the retirement of City Manager **Jim Nantell**. Lisa earned an AB in American history from Harvard University and an MPP in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley. In 2023 she received a 25-year ICMA Service Award. Lisa is a competitive swimmer and enjoys road cycling.



**Karen Herrera**, El Segundo City Manager **Darrell George** and Willdan Financial Services President and CEO **Mark Risco** at a “contract cities” conference kick-off.



After working as General Manager for a little more than 16 years for the Highlands Recreation District in San Mateo, **Margaret Glomstad** joined the city staff for Burlingame as the Park and Recreation Director in January 2012. She earned a BS from California State University, Sacramento and an MS from San Jose State University.



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## WHO WE ARE

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Here is an archive picture of **Richard "El Jefe" Fierro**. Richard is a Vietnam Veteran who lives in Chino. When he worked with **John Telesio**, Richard was responsible for providing a hospitality suite for the California Contract Cities Association's annual conference. Those who visited those hospitality rooms remember them well.



**Picking Up the Pieces:** [Note: Trackdown does not claim to catch every staff change, but we try. Your help will be greatly appreciated.]

**Paul Buddenhagen** is returning to the City of Berkeley to replace the resigning city manager **Dee Williams-Ridley** in July. Paul, who worked as a Deputy City Manager for Berkeley, left the city in January 2023 to become the city manager for the City of Emeryville. Deputy City Manager **LaTanya Bellow** is filling the position as Interim City Manager until Paul reports. San Bernardino City Manager **Charles A. Montoya** was dismissed this month. He was the City Manager for Avondale, Arizona prior to coming to San Bernardino. He was fired from his Avondale position in 2021 prior to being selected to serve in San Bernardino starting in 2023. He was fired after only working eight months for the city. Charles previously served as the Watsonville city manager (2015-2018). He earned a BA New Mexico State University and an MPA from the University of New Mexico. Former San Bernardino Finance Director **Barbara Whitehorn** claims that she was dismissed by City Manager **Charles Montoya** after raising concerns about the expanded cost of a city hall renovation project. Former Seaside city manager **Jaime Fontes**, who was dismissed in March, requested a public hearing regarding the dismissal but failed to attend the scheduled hearing. Chief of Police **Nick Borges** has been serving as Interim City Manager. Jaime was appointed Seaside city manager in July 2022. Jaime previously served as City Manager for Nogales, Arizona, and Santa Paula and Greenfield. He earned a BA from Arizona State University and a Juris Doctorate from Western State University College of Law.

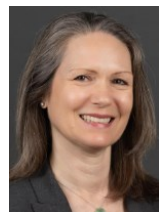


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Retired veteran public manager **G. Michael Milhiser** has accepted the Interim City Manager assignment in the City of Rialto following the resignation of City Manager **David Carmany**. Mike retired as the city manager of the cities of Ontario, Upland and Montclair. He also recently retired as the CAO of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. He is a Board Member for the Monte Vista Water District. Mike earned a BA from Chapman University and an MPA from Claremont University. [Michael is a longtime friend of Trackdown: How do you do? And how are you?] He has served in a number of "interim" assignments including Fontana, and Adelanto. Rialto City Manager **David Carmany** resigned less than three months into a five-year employment agreement with the city. David said that he decided to "segue into retirement." Assistant City Manager **Tanya Williams** served as Acting City Manager until Mike was appointed. David earned a BS and MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**) where he played with the world-renowned **USC** Trojan Marching Band. **Rafferty Wooldridge** is the Interim City Manager for the City of La Habra Heights. Rafferty worked as the city's Community Development Director and the Assistant City Manager. He succeeded **Fabiola Huerta**, who was appointed city manager in 2019 to succeed City Manager **Jarad Hildenbrand**, who left La Habra Heights to become the Stanton city manager. Retired La Mirada City Manager **Tom Robinson** has served as the Interim Assistant City Manager for La Habra Heights since January. Tom previously worked as the Interim City Manager in 2016 following the departure of City Manager **Shawna Clark**. Novato interim city manager **Amy Cunningham** has been hired to serve as the next Novato City Manager. Amy began her public service career as a Family Support Officer for the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office in 1996. In 1999 she began a nearly 17-year tenure with the City of Dublin. Amy left Dublin in 2015 while serving as the Assistant to the City Manager when she was hired as the Town of Moraga Administrative Services Director. She moved to the Walnut Creek Administrative Services Director in January 2018. After serving as the Half Moon Bay Interim Administrative Services Manager in 2019, Amy joined the Novato city staff as the Finance Director in February 2020. Amy earned a BA and MPA from California State University, East Bay.







**More Pieces Picked Up:** Fowler City Manager **Wilma Tucker**, a former Fresno city manager, resigned saying that she no longer feels safe doing her job. She warned that the city is posed to lose talented staff due to the toxicity

in the city. She was hired in Fowler in February 2021. Wilma recommends that Assistant City Manager **Thomas Gaffery** be considered for the city manager position. Wilma earned a BS in health policy administration from Penn State University and an MBA from California State University, Fresno. **Stone James** is the new City Manager for the City of Twentynine Palms. Stone is the former Director of Economic Development for the City of Cathedral City. He is also a Guest Lecturer at California State University, San Bernardino. He began his career in the private sector. Stone served as a Planning Commissioner in the City of Indio. He earned a BA in business administration from Gonzaga University, a Masters in real estate development and a Doctorate in policy, planning and development from the University of Southern California (**USC**). Artesia City Manager **Aldo**



**Schindler** has resigned to take the City Manager position in the City of Tustin. Aldo has been a city government specialist for 28 years. He was a Redevelopment Project Officer in Long Beach from 2000 to 2009 when he became the Director of Community Development for the City of

Bell Gardens. Aldo served as the Director of Community Development in Whittier (2011-2014) and Downey (2014-2022). He was the Assistant City Manager in Downey when he was hired in Moreno Valley as Assistant City Manager. The City of Artesia appointed Aldo, city manager in November 2022. He earned a BA from San Diego State University and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. Deputy City Manager **Melissa Burke** is the Interim City Manager. **Paulina Morales** is the new city manager for the City of West Covina. She has been serving as Acting City Manager since May 2023. Paulina began her public service career as an Intern with West Covina Community Development in March 2004. She moved up to a Project Manager position in 2007 and she left the city to become a Development Project Coordinator with the City of Palo Alto in 2012. Paulina returned to West Covina in 2013 and she rose through the ranks to become Assistant City Manager in May 2021. She earned a BS in urban & regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. **Andrew Murray**, who served as the Interim Public Works Director for Berkeley in January 2024, is the next City Manager for Vallejo. He was the Pinole city manager for nearly 4 years from January 2020. Before that he was the Assistant City Manager for Pleasant Hill (2013-2020), and Assistant to the City Administrator in Oakland (2012-2013). Andrew earned a BS and an MS from the University of California, Davis.



**UCLA** topped Long Beach State University for the 2024 NCAA Men's Volleyball Championship at The Walter Pyramid on the LBSU campus!

Berkeley City Manager **Dee Williams-Ridley** has resigned. Her announcement indicates that she left "to pursue new opportunities." From 2006 until 2010, Dee served as the Assistant Director of Human Resources for the County of San Mateo. From 2010 to 2015 she was a Deputy City Manager for the City of Modesto, and she joined the Berkeley city staff in January 2015 as Deputy City Manager. Dee was appointed City Manager in 2016 after serving as interim for a time. She earned a BA from California State University, Sacramento and attended classes at Oklahoma City University. After Senior U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of California, **Roger Thomas Benitez** of San Diego unlawfully ordered the shackling of a crying 13-year-old girl during her father's sentencing hearing, his actions have been ruled to have the effect of undermining the public's trust and confidence in the judiciary by a 12-judge panel of the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The panel has barred the 73-year-old Judge Benitez from accepting new criminal cases for three years. Judge Benitez is known for his rulings striking down several California gun control laws. Born in Havana, Cuba, he worked in private practice in Imperial County from 1978 to 1997. He was a Superior Court judge from 1997 to 2001. In 2001 he was appointed to serve as a United States magistrate judge, and in 2003 he was appointed to his current position by former President **Geoge W. Bush**.



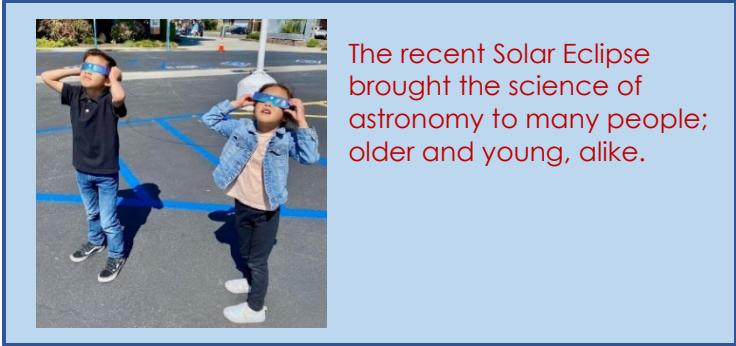
SoFi Stadium in Inglewood.



**Still More Pieces Picked Up: SHORTS:**

\*Retired City Manager **David Jinkens**, currently a Good Government Advocate, announced that he is a candidate for the South Lake Tahoe City Council. \*Former San Bernardino Finance Director **Barbara Whitehorn** claims that she was dismissed by City Manager **Charles Montoya** after raising concerns about the expanded cost of a city hall renovation project.

\*Best Trackdown wishes for a swift and full recovery to former Los Angeles County Member of the Board of Supervisors, **Don Knabe**, who recently had a surgical cardiac care procedure. \***Arron Brown**, a veteran of the United States Marines, who previously worked for Rialto and Palm Springs, is the Interim City Manager for the City of Canyon Lake. \*Governor **Gavin Newsom** is addressing a budget deficit at the same time the State is spending more on a reducing prison population, and as Blythe Interim City Manager **Mallory Crecelius** expresses her city's dismay at the closing the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison as it is a major Blythe employer. \*Finance Director **Tim Kirby** is serving as the Interim City Manager for the City of Sunnyvale effective June 29 with a salary of \$383,259. \***Alex Khojikian** has worked as the City Manager for the City of San Mateo since June 2023. \*San Bruno City Manager **Alex D. McIntyre** worked nearly 4 years (March 1994-December 1997) with executive recruiter Norm Roberts & Associates. \***David C. Roberts, Jr.** has served as the City Manager for the City of Carson since February 2022. \***Mark H. Persico** served as the Assistant City Manager in West Covina (2019-2021) after working for the Kosmont Companies as Chief Operating Officer. \***Raj Singh Badhesha**, the Chief Assistant City Attorney for the City of Fresno has been appointed to serve as a Superior Court Judge in Fresno County replacing retired Judge **Jon N. Kapetan**. \*West Hollywood Economic Development Director **Laura Biery** served as the Cal-ICMA President in 2010 and as the 2008-2009 President of MMASC. \***Chris Freeland**, who earned a PhD from Claremont Graduate University and served as the 2006-2007 MMASC President, has served as the Indian Wells city manager since May 2019, and he previously worked as the City Manager for the City of West Covina. \*Former Bell Gardens City Manager (1980-1983) and Montebello Interim City Administrator (2011-2012) **Larry Kosmont** has been the Chair and CEO for Kosmont Companies for 38 years. \***Ronald Kiedrowski** served as city manager for Show Low, Arizona; La Quinta; and American Canyon prior to retiring as the Assistant City Manager for the City of San Pablo in 2003. \***Joseph Tanner** of JT Associates of Pleasant Hill is a retired city manager who earned a Master's degree in federal, state and urban government from Golden Gate University. \***Honey Mahogany** is the new Director of the Office of Transgender Initiatives (OTI) in the City and County of San



The recent Solar Eclipse brought the science of astronomy to many people; older and young, alike.

Francisco. \*Oceanside's fire-damaged pier has been closed since April 25 and has re-opened about 80% on May 10 with the temporary fencing blocking off the damaged end of the pier structure. \*Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday to former San Francisco Giants legendary Center Fielder **Willie Mays**, "the Say Hey Kid," who was born May 6, 1931, in Westfield, Alabama near Birmingham. \*California City Acting City Manager **Latisha Lambert** fired Chief of Police **Jesse Hightower**, who is a 20+ year veteran of the California City Police Department and has served as Chief since November 2022. \***Barry J. Johnson**, who served in internships for San Diego, Imperial Beach and Loma Linda, served as the city manager in Hollister (1995-1997), Imperial Beach (1997-2002) and Solana Beach (2002-2006). \*Retired City Manager **Chris Jeffers** ran a 2:00:13 Half Marathon at the 2024 HOAG OC Marathon Running Festival on May 4, 2024, in Costa Mesa. \*After nearly 14 years with the City of Hayward, the city gave City Manager **Kelly McAdoo Morariu** a wonderful send off as she prepares for new city manager adventures with the City of Santa Barbara. \***Karen L. Davis**, who earned a BA and MPA from the University of Kansas, began her career in Arizona and Texas and worked in Sunnyvale until she retired in 2007. \*Vocabulary words: "kerfuffle" is a commotion, controversy or fuss, a disorderly outburst or tumult. \*\*\*

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