



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

December 2024

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Tahquitz Canyon in the Coachella Valley near Palm Springs is a beautiful and culturally sensitive area of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Reservation. These Bighorn Sheep were endangered and are slowly recovering since protection actions were taken. Rams can weigh as much as 280 pounds and ewes are somewhat smaller. These pictures were taken by a group of hikers from the Rancho Mirage Del Webb community on Monday, November 3, 2024.  
--Pictures by **Susan Simpson** and **Carol Maxwell**

## California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro

This issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding Downey, Duarte, Dublin, Dunsmuir, El Cajon, and El Centro. Local government is the closest to the people...where the people can easily reach out and touch decision makers, so to speak.

California has 480 incorporated cities and or towns. Sacramento was the first incorporated city in California in 1850, and the newest city is Mountain House, incorporated this year, 2024.

Trackdown wishes to one and all for a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a very Happy New Year!  
[www.trackdownmanagement.net](http://www.trackdownmanagement.net)

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## California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro



Downey is in the southeast section of Los Angeles County. The city is the birthplace of the Apollo space program, Taco Bell and has one of the oldest operating McDonald's

fast-food restaurants in the country. Downey found itself in the middle of the dairy industry. Many of the settlers who came to Downey were from Ireland. Downey was founded by and named for the former Governor of California, **John Gately Downey**, who was born in Ireland. John was responsible for bringing citrus farming to Southern California when he imported several varieties of oranges in 1865. Oranges became one of the State's largest cash crops. Downey was incorporated in December 1956. It's 2020 population is 114,355. **Roger Bradley** is the City Manager and **Maria Alicia Duarte** is the City Clerk.



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### Morris Blane Vance

(September 20, 1939 – November 21, 2024)

Utah native, former Vista Mayor and retired city manager **Morris B. Vance** passed away on November 21, 2024. Morris began his public service career in February 1965 as an Administrative Assistant for the County of Los Angeles. In June 1966 he took a similarly titled position with the City of Vernon and worked there until June 1969 when he was hired to serve as Assistant City Administrator for the City of Carson. In August 1975, Morris was appointed City Administrator for the City of Lomita, and he worked there until he became the City Manager for the City of Vista in January 1981. He retired as city manager in June 1997. Morris served as the elected Vista Mayor from December 2002 until December 2010. Morris earned a BA from Brigham Young University and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). In 1994, he received a 30 Year ICMA Service Award.

Vista City Manager **John Conley** says that Morris was a remarkable leader and beloved in the city. His legacy will inspire future generations.

"**Morris Vance** was truly an honorable man. A man of character, an exceptional leader, a man who loved the communities he worked for and diligently cared for all he met. Morris made major and lasting strides in developing the City of Vista and if you were ever blessed to meet him, it was your good fortune. We will miss his quiet demeanor, his laughter, wisdom, and his example of strength in faith."

---Retired Vista City Manager **Rita Geldert**



"Never allow the circumstances of your life to become an excuse. People will allow you to do it".

---**Jim Abbott**, former MLB pitcher who pitched for the Angels, Yankees, White Sox, and Brewers from 1989 to 1999.



**Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA)** is one of the leading strategic communications and public affairs firms in Southern California. The Founding Partner is **Harvey Englander**, and Partners include Matt Knabe, Marcus Allen, Eric Rose, Jeff McConnell, Adam Englander, Alex Cherin and Kellie Hawkins lead it. We pride ourselves on providing a unique and strategic perspective on a wide variety of issues.

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Together, **EKA** has more than 100-years of combined experience and a multitude of relationships within the City & County of Los Angeles, and the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. Matt Knabe graduated from Pepperdine University. He was a four-year member of the Pepperdine University Men's Golf Team.

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

## California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro



**Roger Bradley** is the City of Downey City Manager. Roger served in the United States Marine Corps from June 1993 until June 1997. He was discharged as a Corporal at Twentynine Palms. After working as a church volunteer in Russia and serving as a Risk Management Intern in Sandy City, Utah, Roger joined the Dublin city staff in May 2006 as Assistant to the City Manager. After 10 years in Dublin, Roger joined the Claremont city staff as the Community Services Director. In August 2018 he was hired as the Assistant County Administrative Officer for the California County of Kings with offices in Hanford. Roger was appointed Assistant City Manager for the City of Corona in July 2020, and after nearly 3 years he was selected to serve as the Downey City Manager in March 2023. Roger earned a BS in statistics and a BA in political science and government from Brigham Young University and an MPA from the University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy (**USC**).



**Stephen W. Hannah** is the Finance Director for the City of Downey. Steve served 8 years in the United States Army. He left the service in 1993 as a Staff Sergeant. Steve took a Senior Accountant position with the County of Fresno in 1999 and in 2003 he became a Principal Accountant for the County of Riverside. Steve took the Financial Accounting Manager post for the City of Anaheim in 2006. In December 2008, Steve was hired as the City Controller in Long Beach and worked in that position for nearly a dozen years. In August 2020, Steve became the Finance Director and City Support Services Director for the City of Palos Verdes. He was selected to be the Downey Director of Finance and Information Technology in April 2023. Steve earned a BS in accounting from Cameron University and a Master's degree in general finance from National University.



This gym is a place where strength training is used for self-improvement. Special group sessions for sports teams, police and fire departments or other groups may be arranged.

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## California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro



Duarte actually began on May 10, 1841, when the Governor of Alta California, **Juan Bautista Alvarado**, granted to former Mexican corporal **Andrés Avelino Duarte** and his wife nearly 7,000 acres of prime land in the central-northern San Gabriel Valley. This new rancho was named "Rancho Azusa de Duarte." Many people came to Duarte in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century for their health, the pleasant climate, and the fertile soil. The city was incorporated in August 1957. The 2020 population is 21,727. **Brian Villalobos** is the City Manager and **Annette Juarez** is the City Clerk. **Kristen Petersen** is the Assistant City Manager and Director of Administrative Services. **Manuel Enriquez** is the Duarte Director of Parks & Recreation.



**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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## James Purtee

(November 26, 1962- November 23, 2024)



**Jim Purtee** and **Glenn Southard** at the September 2024 "Proof of Life" luncheon program in La Mirada.

The City Management community lost another good one: **James "Jim" Purtee**. Jim served as the City Manager of the City of Palmdale from 2015-2019. Before that, he served the community of Simi Valley for 27 years as a Housing Planner, Deputy City Manager, Director of Administrative Services and Assistant City Manager. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-purtee-62865a5/> for more details.

---**Anne V. Ambrose**  
Cathedral City

**Mike Sedell** may have already shared this with you, but **Jim Purtee**, who served as the Director of Administrative Services, and later as an Assistant City Manager for the City of Simi Valley, and then wrapped up his career as the City Manager of Palmdale, passed away on Saturday, November 23. Following his retirement from Palmdale, he was a consultant with Schneider Electric and LSS Library Services. He had been recognized by ICMA in recent years for his contributions to the profession.

I worked with Jim from 2007 to 2012 when he left Simi Valley. He was a kind, bright man, and a true loss. He was only 62.

---**Samantha C. Argabrite**  
City Manager  
City of Simi Valley

**Executive Level Posse Roster:**

- Wade McKinney**, Retired Indian Wells City Manager
- Mike 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
- Guy Huffaker**, Retired Porterville City Manager
- Vern Lawson**, Retired, Lancaster
- Robert T. "Bob" Dickey**, Retired South Gate DPW
- Doug Dunlap**, Retired City Manager, Pomona
- Rita Geldert**, Retired City Manager, Vista
- Dale Geldert**, Retired CDF Director, State of California
- Anthony D. Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**
- 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 CCCA Executive Director
- Joe Goeden**, Retired City Manager, West Sacramento
- Ron Kiedrowski**, Retired City Manager

**Posse Roster:**

- Gregory Korduner**, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
- 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
- Gary Milliman**, Retired City Manager, Brookings, Oregon
- Jim Lewis**, City Manager, City of Atascadero
- Donald Jeffers**, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
- Wayne Wedin**, Retired City Manager, Brea
- Karen Herrera**, Retired Deputy City Manager, Duarte



**City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown Management**

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**Debbie Smith**, Executive Director

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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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**John Reekstin**, formerly of the Community Development staff of the City of Santa Ana, Senior Vice President with **The Olson Company** is a "Proof of Life" lunch veteran.

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**California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro**



El Segundo City Manager **Darrell George** worked for Duarte for more than 22 years. He went to work as the El Segundo city manager in May 2023.



Dublin was named for the large number of Irish immigrants who settled there, and the post office opened with the name in the 1890s. The first housing tracts were built in the 1960s. The city of Dublin was incorporated in February 1982. The 2020 population is 72,589. **Colleen Tribby** is the Dublin city manager and **Jeff Baker** is the assistant city manager. **Marsha Moore** is the City Clerk, and the Director of Finance is **Jay Baksa**.



Dublin City Manager **Colleen Tribby** worked as a manager/consultant for an executive recruitment firm in Irvine starting in October 1999. In July 2005 she was hired to serve as the Budget & Financial Manager for the City of South San Francisco. Colleen joined the Dublin city staff in April 2013 as the Director of Administrative Services. She was promoted to Assistant City Manager in December 2019. When City Manager **Linda Smith D'Ambrosio** left the city in October 2024 to accept the City Manager position for the City of Orinda, Colleen was promoted to succeed her. Colleen earned a BA in literature and philosophy from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from the European School of Economics. She also completed an executive leadership program at the University of California, Berkeley. Colleen is a member of CCMF. In 2022, she received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award.

"City managers should not wear their egos on their sleeves for everyone to see."

--Anonymous



### California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro



Dublin Assistant City Manager **Jeff Baker** began his public service career in 2001 as an Assistant Planner for the City of Roseville. Jeff joined the City of Dublin staff in August 2004 as an Associate Planner. He worked his way upward in the Planning Department and he was appointed Assistant Community Development Director in July 2012. Jeff was elevated to Assistant City Manager in October 2024. He earned a BA in real estate and land use from California State University, Sacramento, and an MBA from San Francisco State University. Jeff has a real estate broker license.



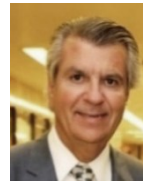
**Jay Baksa** is the Dublin Finance Director, appointed by former City Manager **Linda Smith** in July 2023. Jay began his public service career in November 2007 with the County of Fresno, where he worked as a Financial and Budget Analyst. After nearly 8 years, Jay joined the Dublin city staff as Financial Analyst in July 2015. He became the Assistant Administrative Service Director in January 2020.



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

**Anthony D. Gonsalves** and two of his sons, **Jason A. Gonsalves** and **Paul A. Gonsalves**, are expert local government lobbyists.

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**Anthony Gonsalves** is a long time Member of the California City Management



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**California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro**



Dunsmuir is a Siskiyou County city on the upper Sacramento River. The first European American visitors to the area were in the 1820s. The California Gold Rush increased visitors to the town site. In 1887, the Central Pacific Railroad rail line led to the founding of the Town of Dunsmuir. The town was originally known as "Poverty Flats" or "Pusher" when the railroad built a roundhouse and turntable. In 1888, **Alexander Dunsmuir** offered to donate a fountain to the new town if they would rename the town in his honor. The town was incorporated in August 1909. The 2020 population is 1,707. Most visitors to the city come for outdoor recreation purposes: fishing, hiking, and sightseeing. **Dustin Rief** is the City Manager and **Blake Michaelsen** is the Finance Director.



Dunsmuir City Manager **Dustin J. Rief** served in the United States Army for nearly 11 years starting in May 1996. He left the military in January 2007 as a Staff Sergeant. After serving in city government and private sector positions in Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota, Dustin came to California to be the Dunsmuir city manager starting in August 2022. He completed various military educational opportunities and earned a BA in general studies and political science and an MPA from the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Dunsmuir Finance Director **Blake Michaelsen** began his working career as a Payroll Technician for the Novato Unified School District in October 2004. After various jobs, including as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher in Austin, Texas in 2014-2015, Blake joined the Dunsmuir city staff as Finance Director in February 2018. He earned a BA in economics and completed the accounting certificate program at the University of California, Davis. Blake volunteered as a Little League Baseball coach in 2000 through 2004. He continues to serve on the *Dunsmuir Railroad Depot Historical Society Committee*.



## California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro



El Cajon is Spanish for "The Box." The city of El Cajon is a San Diego County city that takes its name from the old Spanish Rancho El Cajon. The name is found on maps drafted in 1873 and 1875. El Cajon was

incorporated in November 1912. Its 2020 population is 106,215. **Graham Mitchell** is the City Manager and **Vince DiMaggio** is the Assistant City Manager. The El Cajon City Clerk is **Angela Cortez**. **Anthony Shute** is the Director of Community Development and **Clay Schoen** is the Director of Finance. **Adam Tronerud** is the Director of Parks & Recreation.

**Bill Garrett** has been an El Cajon leader for many years. Bill has been an ICMA member since 1992. He served as the City Manager for the City of Corona from December 1989 until April 1996, when he joined the El Cajon city staff as City Manager. Bill retired as the El Cajon city manager in September 2004. Bill served as a long-time member of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). After retirement, Bill served as the CCMF Executive Director for 8 years, from 2005 until 2013. Bill has participated with community support for the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District for many years. He served on the elected Governing Board for 12 years starting in 2007, including two terms as President of the Board. Bill earned a BA in political science from the University of Washington and an MS in urban planning from the University of Arizona.



El Cajon City Manager **Graham Mitchell** began his public service career as an Economic Development Specialist for Monterey Park in 1996. After work for Moorpark (1998-2000), Graham worked as city manager for the cities of Farmersville (2000-2003), Lemon Grove (2003-2015), and Escondido (2015-2016) before becoming the El Cajon city manager in May 2017. He earned a BA from Brigham Young University and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



**Anne Haraksin, Tom Robinson and Gary Sloan**, all veterans of La Mirada city government, pose in December 2014 at a "Proof of Life" lunch.



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National University Adjunct Professor **Vince DiMaggio** is the Assistant City Manager for the City of El Cajon. Vince began his career as a Senior Planner for the City of Salinas in March 1992. He left the city in 2000 to work on the private side. While

working in the private sector, he served as a Commissioner with the Monterey County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) from May 2002 until July 2011. Vince went to Texas in May 2011 to become the City Manager of Teague, Texas. In 2013, he took the Town Manager position for the Town of Sunnyvale, Texas. In April 2014, Vince returned to California to become the City Manager for the City of Mendota, and he served there until he was appointed Assistant City Manager for the City of El Cajon in August 2018. Vince earned a BA from California State University, Fresno, and an MPA from Andrew Jackson University. He also holds a master's degree in legal studies from the American Public University System. In 2023, Vince received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award.

## California Contract Cities Association



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**2025 Sacramento Legislative Tour**  
 January 6 – 8, 2025



Trackdown Hydration Director, **Presley Simpson Guarino** continues to remind us that staying hydrated is important all year, even during the holidays. She keeps paper towels handy for any inadvertent spills.



## California Managers in Cities from Downey to El Centro

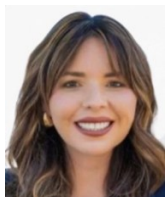


El Centro is the county seat for Imperial County. The city was founded in 1906 by **W. F. Holt** and **C. A. Barker**. The City of El Centro was incorporated in April 1908. Agriculture has been one of the

most important industries in the El Centro area since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The city's strategic location to rail lines and U. S. Highways 80 and 99 contributed to the city's agricultural distribution business growth. The city of El Centro is 50 feet below sea level. It is the largest U. S. city located below sea level. The 2020 population of El Centro is 44,322. **Cedric Cesena** is the city manager, and **Norma Wyles** is the City Clerk. **Angel Hernandez** is the Community Development Director, **Adriana Nava** is the Community Services Director, and **Elizabeth Fuchen** is the Interim Finance Director.



**Cedric Ceseña** worked with the City of El Centro Fire Department from December 2013 until he was appointed Interim City Manager in November 2022. Cedric was a Battalion Chief with the Fire Department before stepping into the city manager position. He was appointed City Manager in July 2023. He joined the City of Calexico Fire Department in May 1992 and later worked for the County of Imperial as an EMS and Bioterrorism Manager. He left the county for El Centro in December 2013. Cedric earned a BS in public administration from the University of Phoenix. Cedric has announced plans to retire.



**Adriana Nava** has served as the El Centro Community Services Director since 2018. She joined the city staff in January 2014 as an Associate Planner and was promoted to Associate Planner in January 2014. Adriana earned a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and an MPA from San Diego State University.




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--Ryder Todd Smith, President

Marketing – Technology – Public Affairs – Training  
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Former city managers **Don Penman**, **Bill Crowe** and **Gary Chicots** wishing everyone holiday cheer!





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**Kosmont Companies** serves cities, counties, quasi-government agencies, private companies, developers, and non-profit organizations, including educational institutions across California. With unmatched expertise in public/private transactions,

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**2024-2025  
City Managers' Department Officers  
League of California Cities**

President - **Thaddeus McCormack**,  
City Manager, Lakewood

President-Elect – **Kelly McAdoo**, City Manager,  
Hayward

Vice President – **Chris Freeland**,  
City Manager, Indian Wells

Immediate Past President – **Karen Pinkos**,  
City Manager El Cerrito

Department Director – **Jim Lewis**,  
City Manager, Atascadero

**Letters and Notes from Readers:**

I happened to stumble upon a Linked In post about the recent passing of **Jim Purtee**. I am stunned and saddened. He was his usual gracious self at a "Proof of Life" lunch this year.

---**Denise Ovrom**

I sat with **Jim Purtee** at the last "Proof of Life" lunch. Shocking news. Really nice guy.

---**Glenn Southard**



I got a call from a mutual friend on Sunday about the passing of **Jim Purtee**. He had a heart attack the day before and did not survive it. I just spoke to Jim in September – he and Tina were down in the area, and we were trying to connect and were unable. They were heading out to Italy shortly after. I had the pleasure of working for Jim during his tenure in Palmdale and my former colleagues and I are all stunned at the sudden loss. One of the good ones, gone way too soon.

---**Anne V. Ambrose**

So sad to hear about **Joe Goeden's** passing. He was a good friend, respected City Manager and lovely person. As time moves on, we unfortunately lose contact with friends.

---**Fred Guido**

I just finished reading the November City Manager Newsletter. Your attention to the passing of **Joe Goeden** is really appreciated. I attended his service, along with **Rich Ramirez**, **John Shirey**, and **John Donlevy**. I don't know how you manage to get so much information on so many folks, but it is always fun to read. Thank you.

---**Carlos Urrutia**

Thank you for the always fine work you do preparing and distributing your newsletter. I appreciate the insights and updates it provides.

---**David Jinkens**, South Lake Tahoe

Enjoyed your Special November edition of Trackdown. Always informative and pleasant to read.

---**Jill Frechette**



Entrance to the offices of the **California Joint Powers Insurance Authority** in La Palma.



The world of communication is changing rapidly and so are the tools. **Englander Knabe & Allen** believes a constant, unrelenting focus on the needs of the firm's clients is not a service but a necessity. **The firm works with city governments to develop public-private partnership opportunities.**

At **Englander Knabe & Allen**, you only work with senior level staff because the firm only has senior level staff. Each of the firm's members bring substantial education, experience, and expertise in developing communications campaigns for Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, entrepreneurial companies, trade associations, government agencies, educational institutions and non-profit organizations. **Englander Knabe & Allen** does not employ account executives; rather, strategy and implementation are provided only by partners and vice presidents.

**Englander Knabe & Allen** combines powerful processes - Strategic Thinking + Solid Fundamental Tactics - into a communications tool that has provided clients with successful outcomes for more than 40 years.

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## Government Advocacy and Public Affairs

**Englander Knabe & Allen** (EKA) is a strategic communications firm specializing in government affairs, political campaigns, reputation and crisis communications, association management and litigation support.

**EKA** produces results for its clients across a diverse range of practice areas. We achieve this through our deep bench of team members augmented by a roster of experienced specialists we enlist to bring specific skills tailored to the client's needs. Only senior-level personnel with significant public and private sector expertise are employed. **EKA** team members have many years of public and private sector experience and deep relationships in government throughout Southern California.

**Harvey Englander** is the Founding Partner, founding **EKA** in 2005. He has been at the center of California's public and business life for more than 40-years. **Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA)** specialize in developing and implementing Position -A- Strategies for its clients, public or private. **EKA** Partners include **Matt Knabe; Marcus Allen; Adam Englander; Eric Rose; Jeff McConnell; Kellie Hawkins; & Alex Cherin.**

**Matt Knabe** is the Managing Partner. He is one of the founding partners. Matt specializes in political consulting, public affairs, government relations and issues, and communications strategy and community relations. In addition to his work, Matt is personally involved in giving back to the community. He is currently President of the Paramount Education Project. Matt graduated from Pepperdine University in 1996, where he played for the Pepperdine University Men's Golf Team. It is hard to find someone with better interaction with local city managers, and elected officials than Matt.

**Marcus A. Allen** is a former Chief Deputy Controller in Los Angeles and Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of operations and finance in the Mayor's office. Prior to working for Los Angeles, among other posts, Marcus worked as the Chief Deputy at the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and as a Public Affairs Planner for the Southern California Gas Company. He earned a BA from **UCLA** and a MPPS from the University of Chicago.

\*\*Don't forget to visit the wonderful menu of the *Boathouse on the Bay* on the Long Beach waterfront.



**Picking Up the Pieces:** Carlsbad has hired **Geoff Patnoe** as its new city manager starting December 19. Geoff was hired as the Assistant City Manager in March 2020. He has more than 20 years of local government working experience. He served as former San Diego County Supervisor **Dianne Jacob's** Chief of Staff, and he

worked as the Executive Director of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association. Prior to joining the Carlsbad city staff, Geoff worked as the Director of the county's Office of Strategy & Intergovernmental Affairs.

Moorpark City Manager **Troy S. Brown** will retire next year at the end of June. Troy is a past ICMA President (2022-2023). He began his public service career in July 1994 as a Recreation Leader for Santa Clarita. He was promoted to Recreation Coordinator in March 1997, Information Technology Specialist in April 1990 and he was hired as a Santa Clarita Management Analyst in August 2000. Troy worked as Assistant to the City Manager in Riverside starting in February 2003 and took a similar position in Elk Grove in November 2004. In 2008, Troy worked as the Elk Grove Budget Manager. He was appointed Assistant City Manager for Livermore in January 2009. Troy left Livermore in September 2014 to become the City Manager for the City of Tracy. Moorpark hired Troy as City Manager in March 2018. Troy earned a BA from California State University, Northridge and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino. In 2020 he received a 25 Year ICMA Service Award. Long Beach, where **Tom Modica** is the city manager, was awarded a grant of \$346,500 from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to focus on improving pedestrian safety, promoting safe streets, and reducing preventable collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists. Former Long Beach and Paramount city manager **Patrick H. West** is an avid bicycle rider. City Manager **Don Reynolds** of San Juan Bautista will retire December 31. Don began his public service career working for the City of Moorpark for 12 years before he joined the city staff in the City of Salinas. Don has been the San Juan Bautista city manager since July 2019. Don earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Northridge. In 2024, Don received a 25 Year ICMA Service Award. Named after the League of California Cities' first female president, **Helen Putnam**, the Helen Putnam Awards celebrate cities demonstrating innovation in service delivery. The 2024 awards went to Vacaville for youth engagement through its Summer at City Hall program. Livermore was recognized for intergovernmental collaboration with their Horizons Family Counseling, and Watsonville was celebrated for economic development efforts through its Watsonville to Work initiative.



Long Beach and Paramount city manager **Patrick H. West** is an avid bicycle rider. City Manager **Don Reynolds** of San Juan Bautista will retire December 31. Don began his public service career working for the City of Moorpark for 12 years before he joined the city staff in the City of Salinas. Don has been the San Juan Bautista city manager since July 2019. Don earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Northridge. In 2024, Don received a 25 Year ICMA Service Award. Named after the League of California Cities' first female president, **Helen Putnam**, the Helen Putnam Awards celebrate cities demonstrating innovation in service delivery. The 2024 awards went to Vacaville for youth engagement through its Summer at City Hall program. Livermore was recognized for intergovernmental collaboration with their Horizons Family Counseling, and Watsonville was celebrated for economic development efforts through its Watsonville to Work initiative.



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**Alexander Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer

**California Joint Powers Insurance Authority**  
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Retired Palmdale City Manager **James "Jim" Purtee** passed away, apparently as a result of a heart attack on Saturday, November 23, 2024. Jim served as the City Manager for the City of Palmdale from October 2015 until December 2019. Previous to joining the Palmdale city staff, Jim served 27 years with the City of Simi Valley as a Housing Planner, Deputy City Manager, Director of Administrative Services and Assistant City Manager. Jim earned a BA in Earth science and an MA in geography from California State University, Northridge. He also earned four Certificates in Public Leadership from the Kennedy School of Political Science and Government at Harvard University. Placentia City Administrator **Damien R. Arrula** resigned. Damien began his Placentia tenure in March 2016. Prior to joining the Placentia city staff, he held positions in Claremont, El Monte and Sierra Madre, and earned a highly professional reputation. Damien earned a BS from California Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from the University of La Verne. He was named "City Manager of the Year" in 2017 by the Association of California Cities Orange County (ACC-OC). He was cleared of all accusations of improper credit card spending by City Treasurer **Kevin Larson**. All spending was within city policies and approved by the city council.







**More Pieces Picked Up:** American Canyon Finance Director **Juan Gomez** is the Interim Assistant City Manager for the city. Juan has been the Finance Director since January 2023. City Manager **Jason Holley** elevated Juan effective November

14, 2024. Prior to joining the American Canyon city staff, Juan held positions with West County Wastewater and the cities of Fairfield and Pleasanton. He also worked for the Contra Costa Water District. He earned a BS in accounting from California State University, East Bay. West Covina Fire Chief **Vincent Capelle** was confirmed on administrative leave and fired by the city on November 27 pending a hearing. **Paulina Morales** is the West Covina City Manager. Chief Capelle said that he was blindsided and completely shocked when he received the notice of separation. Encinitas City Manager **Pamela Antil** is leaving the city. Pam and the City Council "amicably agreed" to terminate her employment agreement effective November 20, 2024. Assistant City Manager **Jennifer Campbell** is the Interim City Manager. Pam has served as the Encinitas city manager since October 2020. Prior to that she was the Assistant City Administrator for the City of Santa Barbara from August 2015. She was Assistant City Manager for the City of San Jose from May 2014 until January 2015, and she served as Palo Alto Assistant City Manager for four years starting in April 2010. She is the Chief Administrative Officer for the League of Women in Government. Pam earned a BS from Central Michigan University and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. Former



Vista city manager and Mayor **Morris Vance** passed away at 85 on Friday, November 22, 2024. Morris began his tenure as the Vista city manager in 1981 and served in that position until retirement 17 years later. He previously served as the Lomita city manager, and he

held positions with the City of Carson and Los Angeles County. He was elected to be the Vista Mayor in 2002 and again in 2006. Morris was born in Fairview, Utah on September 20, 1939. Paso Robles City Manager **Ty Lewis** has returned to work from months of medical leave. Ty reports that his health problems were caused by Council Member **Chris Bausch**. He accused the Council Member of harassment and defamation, claiming he reported false rumors to the news. Ty filed a \$2.275 million claim against the city, paving the way for future legal action. Ventura Chief of Police **Darin Schindler** will retire effective December 28, 2024. Darin is closing out a 36-year law enforcement career, including the past 30 years with the City of Ventura Police Department. He began his law enforcement career in 1989 with the Port Hueneme Police Department before joining the Ventura department in 1995. He was appointed Chief of Police in April 2020. Bob Murray & Associates has been retained to conduct an executive search for a new Chief of Police.

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**Dennis Yu, CEBS, Executive Vice President**

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[Dennis has been with **PARS** since October 2007. He earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine, and an MBA from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**).]



**Kevin O'Rourke,**  
**Senior Municipal Consultant**  
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[Kevin is a retired city manager.]



**SHORTS:** \*Cathedral City Assistant City Manager **Anne Ambrose**, who worked for the City of Palmdale for more than 24 years, was on the staff of Wichita State University in 1992-1997. \*Retired Irvine city manager **John Russo**, a past President of the League of California Cities, and retired California Contract Cities Association Executive Director, **Sam Olivito** were seen having lunch with Jack Simpson at Maracas Mexican Cantina & Grill in Rancho Mirage this month. \*Tulare Assistant City Manager **Josh McDonnell**, who is going to work for a private engineering and planning company, loves coaching track and field and soccer. \***Stephanie Roseen** is the new City Clerk for the City of Menifee, succeeding City Clerk **Sarah Manwaring**, who retired after 20 years of public service.

"Never apologize for being patriotic."  
---The late Country Music Artist **Toby Keith**



**MORE SHORTS:** \*Former longtime member of the San Jose Police Department, **Carlos Acosta** is the new Chief of Police for the City of Salinas, and Acting Police Chiefs **Danny Warner** and **John Murray** will remain with the department. \*West Covina Fire Chief **Vincent Capelle** was confirmed on administrative leave and fired by

the city on November 27 pending a hearing; **Paulina Morales** is the West Covina City Manager. \*West Covina Chief of Police **Richard Bell** will retire December 27, 2024. \*Vacaville Chief of Police **Ian Schmutzler** will retire on December 31, 2024. \*Clayton Chief of Police **Richard McEachin** will become the Chief of Police for the City of Atwater effective December 19, 2024. \***Julian Lee** has served as the Interim City Manager for the City of Lynwood since City Manager **Ernie Hernandez** was appointed City Manager for the City of Commerce. \*Ojai Recreation Manager **Matt Davis**, who worked with City Manager **Ben Harvey**, submitted his resignation effective February 15 following public opposition to proposed cutbacks in a popular gymnastics program, and **Kristy Rivera** is the Interim Recreation Manager. \*Roseville City Manager **Dominick Casey** announced that **Ryan Harrigan** will succeed Roseville Fire Chief **Rick Barte**, who is retiring following a 43 year career as a fire service professional. \***Melissa Klawuhn** is the next Chief of Police for the City of Pinole. \*Big Bear Lake City Manager **Erik Sund** received a unanimous 5% raise in his annual salary. \*Retired city manager **David Jinkens** won election to the City Council for the City of South Lake Tahoe at the November election. \*La Verne City Manager **Ken Domer**, who served as city manager for the cities of Villa Park (May 2005 -December 2008) and Fullerton (July 2017-April 2021) and who held executive positions in Placentia, Huntington Beach and Laguna Beach, is a **USC** Trojan through and through, graduated with a BA and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). \*Retired Pico Rivera City Manager **Dennis Courtemarche**, a longtime resident of Seal Beach, served as the Seal Beach city manager from November 1971 to December 1980. \***Rand-Scott Coggan**, who served as the Fire Chief in Oxnard in 1995, and was the County of Ventura Fire Chief in 1988-1990, earned a JD from Stetson University College of Law in Florida. \***John Jameson** served as the City Manager for Signal Hill and for the City of Bellflower before pursuing his career in land development. \*Congratulations to Carlsbad Environmental Specialist **Hallie Thompson** on becoming a Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality. \*Congratulations to El Cajon Director of Human Resources **Marisol Thorn** on her promotion to Deputy City Manager. \*San Jacinto City Manager **Rob Johnson** worked as a Program Director for the San Diego County YMCA from 1991 to 1997. \*Guitarist-singer **George Watts** served as city manager for the cities of Arcadia and Indian Wells.\*\*\*



**Juan Soto** signed the biggest contract in Major League Baseball history when he signed a 15-year contract worth \$765 million with the New York Mets.



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MERRY  
*CHRISTMAS*

Trackdown Management  
2024