

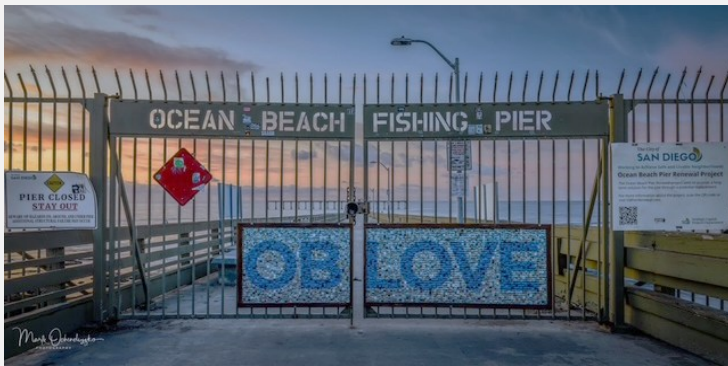


"Providing thread to help stitch together the fabric of the
 City Management Community"

February 2025

Volume No. 19 | Issue No. 02

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Retired Coronado City Manager **Mark Ochenduszko** is a highly skilled and well-recognized photographer. He was the Coronado city manager from 1999 to February 2010. Since then, he served as the Interim City Manager for the City of Del Mar in 2011-2012. Regarding his photograph posted here, Mark writes: *Ocean Beach Pier- This old pier is on its last legs. It looked great this evening though, under a spectacular sky. The OB LOVE sign is made of hundreds of photographs of people who love the pier. It's been a fantastic portage for people to experience the coast for over half a century.*

California Managers in Cities from Escalon to Fairfax

This issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding [Escalon](#), [Escondido](#), [Etna](#), [Eureka](#), [Exeter](#), and [Fairfax](#). Etna was originally named "Rough and Ready." The town incorporated in March 1878; another highly interesting California community.

Local governments are the public agencies closest to the people. People can easily visit their city halls and reach out to local government officials. It takes special people to work at the local government level. People skills are very important when you work close to public interaction.

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California Managers in Cities from Escalon to Fairfax



Escalon is found where settler “**Johnny**” **Jones** pitched his tent and built a home in 1852. “Johnny” established a cattle ranch operation at the location. Escalon is a Spanish word meaning “steeping stones.” Escalon was not incorporated until March 1957. The 2020 population is 7,472, Escalon is home to one of the largest walnut processing plants in the world. The Escalon city manager is **Jaylen French**. **Celinda Bickner** is the Finance Director and the Human Resources Administrator.



Escalon City Manager **Jaylen French** worked as an Associate Planner for the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) for five and a half years starting in January 2009. After the COG experience, Jay served in work assignments in Hughson, Modesto and

Tracy prior to joining the Escalon city staff as the Development and Community Services Manager in July 2023. Jaylen earned a BS in City and Regional Planning from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Celinda Bickner served nearly 12 years for Stanislaus County Probation starting in December 2009. In January 2007, Celinda began working full-time as an author of adult fiction for Radish Fiction. Celinda worked with Radish Fiction for more than 18 years and she continues as an author. After a part-time accountant position with Stanislaus County starting in July 2022, Celinda was appointed Financial Director for the City of Escalon in April 2024.

Earl D. Wilson Jr. was appointed City Administrator for the city of Escalon in November 1968 after serving as an Administrative Assistant for the City of Auburn from September 1963 to November 1968. He worked in Gustine, Rio Dell and the City of Weed after leaving Escalon. He earned a BA from California State University, Sacramento. Earl received a 30-Year ICMA Service Award.



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- Mike Sedell**, Retired Simi Valley City Manager
- Larry F. Pennell**, Retired City Manager, Wasco
- Kevin O'Rourke**, KOLGS; 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:

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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
- 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



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Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Adel Freij, PE
Director of City Engineering
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**California Managers in Cities from
Escalon to Fairfax**

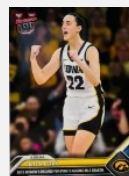


Escondido means "hidden" in Spanish. The Escondido population was largely Spanish-speaking according to its first census taken in 1850 when California became a state. Escondido was primarily an agricultural community, initially growing muscat grapes and citrus. By the 1960s, olive and walnut trees were added to the inventory along with avocado orchards. The city was incorporated in October 1888. Its 2020 population is set at 151,038. The Escondido city manager is **Sean McGlynn**. **Robert Rhoades** is the Assistant Director of Community Services, responsible for recreation, and **Gil Rojas** is the Escondido Director of Finance.



Escondido city manager **Sean McGlynn** previously served as the City Manager for the City of Santa Rosa (September 2014 – May 2021). In November 2008 Sean was hired to serve as the Director of Museums and Cultural Affairs for the City of El Paso, Texas. He served as Interim City Manager from May 2014 to June 2014 and he became the Deputy City Manager before he joined the Santa Rosa staff as City Manager. Sean earned a BA in history from the University of Pittsburgh and an MA in theater from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**). In 2022, Sean received a 20-Year ICMA Service Award.

Former Escondido Assistant City Manager **Jay Petrek** retired in November 2020. He is a former member of the San Marcos Unified School District Board of Trustees (December 2008 – December 2016). Jay also served as a member of the City of San Marcos City Council (January 2019 – December 2020).



"So, all you have to do is dream."
--**Caitlin Clark**, Professional basketball player

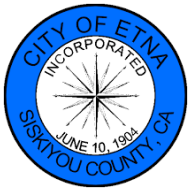


Don Vestal, Jack Simpson, Lloyd de Llamas, and Bob Dickey at a "Proof of Life" lunch on Thursday, December 12, 2024.

California Managers in Cities from Escalon to Fairfax

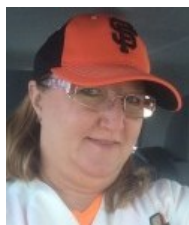


This is a February 2009 picture of the late **Joe Goeden** posing with **John Donlevy** and **Dr. Carlos Urrutia**.



Etna is a town in the Scott Valley in Siskiyou County. The town was originally named "Rough and Ready," and it was a gold mining and timber town. The name was

changed in 1874. Etna was the name of the local flour mill. **Pamela Eastlick** is the Etna City Clerk and Interim City Administrator. **Jenny Bennett** is the Assistant City Clerk.



Pamela Eastlick served as the Etna city clerk for more than 14 years starting in February 2001 and again in September 2022. She worked as the City of Dunsmuir Finance Director from November 2015 and March

2018, and she worked as an Accounts Receivable Clerk for the city of Weed in 2019-2020. Pamela earned two degrees from the College of the Siskiyou.



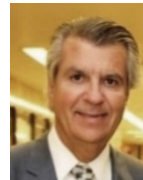
Archive picture of **Taylor Gonsalves** and **Tom Robinson**.



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

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Anthony Gonsalves

is a long time Member of the California City Management

Foundation (CCMF) Board of Trustees.

Taylor Gonsalves is the firm's Director of Communications



Joe A. Gonsalves & Son

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Sacramento, California 95814
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Both MMASC & MMANC support ICMA's educational, diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.



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

California Managers in Cities from Escalon to Fairfax



Eureka is the county seat of Humboldt County, California. It is the largest coastal city between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon. Humboldt Bay is the second largest port sized bay between San Francisco and Oregon. Eureka was founded on May 13, 1850. Eureka's first post office was established in 1853. It was incorporated in April 1856. The population is 26,512. The Eureka area regularly has large seismic activities due to the faults situated in the area and being near the San Andreas Fault. Tsunami warnings come with some of the earthquakes. **Miles Slattery** is the Eureka city manager and **Pam Powell** is the Assistant City Manager and City Clerk. **Lane Millar** is the Finance Director and **Donna Wood** is the Community Services Director.



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Miles Slattery is the Eureka city manager. Miles was sworn in as the city manager in December 2020. He served as the Interim City Manager for five months before his appointment. Miles worked for Eureka for years as the Parks and Recreation Director and more lately the Community Services Director. He earned a BS in fisheries biology from Humboldt State University. He worked for the City of San Diego as a Chemist, and then starting in 2006 as a Project Manager for the Eureka Public Works Department. He became the Director of Community Services in 2013.

Donna Wood is the Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Eureka. She previously served as Deputy Director starting in April 1996. Donna also serves as an Adjunct Lecturer for Humboldt State University. She earned a BA in social work from Humboldt State University.



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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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California Managers in Cities from Escalon to Fairfax



Robert "Bob" A. Stockwell served as the City Manager for the City of Eureka from February 1981 to April 1987. He had previously worked as the West Jordan, Utah city manager (1979-1981) and the West Jordan Chief of Police 1978-1979. He was Chief of Police in Roosevelt, Utah prior to that in 1975-1978. After Bob left Eureka, he served as the City Manager in Sparks, Nevada in 1990. He worked as the CAO and Municipal Risk Manager for the Contra Costa County Municipal Risk Management Insurance Authority in 1991-1992. In July 1992, Bob was hired to be the Alamogordo, New Mexico city manager. In February 1998, Bob was appointed Chief Administrative Officer for Provo, Utah. In May 2004 he took the City Manager position in Sunnyside, Washinton. He left Sunnyside in September 2007. After about 4 years of working as an advisor or consultant, Bob was appointed City Manager for the City of California City in March 2018. He worked there until April 2019. He currently works as a City Management Consultant in Salt Lake City, Utah. Bob earned a BS and MPA from Brigham Young University. In 2019 he received an ICMA 35 Year Service Award. Bob is an ICMA Credentialed Manager.

California Contract Cities Association



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Brenda Olmos of Paramount, Vice President
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California Managers in Cities from Escalon to Fairfax



Exeter is a Tulare County city in the San Joaquin Valley. The town traces its roots to the construction of a railroad line that passed through the area in 1888. **D. W. Parkhurst**, a representative of the

Southern Pacific Railroad, purchased the town site from an early settler, **John Firebaugh**. He named the town for his own hometown of Exeter, England. Exeter was incorporated in March 1911. Its 2020 population is 10,321. **Adam Ennis** is the Exeter City Administrator, and **Francesca Quintana** is the City Clerk and Human Resources Manager. **Daymon Qualls** is the Public Works Director, **John Hall** is the Chief of Police, **Greg Collins** is the City Planner and **Eli Garver** is the Recreation Coordinator. **Eekhong Franco** is the Finance Director. A couple of "Blasts from the past:" **Stanleigh J. Megargee** was appointed City Administrator in 1975, and **Roy Chace** was hired as City Administrator in 1983.



One of the Newsletter objectives is to help us all remember those who served in the past. This shows **Craig Richard Nealis** (September 19, 1958 – September 30, 2006) and a very young **Samantha Simpson**. Craig was appointed City Manager succeeding City Manager **Terrence Belanger** in the City of Rolling Hills in 1990. Craig was a Deputy City Administrator in Bellflower at the time. Terry went on to work as Assistant City Manager and City Manager for the City of Diamond Bar. Craig is remembered as a "life of the party," and at the same time a very serious city manager. His impact on others is still obvious. His incredible personality easily touched those around him. He is missed!



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Michael Colantuono is Managing Shareholder, and currently is City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley. Michael is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and he is a leading expert in local government legal issues.

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

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Adam Ennis is the Exeter City Administrator, Adam was a student at Exeter Union High School and he studied civil engineering at the College of the Sequoias and California State University, Fresno. He joined the Exeter city staff in June 2018 as City Administrator. Adam had been working as the Public Works Director for the City of Visalia. Before joining the Visalia city staff, Adam worked some 18 years as a registered civil engineer for private sector companies. He spent 14 years with the City of Visalia as a City Engineer and Public Works Director. Adam succeeded Exeter City Manager **Randy Groom**, who left in December 2017 to take the City Manager position with the City of Visalia.



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John Kunkel is a former police officer and sergeant in Madera. John was hired as Chief of Police in Exeter and served there for 19 years. After serving as the Exeter City Administrator starting in 2004, John served as Buellton City Manager from December 2009 to April 2013. He succeeded the retired City Manager **Steve Thompson**. John earned a BA and MPA from San Jose State University. John has since served as the Interim City Manager for the quiet, peaceful City of Manzanita, Oregon on the Pacific Ocean, Interim City Manager for Huron, and as the Interim General Manager for the San Lorenzo Valley Water District in October 2024.

California Managers in Cities from Escalon to Fairfax



Fairfax is named for **Lord Charles Snowden Fairfax**. The town is the site of the last political duel in California. State Assembly Members **Daniel Showalter** and **Charles W. Piercy** decided to address a political dispute with a duel. After lunch at the home of Lord Fairfax, the two duelled at a nearby open field and Assembly Member Piercy was killed. A Fairfax post office was established in 1910. The town was incorporated in March 1931. The 2020 population is 7,605. **Heather Abrams** is the Town Manager and **Michael Vivrette** is the Director of Finance. **Jeff Beiswenger** is the Planning and Building Services Director, and **Loren Umbertis** is the Public Works Director.



Heather P. Abrams is the Town Manager for the Town of Fairfax. She previously served as the General Manager for the Tamalpais Community Services District in Mill Valley from January 2017 to February 2022. In November 2014 to January 2017, Heather worked as the Environmental Programs Manager and Sustainability Manager for the City of Menlo Park. Before working a couple consultant posts with private firms, she was the Integrated Waste Services Manager for the City of El Cerrito from February 2002 until June 2008. Heather began as a Recycling Coordinator for the City and County of San Francisco in October 1995. In November 1997, Heather became a Waste Prevention and Recycling Specialist for the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, and she worked in that position until she joined the El Cerrito city staff. Heather earned a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and an MBA from California State University, Monterey Bay. She also completed government and leadership programs at Harvard University's Kennedy School. She was awarded an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from the Kennedy School.

California Managers in Cities from Escalon to Fairfax

Charles “Chuck” R. Cate served as the Fairfax Town Manager from February 1986 until August 1991. Chuck worked as the Assistant to the City Manager in Santa Barbara starting in October 1967. He was the Santa Barbara Assistant City Manager from December 1973 to January 1978 when he was appointed city manager for the City of Morgan Hill. After working in Fairfax, Chuck served as the Calabasas city manager from August 1991 to March 2000. He earned a BA from San Jose State University and an MPA from the University of Southern California (USC). In 1998, Chuck received a 30 Year ICMA Service Award.

Adam Politzer served as the Interim Town Manager for the Town of Fairfax from July 2021 to March 2022. Prior to serving Fairfax, Adam was the Sausalito city manager for more than 13 years...from September 2007 until December 2020. Adam is known as a skilled baseball and softball coach. He served as the Kentfield Girls Softball Coach from January 2003 until June 2019. He was the part-time Assistant Baseball Coach for Menlo College from January 1996 to June 1998. After his “interim” service in Fairfax, Adam was the Interim City Manager for Emeryville starting in August 2022 and East Palo Alto in 2023. He currently does management consulting work for the Ross Valley Fire Department. Adam earned a BA in psychology from Menlo College.



Garrett Toy served as the Fairfax, California Town Manager from February 2013 until June 2021, when he accepted the Sonoma city manager’s position. After a little more than 6 months in Sonoma, Garrett announced his retirement. Garrett served as the Director of Business Assistance and Housing Serves for the City of Morgan Hill from March 1998 to November 2011. After leaving Sonoma, Garrett is currently the General Manager of the Tamalpais Community Service District in Marin County, starting in May 2022. Garrett earned a BA and MPP from the University of California, Berkeley.



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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Irvine, California 92606



The February 5-7, 2025 City Managers Annual Conference was a huge success! The conference registration was sold out and the waitlist was discontinued due to the large demand.

Hundreds of city managers and assistant/deputy city managers gathered in Rancho Mirage for the 2025 annual City Managers Department Meeting.

The main topics included issues related to homelessness, relationships with council members, mental health, finance and more.

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Kosmont Companies, a certified Minority Business Enterprise(MBE), is a development services firm offering a full range of real estate and economic advisories, brokerage, project finance, investment, and planning services for both the public and private sectors.

Founded in 1986, Kosmont Companies has become a nationally recognized expert in economic development and real estate development projects involving government and private sector partnerships.

Whether the objective is getting a project entitled and approved, financed, developed, leased or sold, or if the goal is to generate new tax revenues, jobs or business opportunities, **Kosmont Companies** ensure success. A diverse and uniquely qualified development services team provides the depth and expertise required to help clients conceptualize, structure and implement projects of all product types, sizes and complexities.

From the earliest planning and feasibility stages and throughout project development, **Kosmont Companies** effectively guides clients through intricate transaction and policy issues to create viable economic development strategies, achieve redevelopment/revitalization goals, and produce real estate projects and public asset management solutions.

Kosmont Companies recognizes the powerful social and economic benefits of community development and redevelopment, and the firm is committed to bringing public, private, and non-profit organizations together in meaningful real estate transactions that help communities flourish.

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.

**KOSMONT COMPANIES IS AN
INDUSTRY LEADER IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND REAL ESTATE ADVISORY SERVICES.**



Call Kosmont Companies to discuss potential economic development strategies.



Picking Up the Pieces: Maryville, Missouri City Manager **Greg McDanel**, an ICMA Credentialed Manager, is the next city manager for the City of Seaside, California starting in March 2025. Greg has served as Maryville city manager since 2012. He previously worked as the City Administrator for Cherryvale, Kansas. He is the successor to former Seaside city manager **Jaime Fontes**.

Greg earned a BA in geography from Northwest Missouri State University and an MPA from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. In 2014 he received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award. Angels Camp announced that **Pamela Caronongan** is the new Angels Camp City Administrator effective March 3, 2025. Pamela will be succeeding retired City Administrator **Steve Williams**. She previously served in Long Beach, San Jose and Milpitas. Pam is currently the City Clerk for the City of Rio Vista. She earned a BS in accounting from California State University, Dominguez Hills and an MBA from Pepperdine University. Manhattan Beach Assistant to the City Manager, **George Gabriel** is the new Deputy City Manager for the City of Palos Verdes Estates. George joined the Manhattan Beach city staff in November 2016 as a Management Analyst. Prior to that he worked for the City of Malibu. George earned a BA from the University of California, San Diego and an MPP from Pepperdine University School of Public Policy. Retired City Manager **Sean Joyce** is taking the helm in South Pasadena as **Don Penman**'s tenure as Interim City Manager comes to a close. Don took the interim post after the departure of City Manager **Arminé Chaparyan**. This will be Sean's second time as interim in South Pasadena. He served as the city manager from 1996 to 2004 and as Interim City Manager following the close of City Manager **Stephanie De Wolfe**'s tenure. Sean also previously served as the City Manager for Sierra Madre and the City of Irvine. Following last month's resignation by Stockton city manager **Harry Black**, former San Joaquin County Fairgrounds CEO **Steve Colangelo** has been selected to serve as Interim City Manager. Steve worked nearly 40 years in event producing and event rental management. He has several failed bids for elected office in his background. Deputy City Manager **Will Crew** served as Acting City Manager following Harry's departure. Longtime California city manager **Mark Scott** is the next city manager for the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mark began his city managing career 35 years ago in Beverly Hills, and would move on to managing Culver City,



Fresno, Burbank, San Bernardino, Indio, Lincoln, Downey, Ojai and Live Oak. Mark's first city position was in Fresno as an Intern in October 1971. Mark earned a BA from California State University, Fresno and an MBA from Stanford University. He received a 40-Year ICMA Service Award in 2019.



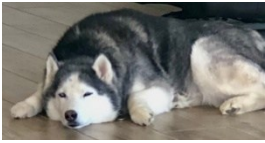
Windmill production of electric energy.



Former city managers **Gregory Korduner** and **Jim Barisic**. Jim is also the founder of **Brandywine Homes**.

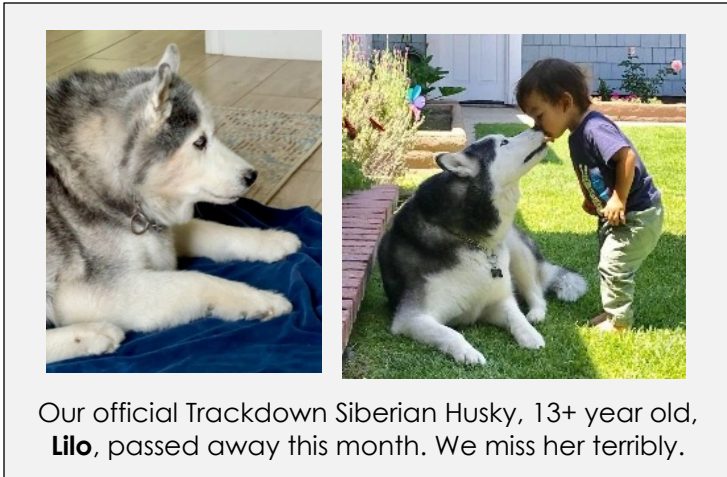


Bridge to nowhere on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. **Samantha Simpson** poses.



More Pieces Picked Up: Winters City Manager **Jeremy Craig** is on medical leave due to medical issues that arose suddenly, and **Joe Gorton** is the Acting City Manager.

Jeremy previously worked as the Finance Manager in Napa (2007-2009), and Director of Finance and Technology for the city of Dixon (2009-2013), and the city of Vacaville (2011-2013). Jeremy was the Vacaville city manager for nearly three years (2017-2020). He earned a BS in accounting from Southeast Missouri State University and an MBA from Webster University. Jeremy is a Certified Public Accountant. **Justin Wilkins** has been introduced as the City of Goleta's new Parks and Recreation Manager. He previously worked as the Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Soccer Club. Justin earned a BA in sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MA in psychology from Antioch University, Santa Barbara. Biggs City Administrator **Josh Cook** has been relieved of duty as the city administrator. Josh served as the Biggs City Administrator starting in March 2023. He has been on administrative leave since October 2023. Former Gridley City Administrator **Cliff Wagner** is serving as the Biggs Interim City Administrator. Cliff is a former Chief of Staff with the California State Assembly. He earned a BA and MA in political science from California State University, Chico. Former Long Beach Community Relations Officer (2016-2021) **Jennifer Carey**, who has worked for Huntington Beach since December 2021, is the new Deputy City Manager for Huntington Beach. Jennifer originally joined the city as the Public Affairs Manager. She has been the Acting Deputy City Manager for the past six months. Jennifer earned a BA and an MBA from Arizona State University. Jennifer is the recipient of the 2022 Crisis Communications Leader of the Year issued by the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO). Torrance Deputy City Manager **Ian Dailey** is the new Torrance city Finance Director effective February 9, 2025. Torrance city manager **Aram Chaparyan** announced the executive team change. Ian worked as the Torrance Deputy City Manager starting in December 2023. He served as Assistant Finance Director in 2021. Ian earned a BS from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



Our official Trackdown Siberian Husky, 13+ year old, **Lilo**, passed away this month. We miss her terribly.

A settlement agreement has been reached in the matter of Paso Robles city manager **Ty Lewis** leaving the city manager's position. Ty's last day on the job was January 26. Assistant City Manager **Chris Huot** is the Acting City Manager until further notice. Ty served the city as a police officer, Chief of Police and city manager. He worked for the city for 23 years. Prior to joining the Paso Robles police department, he served as a police officer in Bakersfield and Porterville. He earned a BS from the University of Phoenix and an MS from California State University, Bakersfield, in addition to P.O.S.T. command training. Oakdale City Manager **Bryan M. Whitemyer**, who has worked in that position since 2013, is the new city manager for the City of Folsom. Bryan worked as the Hughson city manager from 2010 to 2013, and he was the Assistant City Manager in Patterson from 2007 to 2010. Bryan was a Management Analyst in Modesto from 2002 to 2007, and he worked as a Code Enforcement and Assistant Planner in Ceres from 2001 to 2003. He earned a BA from Brigham Young University and an MPA from California State University, Stanislaus. Bryan received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award in 2021. Palmdale Assistant City Manager **Salvador Mendez** is named the 2024 Top Leader of the Year in the Public Sector by the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). Sal joined the Palmdale city staff in January 2024. He previously worked nearly 5 years with the City of El Monte and a little more than 4 years with the City of Lynwood. Sal earned a BA in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MPA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

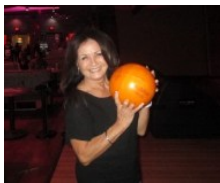
We received this appropriate quote in a thoughtful birthday card from former city manager **Rita Geldert and her husband Dale.**

"I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, and all the friends I want to see."

--John Burroughs

There are many wonderful people in this world!

Andrew Victor Arczynski (1948-2024)
Retired City Manager **Kevin O'Rourke** called our attention to the passing of **Andrew Victor Arczynski** on December 21, 2024. Andy lived most of his life in Brea. Andy served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam. He earned a law degree from Western State College of Law, Andy worked with cities, and served as City Attorney in Irwindale, Diamond Bar and Placentia. He was known for his "bigger than life" personality. He was put to rest on January 18, 2025, in Brea.



Still More Pieces Picked Up: There is an ongoing FBI investigation involving City of Fortuna City Council Member **Kris Mobley** regarding charges of theft and embezzlement that does not involve city business. Fortuna City

Manager **Amy Nilsen** and Chief of Police **Chris Day** issued a press release regarding the FBI investigation. As the new Federal Administration seeks to enforce the law with regards to illegal immigration, the City of Santa Ana is the only "sanctuary city" in Orange County. According to the U.S. Census, 41% of Santa Ana residents are foreign born.

Alvaro Nuñez is the Santa Ana city manager. He was appointed city manager in August 2024. He has worked for the city since 1993. Alvaro earned a BA in political science from the University of California, Irvine. He is a past President of the Santa Ana Management Association (SAMA). **SHORTS:** ***Diana Langley**, former city manager for Yuba City, is the new city manager for Louisville, Kentucky and expected to start her new position in March. ***According to Sanger** city manager **Nathan Olson**, **Greg Garner** is no longer the Sanger Chief of Police after 4 and a half years of service. ***JoAnne Speers** worked with the League of California Cities for nearly 18 years starting in 1994 and as the Chief Executive for the Institute for Local Government from January 1998 until May 2014. ***Scott Mitnick**, Town Manager for the Town of Moraga, has received the ICMA Credentialed Manager designation. ***Dave Miner**, a 22-year veteran of the Newport Beach Police Department (NBPD), is the new Chief of Police, according to Newport Beach city manager **Grace Leung**. ***San Clemente** City Manager **Andy Hall** is charged with the responsibility to have surveillance cameras installed and monitored 24/7 along the city beach. ***San Marino** Management Analyst **Robert Bauman** previously served as a Management Intern for the City of La Cañada Flintridge. ***Manhattan Beach** Assistant City Manager **George Gabriel** is the new Palos Verdes Estates Deputy City Manager. ***Indio** Assistant City Manager **Jonathan Nicks** previously worked for Menifee, the County of Orange, Placentia, and Norwalk, and earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. ***Ceres** Chief of Police **Chris Perry**, sworn in as Chief in February 2024, has been placed on administrative leave, it has been confirmed by city manager **Doug Dunford**. ***Judy Lyn Kelsey** (1944-2015) became the Eureka city manager in 1978 and later served as city manager for Atherton and Fountain Valley. ***Matthew Bronson**, city manager for the City of Grover Beach, earned a BS in environmental policy analysis and planning from the University of California, Davis and an MPA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. ***Melissa Stevenson Diaz** is the city manager in the city that was historical the first city in San Mateo County to incorporate; Redwood City in 1867. ***John Pinkney** is the interim City Attorney for the City of Banning.



Trackdown has had what might be described as a rough start to the year 2025. Jack Simpson began the year in the Eisenhower Medical Center's ICU. Following a lung fibrosis diagnosis, it is

important to take extra caution with ailments that may affect the lungs and breathing. We came down with the flu and a case of pneumonia to start the year. This is not the worst of it though. Since then, Susan's brother **Rudy Flores** of San Diego, a distinguished Vietnam veteran, Susan's mother, **Anita Woodruff** of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and our Siberian Husky, **Lilo**, have all passed away. We are looking forward to a much improved "rest of the year" for the remainder of 2025.

Huntington Beach** Chief Information Officer **John Dankha** is a soccer coach and Executive Board Member of AYSO Region 143. ***Jason Levy**, who previously worked for the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, is the new city of Goleta Emergency Services Coordinator. ***Jennifer Ott**, Alameda city manager, is a former Assistant City Manager and Development Services Director for the city of Hayward. ***Covina** Deputy City Manager **Angel Carrillo** served as a member of the Azusa City Council for more than 16 years (March 2005-September 2021). ***Former city manager Anton "Tony" Dahlerbruch** (Palos Verdes Estates and Rolling Hills) has worked as an executive recruiter the past nearly 6 years. ***Clovis** city manager **Justin Howalt** announced that **Trevor Thron** is the new Chief of Police following the retirement of Chief **Roy Rice** in the City of Clovis. ***Fernando Santillan** continues to serve as the City Manager for the city of Selma. **Arminé Chaparyan** is the new Director of Community Development for the City of Santa Monica working with City Manager **David White**. ***Former City Attorney Michael Schulte** is the new Farmersville city manager. ***Kwame Reed**, who previously served as the Acting City Manager and Economic Development Director, is the new Assistant City Manager for the City of Antioch working with City Manager **Bessie Marie Scott**. ***Wesley Wolf**, the founder of **Wolf & Company Inc.**, the first official sponsor of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown, previously served as the City Administrator for Hawaiian Gardens. ***A special Trackdown HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Evelyn Gonsalves! **

“Proof of Life”



The Thursday, December 12, 2024, “Proof of Life” lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. Listed attendees in random order:

Ron Molendyk, former Lake Elsinore City Manager and Interim City Manager in Perris. Ron is a past President of the Orange County Corvette Club.

Jim DeStefano, retired Diamond Bar City Manager. Jim was Community Development Director for Chino Hills when he was appointed Diamond Bar City Manager in July 2006. He retired in 2017.

Robert Dickey, retired South Gate Public Works Director. Bob is a former Walnut City Manager. He worked with the Cities of Rosemead and Signal Hill. He is known for his world travel.

Karen Herrera, retired Duarte Deputy City Manager, also, worked for Downey, Orange, Bell Gardens and Hawaiian. **Don Penman** is a retired Arcadia City Manager. He was also chief executive for Baldwin Park and San Fernando. Since retirement, Don has completed several interim assignments.

Jon Shull is a retired Chief Executive Officer of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA). Jon previously worked for the Cities of Cerritos and Signal Hill.

Lloyd de Llamas is a founder and former President and Executive Chair of **Hdl Companies**. Lloyd served as City Manager for Woodlake, Lawndale and Monterey Park.

Mark Alexander retired as the La Cañada Flintridge City Manager from 2003 after joining the city staff in October 1988. He also worked in San Dimas, Glendora and Simi Valley.

Gary Chicots is a former City Manager for South El Monte. He also worked assignments in Rosemead, Hawaiian Gardens, Lawndale, El Segundo, Lynwood and Huntington Park.

John DiMario is the Development Services Director for the City of La Puente. He served in La Mirada, La Palma and South Gate.

Jeff Stewart, retired Bellflower City Manager who previously served as city manager in Los Alamitos and El Segundo. Jeff currently works for Willdan.

Greg Korduner, retired Huntington Park City Manager. Greg is one of the Founders of the “Proof of Life” lunch program. He also was City Manager in El Monte and South El Monte. He served as Interim City Manager in Los Alamitos and La Habra Heights. He is a successful senior club golf tourney player.

Tom Robinson, retired City of La Mirada City Manager (2008-2013). Tom worked for Commerce and Cerritos. Since retirement he served as Interim City Manager in La Habra Heights, currently serving as Interim Assistant City Manager.

Chris J. Jeffers became the Glendora city manager in 2007. He joined the South Gate city staff as city manager, first as Interim, and retired in December 2023. He took the Monterey Park city manager position in 1991 and served 16 years.

Jorge Rifa was the Soledad city manager from 1984-1991 and served as Deputy City Manager in Salinas from 1991 to 2008. He retired as Commerce City Administrator in 2017.

Bill Crowe worked for Paramount (1975-1980) before joining the staff of L.A. County Supervisor **Pete Schabarum** (1980-1990). He served as the Rosemead City Manager (2002-2006) before retiring as El Segundo Assistant City Manager.

Lou Shepard began his career in 1957 and worked as City Manager in Commerce, Signal Hill, San Pablo and Delano. He was also the Executive Director of the Pasadena Redevelopment Agency.

Larry Kosmont is the Owner, Chair & CEO at Kosmont Companies. He served as Interim City Manager for Montebello, and as in Bell Gardens. He also held executive positions in Santa Monica, Seal Beach and Burbank. He was the recipient of the John H. Nail award from the League of California Cities in 1980.

Don Wagner, retired Assistant City Manager in Rosemead where he worked with City Manager **Frank G. Tripepi**. Don has served as Interim City Administrator in Maywood since retirement.

Don Vestal, a former City Manager in Westminster. Started his public services career in Planning.

Dave Carmany retired as City Manager in Rialto. He served as city manager in West Covina prior to that. Dave is a University of Southern California (**USC**) alumnus.

Johnny Johnston retired as the Chief Administrative Officer for Ventura County. He served as the Ventura Interim City Manager after retirement. He previously served as city manager in Ojai and Artesia.

Adel M. Freij is the Director of Engineering for Willdan Engineering.

Bill Pagett is a retired Senior Vice President with Willdan Engineering. He was the City Engineer for Paramount and other cities. Bill is known nationally in boat racing circles as a past National K-Boat Champion.

Jack A. Simpson, worked for Paramount, Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens and Bellflower. Also, served Interim in La Puente. Former member of the CCMF Board of Trustees. Worked with **Willdan**.



The next “Proof of Life” lunch will be at the same La Mirada venue on **Thursday, March 27, 2025**.

This “Proof of Life” lunch picture shows: **Lloyd de Llamas**, **Mark Alexander** and **John Bramble**. These quarterly luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet informally, socialize and keep caught up.