

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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May 2025 Special

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Volume No. 19 | Issue No. 7

California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood

This Special May 2025 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the cities of [Hayward](#), [Huntington Beach](#), [Indian Wells](#), [Industry](#) and [Inglewood](#). This grouping includes two Los Angeles County cities, [Industry](#) and [Inglewood](#); and one each from the counties of Alameda ([Hayward](#)); Orange ([Huntington Beach](#)); and Riverside ([Indian Wells](#)).

1992 Olympic figure skating champion **Kristi Yamaguchi** and **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson** are among those born in [Hayward](#). [Indian Wells](#) is home to the *Indian Wells Tennis Garden*, the second largest outdoor tennis stadium in the world after the *Arthur Ashe Stadium*, home of the U.S. Open in New York. [Inglewood](#) has the SoFi Stadium which is home to the [Los Angeles Rams](#) and [Los Angeles Chargers](#).



"A friend is a storybook and a manual of memories, reflections and laughter." --- Anonymous

A good friend is someone you can trust and feel comfortable around. It is good to keep in touch with friends, which is an objective of the POL lunches.

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California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood



Hayward developed on Spanish land grant property. In 1868 the Hayward earthquake severely damaged the buildings along the Hayward Fault line. Most of the city's buildings were destroyed. The city was incorporated in March 1876. Hayward grew with an economy based on agriculture with important crops of tomatoes, potatoes, peaches, cherries and apricots. Local canneries that opened in 1895 were served by a rail line between Oakland and San Jose. Salt evaporation ponds became important with Leslie Salt being one of the largest companies. The Hayward city manager is **Dr. Ana Alvarez**. She succeeds former longtime city manager **Kelly McAdoo**, who left Hayward to become the City Administrator in Santa Barbara. **Miriam Lens** is the City Clerk and **Dustin Claussen** and **Regina Youngblood** serve as Assistant City Managers. The Director of Finance is **Sharif Elman**.



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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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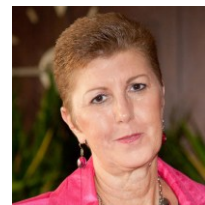
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California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood



Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, who has served as the Deputy General Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District since March 2016, is the city manager for the City of Hayward, effective January 9. The park district is the largest urban park district in the United States with its own police and fire departments managing 73 parks with nearly 127,000 acres in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. She previously worked for the City and County of San Francisco starting in 2009. Before that she held positions in Santa Fe Springs, Oceanside, Burbank and Santa Barbara. Ana earned an MPA from California State University, Northridge and a Doctorate from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Donald "Don" A. Blubaugh served as the Hayward City Manager from November 1979 until April 1988. Don served as Assistant to the City Manager in Riverside starting in July 1965. In May 1969, Don became the Assistant City Manager for Palm Springs, and in August 1973, he was elevated to the Palms Springs city manager position. Don left the Coachella Valley desert in November 1979 when he joined the Hayward city staff as city manager. He left Hayward in April 1988 when he was hired to be the Walnut Creek city manager. Don served Walnut Creek for more than 14 years and then during the next nearly 5 years, he took on three "interim" city manager assignments in Orinda, Oakley and Martinez. Don served as City Manager for the City of Martinez from February 2007 to June 2008, after serving an "Interim" in 2006-2007. In 2000, Don received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award. He was the President of the City Manager's Department of the League of California Cities in 1990-1991 while he was the Walnut Creek city manager. Don earned a BA in social sciences from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and a Master of governmental administration from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School.



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California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood



Huntington Beach, known as “Surf City” among those who like the beach life, surfing and the beach culture. Huntington Beach’s main local highway is “Beach Boulevard,” originally a cattle route. Once known as

Shell Beach, the community worked its way through a number of nomenclatures. It was Pacific City as it became a tourist destination, and then it was named for **Henry E. Huntington**, the railroad entrepreneur who brought the Pacific Electric Red Car lines to Huntington Beach.

The original Huntington Beach Pier was built in 1904, and the city was incorporated in February 1909. The 2020 population is 198,711. It is the fourth largest Orange County city. The current Huntington Beach city manager is **Travis Hopkins**, and **Lisa Lane Barnes** is the City Clerk. **Jennifer Carey** is the Deputy City Manager. **Sunny Han** is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and the current Director of Parks and Recreation is **Ashley (Wysocki) Theel**.



After more than a year without a permanent city manager following the resignation of City Manager **Al Zelinka** in November 2023. Al left the public service. Assistant City Manager **Travis Hopkins** was hired to be the city manager in March 2025. Travis came to work for the city in 2006 starting as a Public Works Engineer and he rose through the ranks to become Public Works Director and in 2019 he became the Assistant City Manager. Before coming to Huntington Beach, Travis worked for the cities of Placentia and Carson. Travis is a California Registered Civil Engineer. He earned a BS in civil engineering from the University of Idaho, and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.

“The best surfer out there is the one having the most fun.”

--**Phil Edwards**, Surfer from Oceanside

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California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood

Huntington Beach has had some notable city managers. Some went on to have incredible careers as public service managers. There is no claim here that this is an exhaustive list, but it is a pretty good representative listing.

Retired Pomona City Manager **Linda Lowry** often sang the praises of Huntington Beach City Administrator **Charlie W. Thompson**. Charlie began his Huntington Beach tenure in February 1981. He served as the Downey city manager from 1970 to 1981.

Michael T. Uberuaga, born in February 1945 worked assignments in Claremont, South El Monte, and Compton before becoming City Manager in Milpitas, Concord and Huntington Beach. Mike joined San Diego in the late 1990s and in April 2004 after serving as the city manager for 6 and a half years left that city's service.

Former city manager **Ramon "Ray" Silver** retired from Huntington Beach and returned to service later. Ray's public service career spanned 35 years, including tenure as the City Administrator for the City of Huntington Beach starting in 1997. Ray also served as city manager for Coronado, Westminster and Upland. He served as President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 2002-2003. He has relocated out of State.

Fred Wilson, who currently works as a Senior Consultant for an executive recruitment firm. Fred served 21 years as City Manager for the cities of Huntington Beach (2008-2019) and San Bernardino. Fred is a past President of the Orange County City Managers' Association. He earned a BS from California Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from California State University, Northridge.

Alfred "Al" Zelinka was hired to be the Huntington Beach city manager in 2022. He had previously worked four years as the Riverside city manager. Al left Huntington Beach after a year and a half on the job. Al earned a Masters from Cornell University.



On the Road: Keep your eyes open! You never know what you may see! Have a nice Summer!

California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood



Indian Wells gets its name from a Cahuilla Native American water reservoir. When gold was discovered on the Colorado River about 1830, **William D. Bradshaw** built a trail from Los Angeles to the mines. Indian Wells became an important stop of the Alexander and Company Stage Line that served prospectors. The area's first golf courses were opened in the 1950s, and in 1957 **Desi Arnaz** opened the *Indian Wells Hotel* (now the *Indian Wells Resort Hotel*). United State President **Dwight D. Eisenhower** was a regular golf patron in Indian Wells, and he became a local homeowner as was former Los Angeles County Supervisor **Pete Schabarum**. The city of Indian Wells was incorporated in July 1967 becoming the State of California's 400th city. The city's 2020 population is 4,757. Indian Wells is known worldwide for the Indian Wells Masters tennis tournament held as the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. **Christopher Freeland** is the City Manager and **Angelica Avila** is the City Clerk. **Jon Berg** is the Community Development Director and **Kristen Nelson** is the Administrative Services Manager. The Indian Wells Finance Director is **Kevin McCarthy** and **Erika Flores** is the Assistant Finance Director.



Dr. Christopher "Chris" Freeland was appointed to the Indian Wells city manager position in May 2019. Chris began his public service career as a Field Representative for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Chris joined the West Covina city staff in February 2001 and in September 2015 he was selected to serve as the West Covina City Manager. Chris left West Covina after serving there for more than 18 years to become the City Manager for the City of Indian Wells in May 2019. Chris earned a BA in political science and a BS in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He also earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach, and a Ph.D. in public policy and American Politics from Claremont Graduate University.



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Retired Beverly Hills City Manager **Rod Wood** served as Interim City Manager in Indian Wells October 2011 to July 2013. He previously served as the Indian Wells City Manager from 1989 to 1992. Rod is a past President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities (2003-2004). 16 year, Atascadero City Manager **Wade McKinney** took over from Interim City Manager **Rod Wood** in July 2013, following City Manager **Greg Johnson's** resignation in October 2011. Greg served as city manager for nine years. **George Watts** was city manager starting in February 1993. He retired in 2001. Former Arcadia Mayor and Council Member **Charles Gilb** described George as a "quality city manager." George worked for Arcadia for 22 years, the last 11 years, as city manager. He began his career as an intern for Long Beach in 1966, before taking a position with the City of Commerce. George earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach. George played guitar in a blues band in venues throughout Southern California.



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



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California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood



Home to more than 3,000 businesses and 67,000 jobs, the City of Industry is described as the economic hub of the San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles County. Mexican land grant property that was used primarily as a cattle ranch, is now almost

entirely industrial. The city was incorporated as a charter city in June 1957. The first City of Industry Mayor, **John Ferrero** was elected upon the incorporation of the city and after 39 years became the longest serving mayor in California. The 2020 population is set at 264. **Joshua Nelson** is the city manager, and **Bing H. Hyun** and **Sam Pedroza** are Assistant City Managers. **Julie Gutierrez-Robles** is the City Clerk. The city's Director of Finance is **Yamini Pathak**.

Joshua Nelson worked for the City of Industry as a consultant public works and engineering contractor starting in 1999. In March 2018, Josh became the city's contract City Engineer. He joined the city staff in July 2019 as Director of Public Works and City Engineer. In July 2020, Josh became the Assistant City Manager, and he was hired to be the City Manager in August 2021. He earned a BS in civil engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo after studying civil engineering at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Josh served as a Member of the Board for ASCE Orange County in 2009-2012. .

Sam Pedroza, as part of his Assistant City Manager duties serves as the public affairs manager. Sam says that he is amazed by the changes in the acres of farmland to a regional industrial powerhouse.

John Robert Baker was city manager in the 1980s. City Manager **Paul Philips** was hired in 2017 to replace City Manager **Kevin Radecki**. **Troy Helling** was city manager in 2019-2020. Former county Supervisor staff member turned city manager, **Bob Rope**, had a tremendous impact forging the city's future. Bob's son **Christopher Rope** also served as an Industry city manager starting in March 1985 after serving as city manager in Palmdale and Lomita.



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California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood



Inglewood is the Los Angeles County city that is home to the Los Angeles Rams and the Los Angeles Chargers NFL teams at SoFi Stadium since its opening in 2020. SoFi will also host the opening and closing ceremonies

for the 2028 Summer Olympics. The development of Inglewood was boosted with the opening of the Venie-Inglewood railway in 1887. **Daniel Freeman** acquired the rancho in the area and founded the Centinela-Inglewood Land Company in 1887 that was the builder for much of the original development of the city. One of the United States' premier horse racing venues was in Inglewood at Hollywood Park Racetrack from 1938 to 2013. The city was incorporated in February 1908. The 2020 population is 107,762. **Louis A. Atwell** is the City Manager and **Jose Cortes** is the Assistant City Manager. **Aisha Thompson** is the City Clerk, and the Assistant City Manager & Chief Financial Officer is **David L. Esparza**. **Sharon Koike** is the Assistant Finance Director. **Christopher E. Jackson** is the Development Services Director, and **Sabrina Barnes** is the Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services.



Louis A. Atwell joined the Inglewood city staff as the Public Works Director in 2012. He was promoted to Assistant City Manager in 2019. Following his promotion, Louis served as both the Public Works Director and Assistant City Manager in charge of City Operations. He is a Professional Civil Engineer with nearly 24 years of municipal services and 10 years of professional consulting firm experience. He previously worked for the cities of Downey and Los Angeles, as well as the Las Vegas Valley Water District. He was the Deputy Director of Public Works for the City of Downey from November 2007 until September 2012. He became Inglewood city manager at the end of December 2024 with the retirement of **Mark Weinberg**. Louis earned a BS in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



Atascadero City Manager **Jim Lewis** and his pretty wife **Debi Lewis** at the 151st running of the Kentucky Derby on May 3, 2025, at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. The race winner was Sovereignty.



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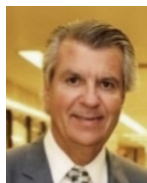
David L. Esparza, Inglewood Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, worked as an Assistant General Manager for the City of Los Angeles from March 2006 to February 2012. David joined the Inglewood city staff in 2012. David earned a BA in history and political science and an MPA from San José State University. He also earned an MPP in public policy and economics from the University of California, Berkeley.



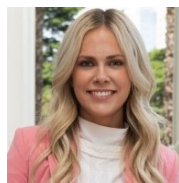
Joe A. Gonsalves said: "Lobbyist are like parachutes; you don't need them often but when you do, they had better work."

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Anthony Gonsalves
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California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood

Mark Weinberg served three separate stints as the Inglewood city manager until he retired effective December 31, 2024. Mark became the Inglewood city manager for the first time in 2003 and served there until 2006. He then worked as city manager in Medina, Washington, and he became the city manager in San Bernardino, California in 2008. Mark returned to Inglewood as city manager in July 2010 and left in June 2011. He returned again for a year in January 2024. Mark earned a BA and an MA in psychology from California State University, Northridge.

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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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"No legacy is so rich as honesty."
---William Shakespeare

California Managers in Cities from Hayward to Inglewood



Artie A. Fields began his public service career as an intern in Beverly Hills in January 1986, and he served in various positions in Manhattan Beach and Pasadena. In December 1988, Artie was hired as a Senior Administrative Assistant

for the City of Pasadena. In November 1991 Artie joined the Pomona city staff as a Senior Management Analyst. He moved to Northern California in February 1994 when he was hired to serve as the Assistant to the City Manager in the city of San Leandro. He moved south in November 1998 when he was selected to serve as the Assistant City Manager for the city of West Covina. Artie was recruited to be the Salinas city manager starting in July 2008. He was the City Manager for the City of Inglewood from July 2011 until he retired at the end of December 2023. In 2002 Artie received the *John H. Nail Memorial Award*, presented annually to an outstanding municipal assistant. He earned a BA in psychology and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). Artie received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award in 2024. He grew up in La Puente.



The **Gene Luevano** family of Cerritos celebrating the Astronautical Engineering Master's degree graduation of oldest son Gene from the University of Southern California.

(L to R) Marnie, Jon, Gene and Gene on the **USC** campus.



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Paul D. Eckles served as the City Manager for the City of Inglewood from November 1975 until April 1997. Paul worked as an Administrative Analyst for the State of California starting in April 1964, and in March 1966 he took a position with a private consultant firm in Illinois. Paul was hired by the City of Inglewood in December 1973 to fill an Assistant City Manager position. He was appointed city manager in November 1975. Paul earned a BA from Stanford University and an MPA from Illinois Institute of Technology. In 1991 he received a 25 Year ICMA Service Award.

Inglewood Assistant City Manager **Dr. Michael D. Falkow** is a graduate of the reserve police academy in 2014. He retired from Inglewood in 2018 after more than 15 years of city service. He was Assistant City Manager for 11 years. Michael earned a Doctorate in Policy, Planning and Development from the University of Southern California So Price School (**USC**).



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.

EKA provides lobbying, government affairs, public relations, political campaigns, and crisis management services for a wide variety of clientele. In addition, **EKA** provides professional litigation communication and expert witness services led by our team of strategists, lawyers, journalists, and media relations specialists.



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. **Matt Knabe**, Managing Partner.

California Contract Cities Association



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"Proof of Life" Lunch, July 17, 2025



The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be at the Northwoods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada on **Thursday, July 17, 2025**. Please put it on your calendar and plan to be there!

This "Proof of Life" lunch picture shows former city managers **Johnny Johnston, Mike Sedell & Bill Crowe**. POL luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet and greet. The importance of the POL is magnified when a participant passes on unexpectedly like former Palmdale city manager, the late **James "Jim" Purtee**. Other POL participants lost are **Bill Holt, Darrell Essex, Frank Tripepi, Howard Chambers, Mary Strenn** and **Ray Harris**, Gather at **11:30 for the noon lunch on Thursday, July 17, 2025**.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Some considerations and thoughts, just for edification and "remember whens": How many of you remember **Joyce Beasley** and **Red Smart** of "Roller Derby"? Who was your favorite: *Chester* or *Festus*? Some folks do not recognize celebrities such as **Martina McBride, Alison Krauss** or **Ella Langley**? Was anyone out there in the stands to watch "The Freak" pitch a no-hitter for the San Francisco Giants? **Glenn Southard, Kathy Mendoza, Ernie Garcia** and **Fred Guido** have San Clemente connections. How many others should be included in this group? San Francisco is among the top cities in the U. S. that homebuyers searched to move from. **Julia D. Novak** is the CEO/Executive Director of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). She served as City Manager of Rye, New York from May 2000 to May 2003. Julia is a longtime consultant to local governments. **Dr. Carlos Urrutia, DPA**, retired in December 2010 as City Manager for the City of Rocklin, where he served for 26 years and 5 months. Carlos continues to offer interim and consultant services. Public affairs and advocacy professional **Marc A. Mitchell**, who worked with *Cerrell Associates* for nearly 11 years and since November 2021 operates his own firm, *Mitchell Public Affairs Inc.*, served on the Redondo Beach Planning Commission for more than 8 years starting in September 2011. The picture shows Marc with **Paul Gonsalves** of the **Joe A. Gonsalves and Son** firm. La Habra Heights resident and co-founder of **Willdan, Dan Walter Heil**, passed away at the Hope Medical Center with leukemia at the age of 73 on Monday, May 15, 2006. Dan earned a BS in engineering from Stanford University and served in the U.S. Army.*





Independent Cities Finance Authority provides local government, nonprofits and other agencies the clout they need to finance important projects that help address California's housing crisis.

Since its inception in 1988, ICFA has helped fund more than \$500 million in critical community projects. Member cities pay no enrollment fees to join or ongoing dues to participate. All underwriting and operational costs are borne by the beneficiaries of the funds.

The ICFA offers member cities many benefits. Through bond funding, the Authority helps create homebuyer assistance programs, generates funds for capital improvements and aids communities in economic development. It is important to learn all about **The Authority** and the benefits it offers.

Independent Cities Financing Authority is an unaffiliated joint powers authority with the ability to help cities achieve their goals.

With bonding arranged through The Authority, local governments can help finance the purchase of single-family and multi-family residential properties, including manufactured home communities, to provide new, more affordable housing alternatives.

Ownership and operation of these alternative housing solutions can be vested in local nonprofit.

The Authority also helps fund a variety of capital improvements for municipalities, schools, special districts, and Mello-Roos facilities, as well as projects impacting the economic development of a community.

ICFA President: **Sylvia Ballin**

Vice President/Treasurer: **Jose Solache**

Manufactured Home Communities: In today's troubled housing market, the need for more affordable housing solutions is clear. Learn how The Authority has helped member cities and local non-profit organizations acquire and manage manufactured home communities. [More...](#)

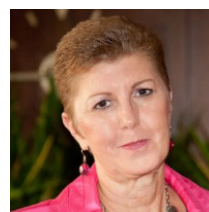
Bond Funding Programs: The Authority is empowered to purchase multi-family residential projects, including manufactured home communities. Find out how your community can address the need for affordable local housing through ICFA's innovative funding programs.

Capital Improvement Programs: Now cities can fund capital projects and equipment acquisition at a lower cost with help from The Authority. Working in cooperation with major banks, ICFA can provide funding at favorable rates. Find out more here.

The Authority can help communities create the infrastructure and acquire the equipment needed to create a better quality of life for their citizens.

Working in partnership with major financial institutions The Authority can provide bond funding and equipment leasing for major projects for municipalities, schools, special districts and local agencies, including Mello-Roos.

For information on how The Authority can tailor a financing package to meet your specific needs, contact us today!



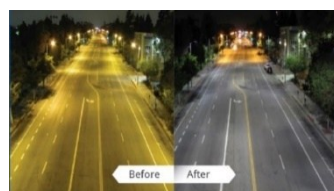
For more information, please contact:

Independent Cities Finance Authority

Ms. Debbie Smith

Post Office Box No. 6740
Palmdale, California 93539-6740
(877) 906-0941

In partnership with experienced energy solutions providers, ICFA created a Municipal Street Lighting Program to help cities economize by taking control of their lighting utilities.





A group arriving at a 2025 "Proof of Life" lunch. From left to right are **Don Vestal**, **Mike Egan**, **Jack Simpson**, **Jim Barisic**, **Bill Crowe**, **Lloyd de Llamas** and **Don Wagner**. Mike is serving as the Interim City Manager for the City of La Palma.



Picking Up the Pieces: Huntington Beach Deputy City Manager **Jennifer Carey** has decided to leave municipal government service in order to work as Chief of Staff for State Senator **Tony Strickland** of California's 36th Senatorial District. Jennifer said she met Tony when he won election to the Huntington Beach City Council in 2022. Jennifer earned a BA in political science and an

MA in communications from Arizona State University. She first joined the Huntington Beach city staff in 2021 as the Public Information Officer for the police department. In addition to its Orange County areas, District 36 includes Los Angeles County cities of Artesia, Cerritos and Hawaiian Gardens. Former Ojai Assistant City Manager **Carl F. Alameda**, 45, a former La Cañada Flintridge Assistant City Manager is charged with stealing a little more than \$193,000 while with La Cañada Flintridge, according to Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney **Nathan Hochman**. The City of Ojai terminated his employment effective May 16, 2025. The former La Cañada Flintridge assistant faces 11 felony counts of embezzlement and 23 counts of insurance fraud. He pleaded not guilty and will return to court on July 23. Ambassador **Candace A. Bond**, 59, has been retained to serve as Interim City Manager for the City of Malibu. She previously served as the United States Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. She is a 30-year resident of the City of Malibu. The Ambassador has been involved in education and community development. She served on the Board of the Los Angeles County Office of Education and as Co-Chair of the MLK Community Development Corporation. She earned an MBA from the University of Harvard Business School. She succeeds city manager **Steve McClary**.

"We were young and strong, we were runnin' against the wind" ---**Bob Seger** lyric

Chris Huot is the new City Manager for the City of Paso Robles. Chris joined the city staff in January 2022 as Assistant City Manager. He served as interim city manager

twice. In 2024 he filled in during City Manager **Ty Lewis**'s leave of absence, and again when Ty left the city in January 2025. Before coming to Paso Robles, Chris worked for the city of Bakersfield from February 2011 until December 2021. He was the Bakersfield Assistant City Manager between February 2015 and December 2021. Chris earned a BA and MA in communications from Texas Tech University. In 2021 he received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award. Chris is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Blue Lake city manager **Amanda "Mandy" L. Mager** was dismissed in a surprise early May 2025 action. Finance Manager **Dani Burkhardt** confirmed that Mandy's last day was May 9, 2025. The firing seems to have sparked a political controversy in the city with some supporting a recall. Mandy started as the Blue Lake city manager in April 2016. **James Lindsay** has been appointed Acting City Manager for the City of Lodi. While City Manager **Scott Carney** is on a 45-day paid administrative leave Jim will serve as Acting City Manager. Jim left the Saratoga city manager post in June 2024 after serving in that position for ten years. He earned a BA in environmental studies from San Jose State University. He is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Jim began his public service career as a Permit Center Manager for the City of Milpitas in April 2000. He worked as the Milpitas Planning Manager from July 2003 until 2005 when he left public service temporarily for the housing industry. He rejoined the Milpitas staff as Planning & Neighborhood Services Director in October 2007. Jim joined the Saratoga city staff as Community Development Director in October 2011. He became the Saratoga city manager in March 2015. In 2022 he received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award. **Savita Chaudhary** is the next Vacaville city manager to replace retiring city manager **Aaron Busch** in May 2025. Assistant City Manager **GeorgeAnne Megger-Smith** is serving as interim city manager when Aaron leaves. Savita has served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Fairfield since July 2023. She worked for Vacaville for nearly 12 years starting in December 2003. She earned a BA in mathematics and an MS in statistics from Delhi University, and an MPA from Golden Gate University. This is a 2015 picture of Calico. Irvine City Manager **Oliver Chi** is the new Santa Monica city manager, succeeding City Manager **David White**, who resigned in February. He will start on July 14. Oliver was previously city manager in Huntington Beach, Monrovia, and Rosemead. He will take the reigns from Interim City Manager **Elaine Polachek**.

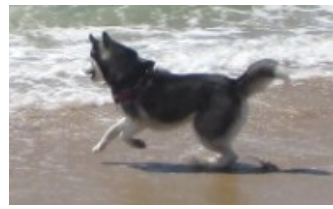




More Pieces Picked Up: Steven D. Adams, city manager for the city of King City will retire at the end of the year. Steve was appointed city manager in 2015. Prior to coming to King City, he worked assignments for Glendale, Westlake Village

and Arroyo Grande, where he was the city manager for more than 14 years from September 2000 until January 2015. He was an Intern with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in March 1982. He also worked Administrative Intern positions in San Luis Obispo and Temple City. Steve earned a BA from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and an MPA from the University of Southern California (USC). Cupertino City Manager **Pamela Wu** was placed on leave following a performance evaluation. Pamela became city manager for Cupertino in 2022. She previously worked as the Community and Economic Development Director for the City of San Bruno. Deputy City Manager **Tina Kapoor** has been appointed Acting City Manager during the city manager's absence. Pamela earned a BA in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. She worked in Planning for the County of Santa Clara from February 2001 until she joined the Gilroy planning staff in 2018. **Philip Hawkey** served as the Pasadena city manager from June 1990 until April 1998. He worked 17 years for the University of La Verne in various positions, including Special Assistant to the President (2013-2015). Phil later became the Executive Director of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments from September 2015 to September 2017. Phil earned a BA in economics from Baldwin Wallace University, an MA from The Ohio State University and a JD from Cleveland State University, Marshall College of Law. **Leslie L. Doolittle** (February 23, 1935-January 27, 2004), who passed away on January 27, 2004, following a lengthy illness, was born February 23, 1935, in Carmel by the Sea. A celebration of life service was held in Oakland on February 14, 2004. Leslie served as an Operations Officers on the U.S.S. Holmes for the United States Navy. He was city manager for Morgan Hill, La Habra Heights, Newman and Woodside. From 1971 to 1974, Leslie served as the Executive Director for the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. He earned a BA from Claremont Men's College and an MA from Occidental College.

On Page 14 of the May 2025 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown is a picture of a Randsburg, California store. Randsburg is off Highway 395 westerly of Ridgecrest. The town "boomed" in the late 19th century with the discovery of the Yellow Aster Mine in 1895. By the end of 1896, Randsburg had a population of more than 1,500 and railroad service was completed in 1898. The Yellow Aster Mine closed during World War I because of declining gold production in 1918. The railroad service was discontinued in 1933 during the Great Depression.



SHORTS: *Congratulations to retired California Contract Cities Association Executive Director **Sam Olivito**, who turns 90 on July Fourth, and for the recent special recognition he received

from Executive Director **Marcel Rodarte** and the CCCA Board. ***Daymon Qualls**, former Lindsay city manager (2024-2025) and Exeter Public Works Director (2005-2024), was sworn in April 14 as the Farmersville city manager. ***Former Ojai and La Cañada Flintridge** Assistant City Manager **Carl Alameda** is a member of the City County Management Fellowship Board of Directors for the **USC** Sol Price School of Public Policy. ***John Russo, Anthony Gonsalves, Sam Olivito and Jack Simpson** were seen enjoying the unique Mexican cuisine of Maracas Cantina in Rancho Mirage earlier this month. ***A suspect is in custody for the fatal shooting of Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff Ryan Clinkunbroomer**, found in his patrol car on Sierra Highway in Palmdale earlier this month. ***Hdl Companies** Chairman of the Board, **Rod Gould** served as city manager in Santa Monica, Poway, San Rafael, and Monrovia and earned a BA from Yale University, and a Master's Degree in education, and an MPA from Harvard University. ***Pacifica** Assistant City Manager **Yulia Carter** previously worked for San Carlos, Los Altos Hills, Half Moon Bay and Sausalito. ***Sarah Henry** serves as the Communications & Legislative Affairs Officer for the City of Alameda working with City Manager **Jen Ott**. ***Former Cypress** Public Works Director **Doug Dancs** accuses City Manager **Peter Grant** of "...unlawful acts of misconduct." ***Hemet** City Manager **Mark T. Prestwich** and his wife of nine years **Jennie Prestwich** traveled to Dublin, Ireland on an anniversary celebration trip this month. ***William Rose**, who began his public service career working in municipal planning for the cities of Novato, Santa Rosa, Palo Alto and Sausalito, is the new Assistant City Manager for the City of Novato, working with City Manager **Amy Cunningham**. ***In Simi Valley**, where the city manager is **Samantha Argabrite**, according to Simi Valley Acorn writer **Michele Willer-Allred**, "A growing coalition of residents, scientists and advocacy groups..." wants improved air quality measures instituted for the Simi Valley Landfill. ***Upland/San Bernardino County** Fire Captain **Andrea Binley** began her career as a Fire Explorer with the Upland Fire Department when she was just 19 years old and now she is Chairperson for the Women's Fire Alliance, helping women pursue careers in firefighting. ***Janet Wackerman** has been selected to serve as the Interim City Manager for the City of Orland following the resignation of former city manager **Pete Carr**, who served as city manager for 13 years starting in May 2012. ***Mali LaGoe** **Chris Huot** is the City Manager for the City of Scotts Valley and previously served as the Assistant Executive Officer for Nevada County, California. ****

