

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



August 2025

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Retired Merced City Manager **Jim Marshall** and Gwen on a whale watching trip out of Victoria, British Columbia. Jim worked as a National City Intern in February 1972. He worked in Duarte in July 1973 and went to Ceres as Planning Director in January 1975. He served as Ceres City Manager from 1978 to 1992 when he went to Merced as City Manager in April 1992. Jim says that they followed a group of 7 Orcas in Sooke Harbor and a few humpbacks in the Straits.

California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta

This August 2025 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the cities of La Habra Heights, La Mesa, La Mirada, La Palma, La Puente, and La Quinta. This grouping includes three cities in Los Angeles County, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, and La Puente; one city in Orange County, La Palma; one in Riverside County, La Quinta and one from San Diego County, La Mesa. **Rafferty Wooldridge** is the La Habra Heights city manager and **Scott Butler** is the city manager in La Mesa, **Jeff Boynton** in La Mirada, and **Michael Egan** is the interim city manager in La Palma. City Manager **Bob Lindsey** service La Puente, and the La Quinta city manager is **Jon McMillen**.

Jack & Susan Simpson, 10 Claret, Rancho Mirage, California 92270

Jack's Cell | 562/896-5424; Susan's Cell | 310/418-1035

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California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta



La Habra Heights is a Los Angeles County city located on the Orange County border on the 1839 Rancho La Habra Mexican land grant. In 1926, Rudolph Hass planted avocado seeds that

yielded what is today known as the Hass avocado, which became a \$1 billion a year U. S. avocado industry by the early 21st century. La Habra Heights was incorporated in December 1978. Its 2020 population is 5,682. La Habra Heights was home to the late **Dan Heil**, a founder of Willdan Engineering. **Rafferty Wooldridge** is serving as an Interim City Manager and City Clerk. He is the Community Development Director. Rafferty replaced **Fabiola Huerta**, who was appointed city manager in 2019. Retired La Mirada city manager **Tom Robinson** is working as the La Habra Heights Interim Assistant City Manager. **Angie Martinez** is the Finance Manager.

Rafferty Wooldridge serves as interim city manager for the City of La Habra Heights being elevated from the Assistant City Manager community. Rafferty worked as the City's community development director and the assistant city manager.

Fabiola Huerta was appointed Assistant to the City Manager in August 2016. She became city manager in 2019 succeeding city manager **Jarad Hildenbrand** who left to become Stanton city manager. Previously, she served as the Director of Administrative and Business Services for Long Beach City College.

Jarad Hildenbrand was appointed city manager in December 2016. **Hannah Shin-Heydorn**, former Signal Hill city manager, is the current Stanton city manager. Jarad left Stanton to become the city manager for the City of Laguna Hills.

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Shauna L. Clark, who was 64 at her resignation, worked as the La Habra Heights city manager from November 2007 until July 2016; nearly 9-years. She had a distant commute from her home in Pasadena. Before coming to La Habra Heights, Shauna was city administrator for San Bernardino from 1990 to 1997 and city clerk from 1978 to 1990.

Retired La Mirada City Manager **Tom Robinson** has served as the interim assistant city manager for La Habra Heights since January. Tom previously worked as the interim city manager in 2016 following the departure of City Manager **Shauna L. Clark**.

Leslie L. Doolittle (February 23, 1935-January 27, 2004) passed away following a lengthy illness. Les, a retired U. S. Naval Officer, was born in Carmel, California. He served as city manager in Morgan Hill, Newman and Woodside. Les started as La Habra Heights city manager in June 1995. He earned a BA from Claremont Men's College and an MA from Occidental College.



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California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta

Les Doolittle succeeded La Habra Heights interim City Manager **Lyle W. Alberg** (1930-2011), a former city manager in other cities who came out of semi-retirement to serve La Habra Heights. Lyle served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corp, stationed in San Diego and in Henderson, Nevada during the Korean War. He served as the Personnel Officer in Monterey Park from 1956 - 1958, then City Administrator for the cities of Montebello, (1958-1968), Independence, Mo. (1968-1978), Arcadia, (1978-1981), and Hemet (1981-1988). He retired as City Manager and Acting Fire Chief from Hemet in 1988. Following his retirement, Lyle served two terms on the Hemet City Council and as Mayor. He also served as interim city manager for the cities of Indian Wells, Desert Hot Springs, La Habra Heights, Imperial, and for the newly incorporated cities of Yucca Valley, and Calimesa, helping them to develop their city charters.

Lyle Alberg was retained after former City Manager **Joe Perez** resigned to become the La Puente Assistant City Manager. Joe held the La Habra Heights job for less than three months. He had been named city manager after **Noelia Chapa** resigned in August to become Finance Director in her hometown of Pomona.

Robert G. Gutierrez joined the city in 1982 as city manager. Bob was born in February 1954. He began his public service career as an Administrative Assistant for the city of Walnut in December 1977. Bob took an Administrative Assistant position with the city of Downey in April 1979, and in May 1980 he became an Administrative Assistant for the City of Rosemead and then-city manager **Frank Tripepi**. Bob left Rosemead in 1982 to become the city manager for the City of La Habra Heights. After Bob served as the city manager for the city of La Puente, he worked as Assistant City Manager for Pomona until he was selected to serve as the Moreno Valley city manager in 2005. Bob retired from Moreno Valley in June 2009. Bob earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton.



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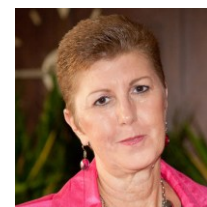
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California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta



La Mesa, known as “the Jewel of the Hills,” is San Diego County city. The name “La Mesa” is Spanish for “the table,” or “the plateau.” La Mesa was founded in 1869. The city was incorporated in February 1912.

The official flower of La Mesa is the bougainvillea. The city is bordered by San Diego, Lemon Grove and El Cajon. It is a general law city with the council-manager system of government, with a directly elected major. Notable people connected to La Mesa include **Aaron Boone**, **Reggie Bush** and **Bill Walton**. **Greg Humora** is the city manager, and **Megan Wiegelman** is the city clerk. **John Herrera**, CPA, is the Acting Director of Finance.



Greg Humora joined the La Mesa city staff in December 1999 as an Engineering Project Manager. In July 2004, Greg was named Director of Public Works and City Engineer. After more than a dozen years as Director, Greg was appointed La Mesa Assistant City Manager. He was elevated to the City Manager position in February 2020. Greg earned a BS in civil engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, and an MPA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Acting Director of Finance **John Herrera** is a former contractor Finance Director of the cities of Buellton and Goleta. He served as the Pico Rivera Finance Director from October 2007 to April 2011. He also worked for the Fallbrook Public Utility

District, City of Imperial Beach, Salton Sea Authority, La Quinta, San Jacinto and the City of Hemet. John earned a BS from San Diego State University and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino.

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California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta



La Mirada is located in southeast Los Angeles County, and it was founded by **Andrew McNally** and **Edwin Neff**. In 1896 the *La Mirada Land Company* was established. The firm published a booklet

entitled, "The Country Gentleman in California." The publication listed land for sale and included pictures, a map and depictions of the local scenic olive, alfalfa, lemon, orange and grapefruit groves. La Mirada received a great deal of attention in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The community was being completely structured and planned out. It was referred to as "the Nation's completely planned city" during the early 1950s. La Mirada received attention from the California State Fair, with the Fair praising the city for planning for the future while maintaining present day practicality. La Mirada was incorporated in March 1960. Its 2020 population is 48,008. The city manager is **Jeff Boynton**, and the Assistant City Manager and City Clerk is **Anne M. Haraksin**. **Oliver Osuna** is the Community Services Director; **Manuel Munoz** is the Community Development Director, **Mark Stowell** is the Public Works Director and **BT McNicholl** is the Theatre Director.

La Mirada has been blessed with some highly professional city managers, including **Chappie Bone**, **Claude Klug**, **Gary K. Sloan** and **Tom Robinson**. Retired City and County Manager and past President of ICMA (1992-1993), **Roy Pederson** worked in La Mirada in an assistant's capacity from 1961 to 1964. Roy is a Coro Foundation alumnus. Gary began his public service career in 1972 with the Pico Rivera city staff. He worked as a department head in Cerritos in 1979-1980 and joined the La Mirada city staff as Assistant City Manager in 1980. He was appointed city manager in February 1981. After working in Commerce and Cerritos, Tom worked more than 28 years with La Mirada, his last 5-plus as City Manager (2008-2013).

California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta

La Mirada City Manager **Jeff Boynton** joined the city staff in 2001. Prior to his appointment as City Manager in September 2013, he worked in a number of positions, including Deputy City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager, and Administrative Analyst. Jeff began his career in municipal government, working with the cities of Cypress and Lakewood. Jeff earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a Finance concentration and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from California State University, Fullerton.



La Palma was originally incorporated as the City of Dairyland when it became one of three "dairy cities" in the area: Dairy Valley (Cerritos), Dairy City (Cypress) and Dairyland (La Palma). The cities were all founded by dairy farmers in the 1950s. La Palma, originally Dairyland, had 18 dairies in an area of 1.76 square miles. The city's name was changed to La Palmas in 1965, though the city was incorporated in October 1955. The 2020 population is 15,581. **Mike Egan** is the Interim City Manager, and **Joseph Cisneros** is the Deputy City Manager. **Kimberly Kenney** is the City Clerk. Whittier City Manager **Conal McNamara** served as La Palma city manager from April 2020 to May 2025.



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

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

California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta



Mike Egan, La Palma Interim City Manager, began his public service career in the early 1990s with Bellflower City Administrator **Jack A. Simpson**. Mike was appointed Bellflower city manager in 1997 where he worked until 2011 when he was hired to serve as the city manager for the City of Norwalk. Mike retired in September 2017. Mike has remained active following his retirement. He works as a Director for **Tripepi Smith** when available. Mike served as the Interim City Manager for the City of Artesia starting in January 2022. He began working as the Interim City Manager for La Palma in April 2025. Mike earned a BA in behavioral sciences from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

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California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta



La Puente was founded on the 48,000-acre Rancho La Puente land grant to European settlers in 1841. The name "La Puente"

means "the Bridge" in Spanish. In the beginning the area was known for its citrus, walnut and avocado production. During the 1930s La Puente was home to the world's largest walnut packing plant. Following World War II, the La Puente area moved from agriculture to become a residential suburb like many Southern California communities. The "Skyranch" airport operated in La Puente from 1944 until 1951. Prior to 1960, the area was part of the El Monte Township, which no longer exists as part of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The La Puente city manager is **Bob Lindsey**, and **Martha Torres** is the City Clerk.

La Puente City Manager **Robert C. Lindsey** retired with the rank of Commander with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 2011. He joined the Department in 1978 and worked for the department for 32 years. In 2017 Bob was an unsuccessful candidate for Los Angeles County Sheriff. Bob was hired by the La Puente City Council in October 2018. He is a Covina High School graduate and earned a BS from Azusa Pacific University.

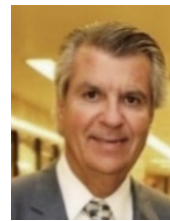
Through the years La Puente has been blessed with many highly professional city managers. We did not get them all but we tried. **Gordon L. Oehl**, who loved freshwater fishing, was a long-time La Puente city manager. Before **Frank Ruiz** took the position. Frank, 84, passed away with Alzheimer's disease on February 18, 2012. A U. S. Navy veteran, Frank worked for La Puente 25 years, retiring as city manager in 1990. La Habra Heights city manager **Robert G. Gutierrez** came to La Puente as city manager in 1990. Other names that emerge in a La Puente city manager search include **Richard J. Gittings**, who was appointed in 1956, and **Robert D. Brodt**, and **George H. Kading**.



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

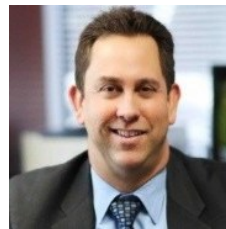
Anthony D. Gonsalves and two of his sons, **Jason A. Gonsalves** and **Paul A. Gonsalves**, are expert local government lobbyists.

Founded in 1975 by former Assembly Member **Joe A. Gonsalves**, the firm represents 50-plus cities and is a key player in city legislation. The firm works closely with the League of California Cities.



Anthony Gonsalves, President of the firm, is a long time Member of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) Board of Trustees.

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
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Bret Plumlee, who is a Principal Consultant for **Hdl Companies**, who previously worked for the cities of La Mirada (1993-1995), Rolling Hills Estates (1995-1998), El Segundo (1998-2007), and La Quinta (2007-2011), served as the La Puente city manager from 2011 to 2013. After leaving La Puente, he was the Los Alamitos city manager (2013-2019). David Carmany served as the La Puente city manager from January 2014 to December 2018. The Late-**Frank G. Tripepi**, a retired Rosemead city manager and executive with the **Willdan** Group of Companies, served as La Puente Interim City Manager from October 2008 until December 2009. Frank was a member of the Board of Governors for the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College. In 2017, **Raul Romero**, served as Interim City Manager. Raul previously worked as city manager in Commerce, South El Monte and Coachella. He retired in 2001.



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Hawaiian Gardens City Manager **Ernesto Marquez**
and his son fishing off Santa Catalina Island.

California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta



La Quinta is Spanish for "the country villa." These days the community of La Quinta is described as a desert resort city in Riverside County. It is one of nine cities in the Coachella Valley, located between Indian Wells and Indio. In 1926, Walter Morgan opened the La Quinta Resort as a secluded hideaway for Hollywood celebrities and those of high society. The original Resort was the site for the Coachella Valley's first golf course. In addition to the country club golf courses, La Quinta has 20 parks within the city. As other desert cities grew to capacity, land in La Quinta became prime for development. The city was incorporated in May 1982. The 2020 population is 37,558. **Jon McMillen** is the City Manager and **Monika Radeva** is the City Clerk. **Steve Howlett** is the Director of Parks and Recreation, and **Claudia Martinez** is the Finance Director.



CALIFORNIA
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California Managers in Cities from La Habra Heights to La Quinta



La Quinta City Manager **Jon McMillen** was appointed to the position in 2019. He started working with the city as an Economist and Housing Specialist in 2002. Jon earned a BA in environmental design, and he has had a general contractor's license since 1989.

Claudia Martinez is the City of La Quinta Finance Director and City Treasurer.

Bryan McKinney is the La Quinta Public Works Director and City Engineer. Bryan joined the city staff in September 2006 as a Principal Engineer, after working for the County of Orange for more than 18 years. Bryan was hired in Orange County in July 1988 and he was a Senior Civil Engineer when he left for La Quinta in 2006. After 11 plus years as Principal Engineer, Bryan was appointed City Engineer and Director of Public Works in October 2017. Bryan earned a BS in civil engineering from Stanford University.

Thomas P. Genovese, served as La Quinta city manager for more than 19 years. Tom died on a Sunday in November 2011 while hiking on the Bump and Grind Trail in Rancho Mirage. He was hiking with the La Quinta Finance Director and other friends when he apparently suffered a heart attack. He was 53 years old. Tom was found unconscious and unresponsive by rescue workers about a mile and a half up the trail. Tom began his public service career as an Intern for the city of Walnut in November 1984. In September 1985 he began his tenure as an Administrative Assistant for Moorpark. He rose in the Moorpark organization to become Deputy City Manager in June 1987. Tom moved to the Assistant City Manager job in the city of La Quinta starting in July 1988, Tom was appointed La Quinta city manager starting in May 1994. He earned a BA and MA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



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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.

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“Proof of Life” Lunch, October 16, 2025



The next “Proof of Life” lunch will be at the Northwoods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Please mark your calendar and plan to be there!

This “Proof of Life” lunch picture shows former city managers **Bob Dickey** and **Gregory Korduner**, one of the “Proof of Life” founders. These Dutch treat luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet and greet and catch up with one another. Gather at 11:30 for the noon lunch on Thursday, October 16, 2025.

Please RSVP to: jack@trackdownmanagement.net



More than forty years ago, 33 cities joined forces to address their shared risks. They formed the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority to fill an immediate need and to develop a long-term strategy for mitigating the growing risks of their public agencies.

The Authority is governed by elected officials from its member agencies. An Executive Committee, elected by members and guided by the California JPIA's mission to provide innovative risk management solutions, provides strategic oversight while a professional staff of experienced risk mitigation experts facilitate day-to-day management and execute on key priorities and programs.

Members of the California JPIA have committed their agencies to risk management best practices—including policy implementation, staff training, and operational guidance—that support proactive efforts to mitigate risk. Not merely an insurance solution, the California JPIA's holistic model positions its member agencies to control costs and remain fiscally strong.

Today, more than 100 public agencies have partnered with the California JPIA to address their risks and implement best practices. Member agencies vary from small, single-purpose entities to cities to special districts. Though diverse in their missions, each member is committed to the implementation of risk management practices and the overall financial health of the pool.



California Joint Powers Insurance Authority

8081 Moody Street, La Palma, CA 90623
(800) 229-2343 | (562) 467-8700

Core Values

Integrity: We hold ourselves to the highest ethical and professional standards. We pledge to fulfill our duties and deliver on our commitments.

Excellence: We pursue distinction with passion. We proactively assess our performance and strive to continuously improve programs, services, and work product.

Innovation: We foster creativity as we explore opportunities and meet challenges.

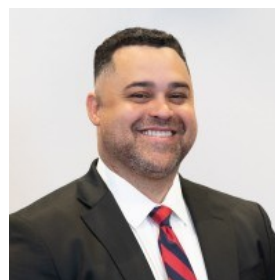
Teamwork: We pursue productive relationships through communication, collaboration, understanding, and respect.

Philosophy

The California JPIA's philosophy is rooted in its mission to provide innovative risk management solutions, and it is demonstrated through the Authority's many different programs and services. These solutions comprise the Authority's strategic approach to risk management, called LossCAP, that enables members to access expertise in insurance, claims, training, litigation, contracts, governmental entity exposures, and loss control.

One of the enduring principles of the LossCAP program is its emphasis on relationships. Such high-level relationships exhibit trust, knowledge, and dependability in the routine interaction between the Authority and its members. This has allowed the Authority to develop meaningful and productive partnerships with members. The Authority relies on regional risk managers who have primary responsibility for these relationships.

Since the beginning, the California JPIA has placed a strong emphasis on meeting the needs of its members. Over the years, the Executive Committee has pledged resources that have enhanced programs and services that fulfill a commitment to unparalleled risk management solutions and services.



Alexander Smith,
Chief Executive Officer,
562-467-8727

CJPIA Staff Team...800-229-2343

Letters and Notes from Readers:

Dear Trackdown:

I should probably change my title on the posse roster from Retired City Manager to City Manager, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I'm retired from CalPERS but this is a fulltime City Manager job. My 12th City Manger placement. Eight (8) have been regular fulltime, and four (4) have been Interim positions. The last half of my career I've often gone into cities as a "transitional manager." Santa Fe is outside the CalPERS reach, so I'm able to be fulltime. It's a great city. Everyone should come see me!

Thanks for the great newsletters!

---**Mark Scott**, City Manager, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Hard to believe **Sam Olivito** is 90. I thought I was older. I remember Roller Derby but only **Ralph Valladares**. He was my mom's favorite.

Nice job as always (Referring to the May Special Issue).

---**Michael Sakamoto**, retired city manager

Hi Jack. You skipped the city of Indio (in the May Special Issue). Thank you.

No worries, though. I have an affinity for Indio. I worked as an Assistant Planner in Indio between 1995 and 1999. They've done a lot of hard work. The new College of the Desert campus is building phase 2; a new City Hall and Library are under construction; and the downtown arts district is really starting to take-off. Thank you.

---**Alexander P. Meyerhoff**, City Manager

Note: Alex is an ICMA Credentialed City Manager, who served as Holtville city manager from July 2011 to August 2014; Hemet from January 2016 to September 2017; and San Fernando from September 2017 to February 2019. He was the Interim City Manager for Yakima, Washington from November 2019 until August 2020.

I decided to retire last fall and put local government behind me.

All the best to you, your family and Trackdown.

---**Kevin Chun**



Please send your communications and pictures to

jack@trackdownmanagement.net



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Don Vestal, Mike Egan, Jack Simpson, Jim Barisic, Bill Crowe, Lloyd de Llamas and **Don Wagner**, all former city managers at a "Proof of Life" lunch. Mike is serving as the Interim City Manager in La Palma. Lloyd is one of the founders of **HdL Companies**.



Picking Up the Pieces: Assistant City Manager **Ethan Bindernagel** has been hired to serve as the new city manager for the City of Pleasant Hill. Ethan takes over from longtime City Manager **June Catalano**, who retired June 16, 2023. He joined the Pleasant Hill city staff in 2021. Ethan previously worked 14 years for the City of Walnut Creek. He earned a BA in public policy from the University of

Chicago and a Master degree in community planning from the University of Maryland. With Gilroy City Administrator **Jimmy Forbis** July 2025 retirement, veteran public manager **Brad Kilger** is set to serve as the Interim City Administrator. Since serving as City Manager for Yucca Valley (1996-2002), Ceres (2006-2010), Benicia (2010-2016) and Martinez (2016-2019), Brad has completed "Interim" city manager assignments in South Lake Tahoe, Los Altos, Calistoga, and Gustine. **Ronda Perez** is the new City of Malibu city manager effective August 25. She is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Ronda previously worked for Palmdale. She joined Palmdale in 2021 as Assistant City Manager and in March 2022 she became Interim City Manager. Ronda became the Palmdale city manager in February 2023. Another of her previous work assignments was with the City of Lancaster, where she worked as a senior operations manager, director of Parks, Recreation and Arts and assistant city manager. Ronda earned a BS in criminal justice from California State University, Long Beach, and dual bachelor's degrees in political science and criminology, law and society from the University of California, Irvine.

Steve Colangelo is stepping away from the Stockton city manager position and Deputy City Manager **Will Crew** is the new Acting City Manager. Will joined the Stockton city staff in May 2020 as Director of Community Development. He was appointed Deputy City Manager in January 2022. He previously worked as a contract building official in the cities of Angels Camp, Elk Grove, Riverbank, Sonoma and Modesto. Monterey City Manager **Hans J. Uslar** will retire in December 2025. Hans joined the Monterey city staff in 1997 as a management analyst. He became the Assistant City Manager in 2014, Interim City Manager and then City Manager in 2018. Hans earned Master's degrees from the University of Armed Services, Hamburg and from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey. In 2018 he received a 20-Years ICMA Services Award. Fountain Valley Fire Chief **Bill McQuaid** passed away suddenly and unexpectedly this past month. The Chief was 57 years old. Bill worked 30-years with the Fountain Valley Fire Department. He was named Chief of the Department in 2023. Bill was a graduate of Fountain Valley High School. He joined the Fire Department in 1996.

Andrea Lueker is the new Interim City Manager for Morro Bay replacing the abruptly dismissed City Manager **Yvonne Kimball**. In addition to Andrea's experience working as the Morro Bay city manager, she worked as the harbor manager of the Port San Luis Harbor District.



A work of art on a property at Bombay Beach on the shores of the Salton Sea. Yes, that is a used fuselage.



Three Simpson grandchildren at Angel Stadium in Anaheim; Lei Lei, Tyler and Koa. No. 17 is Koa's favorite number...his birthday. The Erstad jersey in the background is not a chance happening.



"The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do."

--- **Kobe Bryant** of the Los Angeles Lakers



More Pieces Picked Up: Retired city manager **Rod Gould**, **Dr. Frank Benest** and **Jan Perkins** authored an important piece published in the ICMA publication, P.M. magazine, entitled: "Don't Abandon the Profession in Retirement." These three highly recognized professionals urge veteran city managers to stay engaged and put their experiences to good use.

The article is found starting on Page 32 of the June 2025 issue of the Official Publication of ICMA. **Benjamin A. Martinez** is the new city manager for the City of Calexico. Ben currently lives in San Diego but will relocate to a home closer to the city offices. Chief of Police **Armando Orozco** has been serving in the dual role of Chief and Interim City Manager. He took over from Interim City Manager **Rick Daniels**, following the dismissal of City Manager **Esperanza Colio-Warren**. Ben was terminated in April as city manager for the City of National City, and he previously held positions in Baldwin Park and El Monte. City Manager **Melissa Stevenson Diaz** has announced the appointment of **Tiarra Warner** as the new Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services for Redwood City. Tiarra began her public service career in April 2006 as a Recreation Leader for the City of Long Beach. After working in Long Beach for nearly 9 years, Tiarra joined the West Hollywood staff in 2013 before she was hired in January 2016 to be the Signal Hill Community Services Coordinator. She joined the Beverly Hills staff in June 2017 as Recreation Supervisor, and she took the Community Service Manager in Rohnert Park in August 2021. Tiarra earned a B S and an MS in recreation administration from California State University, Long Beach, California. Vallejo Assistant City Manager **Nalungo Conley**, 51, the city's second Assistant City Manager started her new job on July 8. Since then she has been linked to several social media racially charged posts. Though the social media account has been deleted the content of the posts included content that described white people as "evil" and accused white women of raising "bigoted white boys." Among the retweets linked to the account was one that read: "White women marry bigoted white men and birth bigoted white boys." Another read: "Black people, I think it's time we withdraw ourselves from anything but blackness." At this writing, no action on the matter has been announced. Many wealthy Bay Area residents are renting rather than buying a home. The number is increasing. A new study by RentCafe found that the number of millionaire renters increased fourfold in sections of the Bay Area between 2019 and 2023. The number tripled and outpaced the growth of millionaire homeowners. According to real estate agents, the trend is driven by three key factors: a decline in the desirability of homeownership, the rise of a class of tech professionals who prefer a nomadic, flexible lifestyle, and financial concerns about the wisdom of losing liquidity by investing in a home. The Bay Area, in particular, experienced a steep rise in millionaire renters. The

Some considerations and thoughts, just for edification and "remember whens":

In the 28-year history of the WNBA, no player has impacted the success of the women's professional basketball league more than **Caitlin Clark** of the Indiana Fever. She is responsible for improved game attendance, television viewership, and increased merchandise sales. The picture here shows some interesting and beautiful Summer coastal cloud formations. A tsunami advisory was issued following an 8.8 offshore Russia earthquake this month. A San Francisco Bay Area girls' soccer team has been crowned national champions. The 2009 Mountain View Los Altos (MVLA) girls' team of 15 & 16-year olds beat a Kansas City team 3-1 to win the title. Palo Verde Hospital in Blythe faces fiscal issues that may drastically affect the community's health care.

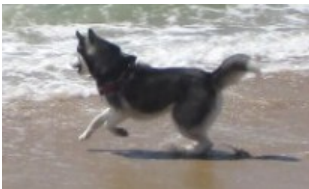


number in San Francisco rose from 321 to 1,411, and in San Jose it jumped from 173 to 577. Former Costa Mesa City Manager **Lori Ann Farrell Harrison**, who was terminated May 6, has filed a legal action questioning her dismissal. She alleges law violations by Costa Mesa Mayor **John Stephens**. Instead of questioning and counseling the Mayor, the City Manager was dismissed. Longtime member of the city of Sebastopol staff, **Mary Gourley** is serving as the Interim City Manager until January 31, 2026, or until a City Manager is hired, whichever comes first. Mary joined the Sebastopol city staff in March 1995 as a Planning and Public Works Technician. She joined the city staff after working nearly 13 years in the Presidio of San Francisco with the Department of the Army from June 1982 until March 1995. Mary was appointed Sebastopol City Clerk in September 2006. She was the recipient of the award as "California's 2019 City Clerk of the Year," by the City Clerks Association of California. Former Sebastopol city manager and Rohnert Park Assistant City Manager **Don Schwartz** was an Instructor at Sonoma State University in their Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program. He taught "Public Policy Process," and "Organizational Theory and Analysis." Don earned a BA in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MPP from the Kennedy School at Harvard University. Longtime Newport Beach City Clerk **Leilani Brown** retired effective June 13, 2025. Leilani began her public service career working for the City of Bellflower. "Best Trackdown wishes" to Leilani for a long and enjoyable retirement. San Carlos Assistant City Manager **Nil Blackburn** is serving as Acting City Manager during the absence of City Manager **Jeff Maltbie**, who is on sabbatical until September. Nil has been Assistant City Manager since December 2021. She served as Assistant to the City Manager in Burlingame from November 2014 to December 2021. Nil earned an MBA and a JD from Western Reserve University.





Still More Pieces Picked Up: The picture here is of retired city manager **Kevin O'Rourke** taken during his 2013 tenure as the Interim City Manager for the City of Santa Ana. Kevin was President of the League's City Managers' Department in 1997-1998. He was an ICMA Regional Vice President on the Executive Board in 2000-2003. Kevin served as city manager for the cities of Stanton, Buena Park and Fairfield. He was Interim City Manager for Stockton, Woodland and Santa Ana. Since August 2020, Kevin has worked as a Senior Consultant for PARS. Kevin earned a BA from La Salle College.



SHORTS: ***Olga Berdial** is the Communications Director for the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA). ***Candace Bond** served as the Malibu Interim City Manager

starting in May 2025 and leaves the assignment when new city manager **Ronda Perez** begins her Malibu tenure in August 2025. ***Christine Martin** and **Kylie Sun of Tripepi Smith –Talent Solutions**-lead the recruitment that brought **Oscar Antillon** to the Public Works Director position for the City of Palos Verdes Estates. ***Tim Kawasaki**, a former Senior Management Analyst for the city of La Mesa, who previously worked for San Jose, San Mateo, Los Gatos and Mountain View, has worked as a Human Resources Analyst for the County of San Diego since September 2022. *Former Cerritos and Lake Forest city manager, the late **Gaylord F. Knapp** worked in planning for the City of La Mesa from June 1967 until May 1972. ***Kristina Ray**, a former Carlsbad Director of Communication & Engagement, serves as the Director of LEAN Government for the City of San Marcos. *Former Cupertino city manager **Pamela Wu** resigned after being placed on paid leave in May and receiving a settlement of more than \$311,000, marking the 6th change in management since 2018. ***Bruce Anthony Southworth**, 43 of Yucaipa, a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Sergeant, is suspected of piloting a boat on the Colorado River at Needles while under the influence of alcohol, when he collided with another boat, killing **Weston R. Stewart**, 38 of La Verne. ***Haydee Urita-Lopez** is the Deputy Director for the City of Los Angeles City Planning, and she serves as an Adjunct Faculty member for Los Angeles Community College District. *The late **Joseph M. Goeden** served as the City Administrator for Montebello from May 1980 until May 1989 when he joined the West Sacramento city staff as city manager. *Santa Monica City Attorney **Doug Sloan** has resigned his position effective August 31, 2025. *Sausalito faces an issue with a proposed home remodel that neighbors disapprove of, and the police have received allegations of physical violence over the plan.



Another picture of **Kevin O'Rourke** with "his little friend" in 2014.

*Long Beach Mayor **Rex Richardson** supports budget allocations in the city's 2026 budget to assist federal immigration violators with a legal defense regarding deportation actions. *With **Eric Levitt** leaving the Fullerton city manager position, former Westminster city manager, **Eddie Manfro**, has been retained to be the Interim City Manager. ***Tina Kapoor** has inked an employment agreement to serve the City of Cupertino as Interim City Manager following the departure of City Manager **Pamela Wu**.***

"Proof of Life"

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Sixteen (16) veteran public managers gathered on Thursday, July 2025 for a quarterly "Proof of Life" lunch at Clearman's North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada where **Jeff Boynton** is city manager.

- **Wes Wolf**, served as Hawaiian Gardens city Administrator and is the founder of **Wolf & Company**.
- **Gregory Korduner**, was city manager in South El Monte, El Monte and Huntington Park.
- **Chris Jeffers**, former city manager in Monterey Park and Glendora.
- **Mark Alexander**, retired La Cañada Flintridge city manager. A **USC** supporter and volunteer contributor.
- **Bill Crowe**, former Interim City Manager in Paramount and City Manager in Rosemead. A **USC** graduate.
- **Lloyd de Llamas**, a former Woodlake, Lawndale and Monterey Park city manager, and a founder of **Hdl Companies**.
- **Jim Barisic**, former Artesia city manager and founder of **Brandywine Homes**.
- **Jon Shull**, former Executive Director of the **CJPIA**.
- **Jim DeStefano**, former Diamond Bar city manager.
- **Don Penman**, former city manager in Arcadia, Baldwin Park and San Fernando.
- **Steve Harding**, former city manager in Murrieta, Jurupa Valley and Menifee.
- **Karen Herrera**, retired Deputy City Manager in Duarte.
- **Don Wagner**, retired Assistant City Manager in Rosemead and City Administrator in Maywood.
- **Ron Molendyk**, former city manager in Lake Elsinore.
- **Pat West**, Retired Long Beach and Paramount City Manager.
- **Jack Simpson**, former city manager in Hawaiian Gardens, Paramount and Bellflower.