

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



November 2025

Volume No. 19 | Issue No. 16

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The Western Gull is one of the most common gull species found along the California coastline. This guy was photographed (11-2025) by **Jacki Kimmett Beebe** on the USS Midway in San Diego. The Midway is open as a museum. It was commissioned 8 days after the end of WW II. It was the largest carrier in the world until 1955. It was in service for 47 years; the longest-serving U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier in the 20th Century.

California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos

This November 2025 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the cities of Loomis, Los Alamitos, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Los Banos. This grouping includes two cities in Santa Clara County, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills; one in Placer County, Loomis; a city in Orange County, Los Alamitos; and one in Merced County, Los Banos.

City Managers in this issue include Acting Town Manager **Dirk Brazil** in Loomis, **Chester C. Simmons** in Los Alamitos, **Gabriel Engelstad** in Los Altos, **Dr. Peter Pirnejad** in Los Altos Hills, and **Nirorn Than** in Los Banos. Alphabetically, this issue jumps over the city of Los Angeles, which has more population than many States. We will look at L.A. in a single issue somewhere down the road. **Matt Szabo** is the City Administrative Officer (CAO) for Los Angeles.

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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Lilo, our Siberian Husky passed away this year at age 13. She was a rescue and the official Trackdown dog! She loved her Cerritos and Rancho Mirage homes.



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Larry has been a frequent "Proof of Life" attendee.

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California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos



Loomis is a Placer County town that shares borders with the city of Rocklin. The town takes its name from a local pioneer, **James Loomis**. In the early 20th century, Loomis was the second largest fruit-shipping station in Placer County. Loomis was incorporated in December 1984, as a local control-home rule action, to prevent an annexation by the City of Rocklin. **Dirk Brazil** is the Interim Town Manager, and **Carol Parker** is the Town Clerk. **Ted Williams** is the Finance Director and **Cole Strombom** is the Town Treasurer. the Interim Town Attorney is **Frank Spendorio**.

Dirk Brazil worked as an Assistant Administrator for the County of Yolo from 2006 to 2014. Dirk became the Davis city manager in November 2014 and retired in January 2018. Since his retirement he has completed a number of "interim" assignments including as city manager in 2018 for South Lake Tahoe and Alameda (May 2022-February 2023). Dirk is a graduate of the University of California, Davis and Claremont Graduate School. He is a former Coro Fellow in Public Affairs, and a lifelong San Francisco Giants and Golden State Warriors fan.



Wes Heathcock served as Loomis Town Manager from June 2023 until Halloween 2025. Wes resigned to take a manager position with the City of Roseville. Wes grew up in the Lincoln, California area and worked for the city's community services (recreation) department for 15 years. He worked as the Colfax city manager for more than 5 years starting in December 2017, prior to joining the Loomis staff. He is a former Community Services Director in Colfax. Wes earned an MBA from Ashford University

Message to city staff:

"Since I became city manager, every one of you has been helpful and supportive, making me look like I know what I am doing every single day. I will always be grateful."

---**Dirk Brazil**, former Davis city manager

California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos



Los Alamitos is Spanish for “the little cottonwoods.” The town of Los Alamitos was founded in 1896 by **Lewellyn Bixby** to support a sugar-beet factory he built with the Clark brothers. The community that grew up around the factory, with streets of company houses for workers and surrounding farms, was called Los Alamitos. At the beginning of World War II, the Japanese farmers were rounded up by the military and relocated to internment camps in Manzanar and elsewhere. In February 1941, the Navy moved its reserve aviation training from Long Beach to the new “touch-and-go” airfield in Los Alamitos that became the nation's busiest reserve air base during the Korean War. This base has become the *Join Forces Training Base – Los Alamitos (JFTB)* and contains the Los Alamitos Army Airfield (LAAAF). Los Alamitos is bordered by Cypress on the north and east, Garden Grove on the east, and Seal Beach on the south. The unincorporated Orange County area of Rossmoor separates Los Alamitos from Long Beach. Los Alamitos was incorporated in March 1960. Its 2020 population is 11,780. The city manager is **Chet Simmons**, and the City Clerk is **Windmerra Quintanar**.



Jonathan Royas, Santa Paula, President
Joseph Cisneros, La Palma, Vice President
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MMASC & MMANC support ICMA's educational, diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.



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Alexander Smith
Chief Executive Officer

California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
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Chester “Chet” Simmons is the current Los Alamitos city manager. He began his Los Alamitos tenure on February 3, 2020. Chet previously worked for the City of Westminster for 13 years. He served as the Director of Community Development and as Assistant City Manager for Westminster. Chet earned a BA in political science from Gonzaga University.

Craig Koehler is the Finance Director for the city of Los Alamitos. He has an extensive public service record, including was for Redondo Beach and the Jurupa Community Services District.

Emeline Noda is the Los Alamitos Director of Recreation and Community Services. She is also the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Executive Level Posse Roster:

Wade McKinney, Retired Indian Wells City Manager
Mike Sedell, Retired Simi Valley City Manager
Larry F. Pennell, Retired City Manager, Wasco
Kevin O'Rourke, KOLGS; Retired City Manager
Glenn Southard, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont
Joe Tanner, Retired Vallejo City Manager
Guy Huffaker, Retired Porterville City Manager
Vern Lawson, Retired, City of 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
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, City Manager, Santa Fe, New Mexico
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
Donald Duckworth, Retired City Manager
Richard Rowe, Retired City Manager

Posse Roster:

Gregory Korduner, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
Roy Pederson, ICMA Past-President
Rod B. Butler, Jurupa Valley, City Manager
Rita Geldert, Retired City Manager, Vista
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director, State of CA
Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia, Retired City Manager, Rocklin
Ray Taylor, Retired City Manager, Westlake Village
Denise Ovrom, Former CM retired from **HdL Companies**
Cynthia Kurtz, Interim City Manager, Pasadena
Ron Molendyk, Retired City Manager, Lake Elsinore
Kevin Duggan, Retired City Manager, Mountain View
Gary Milliman, Retired City Manager, Brookings, Oregon
Jim Lewis, City Manager, City of Atascadero
Donald Jeffers, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
Wayne Wedin, Retired City Manager, Brea
Karen Herrera, Retired Deputy City Manager, Duarte



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10 Claret
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Cell Phone: Jack A. Simpson | 562-896-5424
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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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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.

Jason & Paul Gonsalves are recognized local Government legislation experts.

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Telephone No. 916-441-0597

California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos

Reviewing Los Alamitos city manager rosters discovers quite an impressive list of professional public managers. This is a cursory look that does not claim to be all inclusive, but a good representative look. **HdL Companies** Principal Consultant **Bret Plumlee** served as the Los Alamitos city manager and Human Resources Director starting in November 2013. Bret joined **HdL Companies** in August 2019. Prior to Los Alamitos, Bret served as the La Puente city manager from August 2011 until November 2013. He began his public service career working in finance with the City of La Mirada (1993-1995). Bret worked for Rolling Hills Estates (1995-1998), El Segundo (1998-2007), and La Quinta, where he was Assistant City Manager (May 2007-June 2011). Bret earned a BA in economics from the University of California, Irvine and a BS in accounting from California State University, Long Beach. In 2019, Bret received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award.

Jeffrey "Jeff" L. Stewart served as the Los Alamitos city manager from May 2009 to January 2012 when he left to become the Bellflower city manager. Jeff retired from Bellflower January 2, 2024, and **Ryan Smoot** became the Bellflower city manager. Prior to Los Alamitos, Jeff served as the El Segundo city manager, and with the Rosemead executive staff and West Covina. Jeff currently works with **Willdan**.

Angie Avery served as the Los Alamitos City Manager from January 2012 to March 1, 2013, for a tenure of just over one year. She was appointed to the position in December 2011, having previously served as the city's Director of Recreation and Community Services. Prior to Los Alamitos, Angie worked with the Downey and Long Beach city staffs. Angie earned a BS and MS from California State University, Long Beach. After graduating she became a campus recreation manager at the University of Southern California (**USC**) and as a Director of the **UCLA** Village during the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. As a former member of the women's basketball team, she has assisted the Women's Basketball team with community relations and sponsorships.

California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos

Robert C. Dunek served 6 years as the Los Alamitos city manager. He left the city in January 1996 to become the Lake Forest city manager from where he retired in January 2017. Bob began his public service career as a police officer for the Buena Park (June 1974 to December 1979). In 1979, he took a Senior Administrative Assistant position with Garden Grove. He joined the staff of the League of California Cities in March 1984 as the Executive Director for the Orange County Division. Bob served in that position until October 1989 when he was selected to serve as City Manager for the City of Los Alamitos. In January 1996, Bob became the city manager for Lake Forest, and he worked there until retiring in January 2017. He earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton, an MPA from California State University, Long Beach, and a Ph.D. and MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Robert C. Dominguez served as the Los Alamitos city manager following his appointment in June 1996. Bob began his public service career as an Administrative Assistant for the city of Garden Grove in December 1975. He was hired to be the Assistant City Manager in Lawndale in December 1979. Bob took a similar position with La Mirada in January 1981. In December 1992, he took an Assistant Services Director post with the city of Rancho Cucamonga, and in June 1996 he was selected to be the Los Alamitos city manager. Bob took the Placentia City Administrator position in September 2004 and served there until May 2008. He has worked as a Senior Advisor for ICMA since March 2013. Bob earned an AA degree from Long Beach City College, and a BA and MPA from California State University, Long Beach. In 2006, Bob received a 30-Year ICMA Service Award.



This classic Ford Mustang was originally restored by the late **Frank G. Tripepi** and later purchased by retired city manager **Greg Korduner**. Greg sold it this past year.

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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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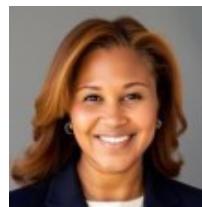
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"A politician is an animal which can sit on a fence and yet keep both ears to the ground."

---H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)



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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.

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



Clear Lake in Lake County, California. Clear Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the State. It is popular for fishing, boating and water sports. It is a major destination for bass fishing, earning the nickname: "Bass Capital of the West".

California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos

Other former Los Alamitos city manager was discovered. Retired Huntington Park city manager **Gregory D. Korduner**, a Seal Beach resident, served as interim city manager following City Manager **Angie Avery**'s exit. **Luci Romero Serlet** served as the Los Alamitos city manager from 2006 to 2008. She had previously served as Assistant City manager for cities of Goleta (2002-2006) and Solana Beach (1999-2002). She had also held positions in Newport Beach (1995-1999) and Temecula (1991-1995). Luci worked as a Principal with **HdL Companies** from January 2008 to December 2015. She earned an MPA from San Diego State University.

Michael Angelo Graziano served as the Los Alamitos city manager starting in June 1973. Michael began his public service career in October 1961 as an Administrative Assistant for the City of Indio. Mike joined the Montclair city staff in December 1963 as Assistant City Manager. He became the Montclair city manager in April 1965, leaving there in May 1970. After nearly three years in private business, Mike was appointed city manager for Los Alamitos. He served in that position until his retirement in 1989. He earned a BA from the University of Redlands and an MPA from the University of Michigan. Mike passed away in February 1995.

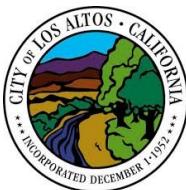
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California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos



Los Altos is a bedroom community at the western edge of the Silicon Valley in Santa Clara County. It was originally an agricultural town with apricot orchards and dotted with summer cottages. The community's origin reaches back to 1853 and was originally called "Banks and Braes". The early Southern Pacific Railroad service connecting the community ceased operation in January 1964. In 1976, Apple co-founders **Steve Jobs** and **Steve Wozniak** built their first 50 Apple I computers in Jobs's garage in Los Altos. In 2004, **Mark Zuckerberg** and a few of his friends introduced Facebook to the world. Los Altos was incorporated in December 1952. The city's 2020 population is 31,625. **Melissa Thurman** is the Los Altos City Clerk. **Gabriel Engeland** is the city manager, and **Jessie Kim** is the Finance Director.



Gabriel Engeland began his tenure as the Los Altos city manager in July 2021. He began his public service career in 2012 with the Town of Gilbert, Arizona. Gabriel came to Trinidad, Colorado in February 2015 to serve as city manager. In March 2017,

Gabriel started his time as city manager in the Los Angeles County, City of Sierra Madre. In July 2021 he joined the Los Altos staff as city manager. Gabriel earned a BS in community development from Central Michigan University, an MS from Louisiana State University and an MPA from The University of Kansas.

Jessie Suryun Kim is the Finance Director for the City of Los Altos. Jessie worked as the Accounting Manager for the City of Berkeley (January 2023-December 2024) prior to joining the Los Altos city staff. She is a CPA and earned a BA in history and economics from Chonnam National University. She received an accounting certificate from Ajou University. She was an Environmental Analyst for the Ministry of Environment of Korea in 2005-2010.



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



Jim, 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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California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills is a city in Santa Clara County known for its high end, extremely expensive residential real estate. The city has a ban on commercial zones, which was upheld by the California Court of Appeal in 1973. Los Altos Hills' two retail operations are the bookstore on the campus of Foothill College and the gift shop on the grounds of the Immaculate Heart of the Poor Clare Colettines. The town does not have a post office or library. The Town Hall was built without public funds on land donated by the Town's 1st Mayor, **Arthur E. Fowle**. Construction funds were contributed by **Mr. and Mrs. Dawson**, and **William Simrell, Jr.** provided the architectural services. The town was incorporated in January 1956. The 2020 population is 8,489.

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California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos



Dr. Peter Pirnejad has served as the Los Altos Hills town manager since October 2021, and the current City Clerk is **Arika Miller**. Dr. Pirnejad will retire on January 23, 2026. Peter is currently the President of Cal-ICMA. He began his public service career in January 1998 as an Assistant Planner for the City of Vernon. In February 2001 Peter took a Senior Planner position with Westlake Village, and he left there in January 2005 to become the Director of Community Development in Selma. In October 2005 Peter became the Planning Manager for the city of Lodi. He accepted the position of Assistant Director of Economic & Community Development position in Daly City starting in September 2008. He joined the Palo Alto city staff in November 2012 as Development Services Director. He became the Assistant City Manager in Napa during most of 2018 and then worked a couple years with a private company. In January 2021 he went to work for Foster City and in November 2021, he was appointed Los Altos Hills city manager. Peter earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, an MS in public planning and a Doctorate in public policy from the University of Southern California. (**USC**).



Los Altos Hills Deputy City Manager **Cody Einfalt** is serving as the acting city manager during the recruiting and selection process for a new city manager with the retirement of **Dr. Peter Pirnejad** effective in January 2026. He previously served as the Assistant to the City Manager (March 2023 – November 2024). In 2017, Cody served as a Planning Intern with the city of Mountain View in 2017. He was a Planning Intern in Woodland in 2016. Cody earned a BA in communications and a BS in community and Regional Development from the University of California, Davis and an MPA from San Jose State University.

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Retired city manager, **Gregory Korduner** expertly cooks up some fried green tomatoes and prepared some excellent shrimp gumbo. demonstrating his impressive culinary skills as a volunteer on a historical destinations educational trip that included a stop in Charleston for a group of 35 folks. Greg was city manager for **Huntington Park, El Monte, and South El Monte**.

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1400 K Street, 4th Floor
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California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos

Los Banos is a Merced County city named with the Spanish name Los Baños which means "the baths". This refers to the natural spring that feeds the wetlands in the western San Joaquin Valley. The area was initially settled in the 1840s. The town became a trading post. It got its name when the post office opened naming it after the nearby creek. The first post office opened in 1873. Los Banos has a history of Portuguese, Italian and Spanish immigrants, along with a community of Basques. The City of Los Banos was incorporated in May 1907. The 2020 population is set at 45,532. The Los Banos incoming city manager is **Nirorn Than** and **Gary Brizzee** has been retained as the Interim City Manager. **Lucy Mallonee** is the City Clerk and Human Resources Director. **Ray Reyna** is the Chief of Police and **Paul Tualla** is the Fire Chief. **Charles Bergson** is the Public Works Director and City Engineer. **Lucy Lawrence** is the City of Treasurer.



Josh Pinheiro resigned as Los Banos city manager effective January 11, 2025. A new city manager, **Nirorn Than**, was hired in September 2025. Former Chief of Police **Gary Brizzee** served as Interim City Manager following Josh's exit. Nirorn previously worked as the Gustine city manager for about 18 months starting in March 2024. Before his work in Gustine, Nirorn was the Public Works Director and City Engineer for Los Banos. He lives in Los Banos and his wife is a local teacher.

Mark D. Fachin served as the Public Works Director and City Engineer for Los Banos, before working as city manager. **Loris T. Brodrick** was the Los Banos city manager in 1973.

"I believe that it is better to tell the truth than a lie."
--H. L. Mencken

California Managers in Cities from Loomis to Los Banos



Alex C. Terrazas was the Los Banos city manager from 2016 to 2021. He previously worked as the Assistant Town Manager for Truckee. He joined the Truckee town staff in September 2001 and worked as the Assistant to the Town Manager until

August 2009 when he was promoted to Assistant Town Manager in September 2009. Alex began his local government career in 1994 with the City of Mountain View. After leaving Los Banos in March 2021, Alex was appointed city manager for the City of Ceres. He started as an Interim City Manager in August 2021, moved to the city manager position in January 2022, and discontinued service with the city in May 2023. Alex currently is an executive with **HdL Companies**. He began his tenure with **HdL Companies** as a Client experience Advocate in April 2024. Alex earned a BA in government and journalism and an MPA from California State University, Sacramento.

Steve Carrigan was the Merced city manager from January 2016 until July 2020. Prior to his Merced tenure, Steve was the Los Banos city manager from 2013 until he replaced retiring Merced city manager **John Bramble**. Steve worked in Stockton from 2001 to 2009 and the Yuba Sutter Economic Development Corporation from March 2009 to October 2009. He took the city of Lathrop Economic Development Administrator post in December 2009. In December 2011, Steve moved to the city of Sanger as the Assistant City Manager. Steve earned a BA from the University of Arizona.



Stacy Elms is the Community & Economic Development Director for the City of Los Banos. She started with the city as an Assistant Planner in July 2005. She rose to Community & Economic Development Director starting in February 2017. Stacy earned a BA in business administration from Fresno Pacific University.

WHAT WE DO

Simplify
Compliance, licensing, tax and fee administration made easy.

Boost
Maximize revenue with comprehensive solutions including discovery, recovery, and economic development.

Thrive with Better Data

Founded by City Managers for City Managers and staffed by former civil service professionals, HdL Companies understands the challenges of municipal finance and backs you with expertise in local government administration solutions.

We empower local governments to thrive with better data and resources.

SINCE 1983 **MORE THAN 800 CLIENTS** **RECOVERED \$3B REVENUE**

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“Proof of Life”



The next “Proof of Life” lunch is scheduled for the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada on **Thursday, December 11, 2025**. The venue is just off the I-5 Freeway. It will be the annual “Proof of Life” Holiday Luncheon. Please save the date and prepare to attend. The pictures here were taken at recent “Proof of Life” lunches. Please join the group. Lunch is Dutch Treat and served.



The HdL Companies are dedicated to helping cities, counties, redevelopment agencies and special districts maximize revenues through allocation audits, financial and economic analysis and through the provision of related software products.

The HdL Companies serves more than 335 local governments across the nation and North America.

HdL was founded in 1983 by **Robert Hinderliter**, a former Director of Finance and City Administrator in Commerce, California. Bob developed California's first computerized sales tax management program and worked to secure the legislation that allows independent verification of the State Board of Equalization's allocation of sales tax revenues to local governments. In 1987, **Lloyd de Llamas** purchased 50% of the corporate stock and the company became Hinderliter, de Llamas and Associates with a primary focus on sales tax analysis, allocation audits, and software.

In 1993, a separate corporation was organized by partners **Paula Cone**, **Martin Coren**, **Robert Hinderliter**, and **Lloyd de Llamas** to provide property tax related services, including allocation audits, trends analysis, tax increment verification, tax allocation bond fiscal services, and related software products.

In 1996, **HdL** Software LLC was established with participants **Nancy Hicks**, **Robert Hinderliter**, and **Lloyd de Llamas** to provide easy-to-use, integrated "counter tools" for the processing and tracking of revenue related functions, such as business licenses, building/planning permits, animal control licenses, and code enforcement violations.

The three **HdL** affiliates operate as a single, coordinated unit providing a variety of integrated services and software products.

Sales and Use Tax Audits

HdL identifies and recovers sales and use tax allocation errors, helps maximize tax revenues from specific projects and business situations, and provides ongoing data, analyses, and staff expertise to support fiscal planning and economic development.

Experience and Expertise

HdL Coren & Cone gives local governments access to a unique combination of expert analysis, cutting edge software, and ongoing support. Our services make the most of our extensive experience, advanced technologies, and dedication to service.

Full-Service Software Solutions

HdL's software solutions are designed, implemented, and supported by people who understand the unique challenges and needs of local government. More than a vendor, HdL works as a partner, providing expert analysis and guidance, effective software solutions, and unmatched quality of technical support.

Among The HdL Companies' officials are:

Lloyd de Llamas, Executive Chair-retired, provided sales tax services to local governments since 1987. He served as City Manager in Monterey Park, Lawndale, and Woodlake and as an Assistant in Torrance and San Diego.

Andrew Nickerson, President of the **HdL** Sales Tax arm, has more than 20-years of experience with local governments revenue enhancements and protection. He is a California State Polytechnic University, Pomona graduate.

Paula Cone, President of **HdL** Coren and Cone, the property tax arm of the **HdL Companies**, has more than twenty-years of municipal finance and city management experience.

Robert Gray, President of **HdL** Software LLC has been with **HdL Companies** since 1996. He earned an MBA from Azusa Pacific University.

Sincere Trackdown Condolences to the **HdL** family on the passing of Founder **Robert Hinderliter** on Monday, December 4, 2023, due to pancreatic cancer. Bob is missed by all who knew him.

The HdL Companies

120 South State College Boulevard, Suite 200
Brea, California 92821
Telephone: • 888-861-0220

Letters and Notes from Readers:



Jack, taking a quick minute to wish you and Susan a Happy Fall Season. Hope all is well with you, and you are enjoying life. South Carolina is good. I am enjoying watching my grandkids Riley and Kole grow up. Riley is 11 and is on her school's swim team, archery

team and is a junior cheerleader. Kole is 9 and plays flag football, soccer and just started wrestling two weeks ago. I had a fun time watching the World Series and cheering on the Dodger's! Quite a series to watch!

---**Lee Whittenberg**, Retired Seal Beach & Bellflower

Good morning, Jefe! Thanks for the photo plug at Coors Field. My cousin Raul and I were fortunate to see the home run live. We stuck it out when it started to rain and remained in our seats while the rest of the group took shelter. The light rain stopped and the Angels' Mike Trout hit his 400th home run. We were glad we saw it. By the way, my cousin is retired from the City of Los Angeles. Take care.

---**Gonzalo Vazquez**, Retired Cypress & Bellflower

Charleston City Hall, a repurposed building built as a bank between 1800 and 1804 was converted to city hall in 1818 after the bank failed. It's America's second-oldest city hall in continuous use.

United States President **James Monroe** visited Charleston in 1819 and toured the "new" city hall prior to dining with local dignitaries.

(Thank you to **Gregory Korduner**, who took the picture.)



Sometimes for people from outside of the area, street signs can be confusing.



Picking Up the Pieces: Loomis Town Manager **Wes Heathcock** tendered his resignation without divulging the reason. Loomis Mayor **David Ring** says that the resignation was a surprise to him. Wes was appointed Town Manager in 2023 after he served as City Manager for Colfax starting in 2017. Former Davis City Manager (2014-2017), **Dirk Brazil** will serve as Interim Town Manager. He served as Interim City Manager for South Lake Tahoe and Alameda, and Executive Director of the Downtown Davis Business Association. Millbrae Chief of Police **Eamonn Allen** is the subject of a formal complaint by Millbrae city manager **Randy V. Lum**. The complaint originates from a report by KGO-TV that alleged that the Chief commutes from his Idaho home and sleeps in the police station during the week. The Chief purchased a home approximately 600 miles away near Boise, Idaho in June 2024. The city manager's complaint has led to calls for the Chief's dismissal from office. Brentwood's new city manager is **G. Harold Duffey**. He is succeeding **Tim Ogden**, who resigned in April 2025 to accept the General Manager position for the Cosumnes Community Services District. **Darin Gale** has been serving as Interim City Manager following Tim's departure. Harold served as Assistant City Administrator for the City of Oakland from July 2024 to September 2025. He was the Grand Terrace city manager (2015-2021), and previously worked as Compton city manager and Oroville City Administrator. California High Speed Authority CEO **Ian Choudri** contends that the State can still deliver on the project. He says that a combination of private sector investment and public funds will allow the Authority to finish the job. He says that the Authority plans to lay track next year. Freelance writer **Jude Strzemp** of the Embarcadero Media Foundation reports that Livermore City Manager **Marianna Burch**'s employment agreement provides for a mid-November compensation adjustment of about \$30,000 annually. Pursuant to the agreement amendment approved October 27, the city manager's annual base salary will go to \$392,895, a 6% increase. In addition, Marianna will receive deferred compensation of \$903.85 per pay period. The employment agreement requires annual performance reviews. Malibu announced the appointment of **Frances Arricale** as Deputy City Manager. Frances is a career government relations professional and attorney. Most recently Frances worked as a senior counsel in California state government. Her prior local government experience includes public service with the City of New York. Frances has also worked in the Los Angeles entertainment industry, and she held executive roles in financial services, and led non-profit startups. She earned a BA from Fordham University, an MPP from Johns Hopkins University, and a Juris Doctor from the Brooklyn Law School. Frances is licensed to practice law in California, New York and Washington, D.C.



More Pieces Picked Up: Former El Centro Chief of Police **Robert Sawyer** is the new city manager for the city of El Centro. He joined the El Centro police department in 1998, and after working at all

levels, he was appointed Chief of Police in 2022. Robert also served as Chief of Police in Brawley from 2018 until 2020. He has been serving as Acting City Manager since May of this year. Robert earned a BS in criminal justice from California Coast University. Former Commerce City Clerk and Director of Administrative Services **Lena Shumway** is the new City Clerk for the City of Newport Beach. She succeeds the highly thought of and longtime City Clerk **Leilani Brown**, who has retired. Prior to Lena's Commerce work assignment, she was the Assistant City Clerk for the City of Lomita and, before that, the city clerk and Municipal court administrator for the City of Fernley, Nevada. Leilani previously worked for the City of Bellflower prior to being named City Clerk in 2008. ICMA's October issue of PM magazine has a piece written by Long Beach Deputy City Manager **Meredith Reynolds** regarding the state of local government leadership. Meredith is the Board Chair of *Engaging Local Government Leaders*. She urges leadership to embrace the full spectrum of leading with authenticity, empathy and purpose. Meredith has been in her currently position since May 2021. She earned a BA from California State University, Chico, and an MS from Carnegie Mellon University. **Rob Paterson** was appointed Town Manager for the Town of Mammoth Lakes on February 7, 2024. Rob served as Administrative Services and Finance Director of Mammoth Lakes starting in 2016. Rob succeeded City Manager **Daniel C. Holler**, who retired after more than 10 years of service. He worked in the private sector as a Controller, a computer coordinator and in accounting. Rob earned an AA degree from Merced Junior College and a BS from California State University, Sacramento.

Anne V. Ambrose is the Interim City Manager for the City of Cathedral City. She was appointed on September 20, 2025, following the retirement of City Manager **Charlie McClendon**. Anne worked in Palmdale as Director of Public Safety and Community Relations starting in June 1999. She was promoted to Director of Administrative Services in August 2013. Anne was selected to serve California City Interim City Manager from June 2021 until March 2022. She joined the Cathedral City staff as Assistant City Manager in January 2023. Anne earned a BA from Kent State University and an MPA from California State University, Northridge. In 2024, she received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award. **Kevin Troller**, who is retiring from city government in Texas, graduated from Texas A&M and was commissioned into the Regular Army as a Finance Officer in 1979. Throughout a 26-year military career, his



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assignments took him throughout the United States, and to many overseas locations including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Germany, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia, and Kosovo. Airborne qualified, Kevin commanded organizations at every level from Company through Battalion and Brigade Commands; eventually completing his military career as the strategic U.S. Army Finance Commander at the Pentagon. Kevin retired from the military with the rank of Colonel in 2005. **Dan Koops** of the Bellflower City Council inform us of the recent passing of former Bellflower staff member **Steve DeGraff**. Steve went into real estate after leaving city government. He worked for the city of Bellflower in the 1970s and was highly praised for his service.

Please take a few minutes to look at the Trackdown Management Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/trackdownmanagement>



SHORTS: *Elk Grove declared November 22, 2025 as "Kyle Larson Day" in recognition of **Kyle Larson**'s 2025 NASCAR Championship. *Monterey Fire Chief **Andrew Miller** is retiring at the end of the year after 35 years with the Monterey Fire Department. *Arcata retained the polling services of FlashVote and found that more than 80% of respondents to their survey found that access to parks and recreation activities, and community events, arts and culture are Arcata's strong points. *Elk Grove resident **Jane Chambers** is an ICMA Credentialed Manager, and retired Ukiah city manager (May 2008-June 2015) and Sunnyvale Interim Assistant City Manager in 2015. *Covina Deputy City Manager **Angel Carrillo** served as a member of the Azusa City Council for nearly 17 years (March 2005-September 2021). *Palm Spring city manager **Scott Stiles** declared Friday, October 24, "Dodgers Day at City Hall," which was the first day of the 2025 MLB World Series. *Lakewood resident **Linda Haines**, is a former Building & Safety Director for the City of Downey, and she also worked for the cities of Cypress and Fullerton, her hometown. *Calistoga is addressing old, cramped and inefficient office space, according to Deputy City Manager **Rachel Stepp**. *University professor **Steve Harding**, a former city manager, remembers meeting and dealing with three special exceptional individuals: **Phil Hawkey**, Pasadena, **John Dunn**, San Luis Obispo and **Homer Bludau**, Coronado. ***Kristine Lawler** is the City Clerk for the City of Ukiah. ***Todd Juhasz** was appointed City Manager in November 2021 for the City of Mount Shasta, and prior to that he served as the Dunsmuir city manager (August 2019-November 2021).



"Proof of Life"



The Thursday, October 16, 2025, "Proof of Life" lunch at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. Listed attendees in random order:

Glenn Southard, a San Clemente resident, is the retired City Manager for Indio and Claremont. Former ACM in San Juan Capistrano and he worked in West Covina and Riverside. Glenn is one of the Founders of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).

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.

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. He served in the California National Guard. He earned a BS from San Diego State University.

Mark Alexander recently 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. Earned an MPA at the University of Southern California (**USC**). Mark is an enthusiastic **USC** Trojan booster.

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.

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.

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.

Dave Carmany retired as City Manager in Rialto. He served as city manager in West Covina prior to that. Dave also was city manager in the cities of La Puente, Manhattan Beach, Seal Beach, Pacifica, Malibu and Agoura Hills. Dave is a **USC** alumnus.

John Bramble, a Downey resident, retired as the Merced City Manager. John served as City Administrator in Bell (1988-1993) and Merced city manager (2008-2016). John is an avid golfer and occasionally hits a course with **Greg Korduner**.

Jim Barisic, a former Artesia City Manager who also worked for Paramount and Cerritos. Jim served as a United States Army officer in Vietnam. He is the Founder of **Brandywine Homes**, headquartered in Irvine.

Mike Sedell is a retired Simi Valley City Manager (1995-2012). Mike is well known and highly respected for working closely with State government in Sacramento on local government issues. Mike earned an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Jorge Rita 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. (Though he didn't make lunch, he stopped after to chat.)

Jack A. Simpson, worked for Paramount, Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens and Bellflower. He also, served as an Interim department head in La Puente. He is a former member of the CCMF Board of Trustees, and he worked with the corporate office of **Willdan**.



The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be at the same La Mirada venue on **Thursday, December 11, 2025**. It will be the annual Holiday Luncheon. Please save the date and prepare to attend.

October 16, 2025 "Proof of Life" lunch. Pictured here from left to right are **Gregory Korduner** and **Mike Sedell**. These quarterly luncheons are opportunities for former colleagues to meet informally, socialize and stay caught up.



Bill Crowe and **Glenn Southard** discussing events and news of the day. Bill and Glenn are long time participants at "Proof of Life" lunches. The name: "Proof of Life" came from a **Glenn Southard** comment.

Please plan to join the "Proof of Life" lunch at 11:30 a.m. on **Thursday, December 11, 2025**. The better the attendance the more successful the event. See you at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. ***