

# City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



December 2025

Volume No. 19 | Issue No. 17

Click the logos throughout the newsletter to open links...

Happy Holidays!



This newsletter is dedicated to encouraging the development and maintenance of long-term relationships with family and friends. This was in 2022, the last time all five of our daughters and our eldest and our youngest of our 16 grandchildren were all together. Best wishes for a **Happy Holiday Season** to one and all.

## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu

This December 2025 "Holiday Issue" of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the cities of Los Gatos, Loyalton, Lynwood, Madera, and Malibu. This grouping includes a city in Santa Clara County, Los Gatos; one in Sierra County Loyalton; a city in Madera County, Madera; and two in Los Angeles County, Lynwood and Malibu.

City executives in this issue include Town Manager **Chris Constantin** in Los Gatos, **Kathy LeBlanc**, City Clerk in Loyalton, **Gabriel A. Gonzalez** is the Interim City Manager in Lynwood, **Arnoldo Rodriguez** is City Manager in Madera, and **Candace Bond** is the Interim City Manager in Malibu.

***Make it a December to remember!***


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 Los Gatos to Malibu



Los Gatos following the native populations of the area, the first settlers to come to the area were two soldiers in November 1769. The town was founded in the mid-1850s with the building of a flour mill operation. The mill's two-story stone annex still stands. The town was incorporated in 1887. It was an important logging industry location for the Santa Cruz Mountains until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The town became a successful agricultural community in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with apricots, grapes and prunes grown in the area. Downtown Los Gatos has retained many of its Victorian-era homes and commercial buildings. Los Gatos is one of Santa Clara County's oldest community. The 2020 population of Los Gatos is 32,529. The current town manager is **Chris Constantin** and the Assistant Town Manager is **Katy Nomura**. **Nicolle Burnham** is the Parks & Public Works Director, and **Gitta Ungvari** is the Finance Director. The Community Development Director is **Joel Paulson** and is the Chief Building Official.

An advertisement for HdL Companies. The background features a collage of financial charts, graphs, and a map. The HdL Companies logo is in the top right. The text "WHAT WE DO" is in the top left. Below it are three sections: "Simplify" (Compliance, licensing, tax and fee administration made easy), "Boost" (Maximize revenue with comprehensive solutions including discovery, recovery, and economic development), and "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). At the bottom, there are statistics: SINCE 1983, MORE THAN 800 CLIENTS, and RECOVERED \$3B REVENUE. There is also a QR code with the text "Scan for more information", a phone number 714.879.5000, and an email address solutions@hdlcompanies.com.

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Los Gatos City Manager **Chris Constantin** began work as a Senior Auditor for the city of San Jose in September 2001. After more than 8 years, he took an Assistant City Auditor job for the city of San Diego in February 2010. Chris served as the

Assistant City Manager in Chico from April 2013 to December 2020. He spent nearly 4 years serving as the City Manager for the City of San Dimas (2021-2024). He was appointed Town Manager for Los Gatos in November 2024. Chris has served as a Reserve Officer for the Hayward Police Department from October 2005 to the present time. He earned a BS from San José State University and an MPA from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Chris served 13 years as an elected official on the West Valley-Mission Community College District Board of Trustees.



A December 2014 picture showing former Long Beach city executive **John Keisler** and **Jack Simpson**. John served as the Director of the Department of Economic Development from 2017 to 2022. John is currently the CEO & Managing Partner for Sunstone Management.

## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu



### Kathryn "Katy" Nomura, Los Gatos

Assistant Town Manager, previously worked as a Deputy City Manager for the City of Long Beach from June 2022 until June 2023. She spent 10 years working with the City of Cupertino city staff. She joined the Cupertino staff as a Sustainability Associate in June 2012. She then worked as a Management Analyst, Senior Management Analyst, Assistant to the City Manager and Deputy City Manager. In 2025 she received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award. Katy earned a BS in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from the University of California, Berkeley and an MPA from San José State University. She also earned an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



### Laurel Prevetti is a former Los Gatos

Town Manager. She retired in September 2024 following a 38-year public service career. During her nearly 10 years as the Town Manager in Los Gatos, she was acknowledged for her work and leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. Laurel worked for San Jose for more than 28 years (March 1986 to May 2014). When she left the city, she was serving as Assistant Director of the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement. She joined the Los Gatos town staff in May 2014 as Assistant Town Manager and Community Development Director. She was appointed Los Gatos Town Manager in September 2015. Laurel earned a BS and MS from the University of California, Berkeley. In 2023 she received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award. She continues to serve as an ICMA Coach.



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Vanessa Muñoz, PE, TE  
President and CEO, Engineering  
562.447.6844  
vmunoz@willdan.com



Adel Freij, PE  
Director of City Engineering  
562.760.7752  
afreij@willdan.com

"It is inaccurate to say that I hate everything. I am strongly in favor of common sense, common honesty, and common decency."

---H. L. Mencken, in Defense of Women

## 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  
**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



## City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown Management

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Roxanne Diaz is a former member. of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF)

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## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu



Loyalton is the only incorporated city in California's Sierra County. The community started as a settlement named "Smith's Neck". Favoring the Union at the time of the Civil War, the name was changed to Loyalton. The first settlers to the community were of Swiss and Italian immigrants in the late 1850s. Timber and farm goods were the base of the local economy, and by 1901 the Boca & Loyalton Railroad was in business. The City of Loyalton was incorporated in August 1901. The city's 2020 population is 740. **Kathy LeBlanc** is the elected City Clerk for the City of Loyalton.

City Clerk **Kathy LeBlanc** was re-elected in the general election on November 5, 2024. She ran as the incumbent. Kathy has held this City Clerk position since 2022. Kathy is the leading administrator for the small Loyalton community. She is responsible for the city clerk's responsibilities and when it is called for, she serves as the city's chief administrator.



**Jonathan Royas**, Santa Paula, President  
**Joseph Cisneros**, La Palma, Vice President  
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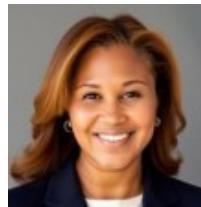


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The **Independent Cities Finance Authority** is an unaffiliated Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with the goal of helping communities fund critical projects. Since its inception in 1988, ICFA has assisted funding more than \$500 million in critical community projects, from hospitals to charter schools, public utilities, and housing.

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



Downtown Long Beach, California in 2015. The current Long Beach City Manager is **Tom Modica**. Long Beach is the 44<sup>th</sup> most populous city in the United States.

## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu



Lynwood is built on a former Spanish rancho. Rancho San Antonio is Lynwood's birthplace. In 1902 a dairy and creamery was built there, and the owners wife's maiden name was Miss **Lynne Wood**. They named the new business "the Lynwood Dairy and Creamery." After the railroad adopted the Lynwood name, a land development company opened the Lynwood company and sold land to buyers in Lynwood in 1913. Free water was offered to the new landowners. The City of Lynwood was incorporated in July 1921. The 2020 population is 67,265. **Gabriel A. Gonzalez** is the Interim City Manager and **Shanell Shipe** is the Assistant to the City Manager. **Maria Quiñonez** is the Lynwood City Clerk. **Harry Wong** is the Director of Finance, and **Rita Montalvo** is the Director of Public Works. **Mark A. Flores** is the Director of Recreation and Community Services.



Interim Lynwood City Manager **Gabriel A. Gonzalez** served as the Assistant City Manager in El Monte from July 2014 until July 2015. He was the Gilroy City Administrator starting in March 2016 and he took the city of Shafter city manager position in March 2020. Gabriel retired in 2024 and signed on for some consulting as a freelance. Prior to El Monte, he worked for the cities of Gilroy, Rohnert Park and Mendota. Gabriel earned a BBA from National University and an MPA from California State University, Fresno.



Public Works Director **Rita Montalvo**, P.E. began her Lynwood tenure in August 2025. From March 2022 until June 2024, she served as the Assistant Director of Public Works for the City of Montebello. Rita earned a BS in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu



Commerce City Administrator **Ernie Hernandez** served as the Lynwood city manager from May 2021 until June 2024, when he took the Commerce position. **Julian Lee** served as Interim City Manager following Ernie's departure starting in August 2024. Ernie previously served as the city manager in Hawaiian Gardens. Before serving as the Hawaiian Gardens city manager for four years, Ernie was deputy city manager for the City of Norwalk, where he had worked with city manager **Ernie Garcia**. **Ernie Hernandez** also worked for the cities of Santa Ana, Long Beach, and South El Monte. Lynwood turned 100-years old during Ernie's tenure as city manager. Ernie earned a BA from California State University, Dominguez Hills and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.

**Michelle Ramirez** served as Acting City Manager in Lynwood until 2021. She is the Community Development Director for the City of Torrance, starting in 2021. She previously worked as the Community Development Director in Lynwood (July 2018-September 2021) and the City of Rosemead from June 2007 until July 2018.

**Nabar Enrique Martinez** worked as Lynwood city manager from January 2005 to April 2007, when he left to become the Redlands city manager. He served in Redlands for nearly 12 years from 2007 to November 2018. He was the Bell Gardens city manager from 1996 to 1999, and he was Assistant City Manager in Pasadena from 2001 to 2005. He earned a BA and MPA from Texas Tech University.



**Roger L. Haley** served as Lynwood city manager from August 2007 until his retirement in August 2013. This highly regarded public manager worked in the Long Beach Economic Development Bureau as Acting Manager, and he served as the Compton city manager in 2015-2016. He earned a BA from the University of Southern California (**USC**) and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



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

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From the mountains to the sea. This picture was taken from the Alamitos Bay in the City of Long Beach. Many "Thanks" to **Jacki "Cookie" Beebe** for the picture.

## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu



Madera is the county seat of Madera County. The community was founded in 1876 as a timber settlement at the end of a major log flume. The town's name means "wood" in Spanish. The sixty-mile-long flume brought logs from sawmills in the Sierra Nevada mountains to Madera's railroad planning mill. In 1900 Madera became one of the West's major lumber centers. Madera incorporated in March 1907. It has a 2020 population of 66,224. The area began transitioning from lumber to farming in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. **Arnoldo Rodriguez** is the Madera city manager and **Alicia Gonzales** is the City Clerk. **Will Tackett** is the Director of Community Development and **Mike Lima** is the Director of Financial Services. **Joseph Hebert** is the Parks & Community Services Director.



Picture by retired city manager **Mark Ochenduszko**  
<https://www.markochenduszko.com/>

## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu



**Arnoldo Rodriguez** is the Madera city manager. In September 2000, he started as a City Planner for the City of Fresno, and he became the Fresno Planning Manager in September 2004. After nearly 11 years in July 2015, Arnoldo was hired by Yuba City to serve as their Director of Development Services. He was appointed city manager for the City of Madera starting in December 2018. Arnoldo earned a BS in Criminology from the University of California, Irvine and a MCRP in city planner from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He holds a credential from the American Institute of Certified Planners.

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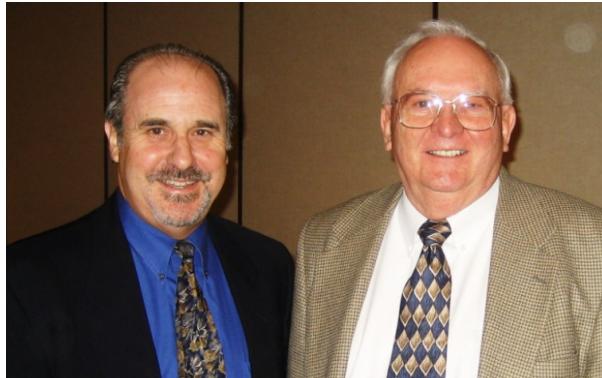
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## Never to be Forgotten

Those who attended the "Proof of Life" Program who we have lost along the way.



Retired city managers **Greg Korduner** and the late longtime Cypress city manager **Darrell Essex**.

"Proof of Life" program participants who passed:

**Darrell Essex**

**Bob Williams**

**William "Bill" Holt**

**Lauren Wasserman**

**Ray Harris**

**Frank G. Triepi**

**Howard Chambers**

**Mary Strenn**

**Keene Wilson**

**Joe Goeden**

**Jim Purtee**



**The Late Howard Chambers with Jason Gonsalves**

Madera Director of Financial Services, **Michael Lima** worked as Accountant with the Fresno County Auditor-Controller from August 1989 until May 1994 when he joined the Fresno city staff. He was a Fresno Budget Analyst from June 1994 to August 2002. He was the Fresno Airports Finance Manager from September 2002 until September 2014. Mike served as the Fresno Finance Director and Controller from September 2014 until September 2022. After working for Fresno for more than 28 years, he joined the Madera city staff. He earned a BS in accountancy and an MBA from California State University, Fresno.



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Fremont's Sabercat Historical Park, worth a visit.

## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu

**Dave Tooley** retired as the Madera city manager in December 2017. He served nearly 25 years with Madera. Following retirement he served as the Interim City Manager for McFarland. He worked as the Eureka City Manager in 1987-1991 and he also served as the city manager in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Dave earned an MPA from Southern Methodist University.

**Nicolas A. Pavlovich** served as the Madera city manager starting in January 1986. Previous to coming to Madera, Nicolas served as the assistant city manager in Madera between November 1959 and April 1967. He served as the Reedley city administrator from April 1967 to February 1979. He was the city administrator for the city of Selma from February 1979 until he joined the Madera city staff. Nicolas earned a BA from St. Mary's College.



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**Alexander Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer

## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu



Malibu is located on a 21 mile stretch of coastal charm in Los Angeles County. It is believed that **Conquistador Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo** moored at Malibu Lagoon at the mouth of Malibu Creek in 1542. Few roadways entered the Malibu area before 1929. The ranch property was eventually divided for sale as the Great Depression and steep downturn in Southern California's economy pushed toward insolvency in 1926. Most of the Big Rock Drive area was bought by **William Randolph Hearst** in 1936. Malibu Colony was one of the first areas with private homes built starting in 1926. The Malibu Colony is a gated community developed with multi-million-dollar homes on small lots with stunning views of the Pacific Coast. Malibu incorporated in March 1991. **Candace Bond** is the Interim City Manager following the departure of City Manager **Steve McClary**. **Ronda Perez** of Palmdale was selected to serve as the new Malibu city manager, but a Palmdale investigation has stalled the conclusion of her appointment.

Several public manager professionals have served as permanent City Managers for Malibu. We were unable to confirm the service dates of some of the names we discovered. The tenures we confirmed are noted, otherwise we note names only. **Ray Taylor** was city manager from April 1990 until July 1991, and **Harry Peacock** held the position from April 1997 until 2000. **David Carmany** served as the Malibu city manager from February 1993 until January 1997. **Jim Thorsen** served from May 2006 to May 2016 when he retired and left the State. **Reva Feldman** served as the Malibu city manager from 2016 until May 1, 2021, having previously been an assistant city manager starting in 2005. **Steve McClary** served as permanent Malibu City Manager from April 2022 until March 2025, after an interim period beginning in April 2021. Assistant City Manager **Joseph Toney** was Acting City Manager when Steve left.



Huntington Beach continues to be "Surf City USA" in Southern California. Northern California's Santa Cruz, known for its big surf and surfing history, continues to contest the name as being theirs too. Huntington Beach has the federal trademark.

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--Shortstop **Colson Montgomery**



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## California Managers in Cities from Los Gatos to Malibu



**Joseph Toney** was a Congressional Intern in 2005. He joined the Long Beach city staff as a Legislative Assistant in 2007 and worked as a Budget and Policy Analyst in 2011-2012. He went to work for the County of Santa Barbara in 2012 as

a Fiscal and Policy Analyst in the County Executive Office. He became Assistant Director and CFO in General Service in 2016. Joe worked for the City of Simi Valley as Director of Administrative Services from May 2022 to May 2025 prior to joining the Malibu city staff as Assistant City Manager in May 2022. He was appointed Acting City Manager in November 2024. Joe left Malibu in May 2025, and he is currently the Interim Director of Finance for the city of Big Bear Lake starting in September 2025. Joe earned a BA from the University of San Diego and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.



**Candace Bond**, U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago (December 2022 – January 2025), is the new Interim City Manager for the City of Malibu starting in May 2025. Her previous experience is as an executive in private industry. She was the Vice President for Special Markets and Catalog Development for Motown Records from 1992 to 1997. From March 2012 to November 2022, Candace was the President and CEO for AESA Inc. She earned an AB from Harvard University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. She also attended executive programs at the Presidio School of Management and the **USC** Marshall School of Business.



Former Palmdale City Manager **Ronda Perez** was appointed to be Malibu city manager in August 2025. She is a former Lancaster Assistant City Manager. She withdrew her application.



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

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

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

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

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



## Kosmont Companies

1601 N. Sepulveda Blvd., No. 382  
Manhattan Beach, California  
90266

Telephone: **424-297-1070**

Fax: **424-286-4632**

E-mail: [kosmont@kosmont.com](mailto:kosmont@kosmont.com)

**Larry J. Kosmont, CRE®**, is the Founder, President and CEO of Kosmont Companies. He is also Managing Partner of Renaissance Community Fund, which invests and develops mixed use, residential and commercial projects throughout California.

From 1975 to 1986, Larry served as City Manager, Director of Community Development, and Redevelopment Director in the cities of Santa Monica, Seal Beach, Bell Gardens, and Burbank. Larry earned an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**), and a BA from the State University of New York, Binghamton.

In 1995, Larry conceived of and created the Kosmont-Rose Institute "Cost of Doing Business Survey©," which is now recognized as the industry standard for comparing city taxes and economic incentives. The Survey covers 400 cities in all 50 states and is published annually by California's Claremont-McKenna College.

**Kosmont Companies** is a leader in negotiating residential, retail, mixed use, hospitality, office and industrial projects that have revitalized hundreds of communities and neighborhoods. With more than a quarter century of advisory services to the public sector, **Kosmont Companies** is the most capable consulting firm in California to design and implement a sustainable economic development strategy.

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**Picking Up the Pieces:** Santa Rosa Deputy City Manager **Gloria Hurtado** is the 2025 recipient of the ICMA Award for Career Development in Memory of L. P. Cunningham. She has been the Deputy City Manager since 2015. Prior to joining the Santa Rosa city staff, Gloria served as Assistant City Manager for the City of San Antonio, Texas, and before that she worked for Phoenix, Arizona.

**Chico** City Manager **Mark Sorensen** is set to retire in June 2026. Mark held various roles in **Chico**. He was appointed City Manager and Finance Director in July 2022. He previously was city manager for the City of **Biggs**. Mark is a former Mayor and City Council Member for the city of **Chico**. California State University, Long Beach is a top training ground for city managers. The December 2025 Beach Monthly newsletter for alumni, families and friends posted an article by **Wendy Thomas Russell** regarding the education of city managers in California.

A 2025 Rose Institute survey ranks CSULB as the No. 2 producer of city managers statewide. Six percent of current city managers in California earned their highest degrees at CSULB. Wendy highlights **Oceanside** City Manager **Jonathan Borrego** as a CSULB alumnus in her article. **Anna Garan** began her new job as Director of Finance for the city of **Bellflower** in September 2025. Anna joined the **Bellflower** city staff in 2014 as a Finance Analyst. Before her promotion to Director, she worked as a Senior Accountant and Finance Manager.

Anna is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and she earned a BA in business administration with a concentration in accounting from California State University, Long Beach. City Manager **Christopher Lopez** of **California City** is resigning his position effective January 3, 2026. Chris was appointed city manager in February 2025, and he has now accepted a position with the City of **Cudahy**. When he was hired in California City he was the eighth city manager in the city in the past three years. He began his working career with a land development company in **Riverside**. He served as Interim City Manager for the City of **Livingston** in 2023. **Lori Ann Farrell** was retained to serve as Interim City Manager following the exit of **Santa Rosa** City Manager **Maraskeshia Smith**, who is leaving in January to work for the City of **Sacramento**.

Lori Ann recently served as the City Manager for the City of **Costa Mesa**. Prior to her **Costa Mesa** tenure, she worked nine years as the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant City Manager for the city of **Huntington Beach**. Lori Ann also previously worked for the City of **Long Beach**. She earned an MPA from Columbia University. Bainbridge Island, Washington, city manager **Blair King**, who previously retired as the city manager in **Coronado**, retired again in November. This time from the Washington city. He started working for Bainbridge Island in 2021. His last day is scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2026.



## California Contract Cities Association

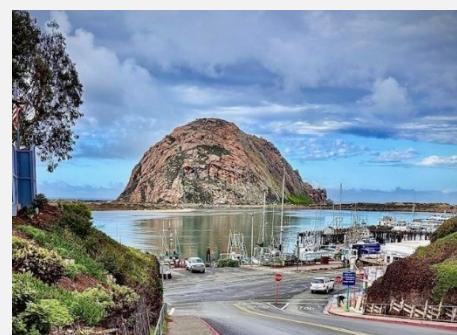


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17315 Studebaker Road, Suite 210  
Cerritos, California 90703  
Telephone No. 562-622-5533  
Email: [info@contyractcities.org](mailto:info@contyractcities.org)



**Cupertino** has a new city manager. Serving Interim City Manager since May 2025, **Tina Kapoor** has been hired to serve as **Cupertino**'s permanent city manager. Prior to joining **Cupertino**, Tina she worked in economic development for the cities of **Fremont** and **San Jose**. She immigrated to the U.S. from India in 1999. Tina earned a BA from Ohlone College and another BA from Delhi University. Behind the retirement of well thought of and longtime city manager for **Redwood City**, **Melissa Stevenson Diaz** on December 31, 2025, **Patrick Heisinger** has been hired as the next city manager for **Redwood City**. Pat came to work for the city as Assistant City Manager in July 2023. He previously worked as Assistant City Manager for the City of **East Palo Alto**. He was the **East Palo Alto** Interim City Manager from April 2022 until February 2023. He has prior experience with **San Jose**, the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara, and the County of Santa Cruz Planning. Pat earned a BA from the University of Redlands, and MA's from the University of Redlands and San Jose State University.



A center piece of California's beautiful Central Coast is Morro Bay with the compelling Morro Rock.



**More Pieces Picked Up: Poway**  
Assistant City Manager **Wendy Kaserman** was hired to be the Santee City Manager starting on October 23, 2025.



Wendy succeeds **Marlene Best**, who served Santee for nearly a decade. Wendy served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Poway from September 2016. Before her time in Poway, Wendy served in key administrative and finance management positions in the City of San Marcos and the Town of Queen Creek, Arizona. She earned a BA in Political Science from Arizona State University and an MPA from the University of Arizona. **Chris Gorsky** is the new City Administrator for the City of Sonora. Chris became City Administrator effective December 1<sup>st</sup> as City Administrator **Melissa Eads** moves to the City of Dixon as the Assistant City Manager. Chris is currently serving as both the Assistant City Administrator and Finance Director for Sonora. Melissa served as City Administrator starting in July 2022. Prior to joining the Sonora city staff, Melissa was the City Administrator for Angels Camp for nearly four years. **Laura Snideman** is the new South San Francisco city manager beginning in January 2026. Laura began her public service career in San Carlos in September 2001. She was the Economic Development Manager for San Mateo from July 2006 to November 2009. She worked for Half Moon Bay in 2009-2010 as an Administrative Officer before becoming the City Manager in December 2010. Laura worked in Half Moon Bay until March 2014. She took the Executive Office position for LAFCO for about a year, before becoming the Assistant City Manager for the City of Fairfield. She was appointed Richmond city manager in January 2020 and worked in that position until December 2021. Laura was appointed city manager for the City of Calistoga starting in February 2022. She earned a BA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and an MPA from Notre Dame, and in 2020 she received a 20-Year ICMA Service Award. **Pamela J. Nicolai** served as the City Manager for the City of San Rafael in the early 1990s. She was appointed city manager in December 1985. She joined the San Rafael city staff in 1979 as the Assistant to the City Manager. She became Assistant City Manager in September 1982. After leaving San Rafael, Pam served as the General Manager for the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD). California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Public Policy & Administration Professor **Adam Butz**, when speaking about the city manager position, said, "It's a uniquely high executive-level position. The city manager stands alone. It's like the top of the mountain." A 2025 Rose Institute survey ranks CSULB as the No. 2 producer of city managers statewide. Arcadia City Manager **Dominic Lazzaretto** '98 agreed. "Everywhere I go, I run into city managers who went to Long Beach. It's a quiet program that turns out success."



## Sacramento Valley Division



**Charles Anderson**, Government Relations and Regional Public Affairs Manager  
Sacramento Valley Division

1400 K Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone: 916-798-2231  
[canderson@cacities.org](mailto:canderson@cacities.org)

Pinole's city manager is seeking a new career path after serving just 15 months as city manager. City Manager **Kelcey Young** resigned with her last day November 28, 2025. Kelcey was appointed Pinole city manager in August 2024. She served as the city manager of Sweet Home, Oregon from September 2022 until August 2024. Prior to that she worked as the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Clearlake. Kelcey earned a BA and a Master's degree in Social Science from Humboldt State University. **A. J. Wilson** is the lead ICMA Senior Advisor in California. A.J. served as Interim Airport Director for the San Bernardino International Airport Authority in 2011. Previously in his working career he worked in airport operations in St. Louis and Kansas City. He served as city manager in Santa Ana from 1980 to 1983, before he went to Kansas City where he resigned from that city manager position in 1984. He worked as the city manager for the city of Pomona from 1988-1989. Since retiring as the Lafayette city manager in December 2018, **Steven B. Falk** has served as an "Interim" city manager in Richmond, Oakland, and Hercules. He started in Long Beach in 1986.

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



Atascadero City Manager **Jim Lewis** stopped by the Trackdown office while he visited the desert for a city managers' meeting. Jim is a past President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities.



**Still More Pieces Picked Up: Darin Gale** is the next Pittsburg city manager. Darin has been working as the Brentwood Assistant City Manager since January 2022. He was the Interim City Manager in Brentwood from April to November 2025. He previously served as a U.S. House of Representatives Field Representative (2001-2003). He worked for the Sacramento Chamber and with the California Restaurant Association and the BIA. In 2009 he joined the city staff in Yuba City as Economic Development Manager. He worked as Deputy City Manager there from January 2018 to July 2019. During the period from December 2019 to January 2022, Darin was a Senior Development Project Manager for the City of Sacramento. He joined the Brentwood staff following 6 and a half years of consulting based in Yuba City.



**SHORTS:** \*Former Los Banos and Ceres city manager and former Truckee Assistant City Manager **Alex Terrazas** is enjoying his work assignment with **HdL Companies** as Client Experience Advocate. \***Susan S. Muranishi** is the County Administrator for Alameda County and has worked in that position for 28 years. \***Gavin C. Newsom** became the California State Lieutenant Governor in January 2011, and he was first elect to serve as the California Governor starting in January 7, 2019.\*Appointed in September 2025, Palm Desert city manager **Chris Escobedo** earned a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino. \***Troy Brown**, who recently retired from the city of Moorpark retired, was awarded the CCMF 2025 City Manager of the Year Award. \*Since September 2019, the Director of Finance for the City of Santa Clara has been **Kenn Lee**. \***P.J. Mellana** is the Bellflower Director of Parks and Recreation and has worked in the position since the retirement of Director **Rich Pierce** in 2012. \*13-year veteran of the Santa Rosa Finance Department, **Scott Wagner** has been selected to lead the department as the new Santa Rosa Chief Financial Officer (CFO). \***Jarad Hildenbrand**, who earned an MPA from California State University, Long Beach, is the current city manager for the City of Orange and he previously worked as city manager in the cities of Laguna Hills, Stanton, La Habra Heights and Villa Park. \***David Lee Harris** served as the City Manager for the City of Dixon from June 1978 until July 1997, and the current Dixon city manager is **Jim Lindley**. \***Alan E. Harry**, former Half Moon Bay Assistant City Manager, relocated to live in the Town of Truckee in 1992. \***Howard D. Tipton**, who served as Glendora city manager (1962-1969), began his tenure as the Daytona Beach, Florida city manager in October 1978, and worked there until 1994, was honored by the Florida League of Cities in 2014 with a Distinguished Public Service Award.



**Trackdown Grandchildren help us say:**  
**Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**  
**and Happy Hanukkah!**

**Some considerations and thoughts, just for edification and “remember whens”:** **George Deukmejian Jr.** was the first Governor of the State of California of Armenian descent. George was a Republican who served as California Governor from 1983 to 1991. George passed away May 8, 2018, at the age of 89. Actress **Marisa Tomei** is 60 years old, born December 4, 1964. She won the 1993 Academy Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role for her work on the movie “My Cousin Vinny.” Singer **Jesse Belvin** died in a car crash in 1960. He was a co-songwriter who produced the legendary song “Earth Angel,” which was a big hit when it was recorded by The Penguins. In the United States 5-8% of pilots are women. Of the four major airlines, United leads at 7.4%, Delta has 5.3%, American Airlines at 5% and Southwest Airlines has 4.1% women pilots. These airlines all have total pilot counts of at least 260, or more. **Jayme Timberlake**, the Coastal Zone Administrator of the city of Oceanside said, “We have less and less natural sand coming to the shoreline, and so as a coastal management tool, we want to grab sand from different sources and consistently place sand on the beach.” Oceanside recently dumped approximately 2,000 cubic yards of donated sand onto the Tyson Street Beach, south of the Oceanside pier, to combat long-term erosion. **Alan Autry** played Captain **Bubba Skinner** on the television show *In the Heat of the Night* starring **Carroll O'Connor** as the fictional Sparta, Mississippi Chief of Police **Bill Gillespie**. The show ran from 1988 to 1995. After the television show wrapped up, Alan was elected to two terms as Mayor of the City of Fresno (2001-2009). He played football for the University of the Pacific in Stockton. Alan, 73 years old, is a distant cousin to the late **Gene Autry**. **Georgeanne White** was Fresno City Manager in 2001. **Caitlin Clark**, the NCAA basketball all-time scoring leader during her time at the University of Iowa, was selected as the recipient of the 2024 WNBA Rookie of the Year Award. Her 2025 season was ended by injury after only 13 games. She is considered one of the greatest players in the history of women's sports. Caitlin was born in Des Moines, Iowa. **H. L. Mencken** was born September 12, 1880, he was an American journalists, essayists, and writers of the early 20th century. He said, “The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by an endless series of hobgoblins, most of them imaginary.” \*\*\*