

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



January 2026

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Here are five of the December 2025 participants at the Holiday "Proof of Life" Lunch held at the North Woods Inn Restaurant on the I-5 Freeway in La Mirada. From left to right are professional managers **Bill Pagett**, **Greg Korduner**, **Mike Egan**, **Don Vestal** and **Bill Crowe**.

California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez

This January 2026 "New Years" issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the cities of Mammoth Lakes, Manhattan Beach, Manteca, Marina, Maricopa, and Martinez.

City executives in this issue include Mammoth Lakes Town Manager **Rob Patterson**, Talyn Mirzakhanian in Manhattan Beach, **Toni Lundgren** is the City Manager in Manteca, **Eric G. Ziegler** is City Administrator in Maricopa, **Layne Long** is the City Manager in Marina, and **Michael Chandler** is the City Manager in Martinez. Martinez is the oldest city in this group, having incorporated April 1, 1876. Malibu is the youngest, incorporated in March 1991.

Happy New Year! Make 2026 a year to remember!

RICHARDS WATSON GERSHON			

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California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez



Mammoth Lakes is located in Mono County on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Mammoth Lakes is the only incorporated town in the county. The European history of the town began in 1877, when four prospectors staked a claim on Mineral Hill. The mining created a boom for the community but by 1880 the mine closed, and it was bust. The economy of the original town was based on logging and tourism, hiking and trout fishing in the summer and snow skiing and downhill sports in the winter.

The first Mammoth Lakes post office opened in 1923. The town was incorporated in August 1984. The 2020 population is 7,191. **Rob Patterson** is the Town Manager and **Pam Kobylarz** is the Assistant to the Town Manager. **Jamie Gray** is the Town Clerk & Records Manager. **Lawson Reif** is the Outdoor Recreation Manager and **Gretchen Haselbauer** is the Outdoor Recreation Programs Manager. **Nolan Bobroff** is the community & Economic Development Director, and **Haislip Hayes** is the Public Works Director and Town Engineer. **Megan Chapman** is the Finance Director and **Stuart Brown** is the Parks & Recreation Director. Nolan Bobroff is the Planning Director and tom Perry is the Building Director. **Daniel Casabian** is the Mammoth Lakes Chief of Police.

In 1971, a group of Mammoth Lakes residents filed legal action against the developers of two proposed apartment buildings. They argued that building the apartment buildings violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Prior to the lawsuit, it was understood that CEQA only applied to publicly funded developments. In 1972, the California Supreme Court ruled the developer required an environmental impact study. Known as the *Friends of Mammoth Interpretive Principle*, the decision set the precedent of requiring all public and private developments in California that require government authorization are subject to the CEQA rules.



Diamond Bar Mayor **Steve Tye** in the "pinkish" shirt on the left side next to future MLB Hall of Famer **Mike Trout**, who is in the middle. Steve is a past President of the California Contract Cities Association. Angels' fans are desperate for a play-off berth. It's been a long time!



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Larry is the 2021 CCMF Corporate Partner of the Year. Larry has been a frequent "Proof of Life" attendee.

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California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez

Rob Patterson is the Town Manager for Mammoth Lakes starting in March 2024. He was elevated to Town Manager following the retirement of Town Manager **Daniel C. Holler** and his relocation to Wyoming. After working in financial services in the private sector, Rob joined the Mammoth Lakes town staff in July 2016 as the Administrative Services and Finance Director. Rob earned an AA degree from Merced Junior College, and a BS in business administration from California State University, Sacramento. He is a past President of Mono County Search and Rescue. He moved to Mammoth Lakes roughly 20 years ago and initially worked as a lift operator for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA).

Daniel C. Holler retired as the Mammoth Lakes Town Manager on February 29, 2024, after working in the position for 10 years and 5 months. He was appointed Town Manager in October 2023, as an Interim, at first. Dan was the City Administrator for Grass Valley from March 2008 to September 2013. He previously worked as County Manager for Douglas County, Nevada. He began his public service career in 1987 works for the cities of Glendora and West Covina. Dan earned a BA and MPA from Montana State University.



Livermore City Manager **Marianna A. Burch** (formerly **Marianna Marysheva**) served as the Mammoth Lakes Town Manager from 2013-2015. She started with the town as Assistant Town Manager and Interim Manager. She has been the Livermore city manager since May 2022.



This is **Gonzalo Vazquez**, retired Water Quality Manager for the City of Cypress, meeting with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the 2025 Christmas celebrations. Gonzo earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Fullerton. He is an MLB Angels' fan.

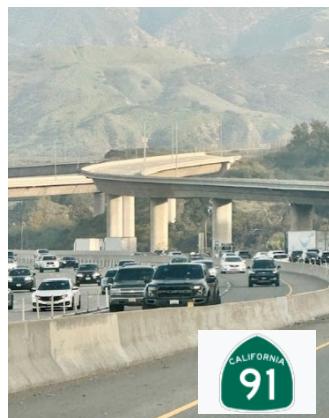
California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez



Manhattan Beach is a South Bay city along with Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach together forming a beautiful long sandy Pacific Ocean beach in Los Angeles County. In 1784, the Spanish deeded Rancho San Pedro to **Juan Jose Dominguez**. The rancho included all of the South Bay cities. In 1863 the area began developing slowly and in 1888 the area's first freight and passenger railroad line was built by the Santa Fe Railroad and went through Manhattan Beach. It is said that a coin flip decided the town's name "Manhattan". The post office added Beach. The land in Manhattan Beach was formerly sand dunes. During the 1920s and 1930s, Kuhn Brothers Construction Company leveled uneven sandy sites and some excess sand was sold and shipped to Waikiki, Hawaii, to convert their reef and rocky beach into a sandy beach. The city of Manhattan Beach was incorporated in 1912. The 2020 population is 35,506. The city manager is **Talyn Mirzakhanian**, and **George Gabriel** is the Deputy City Manager. **Libby Brethauer** is the Finance Director, and **Mark Leyman** is the Parks and Recreation Director.



Talyn Mirzakhanian is the Manhattan Beach city manager. She was appointed in November 2024 after serving as Acting City Manager starting in August 2024. She joined the city staff in November 2020 working as Planning Manager. Talyn became the Community Development Director in April 2023. She began her public service career in January 2005, working as a Planning Assistant for the City of Calabasas. She was promoted to Associate Planner, Planner and Senior Planner during her nearly 13 years with the city. Talyn joined the Pasadena city staff as Senior Planner in July 2017. She earned a BA in sociology & public policy from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**) and an MPL in planning & development from the University of Southern California (**USC**).



California Interstate 405 (I-405) is consistently ranked the busiest and most congested freeway in the U.S. Caltrans manages more than 50,000 miles of highway and freeway lanes. California has more than 31 million registered motor vehicles. A Los Angeles Times 2025 analysis ranked the I-10 freeway as the worst in Southern California. This is I-91, a major east-west State Highway, one of the most critical and heavily congested corridors connecting the Inland Empire with Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The flag is found at the southerly side of the Freeway in the Santa Ana Canyon.



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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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Mike Sedell, Retired Simi Valley City Manager
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Kevin O'Rourke, KOLGS; Retired City Manager
Glenn Southard, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont
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Kevin Duggan, Retired City Manager, Mountain View
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Donald Jeffers, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
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Karen Herrera, Retired Deputy City Manager, Duarte
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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 Mammoth Lakes to Martinez

Former Manhattan Beach city managers include **Bruce Moe** (2018-2014), **Mark Danaj** (2014-2018), **David Carmany** (2011-2013), **Richard Thompson** (2010-2011), **Geoff Dolan** (1994-2009) and **Bill Smith** (1990).

Mark Danaj also served as Fremont city manager. He was dismissed from Manhattan Beach without cause in early 2018. In early 2024, Mark pleaded guilty to a felony charge of obtaining money under false pretenses as a result of the use of a city-issued credit card for more than \$18,000 in personal expenses. As of 2025, he is barred from holding public office in California.

David Carmany served as the Manhattan Beach city manager from January 2011 until November 2013. He also worked as city manager in Agoura Hills, Malibu, Pacifica, Seal Beach, La Puente, West Covina and Rialto. He retired in April 2024.



Providing innovative risk management solutions for its public agency partners for more than 45 years, the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (California JPIA) is one of the largest municipal self-insurance pools in the state, with more than 125 member cities and other governmental agencies. Members actively participate in shaping the organization to provide important coverage for their operations. The California JPIA provides innovative risk management solutions through a comprehensive portfolio of programs and services, including liability, workers' compensation, pollution, property, and earthquake coverage, as well as extensive training and loss control services.



Alexander Smith
Chief Executive Officer

California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez



Manteca is located in the northerly end of California's Central Valley. Manteca was established in 1861 by **Joshua Cowell**. In 1873, the Central Pacific Railroad rail line came through the area. The local

train station's name was suggested as "Cowell Station" but was already a Cowell Station in the Tracy area. Manteca became the new name when the city was incorporated in May 1918, and **Joshua Cowell** was the first mayor. The community was agricultural based until the 1970s when the Bay Area rise in housing prices presented marketing opportunities for affordable houses. The Manteca population according to the 2020 estimate is 83,498. **Toni Lundgren** is the Manteca city manager, and **Jose Jasso** is the Assistant City Manager. **Matthew Boring** is the Interim Finance Director, and **Brandy Clark** is the Recreation Services Manager. **Stephen Schluer** is the Manteca Chief of Police.



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Jose Solache, ICFA President
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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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Toni Lundgren joined the Manteca city staff in July 2014 as the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation. In June 2020, Toni was appointed Deputy City Manager. She served as Acting Assistant City Manager starting in June 2021 and Toni was selected to serve as Interim City Manager starting in March 2022. She was hired to be the Manteca City Manager in May 2023. Toni earned a BA from California State University, Sacramento and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. She completed the executive education program on Public Narrative: Leadership, Storytelling, and Action at Harvard University, Kennedy School of Executive Education.

Next "Proof of Life" lunch is Thursday, March 26, 2026





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California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez

Manteca has had many professional city managers serve the community. Prior to current city manager **Toni Lundgren**, others include **Toby Wells**, starting in September 2021; **Michael Harden**, April 2021-September 2021; **Miranda Lutzow**, September 2019-February 2021; **Tim Ogden**, August 2017-2019; **Elena Reyes**, served 19 weeks in 2019; **Karen McLaughlin**, 2011-2016 (retired); **Steve Pinkerton**, served from 2008 to September 2011; **Robert F. "Bob" Adams**, served for 12 years, left in 2008.

David M. Jinkens was the Manteca city manager from December 1983 to February 1996. David is currently a member of the South Lake Tahoe city council. David also served as city manager in the cities of Soledad, Oroville, Avalon, Morgan Hill, Elk Grove and South Lake Tahoe. He received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award in 2008. He earned an MPA from the University of California, Los Angeles ([UCLA](#)).



Bob Adams was the Manteca city manager for a dozen years, from September 1996 until May 2008. Bob began his public management career in May 1974 as an Administrative Intern in Visalia. Following work assignments in Santa Rosa and Dinuba, Bob was appointed City Manager for Lafayette in March 1988 and served there until September 1996. After retiring from Manteca, Bob had "Interim" assignments in Vallejo, Madera, Desert Hot Springs, Coachella, Lincoln and Tracy. Bob currently serves as a Member of the Board for the California Municipal Finance Authority (CMFA). Bob earned a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and an MPA from Brigham Young University. In 2021 he received a 40 Year ICMA Service Award. Bob was elected in November 2024 to serve as the Wasatch County, Utah County Assessor and he was sworn into office on January 6, 2025. His term of office extends to the end of 2028.

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California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez



Maricopa is a Kern County city located near Taft. The city was named for the Maricopa or Piipaash Native American tribe. The first Maricopa post office opened in 1901. In and around Maricopa is near the third largest oil field in the United States. **Eric G. Ziegler** is listed as City Administrator on the city's website. Maricopa incorporated as a city in July 1911. The 2020 population is reported to be 1,026. **Meghan Anderson** is the elected City Clerk. **Richard Hunt** and **John Quilliams** are listed as Maricopa's Public Works officials.

Eric G. Ziegler joined the Maricopa city staff as City Administrator in 2011. He is noted for his "Crisis Management" program. In 2012, he was instrumental in implementing a radical austerity program in Maricopa to avoid bankruptcy. This included eliminating the local police department in favor of contracting services with the Kern County Sheriff. Eric began his public service career in Barstow in 1974, and he became the Barstow Personnel Director in July 1975; Public Services Director in October 1978; Deputy City Manager in July 1988; Interim City Manager in April 1989; and Barstow City Manager in March 1990. Eric served as Taft city manager from May 1993 to July 2001, and as Glendora city manager from June 2002 to July 2007. Eric received a 30 Year ICMA Service Award in 2004. Eric received the Darrell Hildebrand Regional Award of Merit for Distinguished Leadership in 2024, presented by the Kern Council of Governments Regional Awards Ceremony. Eric earned a BA from Michigan State University and a Master from the University of California.



Retired city managers **Doug Dunlap** and **Darrell Essex**. Doug retired from Pomona and Darrell from Cypress, where they worked together.



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Never to be Forgotten

Those who attended the "Proof of Life" Program, who we have lost along the way. "Proof of Life" program participants who passed:

Darrell Essex
Bob Williams
William "Bill" Holt
Lauren Wasserman
Ray Harris
Frank G. Tripepi
Howard Chambers
Mary Strenn
Keene Wilson
Joe Goeden
Jim Purtee



That is the late **Frank Tripepi** in the light blue jacket with Coach **Pete Carroll** and the boys.

California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez



Marina is a city in Monterey County about 8 miles northerly of the city of Monterey. Marina is said to be a unique and beautiful city. Marina State Beach is world-renowned for paragliding, hang-gliding and kite flying. The Fort Ord National Monument offers trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. A significant amount of the university campus of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) is within the Marina city limits. Willian Locke-Paddon founded the city on land he bought for the purpose. The Marina post office opened in 1916. The city's history is intertwined with Fort Ord's; used for infantry training starting in the Mexican-American War. WW II and military actions since started in 1938 with the first joint Army and Navy maneuvers held in 1940. Marina was incorporated in November 1975. The 2020 population is 22,359. **Layne Long** is the city manager and **Matt Mogensen** is the Assistant City Manager. The Chief of Police is **Randy Hopkins**. The Marina Community Development Director is **Guido Persicone** and the Deputy City Clerk in **Anita Shepherd-Sharp**.

Layne Long is the city manager. Layne served as City Administrator for Mt. Pleasant, Utah from September 1987 to October 1988. He was an Analyst in Morgan Hill from March 1989 until August of the same year when he joined the Los Altos city staff as Assistant to the City Manager. Layne returned to Utah as the City Administrator for the city of Springville starting in February 2001. He served the Draper, Utah city manager from April 2007 to June 2012. Layne was hired as the Marina city manager in late March 2013. In 2023, Layne received a 35 Year Service Award. He was the President of the Utah City/County Management Association from 2011 to 2012. He earned a BA and an MPA from Brigham Young University.

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California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez

Marina produces quite a list of former city managers including **Douglas A. Yount** (Interim), **Anthoy J. Altfeld** (appointed in August 2002), **Chuck Cate** (Interim in 2002), **John R. Longley, Jr.**, (who served for 13 years before retiring in 2002 to become the city manager for the city of Porterville), **Larry Bagley**, **Doug Flautt**, and **John Edgerton**.

John R. Longley, Jr. began his public service career as an Administrative Aide for the League of California Cities in April 1974. In February 1975, he took an Administrative Assistant job with the city of Rio Vista. In May 1976, John was hired to be the city manager for Greenfield, his first city manager job in a succession of half a dozen. In January 1980, John went to Catalin Island to be the Avalon city manager. In April 1982, John became the city manager for the city of Farmersville in the San Joaquin Valley. John rejoined the city of Avalon in January 1984 and worked there until he was hired to be the Marina city manager in October 1988. In January 2002, John left Marina to become the Porterville city manager, where he worked until January 2009. Since leaving Porterville, John served as a Director of the Crater Lake Klamath Regional Airport in Oregon from August 2020 to October 2014. He was the Wing Commander for the Oregon Wing, Civil Air Patrol USAF Auxiliary from October 2012 until September 2016. He served as the Chair of the Board of Governors for the Civil Air Patrol USAF from February 2023 until February 2025. John earned an AA degree from Porterville College, a BA from San Jose State University, and a MA in political science from the University of California, Davis. In 2015, John received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award. He is an ICMA Credentialed Manager, retired and a Military Veteran with the U.S. Air Force. John continues to serve as an ICMA Coach and as a member of the ICMA Veteran's Committee.

"You give loyalty, and you'll get it back.
You give love, and you'll get it back."

--**Tommy Lasorda**, Former L. A. Dodgers Manager



Many people stop to have their pictures taken at the Naples Fountain in Long Beach before or after a walk around the homes on the Naples Canal to see the wonderful annual Christmas decoration displays.



Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA) is one of the leading strategic communications and public affairs firms in Southern California. The Founding Partner is **Harvey Englander**, and Partners include **Matt Knabe**, **Marcus Allen**, **Eric Rose**, **Jeff McConnell**, **Adam Englander**, **Alex Cherin** and Managing Partner **Kellie Hawkins**. EKA prides itself on providing a unique and strategic perspective on a wide variety of issues.

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Retired Long Beach and Paramount City Manager **Pat West** is a Joint Venture Partner with **EKA**.

Together, **EKA** has more than 100-years of combined experience and a multitude of relationships within the City & County of Los Angeles, and the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. **Kellie Hawkins** earned a BA from Howard University and a master's degree in public health from the University of Southern California (**USC**).

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



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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MMASC & MMANC support ICMA's educational, diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.



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California Managers in Cities from Mammoth Lakes to Martinez



Martinez is the county seat of Contra Costa County in the East Bay area of San Francisco Bay. In 1847, Dr. Robert Semple provided a ferry service from Martinez, across the Carguinez Strait to Benicia, and for many years it was the only way to cross over. In 1849, Martinez was a way station for the California Gold Rush miners and prospectors coming and going from the dig sites. In 1849 the town site was laid out and it became the county seat in 1850. Naturalist **John Muir** lived in Martinez from 1880 until his death in 1914. Martinez incorporated in April 1876, but the first Martinez post office did not open until 1851. **Michael Chandler** is the City Manager and **Lauren Sugayan** is the Assistant City Manager. **June Du** is the Director of Finance, and the Chief of Police is **Andrew White**.



Martinez City Manager **Michael Chandler** served in the United States Navy Supply Corps from 1993 until 2001. He left the Navy as a Lieutenant, a Supply Corps Officer. He joined the Martinez city staff as a Management Analyst in September 2001 and after being promoted to Senior Management Analyst, he became Assistant to the City Manager in February 2016. He was then promoted through Deputy Director of Administrative Services (2017-2020), Deputy City Manager (2020-2021), Assistant City Manager (2021-2023) and Acting City Manager from July 2022 until January 2023. He was appointed Martinez City Manager in January 2023. He earned a BA from Northwestern University, and he graduated from the Navy Supply Corps Officer School.

Other Martinez city manager include **Eric Figueroa** (2019-2023), **Brad Kilger** (2016-2019), and **Philip Vince** (2008-2014). Eric is currently a Senior Consultant with The Consulting Team, LLC. Brad most recently served as Interim City Manager in Gilroy. Phil briefly served as city manager for Point Arena, retired, and is now living in Maine.



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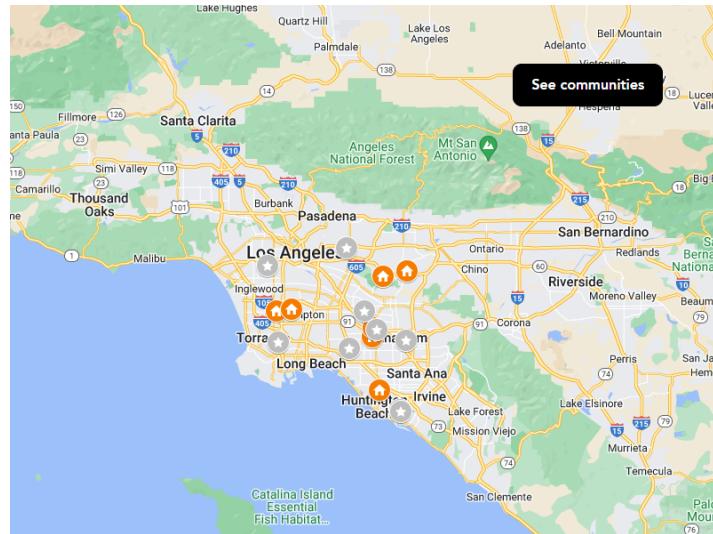
The Olson Company is a prominent California homebuilder focusing on affordable, urban, and transit-oriented new home communities in the state's most in-demand urban centers. In partnership with cities and other local and state agencies, Olson works to provide multi-tiered solutions to the critical issues of affordable for-sale housing, community redevelopment, transportation and sustainability. Recognized for creating thoughtfully designed communities within reach of California homebuyers, Olson has built more than 11,000 single-family attached, single-family detached, live/work and mixed-use in-town homes across 100 cities since 1988. Headquartered in Seal Beach, California, Olson is the proud recipient of many top customer experience awards including the 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022 [Eliant](#) Homebuyers' Choice first place awards for Overall Purchase and Ownership Experience.



HB Walk, Huntington Beach



Estrella Walk, La Puente



Since 1988, The Olson Company mission has been to work hand-in-hand with cities to solve the critical shortage of urban housing by promoting and investing in responsible development that improves quality of life for everyone.

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Picking Up the Pieces: Highly respected longtime Lemon Grove City Manager **Lydia Romero** closed out a ten-year tenure when she resigned her position at the end of 2025. Lydia was appointed city manager for Lemon Grove in January 2016 and her resignation was effective

December 31, 2025. Her prior experience included service as Deputy City Manager for San Marcos (2007-2015), Assistant to the City Manager in San Rafael (1998-2007). Aliso Viejo City Manager **Mitzi Ortiz** passed away unexpectedly on December 22, 2025. She was 45 years old. She worked for Aliso Viejo for 11 years and she was appointed city manager in October 2024. Mitzi was appointed Aliso Viejo City Clerk in 2014. **Ann Eifert** is serving as the Acting City Manager. Dana Point City Manager **Mike Killebrew** retired effective December 30, 2025, after more than 18 years of service to Dana Point. He is a 26-year resident of the city and was the first local resident to serve as city manager. Mike was the Director of Administrative Services and Assistant City Manager for 13 years before becoming city manager in 2020. He previously worked as the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Long Beach. He worked 17 years in various position for Long Beach. Mike was honored as the Dana Point Citizen of the Year in 2019. Mike is a past President of the Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Club. There is no readily available public information confirming familial relationship between baseball Hall of Famer **Harmon Killebrew** and Mike of Dana Point, though they could be distant cousins. Former Pinole city manager **Kelcey Young** is a finalist for the city manager position in Montpelier, Vermont. Kelcey resigned as the Pinole city manager in late November 2025 after only 15 months in the position. Prior to Pinole, she was the city manager in Sweet Home, Oregon. She was also a finalist for the city manager position in Page, Arizona in October 2025. Kelcey earned a BA and an MS in environment and community from Humboldt State University. She earned a certificate in environmental planning from Rutgers University, Newark. Since October 2017, the American Canyon city manager has been **Jason Holley**. Jason's employment agreement was extended in December 2025 through December 2031. Prior to becoming city manager, Jason was the American Canyon Director of Public Works (2013-2017). He also worked for the City of Napa. He is a Registered Civil Engineer and lives in the city of Napa. In March 2025, the city of Oceanside hired its first-ever Homeless Services Manager, **Tasha Tates**. Her first objective was to update and implement the city's Homeless Action Plan. Tasha is a San Diego native. She earned a BS in criminal justice from San Diego State University and two Master's Degrees from Chapman University. She previously worked for People Assisting the Homeless in San Diego.



Best wishes for a happy 2026!

Having never worked on a city staff, sunny beachfront city of Hermosa Beach has transitioned Interim City Manager **Steve Napolitano** to City Manager. Steve is a former five term city council member for Manhattan Beach. He worked 12 years as a Deputy Supervisor to former Los Angeles County Supervisor **Don Knabe**. Steve worked as the Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to Long Beach Council Member **Stacy Mungo** from 2017 to 2022. He is a former President of the Independent Cities Association. Steve is an attorney, earning his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School. **Johnny Ford** became the Stockton city manager in November 2025. Johnny previously served as the Stockton Deputy City Manager. He had been dismissed and later cleared of wrongdoing. He served as the Director of Parks and Recreation in Shreveport, Louisiana (1989-1993), Superintendent of Parks Operations in Cincinnati, Ohio (1994-1998), and Director of Parks and Recreation in Durham, North Carolina (1998-2002). He served as the Deputy City Manager and Director of Parks and Recreation in Stockton from 2003 to 2009. Johnny earned a BS and MS from Grambling State University. Members of the Carpinteria Administrative Services Department received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The Carpinteria City Manager is **Michael Ramirez**, and the Administrative Services Director is Licette Maldonado. California's "Kevin Bunch" of city managers includes current city managers **Kevin Woodhouse** of Pacifica, **Kevin Thompson** of Cloverdale, **Kevin Ingram** of Lakeport and **Kevin Kearney** of Bradbury. Past and retired Kevin's include **Kevin Duggan** of Mountain View and Campbell, **Kevin O'Rourke** of Fairfield, Buena Park and Stanton, and Interim City Manager assignments in Santa Ana, Stockton and Woodland. Other Kevin's include **Kevin Miller** of Foster City; **Kevin Murphy**, who served in Newport Beach and Alhambra; **Kevin Radecki** of the City of Industry; and **Kevin Chun**, who worked in Bellflower, La Cañada Flintridge and for other cities. **Kevin Daniel** is the Workforce Development Manager for the City of Sacramento. **Kevin Fulton** is a Los Angeles Planning Assistant.



More Pieces Picked Up: In late 2025, the city managers of all eight incorporated cities in San Joaquin County, including Stockton, Tracy, Lathrop, Manteca, Ripon, Lodi, Escalon, and Mountain House signed an unprecedented joint letter warning of a "transit disaster".

Lathrop City Manager **Stephen Salvatore** spearheaded the effort, criticizing the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) for "unilateral" service expansions that are claimed to be inefficient and a waste of public funds. Antioch City Manager **Bessie Marie Scott** began her city manager tenure in October 2024. Bessie transitioned to Antioch from Seattle, Washington where she held several high-level positions. She was the Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety. Bessie earned a BA in law and society from the University of California, Santa Barbara and MPA from the University of Washington, Evans School of Public Policy & Governance. Longtime city manager **Mark Scott**, who most recently has served as the City Manager for Santa Fe, New Mexico is headed home to Fresno, after confirming his resignation. His official resignation day was January 1, 2026. Deputy City Manager **Andrea Phillips** has served as acting city manager. Mark, at a December 2025 city council meeting vigorously supported the city staff from unwarranted public interrogation questioning from a member of the council. Mark served as the city manager of the cities of Beverly Hills (14 years), Spartanburg, South Carolina, Indio (2017-2021), Fresno (2010-2013) and Burbank, San Bernardino and Culver City. He served as Interim City Manager for many cities including Live Oak, Ojai, Downey and Lincoln. He earned an MBA from Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Former Inyo County Superior Court Executive Officer and Senior Deputy County Administrator **Pamela Foster** is the city of Bishop City Administrator. She succeeded City Administrator **Deston Dishion**, who retired after serving the city in various position for 30 years. Prior to becoming an Inyo County official, Pamela worked as the Executive Director for Mammoth Lakes Housing.



SHORTS: *Former city council member now the La Palma city manager, **Peter Kim**, applied for ICMA membership in December 2025. *In August 2025, Calistoga city manager **Laura Snideman** resigned, and former Chief of Police, Assistant City Manager **Mitch Celaya** was named Interim City Manager. *ICMA Ethics Director **Jessica Cowles**, who earned a BA from Michigan State University and an MPA from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, worked on the staff of Annapolis, Maryland and as Town Manager in Berwyn Heights, Maryland for about four years (October 2014 – May 2018) before joining the ICMA staff in May 2018. *Dana Point Assistant City Manager **Kelly Reenders** previously worked for Santa Ana, the County of San Bernardino and the city of Ontario.



Leilyn Marley Simpson Ha, Six years old of Lakewood.

*San Luis Obispo Fire Chief **Todd Tuggle** resigned after three years of service and Paso Robles Deputy Fire Chief **Randall Harris** was appointed to be the Interim Fire Chief. *On November 6, 2025, the Colorado River Board of California, whose Chair is **John B. "JB" Hamby** of the Imperial Irrigation District, announced that California's 2025 water use is projected to reach its lowest level in 75 years. *Steve Bade, Interim City Manager for the city of Redding, retired in December and Personnel Director **Kari Kibler** is the new Interim City Manager. *Santa Monica City Manager **Oliver Chi** has publicly warned that the city faces a projected \$29.1 million deficit for fiscal year 2026-2027. *Deputy City Manager **Gustavo Romo** is the Interim City Manager for the city of Beaumont following the retirement of City Manager **Elizabeth Gibbs**. *Former South Lake Tahoe city manager **Joe Irvin** is the new city manager for the city of Malibu. *Los Angeles Dodger utility star **Mookie Betts** will not play for Team USA in the 2026 World Baseball Classic as the birth of his third child is expected around the same time as tournament play. *Starting in early December 2025, **Jennifer Ott** is the new Hayward city manager in the city she previously served as Deputy and Assistant City Manager. ***Marisha Smith** is the new Sacramento city manager starting in January 2026, transitioning from her position as City Manager for the city of Santa Rosa. *Former Chief of Police, El Centro City Manager **Robert Sawyer** was officially appointed in October 2025 following his service as Acting City Manager. ***Kevin Ingram** was appointed Lakeport city manager in July 2020 following the retirement of City Manager **Margaret Silveira**. *After serving as the city manager for the City of Temple City for 25 years, **Karl L. Koski** retired in 1990. ***Dr. Dwane Milnes**, DPA, served as a City Manager or Assistant City Manager for 24 years before he retired as the City Manager for the City of Stockton in 2001.

Some considerations and thoughts, just for edification and "remember whens": Tony Vitello, new manager of the San Francisco Giants, was head coach for the University of Tennessee baseball team for 8 seasons (2018–2025). He had a 341-131 record. On October 22, 2025, Tony became the first person to transition directly from a college head coaching position to an MLB manager role without prior professional experience. The Giants' president of baseball operations is **Buster Posey**. **Howard A. Booker** is the Executive Director for the In-N-Out Burger Foundation. The Foundation is directed to help bring hope and healing to people who have experienced abuse and/or neglect, especially children and young people. ***



"Proof of Life"

Twenty-three veteran public managers met on Thursday, December 11, 2025, for a "Proof of Life" lunch at the La Mirada North Woods Inn

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.

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

Caroline de Llamas, a retired professional City Clerk. She has remained active in community and non-profit work, notably with the League of Women Voters (LWVC). She was City Clerk in Cerritos and La Cañada Flintridge.

Don Penman is a respected retired Arcadia City Manager. He also was chief executive for Baldwin Park and San Fernando and previously worked for Simi Valley. Since retirement, Don has completed many interim assignments, including as Interim City Manager in Ventura.

Don Vestal, a former City Manager in Westminster from 1997 to 2003. Started his public services career in Planning. Worked with **HdL Companies** from 2007 to 2018.

Don Wagner, retired Assistant City Manager in Rosemead where he worked with the late City Manager and Willdan executive **Frank G. Tripepi**. Don served as City Administrator in Maywood since retirement.

Doug Labelle served as City Manager of Chino Hill from 1995 until his retirement in 2009. Since 2010 Doug has served on the OC Fair & Events Center Board. Doug's son **Jeff Labelle** joined the group for lunch as Doug'.

Gary Chicots left the South El Monte city manager position in November 2005. He has also worked for the cities of El Segundo, Hawaiian Gardens, Rosemead, Lawndale, Lynwood and Huntington Park. Gary is a **UCLA** alumnus.

Greg Korduner, retired Huntington Park City Manager. Greg is one of the Founders of the "Proof of Life" lunch program. He served as City Manager in El Monte and South El Monte. He worked for Artesia and Norwalk. He served as Interim City Manager in La Habra Heights and Los Alamitos.

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

Jeffrey L. Stewart is the retiring City Manager for the City of Bellflower. Jeff also served as city manager in Los Alamitos, and El Segundo. He worked in Rosemead and West Covina.

Jim Barisic, a former City of Artesia City Manager, who worked in Paramount and Cerritos. Jim served "in country" as an officer in Vietnam with the U.S. Army. He is the founder of **Brandywine Homes**.

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.

Julio Fuentes served as San Clara and Alhambra City Manager. Julio is building a career in real estate after more than 30-years in city government (Office: 424-297-1076).

Karen Herrera, Retired Duarte Deputy City Manager, where she worked for more than 23-years. She worked for Downey, Orange, Bell Gardens and Hawaiian Gardens. Senior Client Relations Associate with California Consulting, and Bob Hall and Associates.

Lloyd de Llamas is a co-founder of **HdL Companies** with the late **Robert Hinderliter**. He served as city manager in Woodlake (1968-1971), Lawndale (1971-1976) and Monterey Park (1976-1987).

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

Mike Egan retired as Norwalk city manager (2011-2017) after serving as Bellflower city manager. Since retiring, Mike served as Artesia and La Palma Interim City Manager. He is a Director with **Tripepi Smith** consultants.

Mike Sedell is a retired Simi Valley City Manager. Mike is well known for working closely with State government in Sacramento on local government issues. He is a Board member for the Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association (VCERA), and the Museum of Ventura County.

Pat West, a former Huntington Beach Lifeguard, is a retired city manager of the cities of Paramount and Long Beach. Since August 2025, Pat is a joint venture partner with **EKA**.

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

Wayne Wedin served as the Brea City Manager 1968-1983. He started his career as a Pasadena Intern before joining the Santa Fe Springs city staff. He was Assistant City Manager when he left in August 1968 to be the Brea City Manager. Currently the President of Wedin Enterprises in Brea. He is a past-President of the League City Manager Department (1975-1976).



"Proof of Life" lunches are opportunities to share time with former colleagues. No one understands the challenges of city managers like those who have served as one.

Bill Pagett, Greg Korduner, Mike Egan, Don Vestal and Bill Crowe at the December 11, 2025 "Proof of Life" lunch. The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**. ***