

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



January 2026 Special

Volume No. 20 | Issue No. 02

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Young women are growing up knowing they can successfully compete in life. Women city managers in cities in California are growing. The California rate has improved from 19% in 2015 to 24% in 2025. This means 116 female city managers currently serve in the cities of California, a higher rate than the national average.

California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee

This Special January 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of [Marysville](#), [Maywood](#), [McFarland](#), [Mendota](#), and [Menifee](#).

City executives in this issue include [Marysville](#) Town Manager **Jim Schaad**, **Jennifer Vasquez** in the city of [Maywood](#), **Diego Viramontes** is the City Manager in [McFarland](#), **Cristian Gonzalez** is City Manager in [Mendota](#), and **Armando G. Villa** is the City Manager in [Menifee](#). [Marysville](#) is the oldest city in this group, having incorporated February 1851. [Menifee](#) is the youngest of these cities, incorporating in October 2008.

"Genuine respect is earned, not just given."

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California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee



Marysville is the county seat for Yuba County located in the Gold Country region of California. In 1843, **John Sutter** leased land to **Theodore Cordua**, who raised livestock. In 1844, the Mexican government granted Theodore his own land grant. The community that grew in the area became the "Gateway to The Gold Fields." The town is named for **Mary Murphy**, a wife of a local rancher, who was a survivor of the Donner Party. The Marysville post office was opened in 1851. By 1857, Marysville became one of the most populous cities in California due to its closeness to the gold fields. Today Marysville is known as "California's Oldest 'Little City.'" The city incorporated in February 1851. It's 2020 population is 12,844. **Jim Schaad** is the city manager and **Maggie Sanchez** is the Acting City Clerk. The Chief of Police is **Vance Nabeta** and the Fire Chief is **Kyle Heggstrom**. The Finance Director is **Anissa Leung**. **Dan Flores** is the Community Development Director, **Jeremy Chapdelaine** is the Public Works Director and **Jason Zumalt** is the Public Works Manager. **Nadine Sims** is the Assistant to the City Manager.



Marysville City Manager **Jim Schaad** worked for the City of Fresno as Assistant Director in Transportation from June 2013 to September 2017. Jim was the Director of Transportation in 2017-2018, and he was appointed Assistant City Manager in August 2018. Jim was selected to serve as the Marysville city manager starting in March 2021. Prior to his work in Fresno, Jim worked for 16 years in the private sector for manufacturing companies. He earned a BS in industrial technology from California State University, Fresno and an MBA from Portland State University. Jim has been listed as a resident of Penn Valley, California.

Please take a look at the *Trackdown Management* Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/trackdownmanagement>

California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee



Maywood was a hub for automotive manufacturing for decades. Chrysler Corporation, Ford Motor Company and Willys-Overland maintained local facilities. Maywood was originally part of a Spanish land grant held by **Manuel Nieto** in 1781. The name "Maywood" came from a popular real estate employee, "**May Wood**," who worked for the company that subdivided the area for housing in 1919. Maywood incorporated in September 1924. The city's 2020 population is 25,138. The city is the third smallest by area in Los Angeles County **Jennifer E. Vasquez** is the city manager and **Miguel Leon** is the Assistant to the City Manager and Deputy City Clerk. **Rimo Hanson** is the Maywood Finance Director. **Jerry Gomez** is the Public Works Superintendent and **John Thornton** is the Community Services Supervisor. **Nancy Rodriguez** is the Human Resources & Risk Management Manager.



Jennifer E. Vasquez is the Maywood city manager. She was appointed to the position in May 2019. Prior to coming to Maywood, Jennifer worked as the City Manager of the City of Bradbury from March 2006

until February 2008 when she joined the South El Monte city staff as Assistant City Manager. Jennifer was elevated to city manager before she was selected to serve in Maywood. She earned a BA in political science from the University of California, Riverside and an MPA from California State University, Riverside.



"You have to be able to analyze yourself and critique yourself from every which way."

--- **Max Scherzer**, MLB Pitcher



Retired California Contract Cities Association Executive Director **Sam Olivito** and his son **Tony Olivito** at Sam's July 4 birthday. Sam's back following a short stay at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage.



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



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California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee

Ed Ahrens worked for the city of Maywood for 35 years. He retired in March 2009 after serving as city manager for about 13 years starting in 1996. He had been with the City of Maywood since the early 1970s. He was the Chief Financial Officer in 1974. One of Ed's claim-to-fame is that he was the first starting second baseman on the first ever varsity baseball team in the history of California State University, Dominguez Hill in 1972. He was voted MVP on the San Gabriel High School varsity baseball team in 1969. Ed was an alumnus of East Los Angeles Community College, California State University, Los Angeles and California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Following the retirement of **Ed Ahrens** as Chief Administrative Officer, the city experienced a period of rapid manager turnover. Interim or short-term city managers during this time included **Paul J. Philips** (2009), **Angela Spaccia** (2010), **Lilian Myers** (2010–2015) and **Don Wagner** (2018). Paul served as city manager in the cities of South El Monte, Lawndale, Artesia, Covina, Industry and Bell, as well as, Lowell, Oregon and as Interim in Maywood. He also held positions in Hawaiian Gardens and as Deputy Director of the *California Contract Cities Association*.

Ronald L. Lindsey began working for Maywood in the city's Parks Department in 1971 and rose through the ranks over 28 years (1969-1997) until his retirement in as City Manager in **1997**. Ron was born in Minnesota.



Archive picture of **Glenn "Hutch" Hutchinson**, **John Hammargren** and the late **Ray Harris**. Hutch will be 96 in May. Hutch retired as an LASD Deputy Sheriff, served in Bellflower as Public Safety Manager, & was a member of the Artesia city council.

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**
Robert "Bud" Ovrom, Retired City Manager
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
Robert & Karen Flores, Retired El Cajon residents



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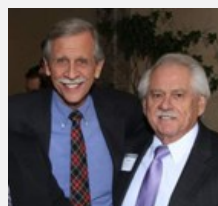
Roxanne Diaz is a former member.
of the Board of Trustees of the
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Never to be Forgotten

Those who attended the "Proof of Life"
Program, who we 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



Planning consultant **Al Warot**,
and the late retired city manager
and **Willdan** executive
Frank G. Tripepi.

California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee



McFarland is an agricultural town in the San Joaquin Valley, California's central valley. In the early 1900s, **James Boyd McFarland** moved to California from Ohio. He visited Kern

County in 1907 and bought 50 acres where the city of McFarland was established. The first McFarland post office opened in 1908. Though the town was founded and grew from that time, it did not incorporate until July 1957. The 2015 movie *McFarland, USA* is notable. It follows the McFarland High School's cross-country team and their coach **James White** (portrayed in the movie by actor **Kevin Costner**). The cross-country team won nine State titles in 14 years. The McFarland city manager is **Diego Viramontes**, and City Clerk is **Erika De La Cruz**. **Jonathan Arceo** is the McFarland Finance Manager, **Yerlys Hernandez** is the Public Works Director, **Megan Snyder** is the Community Development Director and **Brianahi De Leon** is the Senior City Planner.



McFarland city manager is **Diego Viramontes** began his city of McFarland tenure on June 24, 2022. Diego came to McFarland to work as the Accounting Manager. He was appointed Finance Director in September 2022. He began his

working career in the private sector serving in accounting positions. He joined the city staff in Wasco as the Accounting Manager from April 2018 to June 2022, when he came to work for the city of McFarland. He became city manager in 2024. Diego earned a BS in accountancy from California State University, Northridge. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Former McFarland city managers include **Kenneth Williams**, **Maria Lara**, **David Tooley**, **Gerald Forde**, **John Wooner** and **Larry F. Pennell** served in late 2019 following the disappearance and death of **John Wooner**. Larry resigned in May 2020 due to health issues. Larry previously served as city manager in Wasco, Benicia and Galt. Larry received a 30-year ICMA Service Award in 2006.



Seal Beach Electric Generation Steam Plants, the LADWP Haynes Generating Station, has been reworked to be a modernized natural gas-fired power plant.



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.



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California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Meniffee



McFarland city manager **John Wooner** mysteriously disappeared in 2019. The investigation into exodus gained significant attention due to the suspicious circumstances surrounding his final days, and the subsequent discovery of his body months later. He was appointed city manager in 2011. He had worked for the City of Fillmore as a finance consultant. John was last seen on **May 14, 2019**, at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Bakersfield. He was there to visit his father's grave. After he failed to return home, his wife reported him missing. His body was found on July 28, 2019, following a 10-week search. His Dodge Durango was discovered submerged in the Kern River along Highway 178, and his body was inside. The Kern County Coroner's Office eventually ruled his death an **accident** caused by drowning and blunt-force injuries. In 2020, John's estate formally filed a claim against the City of McFarland, alleging he was improperly fired from his position for missing work while he had died in the accident on the river. The city had officially terminated his contract for "being absent without leave" on July 12, 2019, just two weeks before his body was found.

Gerald W. "Jerry" Forde, one of the "surfing city managers," retired from the City of Huron. He previously served in Livingston, McFarland, and Selma. He served in McFarland from approximately 2004 to 2008.



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Here is an archive picture taken in 2018 of **Theresa Teney** (Battaglia-Gutierrez), and **Debra Bauchop**.

Theresa worked on the city manager's staffs in Bellflower and Lakewood. Debbie retired as the Bellflower City Clerk.

California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee



Mendota is a Fresno County city that got its start in 1891 as a Southern Pacific Railroad storage and switching facility site. Railroad management borrowed the "Mendota" name from Mendota, Illinois. The first post office was established in 1892. Mendota is known as *The Cantaloupe Center of the World*. The State water project brought irrigation to the region. This improved the agricultural potential for the area. Mendota is an agriculture-based community. **Cristian Gonzalez** serves as the Mendota city manager and Planning Director, and **Celeste Cabrera-Garcia** is the City Clerk. **Kevin Smith** is the Chief of Police. The Finance Director is **Nancy Banda** and **Jennifer Lekumberry** is the Director of Administrative Services and the Assistant City Manager.



Cristian Gonzalez is both the City Manager and Planning Director, and Public Works Director for the City of Mendota. He was appointed city manager in October 2018. Cristian was originally hired by Mendota in May 2009 as the Public Works Director, a position he continues to hold. He earned a BA in English from California State University, Long Beach and an AA Degree from Mt. San Antonio College Mt. SAC).



Jennifer Lekumberry, Mendota Assistant City Manager and Director of Administrative Services, previously worked as the Administrative Director for Rape Counseling Services of Fresno from November 2008 to February 2017. The City of Mendota hired her in 2017 as the Director of Administrative Services and she was appointed Assistant City Manager in August 2021. She holds both posts in tandem. Jennifer earned an AA degree from West Hills College, Coalinga, a BS from California State University, Stanislaus, and an MPA from the American Public University.



This picture was taken with a cell phone from the Huntington Beach Pier. The pier is 1,850 foot long, located at the intersection of Main Street and Pacific Coast Highway. A fishing license is not required when fishing from the pier where anglers may use two rods.



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California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee



Menifee is a Riverside County city. The area was a target of mining operations starting in the 1880s. The city is named for miner **Luther Menifee Wilson**. In the mid-19th century, farming was concentrated in the Menifee area until the mining era. Luther discovered a gold-bearing quartz ledge in 1883 and filed a claim with the San Diego County Recorder's office. The early development of the area began with Sun City in the early 1960s. It became a retirement community developed by Del Webb of Phoenix, Arizona. Del Webb is also responsible to the development of Sun City, Arizona. Menifee grew in the 1980s and early 1990s as a master-planning community. Menifee incorporated in October 2008 to become Riverside County's 26th city. The 2020 population is 102,527 with a 2024 estimated population of 117,041. The Menifee City Manager is **Armando G. Villa**, and **Bryan Jones** is the Assistant City Manager. **Rebekah Kramer** and **Jonathan Nicks** are Deputy City Manager, The Menifee Chief Financial Officer is **Travis Hickey**, and **Orlando Hernandez** is the Community Development Director. **Edward Varso III** is the Chief of Police, and **Nick Fidler** in the Public Works Director. The Community Services Director is **Mariana Mitchell** and **Angela Rivera** is the Human Resources Director. The City Clerk is **Sarah Manwaring** and the Chief Information Officer is **Michelle Sarkissian**.



The late Trackdown Siberian Husky **Lilo**.

California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee



Menifee City Manager **Armando G. Villa** left his Calexico city manager position to take the Menifee position in December 2017. Armando became the Calexico city manager in June 2016. Prior to Calexico, he

worked as an Assistant County Executive Officer for Imperial County from June 2015 to June 2016. He began his public service career in November 1991 as a Planning & Code Enforcement Manager for the city of Lake Elsinore. After working in Lake Elsinore for more than 14 years, Armando worked a little more than a year for a major residential developer in San Diego County. In November 2006, he was hired by Calexico to serve as the Assistant City Manager. In November 2010 he took the Director of Planning & Development for Imperial County in El Centro. Armando left the county in 2014 to be the Director of Community Development for the City of Temecula. He returned to the county in June 2015 to serve as an Assistant County Executive Officer. Following his time as the Calexico city manager he was appointed City Manager for the City of Menifee starting in December 2017. Armando earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino. He earned a special Certificate in economic development from California State University, Fresno. Armando is an ICMA Credentialed Manager.



Huntington Beach dedicated *Patriot Point* with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 10, 2026, as a lasting memorial honoring U.S. Service Members and the Legacy of **Zachary "Zach" L. Martinez**, who served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.



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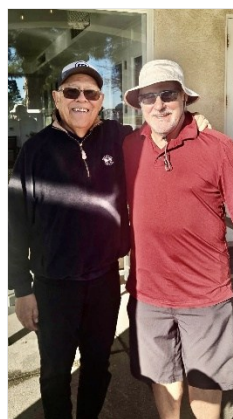


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While playing in an Orange County Senior Golf Tournament, retired Huntington Park City Manager **Greg Korduner** and retired Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia** crossed paths on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at the Meadowlark Golf Club in Huntington Beach.

California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee

There is an impressive list of professional public managers with Menifee service. Starting with the first city manager **George Wentz**, a Michigan State University alumnus, and former board member of HR Green, Inc., a former Trackdown Sponsor. Professor **Steve Harding** served as Interim City Manager in Menifee in mid-2010 while also working for the **Kosmont Companies**. Steve went on to serve as the Jurupa Valley city manager. Others include **William "Bill" Rawlings**, who served as the Artesia city manager after leaving Menifee. **Rob Johnson** was the Menifee city manager from 2012 until his resignation in January 2017. Rob is currently the city manager for the City of San Jacinto. **Jeff Wyman** was Interim City Manager following Rob in January 2017. **Ronald E. Bradley** was the Interim City Manager following Jeff and before City Manager **Armando G. Villa**'s appointment in December 2017.



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California Managers in Cities from Marysville to Menifee



In June 2010, the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown reported that former Murrieta City Manager **Steve Harding**, an executive with the **Kosmont Companies**, is the new Interim City Manager in Menifee. Steve succeeds **George Wentz**, who was the City's first City Manager, and left the position in May. Steve also is an adjunct professor in the Master of Public Administration program at the University of La Verne. Menifee's Building Official **Tony Elmo** has served as Acting City Manager since **George Wentz** left office.

Steve Harding served as city manager in four different cities: Murrieta, Jurupa Valley, Menifee and San Jacinto. Steve earned a BA and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. He also completed studies of Comparative Government and Economics at the University of California, Los Angeles ([UCLA](#)).

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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.

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.

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.



"Proof of Life" lunches are chances to share time with former colleagues. No one understands the challenges of city management like those who have practiced the craft. Pictured here are **Bill Pagett, Greg Korduner,**

Mike Egan, Don Vestal and **Bill Crowe** at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada at the December 11, 2025 "Proof of Life" lunch. The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**. Please save the date! ***



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Joe A. Gonsalves & Son has more than 50 years of experience successfully representing clients before the California State Legislature and California State Departments. Every day the firm's principals and staff are committed to their clients' best interests. The firm works hard and effectively to help move their clients toward their goals. **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** provide personal, professional representation in an honest, legal, and ethical manner. **Anthony, Jason and Paul Gonsalves** turn opportunities into results, ideas into realities and expertise into success for those they represent.

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son was founded by former Assemblyman **Joe A. Gonsalves**, in 1975. Joe served in the California State Assembly from 1962 through 1974. Prior to that he served on the Dairy Valley City Council, including two years as Dairy Valley Mayor. The City of Dairy Valley is now the City of Cerritos. The firm is led by **Anthony D. Gonsalves** and two of his sons, **Jason A. Gonsalves** and **Paul A. Gonsalves**.



Anthony D. Gonsalves joined **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** in January 1977. Anthony previously served as a member of the California State Senate staff for a year and a half. The political process in the State Capitol is exceedingly complex, with more than three decades of experience, Anthony has had the opportunity to master

such complexities. Anthony is widely recognized as one of Sacramento's most successful lobbyists with the longest tenure. He is also a member of the CCMF Board of Trustees.

In December 1998, **Jason A. Gonsalves**, joined **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**. This gave **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** the proud distinction of being the first California lobbying firm to have three generations of legislative advocates in one firm at the same time. This distinction continued until Joe passed away in July 2000. Jason has forged a reputation by successfully representing many clients before the Legislature and with various state department and agencies in the areas of local government finance, utilities and commerce, public employees' retirement, workers' compensation, telecommunications, and conflict of interest issues.

In October 2004, Jason's brother, **Paul A. Gonsalves**, joined **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**. Previously, Paul served as a Legislative Aide to Assembly Member Rudy Bermudez. Paul earned a BA in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration from San Diego State University.

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son represents more cities than any other California contract lobbying firm. With 50 plus client cities spread throughout California, a growing number of Legislators are prior members of the "Gonsalves Family of Cities".

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son Services:

Successful, Strategic Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy, Governmental Relations and Grant Funding:

Describing **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**, the late California State Senator **Ken Maddy** coined the description: "The Gonsalvi." When asked what he meant by the nickname, Senator Maddy responded "It's like alumni, when you guys are working an issue, you are everywhere." Members of the Legislature continue to refer to the firm as "The Gonsalvi."

The firm operates on a very personal...family...and professional level, always working hard to stay well-informed and accomplish client goals.

Joe Gonsalves once told a LA Times writer: "Lobbyist are like parachutes. You don't need them very often, but when you need them, they'd better work."

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Picking Up the Pieces: Former Hermosa Beach city manager **Dr. Suja Lowenthal** is the new Lynwood city manager effective January 12. Suja served Hermosa Beach with distinction from August 2018 until June 2025. She began her public service career as a Management Assistant for the Los Angeles Department of Aging. After

three years, Suja was hired as a staff member with Los Angeles City Attorney. After she worked in municipal water for about 10 years, Suja went to work for the City of Santa Monica in 2012. She was selected for the Hermosa Beach city manager position in 2018. Overlapping her staff experience, Suja served 10 years on the Long Beach City Council and five years as a Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education member.

She also served as a Board Member for the Metropolitan Water District for 8 years. Suja's former father-in-law is retired Congressman **Alan Lowenthal**. She earned a BA in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), an MBA from California State University, Los Angeles and a Ph.D. in policy, planning and development from the University of Southern California (USC).

Chino Hills City Manager **Benjamin Montgomery** will retire at the age of 55 effective March 31, 2026. Ben has worked for the city of Chino Hills for more than 20 years, starting in 2006 as a Neighborhood Services Manager. He became Assistant to the City Manager in 2014, Deputy City Manager in 2015 and Assistant City Manager in 2017. Following the retirement of City Manager **Rad Bartlam**, Ben was appointed city manager in 2019. Ben worked in Whittier, Torrance and Brea before joining the Chino Hills city staff. He earned a BA in economics and another one in psychology from California State University, Dominguez Hills, an MPA from California State University, Long Beach and an MBA from the University of La Verne. **José Arreola** has been selected to replace retiring city manager **Steve Adams** of King City. Steve has served as city manager in King City for the past 10 years. José has been working as the Assistant to the City Manager in the City of Salinas since July 2024. Prior to that he was the Community Safety Manager starting in February 2013 and as the Administrator and Director of the Community Alliance for Safety & Peace (CASP). José earned a BS from San Jose State University. **Jesse Cain** is the City Manager for the City of Colusa, the county seat of Colusa County. Jesse also works as the Public Works Director and manages the Streets Department and serves as the Plant Manager for the Colusa Wastewater Treatment Plant. Jesse began serving as city manager in April 2017. In November 2025, his Employment Services Agreement was extended to December 30, 2028. He previously worked for the City of Wheatland, including as Interim City Manager. **Joanne Moore** was hired as the city of Colusa's first Assistant City Manager in late 2025.



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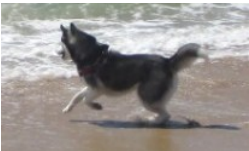
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U.S. Army veteran (1952-1954) and Coro Foundation Fellow, **Roy Pederson** is a highly distinguished retired city and county manager. His public service spans 35 years in jurisdictions in California, Arizona and Colorado. He is recognized as an important leader as a past President of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) from 1992-1993. Roy earned a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles and an MA from California State University, Los Angeles. Roy served in the Cities of Scottsdale, Arizona; Montebello (1969-1980), Porterville (1964-1969) and Colorado Spring, Colorado. He also worked for Maricopa County, Arizona and Yolo County, California. Roy began his public service career on the city staffs of Rosemead and La Mirada. **Jackie Rocco**, the new West Hollywood city manager. Jackie succeeded city manager **David Wilson** who retired this month (January 2026). Jackie had been serving as Assistant City Manager for West Hollywood. She worked as a Research Assistant in 1997-1998 at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and in October 1998 she was hired by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles as Acting Assistant Director and Job Development Supervisor. After working on the private side for a time, Jackie was hired to serve as the Parking Operations Manager for the city of West Hollywood in March 2008. In December 2016, she became the city's Business Development Manager, and in June 2019 Jackie became the Director of Public Works. She was appointed Deputy City Manager starting in January 2022 and she became Assistant City Manager in 2025. Jackie earned a BA and MA in urban planning from UCLA. California city manager with the first name of "Adam" include **Adam Pirrie** of Claremont, and **Adam Politzer** of Alameda where he serves as Interim City Manager after working 13 years as the City Manager of Sausalito. **Adam Raymond** is the Glendora city manager and **Adam McGill** is the city manager of the City of Novato, where he is a former Chief of Police. **Adam Ennis** retired in early 2025 after seven years as the city manager of the city of Exeter. Blue Lake city manager **Jennie Short** was appointed in December and assumed the position in January 2026. Jennie is a licensed civil engineer. Her career includes work with the State of Oregon's Department of Transportation, the US Forest Service, the City of Roseburg, and Del Norte County. She was serving as a Project Manager for the Garberville Sanitary District prior to her Blue Lake appointment. Jennie is a former Blue Lake Parks and Recreation Commission member.



More Pieces Picked Up: Former city manager, **Dr. Peter Pirnejad** has been appointed the Executive Director of the Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership at the University of Pepperdine School of Public Policy. Peter served as city manager for the cities of Los Altos Hills and Foster City. He also was Assistant City Manager for Napa and

Development Services Director for Palo Alto. He served as President of Cal-ICMA in 2025-2026. Desert Hot Springs City Manager **Doria Wilms** joined the city staff in 2016 as a Deputy City Clerk. She was named Assistant City Manager in 2019, Deputy City Manager in 2021 and she served as Interim City Manager twice following the resignations of **Luke Rainey** and **Frank Luckino**. Doria was appointed City Manager in June 2025. **John Craig** began his tenure as the Morro Bay city manager on January 13, 2026. John most recently worked as Deputy County Manager for Los Alamos County, New Mexico. He previously served as City Manager for Barre, Vermont, County Manager of Talbot County, Maryland, Deputy City Manager of Rico Rancho, New Mexico, Assistant County Administrator for Mono County, California and Director of General Services for Albuquerque, New Mexico. John earned a BS in psychology from Belmont University and an MPA from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs.



SHORTS: *Maywood city manager **Jennifer Vasquez** previously served as city manager for the cities of South El Monte and Bradbury. *Though he has relocated to be

near family in Missouri, past CCMF President and former city manager in Shafter, Atascadero and Indian Well, **Wade McKinney** continues to check in with his California friends from time-to-time. *Retired Economic Development Director and City Planner **Lee Whittenberg** of Seal Beach and Bellflower is living in Summerville, South Carolina close to family there. *Retired Moorpark city manager **Troy Brown** was named 2025 City Manager of the Year by the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). *Retired Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff, Bellflower Public Safety Director, and a City Council Member in Artesia, **Glenn "Hutch" Hutchinson** will turn 96 in May. *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



Youth leagues and activities are important for development.

about four years (October 2014 – May 2018) before joining the ICMA staff in May 2018. *Dana Point City Manager **Kelly Reenders** previously worked for Santa Ana, the County of San Bernardino and the city of Ontario, and she earned a BS in business from the University of Southern California (USC). *Watsonville Fire Chief **Rudy López** retired effective December 31, 2025, following a 35-year career in the fire service starting in January 1990. *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. *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. ***Sarah Medary**, the Eugene, Oregon city manager, who has served in that position since her permanent appointment in June 2020, following an Interim period that began in November 2019, will retire in December 2025.

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