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February 2026 Special

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Roy Rasmus Pederson (1933 – 2026)

Pictured are **Gary Sloan**, **Joe Goeden** and **Roy Pederson** in December 2017. Roy was born in East Los Angeles and graduated from Garfield High School in 1951. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He attended East Los Angeles Junior College and earned a BA from **UCLA**, an MPA from California State University, Los Angeles and was a member of the Coro Foundation. Roy worked in **Rosemead** and **La Mirada** prior to serving as city or county manager in **Porterville**, **Montebello**, **Scottsdale**, **Colorado Springs**, and the Counties of **Maricopa**, **Yolo** and **Nevada**. He was the **Fountain Hills**, Arizona Interim city manager in 2002. Roy, 92, passed away on January 26, 2026.

California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair

This Special February 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of, [Mission Viejo](#), [Modesto](#), [Monrovia](#), [Montague](#), and [Montclair](#).

Please find the Trackdown Management website at: www.trackdownmanagement.net

City executives in this issue include [Mission Viejo](#) City Manager **Elaine Lister**, **Joe Lopez** is the city manager in [Modesto](#), **Dylan Feik** is the City Manager in [Monrovia](#), **David Dunn** is City Administrator in [Montague](#), and **Edward C. Starr** is the City Manager in the city of [Montclair](#). [Monrovia](#) is the oldest city in this group, having incorporated in December 1887.

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Roy Rasmus Pederson

(1933-2026)



Clearly one of the “good guys,” Roy passed away at the age of 92 in Scottsdale, Arizona on January 23, 2026. Roy shared 50 years with his wife, **Mary Jane Oring**. They traveled and explored and participated with the Arizona 356 Outlaws Club and many Porsche 356 events. Roy was proud to serve as the club's first President. He and his wife, Mary Jane each had “old” 356 Porsches. Roy and Mary Jane's son, **Gustaf Rasmus Oring Pederson**, passed away in 2012. Roy took pride in his Swedish and Norwegian heritage, the Coro Southern California public service program, and his service in the United States Army during the Korean War. Roy described himself as a “Student at Life.” He graduated with a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**), and he earned a Master's degree from California State University, Los Angeles. Roy had a pleasant sense of humor. He appreciated a good story or joke. Roy was a staunch Los Angeles Dodgers Major League Baseball fan. He had a deep interest in people and cultures from across the globe and always enjoyed learning more. Above all, Roy will be remembered for his warmth, integrity, curiosity, and deep love for family, adventure, and community. Roy served as the national ICMA President in 1992-1993, and continued service on the ICMA Executive Board until 1995. In 1997, he received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award. He drove to Southern California from Scottsdale to attend a “Proof of Life” lunch on the same day **Joe Goeden** drove down from Sacramento. They worked together in Montebello and became incredibly good friends. Now we have lost them both. God Bless Roy and Joe and their families and friends.



Rest in Peace
Roy Pederson. May God go with you, your family and friends. You are missed. This archive picture is of Roy and **Sam Olivito**.

California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair



Mission Viejo consistently ranks among the safest cities in the nation for its size. Mission Viejo is a hilly region that was primarily used to graze cattle and sheep. The city was one of the last areas in Orange County to be urbanized. In the late 1970s and 1980s homes in Mission Viejo were in such high demand that housing tracts often sold out before construction had started. **Donald Bren**, later the President of the Irvine Company, is responsible for the Mission Viejo master plan. The city was incorporated in March 1988. The 2020 population is 93,653.



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California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair

Elaine Lister is the current Mission Viejo city manager, and **Kimberly Schmitt** is the City Clerk. **Jerry Hill** is the new Assistant City Manager and Director of Public Services. **Ellis Chang** is the Administrative Services Director, which includes Finance and Human Resources Director. Animal Services Director in **Brynn Lavison**, Community Development Director is **Larry Longenecker**, and the Community Relations Director is **Robert Schick**. **Rich Schlesinger** is the Public Works Director, and the Mission Viejo Recreation & Community Services Director is **Mark Nix**.

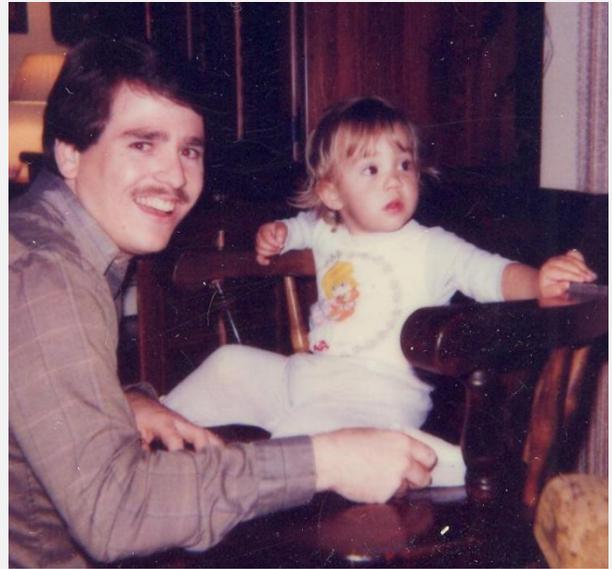


Mission Viejo City Manager **Elaine Lister** officially stepped into the office in July 2024, succeeding longtime City Manager **Dennis Wilberg**, who retired. She acknowledged the challenge she faces as she works without Dennis. Elaine worked as the

Director of Community Development in Mission Viejo for 11 years. She first joined the city staff in 1990 and worked in the Planning Department. Elaine was born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland. She earned a BS from the University of Glasgow, and an MS in geography and urban planning from San Diego State University.

Jerry Hill is the Assistant City Manager and Director of Public Services. Jerry began this combined staff role in June 2024. He succeeds retired **Keith Rattay**. Jerry is a 26-year veteran of the city.

William O. Talley, who worked in Long Beach and is a former Anaheim city manager, was the first Mission Viejo city manager in 1988. **Fred Sorsabal** followed Bill to be the second city manager, and then **Dan Joseph** followed Fred. Dan worked in Gardens Grove, starting as an intern in 1973. He also worked for Alhambra, Pico Rivera, Seal Beach, and as Lawndale city manager. **Dennis Wilberg** was city manager for more than 20 years, starting in 2004 and serving in the post until his 2024 retirement.



Picture of the late **Craig Nealis** and **Samantha Simpson**. Craig served as Rolling Hills City Manager for 16 years. From August 1990 until his death on September 30, 2006.

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- 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, P-Pres. CCMF
- 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**, Interim City Manager
- Doug La Belle**, Retired City Manager, Chino Hills
- Don Penman**, Retired City Manager, Arcadia
- Chuck Bryant**, Past City Admin., Hawaiian Gardens
- Sam Olivito**, Retired CCA Executive Director
- Ron Kiedrowski**, Retired City Manager
- Donald Duckworth**, Retired City Manager
- Richard Rowe**, Retired City Manager

Posse Roster:

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- *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
- David Jenkins**, Retired City Manager, & CC So. Lake Tahoe
- Laura Behjan**, Retired Simi Valley, City Manager

Contributor Roster:

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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 Mission Viejo to Montclair



Modesto is the county seat for Stanislaus County. Modesto was founded in 1870. The name means "modest" in Spanish. This San Joaquin Valley city is in the middle of a

rich farmland area. Stanislaus County ranks sixth in farm production among California counties. The largest family-owned winery in the United State, Gallo Family Winery, E. & J. Gallo Winery, is located in Modesto. Modesto was originally a railroad stop on the Central Pacific Railroad line from Sacramento to Los Angeles. During World War II the area provided canned goods, powdered milk and eggs for the U.S. and Allied armed forces. The city's official motto is "Water Wealth Contentment Health." Modesto was incorporated in August 1884, and the 2020 population is 218,464. The current Modesto city manager is **Joseph Lopez**, and **Scotty Douglas** and **Allison Van Guilder** are Deputy City Manager. The City Clerk is **Diane Nayares-Perez**. The City Engineer is **Toby Wells**, **Christina Alger** is the Director of Human Resources, and **DeAnna Christensen** is the Finance Director. **Jeremy Rogers** is the Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods. The Police Chief is **Brandon Gillespie** and the Interim Fire Chief is **Shanon Evans**.



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Alexander Smith
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Picture taken the morning of February 9, 2026. The land end of the Seal Beach Pier. Picture by

Greg Korduner.

California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair



Joseph "Joe" P. Lopez was appointed city manager for the city of Modesto in April 2017. He joined the Modesto city staff in January 2012 as the Director of Human Resources. In February 2007 he took the Director of

Administrative Services position, and in February 2015 he was appointed Deputy City Manager. Joe began his public service career working for the County of Sacramento starting in May 2001 as a Personnel Analyst. He was promoted to Human Resource Manager in September 2006. Joe earned a BA in psychology from California State University, Chico, and an MA in industrial and organizational psychology from California State University, Sacramento. He also earned special certificate from the Harvard University School of Government. In 2022, Joe received a 20 Year ICMA Service Award.

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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.

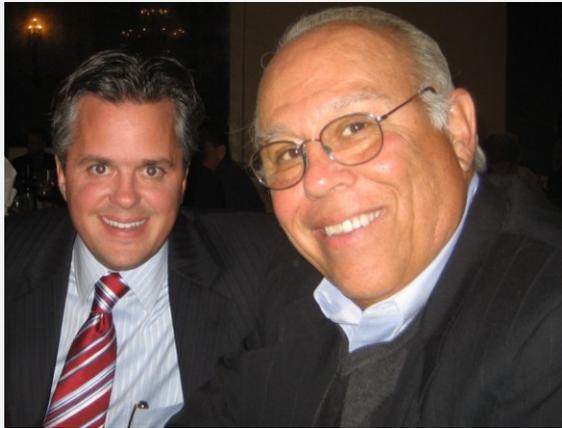
Two of the firm's attorneys were named California Lawyers of the Year (2020).

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Ross Miller was the first Modesto city manager, appointed in 1951 following the adoption of the council-manager system. Ross served as the President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 1954. Modesto city manager **Garth Lipsky** was President in 1982-1983. Current city manager, **Joe Lopez** replaced City Manager **James N. Holgersson**, who served as the Modesto city manager from December 2014 to April 2017. Jim was the President of the Tennessee City Management Association in 1988-1989 when he was city manager in Germantown, Tennessee. **Greg Nyhoff** served as Modesto city manager from 2008 until 2014. **George W. Britton** served as city manager from 2004 until he retired in 2008. **Ed Tewes** took his Long Beach experience to become city manager in Clovis, Modesto and Morgan Hill. Ed served in Modesto from March 1991 to July 1999. Ed retired after a 40-year career, and Interim executive positions in Gilroy, Guadalupe and San Juan Bautista.



A 2009 picture of **Jason Gonsalves** of the **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** representation firm in Sacramento, and now-retired Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia**. Ernie was city manager from 1994 until his retirement in 2011. Ernie's son **Greg Garcia** is Deputy City Manager in Anaheim.



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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California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair



Monrovia is the result of four developers/investors forming a town center in 1886. The first sale of lots in the townsite began in May 1886. Monrovia became the fourth city to incorporate in Los Angeles County behind Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Pasadena. The community was incorporated in December 1887. The city was served by rail in 1888 that became the Southern Pacific in 1893. In 1903, the Pacific electric railway connected Monrovia to the greater Los Angeles area. The council-manager type of government was initiated in 1923. The first Monrovia city manager was **Harry Scoville**. The 2020 population is 37,931, The current city manager is **Dylan Feik**, and **Lauren Vasquez** is the Assistant City Manager. **Alice D. Atkins** is the City Clerk.



City Manager **Dylan Feik** became a Management Analyst Intern for Olathe, Kansas. He was hired as an Olathe Budget Analyst in September 2009. He joined the Knoxville, Iowa city staff as Assistant City Manager in July 2012. Dylan came to California in September 2014 to work as Administrative Services Director for the City of Auburn. He was appointed City Manager for Calistoga in February 2016. He was hired to serve as the Monrovia city manager in October 2019. Dylan earned a BA in political science from Weber State University and an MPA from the University of Kansas.



Lauren Vasquez has served as Monrovia Assistant City Manager since September 2019. She served as Deputy City Manager between 2016 and January 2020. She earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from the University of La Verne. Lauren was the 2022 recipient of the Assistant Excellence in Leadership Award in Memory of Buford M. Watson Jr. presented by ICMA.

California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair

Both **Brad Dover** and **Fran Delach** served Interim City Manager assignments in Monrovia. Brad served in 2019 following City Manager **Oliver Chi**'s move to Huntington Beach, and Fran worked from October 2013 to September 2014 following the retirement of City Manager **Laurie Lile**.



Robert "Bud" Ovrom served as the Monrovia city manager from February 1977 to April 1983. Bud came to work for the city in August 1974 and served as the Assistant City Manager. Prior to that he was the Assistant to the City Manager in the City of Simi Valley. After Bud left Monrovia, he worked as the city manager in Downey (1983-1985) and Burbank (1985-1995). Since leaving Burbank, Bud has held several high-level positions with the City of Los Angeles. He was the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Convention Center from 2013 to 2017. Bud earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and he completed graduate work at the University of Southern California (**USC**). He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala.

Jim Starbird followed **Bud Ovrom** as the Monrovia city manager. He worked in the position from 1983 until 1991. **Don Hopper** was the Monrovia city manager from 1996 to 2004. **Scott Ochoa** took the reins as city manager in 2004 and worked in that position until 2012. Scott left Monrovia to be the Glendale city manager (2012-2017). He currently serves as city manager for the city of Ontario, starting in 2017. **Laurie Lile** took the city manager position after Scott left. She served from 2012 to 2013. **Oliver Chi** became Monrovia city manager in 2014. Oliver started his career in Arcadia and Claremont and was appointed Rosemead city manager in 2007 at age 27. He was Assistant City Manager in Barstow (2011-2014) prior to his Monrovia service. He has been city manager in the cities of Huntington Beach (2019-2021), Irvine (2021-2025) and currently Santa Monica starting in 2025.



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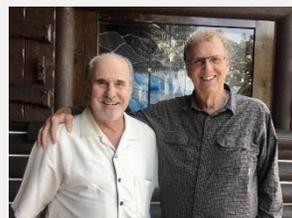
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Pictured here are **Greg Korduner** and the late **Howard Chambers** at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada at a "Proof of Life" lunch. The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**. Please save the date! ***



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

California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair



Montague is a city in Siskiyou County that was founded by the railroad in 1887. Montague is named for Central Pacific Railroad chief engineer named **S. S.**

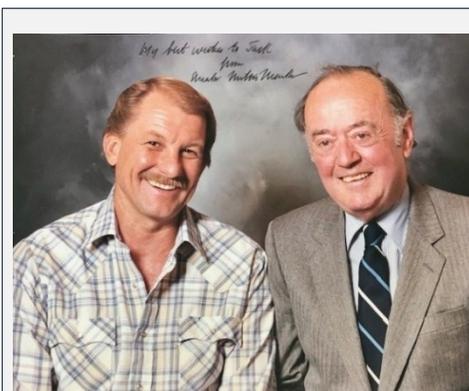
Montague. When the Southern Pacific Railroad extension was built from Dunsmuir to the state line in 1886-1887 Montague was a watering station. Montague became the site of the interchange between the Yreka Western Railroad and the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad. The Montague Airport is a general aviation facility serving the area. Montague was incorporated in January 1909. The 2020 population is set at 1,226. Points of interest in the town include the Montague Railroad Depot Museum, the Historic Downtown, and hiking and fishing in the area. After the Hudson Bank (1907-1933) closed the building was acquired by the city and repurposed as a city hall, town library and Fire Department headquarters. **David Dunn** is the City Administrator and **Ruanna Smith** is the City Clerk.

David Dunn was appointed City Administrator for the City of Montague in late 2024. Official documents list him in the position by February 2025. David has worked for the city since early 2020. He first served as a city Supervisor.

City Clerk **Ruanna Smith** came to work for the city of Montague in August 2024 as an Assistant Clerk. She was appointed City Clerk, first as "Acting", in March 2024.



Atascadero
City Manager
James "Jim" R. Lewis.
Jim is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Jim served as President of the League City Managers in 2018. He recently celebrated his birthday. Jim is getting lean and mean with a personal weight loss program!



Jack Simpson shown with California State Senator **Milton Marks** (1920-1998) of San Francisco. He served in the Assembly (1959-1966) & Senate (1967-1996).

California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair



Montclair is a city in San Bernardino County. In 1897, the *Township of Marquette* was established within the borders of today's Montclair. In 1900, a development was surveyed and named Monte Vista.

The Monte Vista tract, largely dedicated to orange groves, had residential growth following World War II. The community was incorporated as the city of Monte Vista in 1956. The Postal Service refused to open a post office with the name as it conflicted with an already establish area in Northern California. The city was renamed Montclair in April 1958. Montclair's neighboring cities include Pomona, Claremont, Upland, Ontario and Chino. The current city manager is **Edward C. Starr**, and the Chief of Police is **Jason Reed**. The Director of Public Works and City Engineer is **Monica Heredia**. **Marcia Richter** is the Director of Human Services and Assistant City Manager. Marcia has worked for the city for more than 41 years. The Fire Chief is **Ryon Dierck**, and the Community Development Director is **Michael Diaz**. The Finance Director is **Janet Kulbeck** and **Mikey Fuentes** is the Economic Development Director. The Montclair City Clerk is **Andrea Myrick**.



Edward C. Starr is the City Manager in the city of Montclair. He was appointed city manager on July 1, 2010. Ed joined the Montclair city staff in February 1984. He was the Deputy City Manager/Administrative Services Director prior to his appointment to City Manager. He worked as an Administrative Analyst under former City Manager **Lee McDougal**. Before he joined the city staff, he served in the United States Air Force from 1973 to 1978. Ed earned a BA in political science with a minor in U.S. History, and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton.



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 Mission Viejo to Montclair



Lee C. McDougal was city manager for 18 years before his retirement in June 2010. He served the city for 35 years. Lee joined the Montclair city staff in 1976 as a Housing Coordinator responsible for the city's Community Development Block Grant Program.

By his third year with the city, he was appointed Director of the Housing and Redevelopment Department. In 1984, he was promoted to Director of Administrative Services/Redevelopment, and he worked at that position until he became city manager in 1992. Lee earned two BA degrees from the University of California, Riverside, College of Social and Behavioral Science. He received one BA in urban studies and the other in black studies. Lee is a former member and twice past President of the University of California, Riverside Alumni Association. He is an Alternate Voting Representative to the San Bernardino County Committee on School District Organization. Lee served on the Chaffey College Governing Board starting in 2000. He is known affectionately as "Bubba", especially by his good friend **Michael Milhiser**.

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Lynwood City Council Member

Independent Cities Finance Authority

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California Managers in Cities from Mission Viejo to Montclair



G. Michael Milhiser served as the Montclair city manager for more than 14 years from March 1978 until he left the position in 1992 to become the city manager for Ontario, where he worked from June 1992 until December 1994. Michael was hired to be the Upland city manager starting in June 1996. He worked there until March 2005. Following his retirement, he worked as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Mike also worked as Interim City Manager for the cities of Adelanto, Fontana, Grand Terrace and Rialto. Mike is a Member of the Board of the Monte Vista Water District. He attended Chaffey College and obtained a BA in public administration from Chapman University, and an MA in public administration from Claremont University. Mike has earned the reputation for his professional service and being enjoyable to be around. He has been known to savor a nice flute of Crystal Champagne.

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Lauren M. Wasserman passed away on September 1, 2021. Lauren began his public service/management career in 1963 as an Administrative Intern in Long Beach, California. He was hired as an Administrative Assistant in Lakewood in 1965. In 1968 he became the Assistant City Manager in San Dimas, and in 1970 Lauren was appointed City Administrator in the City of Montclair. After 8-years in Montclair, Lauren was hired to serve as City Manager in the City of Rancho Cucamonga. He served there until 1989. He worked as a Project Coordinator in San Bernardino in 1989, and he took the job of Director of Planning & Land Use in San Diego County that year (1989-1994). Lauren was appointed City Manager in Encinitas in 1994 and retired in 1999. (Look at Page 9, September 2021 Newsletter, www.trackdownmanagement.net)



RICHARDS WATSON GERSHON

RW&G is a full-service law firm, headquartered in Los Angeles with offices in Orange County, San Francisco, and Temecula. **RW&G** has specialized in the representation of public and private sector clients for more than 50 years. The depth and diversity of the firm's experience cannot be duplicated. **RW&G** is comprised of lawyers that are committed to excellence in the legal services they provide and to solving problems of business and the public sector with the highest quality legal services.

Roxanne Diaz is the City Attorney for Hidden Hills, and Maywood. Roxanne is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). **Quinn Barrow, Steven L. Flower, Kevin Ennis, Peter M. Thorson, Laurence Wiener, Serita Young, David Snow** and **Craig Steele** are among the many other City Attorneys on the **RW&G** staff.

RWG serves as City Attorney for the following cities and towns: Agoura Hills; Artesia; Banning; Beverly Hill; Brea; Buena Park; Calimesa; Covina; Fairfield; Hidden Hills; Highland; Indio; Jurupa Valley; La Mirada; Manhattan Beach; Mill Valley; Monrovia; Moorpark; Norwalk; Rancho Cucamonga; Ross; San Marino; Seal Beach; South El Monte; Temecula; Upland; Westlake Village; and Yucaipa.

RW&G's lawyers have specialized in representing all types of public agencies since 1954. The firm currently serves as City Attorney, Bond Counsel, General Counsel and Special Counsel to more than 50 public agencies throughout California, including airports, cities, towns, community services districts, counties, joint powers authorities, redevelopment agencies, libraries, and water districts.



Historically, **Glenn Watson, Richard Richards**, and colleague **Robert G. Beverly** opened the **RWG** firm's first offices in downtown Los Angeles in the fall of 1954. At the time, the firm maintained its founders' focus on real estate and business litigation. The attorneys were joined from the first day and for the next 43 years by **Beth Donald**, who served as both a Legal Secretary and Office Manager. From the early 1970s until her death in 1997, she was the Municipal Law Administrator – responsible for assisting City Clerks in preparing their meeting agendas, assisting City Attorneys in drafting resolutions and ordinances, handling the billing for most of the Firm's cities and maintaining (in her head) an encyclopedic database of California municipal law.

Please visit the Richards Watson & Gershon web page at: www.rwglaw.com

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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**
- Ron Bates**
- Jim Purtee**
- Roy Pederson**



Here is the late **Ron Bates** at the December 2019 "Proof of Life" lunch. Ron, 76, passed away after a medical emergency on a September 2022 bike ride.

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

Country Music singer **Ella Langley**, who earned national recognition with her song "You Look Like You Love Me," has reached across music genres with her latest hit "Choosin' Texas." **Ray Dunton** has served on the Bellflower City Council continuously since 2007. His current term expires in December 2026. He is the owner and operates **Ray-A-Motive** automotive service center in Bellflower. Ray was born in Bangor, Maine. He is married to **Dawn Dunton**. Ray has served four terms as the Mayor of Bellflower: 2010-2011, 2013-2014, 2021-2022, and 2024-2025, and also in 2018. **Ryan Smoot** is the Bellflower city manager. **Dick Van Dyke** turned 100 years old on December 13, 2025. The legendary actor and comedian starred in *Mary Poppins*, among other films. He was the main character along with **Mary Tyler Moore** in *The Dick Van Dyke Show (1961-1966)*. San Diego has a projected \$110 million deficit for the next fiscal year. Departments are asked to cut all non-essential spending and overtime. As of February 2026, **Todd Gloria** serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the city in his capacity of Mayor. He made the decision to eliminate the City Manager/Chief Operating Officer position to help address the budget deficit.***



Picking Up the Pieces: Effective April 6, 2026, Hercules city manager **Dante Hall** will become the Monterey city manager. He previously had positions with the cities of Foster City and Pasadena. Retired Monterey County Administrator **Law Bauman** will continue working as Interim City Manager until Dante takes office in April. Dante earned a BA from Azusa Pacific University, and an MPA from

City University of New York. He is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Cathedral City is in the process of appointing the city's Director of Community and Economic Development, **Andrew "Andy" Firestine**, to be their next city manager. Though Andy is a native Californian, he spent the first 16 years of his working career in Colorado with a Regional Council of Governments and the cities of Colorado Springs and Centennial. He relocated to California's Coachella Valley in 2019 as the Assistant City Manager for Palm Desert. In 2022 he took the Director of Development position in the city of Escondido before joining the Cathedral City staff in September 2023. **Anne Ambrose**, who has served as Interim City Manager since the retirement of City Manager **Charlie McClendon** in September 2025, will transition to her former position of Assistant City Manager. Retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Chief **David L. Fender** passed away on February 6, 2026. Dave is a former Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Substation. He began his law enforcement career as a pre-academy deputy at the Men's Central Jail in 1974. Dave worked 43-years for the Sheriff's Department. He became a Sergeant in 1986 and worked station assignments in Pico Rivera, Industry and Walnut Stations. Dave was promoted to Lieutenant in 1996 and worked assignments in the Custody Division and at Lakewood Station. He became Captain in 2002 and served as the Commander of Lakewood Station. He was promoted to Commander of the Correctional Service Division, until March 2014, when he became the Chief of the Custody Services Division, where he worked until his retirement in March 2017. Sonoma City Manager **David Guhin** has been selected to be the next Sonoma County Chief Administrative Officer. David began his public service career as an Assistant Engineer for Stafford County, Virginia in 1998. He served 18 years with the city of Santa Rosa. He was the Assistant City Manager when he left the city in 2020 to take the Executive Director of Government Operations post with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. He was appointed City Manager for the city of Sonoma in May 2023. David earned a BS in civil engineering from South Dakota Mines in Rapid City, South Dakota, and a Master of Organization Development from Sonoma State University, Extended Education.





More Pieces Picked Up: Kelcey Young is the new city manager for the city of Madisonville, Texas. Kelcey has a background that includes service in the city of Pinole, California and Sweet Home, Oregon. Kelcey was the Pinole city manager from August 2024 until November 2025. She previously worked as the Finance Director for Clearlake.

Kelcey earned a BA and Master's in environment and community from Humboldt State University. Retired Coronado city manager **Blair King** retired again. This time from the city of Bainbridge Island in the State of Washington. Deputy City Manager **Ellen Schroer** will serve as Acting City Manager until and Interim City Manager is selected. Blair previously served as city manager for the cities of Soledad, Imperial Beach, Half Moon Bay, Lodi and Coronado. He received a 45 Year ICMA Service Award in 2025. Anaheim City Manager **Jim Vanderpool** resigned his position and Deputy City Manager **Greg Garcia** is serving as the Acting City Manager. Jim has faced questions surrounding his attendance at a 2020 Anaheim Chamber of Commerce paid trip to Lake Havasu that he apparently did not disclose. The State Fair Political Practices Commission apparently began an investigation into the city manager's potential violations for the economic interest disclosure requirements of the Political Reform Act. Fullerton Fire Chief **Adam Loeser** announced the launch of the city-operated ambulance service. The Chief indicates that this transition from contract services gives the city direct oversight and budget responsibility for every aspect of patient care. The city has hired 32 dedicated Ambulance Operators for the new initial deployment. Senior Administrative Analyst **Kim Chaudhry** says the local residents will experience no service disruption during the transition. **Eddie Manfro** is the Interim City Manager. He took the position following the departure of previous City Manager **Eric Levitt**, who is the new City Manager for the City of San Bernardino.



Former City Manager, and former City Attorney, **John Russo** and his wife **Melissa Russo**. John is a past President of the League of California Cities

Following a national executive search and recruitment, the city of Hanford selected a new city manager from its existing city staff. **Chris Tavarez**, who has served the city as Finance Director, Deputy City Manager and Interim City Manager, is the new Hanford city manager succeeding former city manager **Mario Cifuentes II**, who relocated to Arizona. Chris previously served as Finance Director in Exeter and as Administrative Services Manager for the city of Visalia. He earned a BS in accounting from Fresno Pacific University, and he is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Budget official for the city of San Diego have projected a \$110 million deficit for the next fiscal year. City departments are asked to cut all non-essential spending and overtime. As of February 2026, **Todd Gloria** serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the city in his capacity of Mayor. He made the decision to eliminate the City Manager/Chief Operating Officer position to help address the budget deficit. A \$100,000 planning grant by the *John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation* was awarded to the *Rose Institute of State and Local Government* at Claremont McKenna College for research on the implementation of Los Angeles County governance reform. The 2024 Measure G, approved by voters, calls for many changes to Los Angeles County government, including increasing the number of Supervisors from 5 to 9, and creating an elected County Executive. The Rose Institute Director is **Ken Miller**, and **Ryder Todd Smith** is the Rose Institute Board Chair. The Rose Institute study will focus on the perspectives of Eastern Los Angeles County in the implementation of this governance reform. **Yulia Carter**, who previously served as the Administrative Services Director for the Town of Los Altos Hills (2012-2015), has worked as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Pacifica since June 2022. She was the Finance Director (2015-2018) and Deputy City Manager (2018-2021) for Half Moon Bay; Assistant City Manager for Sausalito (November 2018-April 2021); and Chief Financial Sustainability Officer for Pacifica (2021-2022). Yulia earned an MPA from Park University in Markville, Missouri, and she completed the Local Governance Summer Institute at Stanford University. The City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown February 2015 issue features Yulia on Page 4.



Among our favorite archive pictures is this couple of photos showing **Anne Samuelson Williams**, of Hermosa Beach, during her time as a Senior Project Manager for Psomas. Anne is currently a Realtor, Probate & Trust Specialist, and Seniors Real Estate Specialist for Vista Sotheby's International Realty in Manhattan Beach.

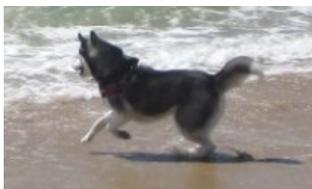


Still More Pieces Picked Up:

An organization is in its foundational stages to help with promoting and protect municipal government in California. The new group will be designed to address specific needs of charter cities that its members feel

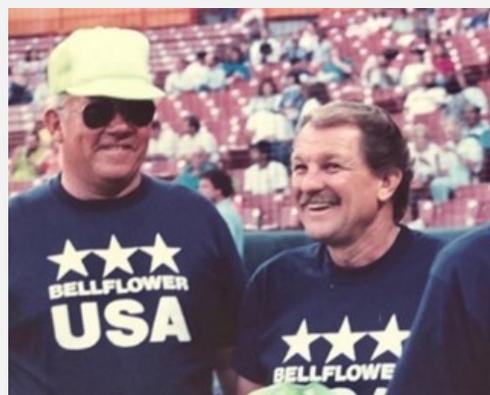
are not fully met by the **League of California Cities**. The **California Charter Cities Association** is forming a statewide collaboration of charter cities. It is primarily focused on **advocacy**, information sharing, and protecting the "home rule" or local control that distinguishes charter cities from general law cities. The City of Porterville has reached out to Huntington Beach and other charter cities about setting up a group to advocate for similar measures as a group. Mayor **Greg Meister** of Porterville said the group would function similarly to the League of California Cities, which lobbies state leaders on behalf of cities across the state, especially large cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco.

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



SHORTS: *Former city manager and "huge" San Francisco Giants' fan, **Tim Kerr**, who lives in Modesto, is a former City Manager in Livingston, Ceres and Turlock. ***Laura Behjan**

served as the Simi Valley city manager from July 2012 to February 2013, after working for the city more than 20 years, including as Assistant City Manager for 16 years with City Manager **Mike Sedell**. *Mission Viejo is mourning the unexpected loss of longtime City Attorney **William "Bill" Curley**, who recently passed away. ***Tripepi Smith** is a continuing supporter of the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) for the seventh consecutive year as a Diamond Level Partner — the top-tier sponsorship for the professional association. ***Jeff Hakola**, who previously worked for the fire departments of Orange County and the city of Merced, is the Acting Fire Chief for the City of Patterson Fire Department. *Retired American Canyon city manager **Richard J. Ramirez**, who also worked for the cities of Lincoln, Paso Robles, Hemet, Sacramento, Stanton and South El Monte, has joked that his main job since retirement was to "chauffeur" his granddaughter. ***Stephanie Jantzen** is serving as the Interim General Manager for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District. ***Rachel Molina**, who earned an MPA from California Baptist University, has served as the Hesperia city manager since June 2023. *City Manager **Thaddeus McCormack** began his tenure in Lakewood in September 2017, succeeding longtime Lakewood City Manager, the late



The late former Bellflower Mayor and Council Member **William "Bill" Pendleton**, and **Jack Simpson** on the field at Anaheim Stadium when **Susan Simpson** sang the National Anthem at Bellflower Day!



Casey Simpson doing a rehearsal run through before a Clippers game and her image on the Staples Center Jumbotron as she sings the National Anthem before a Lakers' game. She sang the National Anthem at Staples for the Clippers, Lakers, Kings and Sparks.



Many "Thanks" to **Susan Simpson** for her invaluable computer work and editing of the city manager newsletters. Also here, is our 8-year-old grandnephew athlete **Koa Jackson Simpson Ha**.

Howard Chambers following his retirement. ***Trackdown** daughter **Jacki "Cookie" Simpson Beebe** ran into former Mayor and Council Member **Bruce Barrows** at the Cypress Costco store on Monday, February 9. *Thousands of cyclists participated in the 28th Annual Tour de Palm Springs on Saturday, February 7, adding to the nearly \$5 million raised for local non-profits. ***Rod Hill** is the new city manager for the city of Chino Hills succeeding the retiring **Benjamin Montgomery**.***