

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT



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

March 2026

Volume No. 20 | Issue No. 05

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Summer is on the horizon, and from the ocean to the many lakes of California, people will be looking to enjoy water activities. There are surfing enthusiasts and those who explore tide pools. Boats will be launched to wake board, water ski, go fishing, or use canoes and kayaks or sailboats. This is **Susan Simpson**, who's family interests take her from the tide pools at Laguna Beach's Shaw's Cove to Clear Lake, the State's largest natural freshwater lake. Clear Lake attracts ski boat buffs, and it is considered one of the absolute best bass fishing lakes in California. The cities of Clear Lake and Lakeport city managers are **Alan Flora** and **Kevin Ingram**.

California Managers in Cities from Monte Sereno to Moorpark

This March 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of, Monte Sereno, Montebello, Monterey, Monterey Park, and Moorpark.

Please find the Trackdown Management website at: www.trackdownmanagement.net. You may access all Trackdown issues of the newsletter there.

City executives in this issue include Monte Sereno City Manager **Diana Perkins**. **Raul Alvarez** is the city manager in Montebello, **Dante Hall** is the new City Manager in Monterey, **Inez Alvarez** is City Manager in Monterey Park, and **PJ Gagajena** is the City Manager in the city of Moorpark.

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California Managers in Cities from Monte Sereno to Moorpark




Monte Sereno is on land that is part of a 1839 land grant in what is now Santa Clara County. The city is located in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The name of the city is for the nearby El Sereno Mountain. The city is entirely residential with no commercial zoning. Monte Sereno shares the postal service zip code 95030 with the neighboring town of Los Gatos. The city was incorporated in May 1957. Its first Mayor was Retired Vice Admiral and former Director of Naval Intelligence, **Thomas B. Inglis**. History tells us that **John Steinbeck** wrote *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men* in the home at 16250 Greenwood Lane in Monte Sereno. **Diana Perkins** is the city manager and **Gloisy Gonzalez-Langarica** is the Monte Sereno City Clerk.



Monte Sereno City Manager **Diana Perkins** has held the position since May 2025. She served as the Interim City Manager following the departure of City Manager **Steve Leonardis**. Diana came to work for the city in July 2021 as the City Planner. She previously served as a Permit Center Coordinator for the City of Sunnyvale. Diana earned a BA in economics and an MPA from the University of San Francisco.



2009, the late **Joe Goeden** with **John Donlevy Jr.** and **Dr. Carlos Urrutia**, retired Rocklin city manager.



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Monte Sereno City Engineer is **Mike Weisz**. He is a licensed Professional Engineer. Mike previously worked as a Senior Civil Engineer for the Parks and Public Works Engineering Division in the Town of Los Gatos. He worked for a private consulting firm in 2023. He worked for a private development company in the Nashville, Tennessee area. Mike is an alumnus of the University of California, Davis, where he earned a BS in civil engineering.

"Beware of an old man in a profession where men usually die young."
---Mystery Author **Bogdan Zilgi**



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 Monte Sereno to Moorpark



Brian Loventhal served as the Monte Sereno city manager for 18 years. He came to Monte Sereno in 1993 to work in planning after working an internship with a San Louis Obispo agency. He worked for the city for nearly 23 years.

Brian left Monte Sereno in 2016 to become the City Manager for the City of Campbell, succeeding city manager **Mark Linder** following Mark's retirement. Brian continues to serve as the Campbell city manager. He earned a BS from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and a Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University School of Law.



Montebello is one of the Gateway Cities in Los Angeles County. The site of today's Montebello is on Spanish land grant property that played a role in the Mission way of life in California. Originally named

"Newmark" for the Newmark Family before it became "Montebello," which means "beautiful hills" in Italian. The name came from **William Mulholland** of Los Angeles water system fame. The Standard Oil Company discovered oil in the Montebello hills in 1917 and changed the nature of the community from an agriculture base to an oil-producing area. The city went from a place known for flowers, berries, and vegetables to serious oil production. Montebello was incorporated in October 1920. The 2020 population is 62,640. In the first half of the 20th century, much of south Montebello was home to many Japanese American farmers. During WW II, most were removed from the community and interned in camps. Many were unable to return to their homes after the war. The city manager for Montebello is **Paul Alvarez** and the Chief of Police is **Luis Lopez**. **David Sosnowski** is the Director of Recreation & Community Services, and **Michael Solorza** is the Director of Finance. Cesar Roldan is the Public Works Director, and **Arlene Salazar** is the Assistant City Manager.



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Executive Level Posse Roster:

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

Contributor Roster:

- Robert & Karen Flores**, Retired El Cajon residents
- David Jenkins**, City Councilmember, Retired Tahoe Mgr.

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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 Monte Sereno to Moorpark



Montebello City Manager **Raul Alvarez** was appointed in November 2023 to succeed former City Manager **Rene Bobadilla**. Raul is a graduate of Montebello High School and earned a BA in political science from the

University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**), and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. He also has an executive education certificate in social innovation from the Sol Price Center of Social Innovation at the University of Southern California (**USC**). Raul previously worked as the Assistant City Manager for the Cities of Huntington Park and Lynwood. He began his public service as the District Director and Senior Advisor to State Assembly Member **Anthony Rendon**. Prior to his post with the Assembly Member, he worked as a Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor **Gloria Molina**.



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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California Managers in Cities from Monte Sereno to Moorpark



One of our *Trackdown All-Star* city managers is the late **Joseph "Joe" M. Goeden**. Joe retired from the city manager position in West Sacramento in April 2002. He began his public service career as an Administrative Aide in Montebello in June 1972. Joe worked his way up in the Montebello staff to Administrative Assistant in May 1973, Assistant City Administrator, Community Services & Development in October 1977, and he was appointed City Administrator in May 1980. Joe left Montebello in May 1998 and started his tenure in West Sacramento in June 1989. Following his retirement, Joe served as an ICMA Senior Advisor from 2005 to 2013. He was recognized with a 25 Year ICMA Service Award in 1997. Joe earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Joe was born July 28, 1949, in Spokane, Washington. He passed away on Sunday, November 10, 2024, after battling an ALS diagnosis.



Retired West Sacramento City Manager the late **Joe Goeden** and his wife **Nola Goeden** enjoying a beautiful afternoon in Old Town Sacramento having a meal with friends at the Rio City Café in 2021. (Previously included in the July 2021 Special issue on Page 2 of the newsletter.)

We lost retired City/County Manager, and past ICMA President, **Roy Pederson** in January 2026. Roy served as City Administrator for Montebello from January 1969 until March 1980 when he left to be the city manager in Scottsdale, Arizona. Roy started his public service career in June 1960 as an Administrative Assistant for the city of Rosemead and he was Assistant City Manager in La Mirada from 1961 to 1964 when he became Porterville City Manager. (See February 2026 Special issue).



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Monterey was founded by the Spanish in 1774 when Father Junipero Serra and explorers established missions in California. The city is named for Monterey Bay and the Bay got its name from

explorer **Sebastian Vizcaino** in 1602 after a municipality in Spain. Monterey became the capital of the Province of the Californias in 1777 and served as the military headquarters for both Alta California and Baja California. It was still a prominent city following the Mexican War of Independence, and hosted California's first Constitutional Convention in 1849. The city was originally the only port of entry for all taxable goods in California. All shipments into California by sea were required to go through the Monterey Custom House. The Custom House is the oldest government building in the state and California's Historic Landmark Number One. It was built in three phases, the Spanish began construction of the Custom House in 1814, the Mexican government completed the center section in 1827, and the United States finished the lower end in 1846. Monterey was the site of the Battle of Monterey in 1846, during the Mexican-American War. It was then that **John D. Sloat**, Commodore in the United States Navy, raised the Stars and Stripes over the Monterey Custom House and claimed California for the United States. Today Monterey is a popular Central Coast tourist destination. The new city manager in Monterey is **Dante Hall** and the Assistant City Manager is **Nat Rojasathira**. The Chief of Police is **David Hober**, and the Fire Chief is **Pat Moore**. **Kimberly Cole** is the Community Development Director, **Andrea Renny** is the Public Works Director and **Brette Neal** is the Human Resources Director. The Monterey Parks and Recreation Director is **Nicole Banks**, **Shannon Leon** is the Recreation Manager and **Nate Cota** is the Recreation Supervisor. **Brian Edwards** is the Library & Museums Director.



With Major League Baseball season is on the horizon, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim fan, retired Cypress Water Quality Manager **Gonzalo M. Vazquez**, seen here at a community event in is fan shirt and cap. Gonz is well known as an amazing event Disc jockey in the Orange County area.

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At Angel Stadium for a February Monster Truck rally, with Will, Koa, and Leilyn.

Samantha Simpson clicked off this picture. The 2026 Major League Baseball season will start soon.

California Managers in Cities from Monte Sereno to Moorpark



Lew Bauman is currently serving as the Interim City Manager for the Central Coast City of Monterey. Lew is a former Monterey County Administrator. He took the interim assignment following city manager **Hans Uslar's** retirement in December 2025 after 28 years with the city. Lew was appointed county CAO in January 2005 following the retirement of CAO **Sally Reed**. Prior to joining the city of Monterey, Lew worked as City Engineer for Foster City and as Senior Engineer for the City of San Jose. He earned an MS and Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**).



Hans J. Uslar joined the city staff for Monterey in June 1997, He initially he served in the Public Works Department and worked his way up to Deputy City Manager. He was appointed Assistant City Manager in April 2014. Hans was selected to serve as Interim City Manager in January 2018, and he began his tenure as Monterey city manager in August 2018. He retired in December 2025 after 28 years of service. Hans came to Monterey from Germany in 1990 as a German naval officer. He earned a MS in management from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).



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Hercules City Manager **Dante Hall** is the new city manager for Monterey. Dante began his public service career in July 1997 as an Assistant to the City Manager for Half Moon Bay. In February 1998 he

took a Program Manager position with the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission. He took a Housing Manager position in El Monte in August 2000 and began working his way up in the organization. He became El Monte Assistant Community Development Director, Deputy City Manager for Community Development in March 2005, and Assistant City Manager in May 2007. Dante left El Monte in May 2010. He took the Redevelopment Administrator post in Moreno Valley starting in December 2011 and left there in June 2013. Dante returned to the Half Moon Bay city staff as Community Development Director in February 2014, and he became the Assistant City Manager for Foster City in June 2015. He worked there until August 2021 when he was selected to serve as the Hercules city manager. He has been selected to serve as the next Monterey city manager starting at the end of March 2026. Dante earned a BA from Azusa Pacific and an MPA from City University of New York.



Retired city manager **Mike Egan** and retire Bellflower city clerk **Debra Bauchop** in 2016. Mike served as city manager for Bellflower and the city of Norwalk.



Heading to Idlewild for a day in the snow, March 2026.



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Monterey Park was part of the California mission system as a section of the Mission San Gabriel area. In the late 1880s, **Richard Garvey**, a pony express rider for the U.S. Army settled in the Monterey

Park area known as King's Hills. He built the dam that created Garvey Lake, where Garvey Ranch Park is located. The first subdivision for new homes in the area came in 1906. It was called Ramona Acres. The city was incorporated in May 1916, largely to stop the development of a sewage treatment facility for the cities of Pasadena, South Pasadena, and Alhambra. The 2020 Monterey Park population has reached 61,096. The city manager is **Inez Alvarez** and the Assistant City Manager is **Diana Garcia**. The City Clerk is **Maybelle Yee**, and the Chief of Police is **Scott Wiese** and Fire Chief is **Matt Hallock**. **Shawn Igoe** is the Public Works Director, and **Timothy Hou** is the Director Community Development. The Director of Finance in **Martha Garcia**.



Monterey Park City Manager **Inez Alvarez** began her public service career in August 2006 as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Norwalk. Inez worked for Norwalk for nearly 12 years and left there in as a Recreation Superintendent to join the Monterey Park city staff as the Director of Recreation & Community Services 2018. Inez was promoted to Assistant City Manager in September 2020. She served as the Interim City Manager from July to November in 2023. She was hired to be the city manager starting in November 2023. Inez was recognized in October 2024 by the Garvey Education Foundation for her leadership and contributions to the Monterey Park community.



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California Managers in Cities from Monte Sereno to Moorpark

Monterey Park has had some highly professional city managers over the years. **Howard Schmidt** was the city manager from 1950 to 1952, when **John Crowley** took over. **E. Frederick Bien** came to Monterey Park in 1953 before he became the Norwalk city manager in September 1957. Fred served as the Assistant City Manager in Pittsburg in 1950-1951 and he was city manager in Puyallup, Washington in June 1951 before he joined the Monterey Park city staff in October 1955. After Fred left Norwalk in 1968, he worked as the city administrator for the City of Carson until he retired in 1982, he continued an impressive "interim" career. Fred served as Interim City Manager for the cities of Westlake Village (1981-1982), San Fernando (1982), Agoura Hills (1982-1983), West Hollywood (1984-1985), and Santa Clarita (1987-1988). Fred worked as a had a career that spanned 43-years.

Clifford L. Petrie followed **Fred Bien** as Monterey Park City Manager (1955-1957) and **William Woollett, Jr.** followed him (1958-1965). Bill was the first Rosemead city manager at age 29, (1959-1960). He was the first city manager for Temple City following its incorporation in 1960. Bill then went to Monterey Park (1958-1965), and then was the first city manager for the city of Irvine in Orange County (1972-1989). Bill later served as the founding interim city manager for Aliso Viejo in 2001.



Gerald Weeks followed Bill as Monterey Park city manager (1965-1970), and **Lloyd de Llamas** took the position in 1970. He resigned in 1987 to partner with **Robert Hinderliter** to create the highly respected firm, **HdL Companies**. **Mark Lewis** was city manager from 1987 to 1991, and **Chris Jeffers** took the post in 1991. Chris left the city in 2007 to work as the Glendora city manager (2007-2021). He closed out his career as the South Gate city manager (2021-2023). **Ron Bow** served as the Monterey Park city manager (2013-2023) until his retirement on July 7, 2023. He previously worked in Monrovia, Alhambra, La Verne, and Otay Water District. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 24 years (1981-2005).

California Managers in Cities from Monte Sereno to Moorpark



Moorpark is part of the 1795 Rancho Simi land grant. The community got a post office in 1900, and Moorpark grew on the Southern Pacific Railroad's Coast Line between. The Moorpark train depot was closed in

1958. The city was incorporated in 1983, and its 2020 population is 36,284. **PJ Gagajena** is the Moorpark city manager and **Ky Spangler** is the City Clerk. The Assistant City Manager is **Jonathan Royas**, and the Community Development Director is **Doug Spondello** and the Economic Development Manager is **John Bandek**. **Daniel Kim** is the Public Works Director, and **Hiromi Dever** is the Finance Director. The Parks and Recreation Director is **Jeremy Laurentowski**.



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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.



Dedicated to providing Southern California Housing

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!

Brandywine Homes focuses on converting underutilized space into needed housing. Call **Brandywine** at 949-296-2400

Contact the firm for information about their Local Heroes program incentives and advantages.

Brandywine Homes Corporate Office
16580 Aston Street
Irvine, California 92606



PJ Gagajena is the current Moorpark city manager. PJ's city manager tenure started at the end of June 2025. PJ began his public service career in 1999 as a Policy Analyst for the City of New York, and then as a Field Representative to

California State Assembly Member **George Nakano** in July 2000. He worked for a time in 2004-2005 as a Management Aide for the City of Torrance. In May 2005, PJ was hired as a Management Analyst and promoted to Utility Administrator for Los Angeles. In 2016 PJ joined the Indio city staff in Economic Development and he was promoted to Administrative Services Manager. In moved to Moorpark in April 2020 as Assistant City Manager. He earned a BA from UCLA and two Masters degrees from Harvard University. PJ is the President of the International Network of Asian Pacific Islander Public Administrators (I-NAPA).



Independent Cities Finance Authority provides local government, nonprofits, and other agencies the clout they need to finance important projects that help address California's housing crisis.

Since its inception in 1988, ICFA has helped fund more than \$500 million in critical community projects. Member cities pay no enrollment fees to join or ongoing dues to participate. All underwriting and operational costs are borne by the beneficiaries of the funds.

The ICFA offers member cities many benefits. Through bond funding, the Authority helps create homebuyer assistance programs, generates funds for capital improvements and aids communities in economic development. It is important to learn all about **The Authority** and the benefits it offers.

Independent Cities Financing Authority is an unaffiliated joint powers authority with the ability to help cities achieve their goals.

With bonding arranged through The Authority, local governments can help finance the purchase of single-family and multi-family residential properties, including manufactured home communities, to provide new, more affordable housing alternatives.

Ownership and operation of these alternative housing solutions can be vested in local nonprofit.

The Authority also helps fund a variety of capital improvements for municipalities, schools, special districts, and Mello-Roos facilities, as well as projects impacting the economic development of a community.

ICFA President: **Gil Hurtado**
Vice President/Treasurer: **Eddie Martinez**

Manufactured Home Communities: In today's troubled housing market, the need for more affordable housing solutions is clear. Learn how The Authority has helped member cities and local non-profit organizations acquire and manage manufactured home communities. [More...](#)

Bond Funding Programs: The Authority is empowered to purchase multi-family residential projects, including manufactured home communities. Find out how your community can address the need for affordable local housing through ICFA's innovative funding programs.

Capital Improvement Programs: Now cities can fund capital projects and equipment acquisition at a lower cost with help from The Authority. Working in cooperation with major banks, ICFA can provide funding at favorable rates. Find out more here.

The Authority can help communities create the infrastructure and acquire the equipment needed to create a better quality of life for their citizens.

Working in partnership with major financial institutions The Authority can provide bond funding and equipment leasing for major projects for municipalities, schools, special districts, and local agencies, including Mello-Roos.

For information on how The Authority can tailor a financing package to meet your specific needs, contact us today!

For more information, please contact:
Independent Cities Finance Authority



Ms. Debbie Smith
Post Office Box No. 6740
Lancaster, California 93539
(877) 906-0941

Email: info@ICFAuthority.org

In partnership with experienced energy solutions providers, ICFA created a Municipal Street Lighting Program to help cities economize by taking control of their lighting utilities.

California Managers in Cities from Monte Sereno to Moorpark

Steve Kueny was Moorpark's first full-time city manager. Steve began his Moorpark service in 1984 and nearly 34 years later he was one of the State's longest-tenured city manager when he retired in March 2018. He was the longest-serving city manager in Ventura County at the time of his retirement. Steve's first public service job was with the city of Commerce. He also worked for Walnut as Assistant City Manager and Tehachapi before joining the Moorpark city staff in 1984. Steve's wife **Yolanda Kueny** worked for the City of Camarillo in Human Resources. Steve earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Los Angeles.



Troy Brown took over for **Steve Kueny** in March 2018. After working for UPS in the San Fernando Valley, Troy joined the City of Santa Clarita (1994-2003) staff starting in recreation. He took an Assistant to the City Manager assignment in Riverside (2003-2004)

before he was hired in Elk Grove (2004-2008) where he had Budget Manager and Assistant to the City Manager positions. He took the Assistant City Manager position in Livermore (2009-2014) and Troy was appointed city manager for the City of Tracy starting in September 2014 and left there in September 2017. Troy earned an AA degree from College of the Canyons, a BA in political science from California State University, Northridge and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino. Troy served as the President of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) from September 2020 to 2023. He was named City Manager of the Year in 2025 by CCMF. Troy retired in July 2025. He recently took a part-time General Managers position with California State University, Channel Islands starting in January 2026.

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

---**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Never to be Forgotten

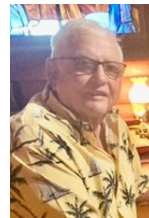
Those who attended the "Proof of Life" Program, who we lost along the way. "Proof of Life" program participants who passed:

- 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 **Jim Purtee** at a "Proof of Life" lunch. Jim retired as the Palmdale city manager. With him in this picture are **Jim DeStefano** and **Denise Ovom**.

"Proof of Life" Lunch



"Proof of Life" lunches are opportunities to share time with former colleagues. No one understands the challenges of city management like those who have practiced the craft. Pictured here is former Lake Elsinore city manager

Ron Molendyk at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**. Please save the date! ***



Jack A. Simpson and **Susan Simpson**, 2014.



Picking Up the Pieces: San Rafael City Manager **Cristine Alilovich** resigned in February 2026, two weeks after she was placed on paid leave. When the city placed her on leave, her duties and responsibilities were assigned to Finance Director **Paul Navazio**. The leave was enforced following a closed session performance evaluation. Cristine came to San Rafael as

Assistant City Manager in 2015. She was promoted to city manager in 2023. She previously worked as Assistant Director of Finance for Marin County. A former Ouray, Colorado City Administrator, **Silas Clarke** is a new Assistant City Manager for the city of Pismo Beach. Silas also previously worked as City Administrator and Economic Development Director for Hickman, Nebraska. Silas will be working with Pismo Beach City Manager **Jorge Garcia**. Silas earned an AA degree from Northeast Community College, BA in psychology from Midland University and an MPA from the University of Nebraska, Omaha. **Shannon DeLong** is the next city manager for the City of Cypress; the tenth city manager in Cypress city history. Shannon has served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Whittier since June 2018. Prior to her work in Whittier, Shannon worked more than 10 years with the City of Downey. For a time, Shannon with the Executive Officer of the Gateway Water Management Authority. Shannon earned a BS in biology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and an MBA from California State University, Dominguez Hills. *California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA)*, Data and Underwriting Analyst **Aaron Webb** is celebrated his fifth anniversary that he reached in November 2025. He has a background in computer science and programming. Aaron came to the Authority in a temporary position that transitioned to a full-time position. Before coming to the Authority, Aaron worked nearly four years as a Senior Park Aide with California State Parks. He earned a BS in botany and plant biology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon. *California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA)*, Senior Risk Manager **Abraham Han** celebrated his 10th anniversary with the Authority in November 2025. Before joining the Authority staff in 2015, Abe worked for the cities of Villa Park, Garden Grove, and La Habra Heights. Abe earned a BA in economics from the University of Southern California (USC) and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino. **Tiffany Allen** is the next Chula Vista city manager. She will replace city manager **Maria V. Kachadoorian** on October 3. Maria is retiring after a public service career of nearly 40 years. Tiffany has worked for the city of Chula Vista during the past 24+ years. She was Deputy City Manager from 2023 to 2025. She started working for the city in January 2002 as a Development Services Technician. Tiffany earned a BS in political science from the University of Oregon and an MPA from Walden University.



The late former city manager and Willdan executive **Frank G. Tripepi**, retired DuPont, Washington, city manager **Andy Takata**, and retired Long Beach and Paramount city manager **Pat West**. Andy, a legendary water polo referee, was inducted into the USA Water Polo Hall of Fame in 2014. Andy worked in the California cities of Atascadero, Yucca Valley, Banning, Calexico and Twentynine Palms. Pat is a consultant and recently became a Joint Venture Partner with newsletter sponsor **Englander Knabe & Allen (EKA)**.

Some considerations and thoughts, just for edification and "remember whens": La Jolla's Mushroom House is an iconic structure associated with Blacks Beach. The City of San Diego considers the Mushroom House to be a public hazard and public nuisance. Local taggers keep the structure in keep the private structure in graffiti, requiring the owner to often paint and board up the openings. Vandals break in and party using parks of the house as firewood. People have pried the front gate off, ripped apart the walls, and lit bonfires with the building materials. The Mushroom House has a 58-year history. Originally called the Bell Pavilion, it was designed by architect **Dale Nagel** as a guest house for General Mills heir **Sam Bell**. Actress **JoAnna Garcia Swisher** was born in Tampa, Florida. She has been married to former Major League Baseball player **Nick Swisher** for 15 years. JoAnna was a regular cast member of the sitcom "Reba," and Nick played 12 seasons of major league baseball, including with the World Series winning New York Yankees in 2009. Nick is currently a special advisor to New York Yankees General Manager **Brian Cashman**. He is also a baseball analyst for CBS Sports, Peacock, and the YES Network. Nick has also played for the *Savannah Bananas* baseball team. Of the most favored *current* movie actresses are **Scarlett Johansson**, **Margo Robbie** and **Zendaya**, who is the most-followed actress on Instagram. Others include **Sandra Bullock**, **Julia Roberts**, **Jennifer Lawrence**, **Rachel McAdams**, **Shailene Woodley** and **Gal Gadot**. The 2026 Major League Baseball (MLB) season is scheduled to start on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, with a "stand-alone" Opening Night game between the New York Yankees and the San Francisco Giants. A full league Opening Day will follow on Thursday, March 26. *Anyone can do a baseball manager's job, just like the public thinks they can do a better job than their city manager.*



More Pieces Picked Up: Redding's new city manager **William S. Tarbox** began his tenure February 16, 2026. He previously served as the Public Works Director for the City of Concord. He also worked for the city of Benicia and the City and County of San Francisco. He earned a BS in civil engineering from the University of California, Davis and an MPA from

California State University, East Bay. Westminster City Manager **Christine Cordon** was awarded the 2025 Ethical Hero Award by the California Affiliate of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The award was presented to Christine during the League of California Cities City Managers' Department annual meeting on February 12 in Napa. Christine earned a BA in psychology from Chapman University. **José Arreola** is the current city manager for the City of King City. Jose was selected in January 2026 to succeed **Steve Adams**, who retired. José officially began his King City tenure in February 2026. José previously served for 12 years with the City of Salinas. He previously served as an education specialist for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County. He currently serves as the Board President for the Millennium Charter High School. José earned a BS from San Jose State University. Former East Bay Regional Parks General Manager **Sabrina Landreth** has filed a legal claim against the District. She is seeking damages for retaliation, gender-based harassment and discrimination. Sabrina is a member of the Board of Advisors for the University of California, Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy, and a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Oakland Museum of California. Sabrina served as the City Administrator for the City of Oakland from July 2015 to March 2020, and as the Emeryville city manager from June 2013 to July 2015. Assistant City Manager **Ryan Gohlich** is the next Beverly Hills City Manager, effective July 4, 2026, succeeding retiring City Manager **Nancy Hunt-Coffey**. Ryan began his career in Beverly Hills in 2007 as an Assistant Planner and worked his way up in the Community Development Department. He earned a BS from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, and an MA in organizational leadership from Woodbury University. Grass Valley City Manager **Tim Kiser** resigned recently to take the position of District Manager and Engineer for the West Valley Sanitation District in Santa Clara County effective March 23, 2026. Tim has been the Grass Valley city manager since September 2017. He has worked for Grass Valley for more than 20 years. He joined the city staff in 2005 as the Public Works Director. Tim earned a BS in civil engineering from California State University, Sacramento. Banning has hired former Beaumont city manager **Elizabeth M. Gibbs**. She left Beaumont in September 2025 after working for the city 30 years. Elizabeth became city manager in July 2022. She was the Director of Community Services from July 2018 until her city manager appointment.



SHORTS: ***John P. Thompson** served as the Vacaville city manager for 17 years from 1984 to 2001. *CCMF Board Member **Aaron Adams**, Temecula city manager, is recognized and honored by CCMF as the 2026 City Manager of the Year. *Calistoga has appointed former Chief of Police **Mitchell Celaya** as Acting City Manager as the city recruits for a city manager to succeed City Manager **Laura Snideman**,

who served in the position for less than three years when she resigned in September 2025 following a performance review. ***Andrew "Andy" Firestine** has been interviewed by KESQ for the first time since joining the Cathedral City staff. *Retired Walnut city manager **Rob Wishner**, who retired in February 2022 after nearly 16 years as city manager, is a past President of the San Gabriel Valley City Managers' Association. *Davis Fire Chief **Joe Tenney** retires following a 38-years career in the fire service, and **Paul Swanson** is appointed to succeed Joe. ***Carmen Chu** is the highest-ranking non-elected executive in the San Francisco city/county government. *Azusa Pacific University graduate, **Kristina A. Peralta**, who worked for the City of San Diego for more than 10 years, says she is now a Freelance executive strategist focused on trust, collaboration, and community impact by public sector leaders in San Diego. *Former Poway Assistant City Manager, **Wendy Kaserman**, who succeeded city manager **Marlene Best** as Santee city manager, took office in Santee on October 23, 2025. ***Jaylen French**, Escalon city manager since March 2024, previously worked in development and planning for the cities of Hughson, Modesto, Tracy and Escalon. ***Leslie Caviglia**, who was appointed city manager effective September 4, 2021, is the first female to hold the city manager position in the history of the city of Visalia. *ICMA Credentialed Manager **Aram Chaparyan** has served as the Torrance city manager since October 2020. *Congratulations to **Grace Orosco**, who has worked with SJCOG since 1995, for being named the San Joaquin Council of Governments' (SJCOG) Deputy Director of Finance and Administration. *In November 2025, **Johnny Ford** was appointed to succeed Stockton Interim City Manager **Steve Colangelo**. ***Kevin O'Rourke**, who served as the Fairfield city manager from March 1997 until his retirement in September 2007, played a key role in creating the Fairfield Auto Mall along the I-80 corridor.***

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

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

Note from a reader:

Loved the picture of you and Casey at Clearlake!

Natalie D. Salazar, Executive Director
Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc
Nsalazar@lacrimestoppers.org

