

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



April 2026

Volume No. 20 | Issue No. 06

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



The Boathouse II by **Mark Ochenduszk** shows the Bluewater Boathouse Seafood Grill on Glorietta Bay in Coronado with a spectacular sky over the marina. This iconic restaurant is located in the marina across the street from the Hotel del Coronado. The iconic landmark was built in 1887 as a design prototype for the Hotel del Coronado. Retired city Manager, **Mark Ochenduszk** has taken many photos. They may be purchased at: <https://www.markochenduszko.com/>

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta

This April 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of, [Moraga](#), [Moreno Valley](#), [Morgan Hill](#), [Morro Bay](#), and [Mount Shasta](#).

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 Moraga City Manager **Scott Mitnick**. **Brian Mohan** is the city manager in Moreno Valley, **Christina Turner** is the City Manager in Morgan Hill, **John Craig** is City Manager in Morro Bay, and **Todd Juhasz** is the City Manager for the city of Mount Shasta.

<p>JOE A. GONSALVES & SON ANTHONY D. GONSALVES JASON A. GONSALVES PAUL A. GONSALVES</p>	<p>HdL Companies</p>	<p>TRIPEPI SMITH marketing • technology • public affairs</p>	<p>EKA GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS</p>
<p>RWG celebrating 70 years LAW</p> <p>RICHARDS WATSON GERSON</p>	<p>BRANDYWINE HOMES</p>	<p>ICFA INDEPENDENT CITIES FINANCE AUTHORITY</p>	<p>CALIFORNIA J.P.I.A.</p>
<p>kosmont companies</p>	<p>COLANTUONO HIGHSMITH WHATLEY, PC</p>	<p>MuniEnvironmental Professional Consultants</p>	<p>THE OLSON COMPANY</p>
		<p>Raw PERFORMANCE</p>	

Jack & Susan Simpson, 10 Claret, Rancho Mirage, California 92270

Jack's Cell | 562/896-5424; Susan's Cell | 310/418-1035

www.trackdownmanagement.net | Jack@trackdownmanagement.net

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta



Moraga is the home to Saint Mary's College of California. The town is located on 1835 Mexican Land Grant property awarded to **Joaquin Moraga** and **Juan Bernal**.

Moraga's first post office opened in 1886 and closed the next year and was reopened in 1915. The town incorporated in November 1974, with 9-plus square miles of corporate limits, when Moraga Town, Rheem and Rheem Valley united into one jurisdiction. The Town is placed in the East Bay hillsides between Orinda and Lafayette. The 2020 population is 16,870. Former Thousand Oaks and El Segundo City Manager, **Scott Mitnick** is the Moraga Town Manager. **Jon King** is the Chief of Police, and the Town Clerk is **Amy Heavener**. **Katie Bruner** is the Administrative Service Director, **Sonia Urzua** is the Planning Director and **Shawn Knapp** is the Public Works Director and Town Engineer. The Director of Parks & Recreation is **M. Mackenzie Brady**.

**20 ANNUAL —
26 MUNICIPAL SEMINAR**

THE POWER OF US:
LEADING WITH PURPOSE,
BUILDING WITH PRIDE

MAY 14 – 17, 2026
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director
17315 Studebaker Road, Suite #210
Telephone No. 562-622-5533
Email: info@contractcities.org



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

Providing Needed Public Facilities Financing!

The **Independent Cities Finance Authority** is an unaffiliated Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with the goal of helping communities fund critical projects.

Since its inception in 1988, ICFA has assisted. funding more than \$500 million in critical community projects, from hospitals to charter schools, public utilities, and housing.

Gil Hurtado, ICFA President

South Gate City Council Member

Eddie Martinez, ICFA Vice President/Treasurer

Huntington Park City Council Member

Independent Cities Finance Authority

Post Office Box No. 6740
Lancaster, California 93539-6740
Telephone No. 877-906-0941



Scott W. Mitnick began his local government career in April 1987 as a Budget Analyst for the City of Brea. In 1989 he joined the Burbank city staff as a Financial Analyst. He took the Assistant to the City Manager position in Burbank in May 1992, and he was appointed Budget Administrator in May 1994. Scott took the Administrative Services Director job in Yuba City in 1996. He was hired as the Thousand Oaks Deputy City Manager in 2000. Scott was appointed Thousand Oaks city manager in May 2005, and he served there for more than 11 years, leaving in 2016. In January 2017, Scott became the County Administrator for Sutter County with offices in Yuba City. He was hired to be the city manager for El Segundo in July 2019. In April 2022, Scott joined the **Kosmont Companies** as a Senior Vice President. He left that position when he was appointed Town Manager for Moraga in April 2023. Scott earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton, and an MPA from Syracuse University. Scott is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. He received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award in 2022.

BRANDYWINE HOMES ANNIVERSARY 1994-2024 30



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!

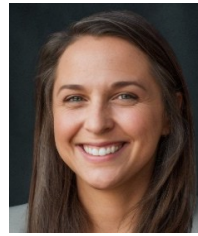
Solara is the newest collection of townhomes in Westminster, where modern living meets cutting-edge energy efficiency and smart home technology.

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

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta



M. Mackenzie Brady began her public service career as a Logistical Coordinator for Academic Trips for Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Georgia. She also worked as an Outdoor Recreation Aide at the Fort Carson Adventure Programs and Education in Colorado Spring, Colorado in 2010. In 2011, Mackenzie was a Recreation Specialist with California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, and in 2014, Mackenzie took the Assistant Director of Campus Recreation position at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was hired as Recreation Director for the City of Millbrae in June 2018 and worked in that position until October 2022, when she joined the Town of Moraga as Parks and Recreation Director. Mackenzie earned a BA from Salem College, an MEd from Georgia College & State University and a Ph.D. from William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.



The **Raw Performance** gym is a place where strength training is used for self-improvement. *Special group sessions for sports teams, police and fire departments or other groups may be arranged. 24/7 gym access for members.*

William Ha, Raw Performance Coach/Owner, CSCS is a professional and popular certified strength and conditioning coach.

Call: 714-335-4436
10579 Bloomfield Avenue
Los Alamitos, California 90720



Major League Baseball (MLB) spring training has begun in Arizona. The comparisons of city manager and baseball managers is instructive. *Others know our jobs best.* This picture is from baseball fan **Gonzalo Vazquez** retired from Cypress.

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta

Picturesque Moraga has had many notable city managers through the years. **Cynthia Battenberg** was the predecessor to **Scott Mitnick**. Cynthia served as Town Manager for about 4-years before she retired in 2022. **James Holgersson** and **Bob Priebe** were both interim town manager. James in 2018 and Bob in 2016-2017. Bob served as a member of the Moraga Police Department for nearly 37 years. He was the Chief from 2009 until his retirement in 2016.



Jill Keimach went from serving as the Community Development Director in Fremont and El Cerrito, to working as the Town Manager for Moraga from 2010 to 2016. She left Moraga to become the Alameda city manager (2016-2018) and she served as Town Manager for Paradise Valley, Arizona (2019-2023). She retired in May 2023. Jill earned a BA and Masters of City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley.

D. Michael Segrest (2009-2010), who started his career as a landscape architect in Austin, Texas, served as Director of Community Services for Lakewood Colorado after he worked in Boulder, Colorado as Parks and Recreation Director and Assistant Town Manager. After he worked in Lakewood, he took a two-year sabbatical and sail the Caribbean Islands with his wife, Debbie. He returned to Colorado as the Town Manager for Snowmass Village. He was hired in Moraga in February 2009, replacing **Jay Tashiro**, who filled in behind the resignation of Town Manager **Phil Vince**, who left to be the city manager for Martinez. Jay was a form Town Manager for Corte Madera. Phil worked in Novato from 1986 to 2004, when he was appointed Moraga Town Manager. He left Moraga in 2008 to become the City Manager for Martinez, where he served until 2013. Phil worked as the City Manager for Point Arena (2014-2015), and then relocated to Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Phil is a past President of MMANC (2004).



Phil worked as the City Manager for Point Arena (2014-2015), and then relocated to Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Phil is a past President of MMANC (2004).



NHA advisors, LLC provides strategic, objective and financially sound advice to public agencies throughout California. Consistently ranked as one of the most active municipal advisors*, NHA Advisors is distinguished from the competition by delivering broad advisory and consulting services to meet the challenging and complex needs of public agency clients.

As a fiduciary, the firm develops comprehensive options and strategies that solve for maintaining/enhancing service levels, capital project needs, manage and contain costs and risks such as rising pension costs and promote fiscal sustainability through prudent policies.

Principals include recognized professionals **Mark Northcross, Eric Scriven, Mike Meyer, Rob Schmidt,** and **Leslie Bloom.**



Craig Hill, *Managing Principal*
Financial & Policy Strategies.
Delivered.

Telephone: (415) 785-2025
Cell: (415)518-4130
Email: Craig@NHAadvisors.com



Regional Public Affairs Managers



Sacramento Valley Division
Charles Anderson,
Phone: (916) 798-2231



Channel Counties Division
David Mullinax,
Phone: (805) 797-353

1400 K Street, 4th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: 916-798-2231
canderson@cacities.org

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, 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:

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.

Wolf & Company Inc.



Former City Administrator
Wesley Wolf, Founder
 Telephone: 949-235-0525
 FAX: 213-741-0519

Wolf & Company Inc. provides municipal consulting services to State and local governments, and not-for-profit corporations.

Wolf & Company Inc. has a specialized emphasis on: Mobile Home Park Acquisitions-Program Administration and Oversight Agent Services.



Wolf & Company Inc.

163 Limestone Road, Claremont, CA 91711
 Telephone: 949-235-0525



RICHARDS WATSON GERSON
Expert Public Agency Legal Services

RWG is committed to excellence in the legal profession. The lawyers of choice for clients seeking reliable, efficient, and effective legal counsel.

RWG delivers practical advice and solutions tailored to the unique needs of public entities.

Working seamlessly across offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange County, Temecula, and the Central Coast.

The **RWG** team of experts provides the full scope of public law services. Practical advice and well-analyzed solutions come from listening carefully and asking the right questions.



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

Call **RWG** at No. 213-626-8484



(626) 536-2173

TripepiSmith.com



"The **Tripepi Smith** team stands ready to help with outreach campaigns, video production, content writing, messaging, graphic work, technology infrastructure and websites."

--Ryder Todd Smith, President

Recruiting – Technology – Public Affairs – Training

Telephone: 626-536-2173

Or info@tripepismith.com

Mailing Address is P.O. Box 52152, Irvine, CA 92619

"To inspire effective civic engagement"

"Proof of Life"



"**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 are former city managers **Mike Sedell** and **Don Penman** at

the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be on **Thursday, June 25, 2026**. Include it on your calendar and let us know you are coming. Please come and enjoy the camaraderie. ***

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta



Americans move into the Moreno Valley area from the east as California became a state in 1850. The area lost rights to water from Bear Valley Land and Water Company in a 1899 lawsuit won by the city of Redlands. The resulting lack of water for the area forced small farms to close down and forced area residents to move. The Riverside International Raceway (RIR) was a legendary racing facility in Moreno Valley. It operated from 1957 to July 1989. The dangerous 2.6-mile track hosted NASCAR, Formula One and IndyCar events. The track was demolished in 1989, and the old track is the site of the Moreno Valley Mall and residential developments. Moreno Valley has hundreds of wild donkeys that roam the hills, canyons, and local residential streets. These animals descend from historical mining burros.

Moreno Valley was incorporated in December 1984. The 2020 population is 208,634. **Brian Mohan** is the city manager and **Patty Rodriguez** is the city clerk. **Sean Kelleher** and **Launa Jimenez** are the city's two Assistant City Manager. **Sarah Mack** is the Chief of Police, and the Fire Chief is **Jesse Park**.



Jonathan Royas, Santa Paula, President
Joseph Cisneros, La Palma, Vice President
Kirsten Graham & Rebecca Bernstorff,
 Annual Conference, Oct. 28-30, 2026, Co-Chairs
 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, CA 93103
 Telephone: 877-314-7080

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



Stacie Marchetti, President
 Management Analyst, Roseville
Aarón Zavala, Vice President
 Assistant to the City Manager, Pleasanton
 Annual Conference, September 27-30, 2026
 3620 American River Drive, Suite 230,
 Sacramento, CA 95864

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta



Moreno Valley City Manager **Brian D. Mohan** was the Assistant City Manager when he was selected to succeed City Manager **Mike Lee** starting in January 2025. After working as an accountant for the La-Z-Boy corporation in 1997-2000,

Brian began his public service career in 2000 as an Accountant with the city of Rialto. He rose in Rialto to serve as the Accounting Supervisor starting in July 2006. From 2011 to 2017, Brian worked with the San Bernardino County Retirement Association (SBCERA). He was hired as the Financial Resources Division Manager for the city of Moreno Valley in July 2017. Brian was promoted to Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer and City Treasurer starting in February 2021. Brian earned a BS in business & public administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

Legendary city manager **Norman R. King** was the first Moreno Valley city manager. Norm was the President of ICMA in 1995-1996. He received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award in 2003. Norm served as city manager in Claremont (1975-1979), Palm Springs (1979-1990) and Moreno Valley (1991-1996).

The late **Eugene “Gene” Norman Rogers** (March 3, 1950-April 14, 2024) served as the Moreno Valley. Gene's father was a career U.S. Air Force officer, making Gene "...a military brat..." Gene was born in Tokyo, Japan. He earned a BS and MS in recreation from San Jose State University. Gene began his public service career in the recreation department of the city of Sunnyvale in February 1978. He became the Sunnyvale Assistant City Manager and worked as the Moreno Valley (1996-2006) city manager for 10 years. Gene served interim city manager assignments in Coachella (2009), and Davis (2014). Gene was a lifelong avid golfer and played to a near scratch handicap. He was a member of the Olympic Club in San Francisco and the Club at Pasadera in Monterey.



Joe A. Gonsalves said: "Lobbyist are like parachutes, you don't need them often but when you do, they had better work."

Anthony D. Gonsalves and two of his sons, **Jason A. Gonsalves** and **Paul A. Gonsalves**, are expert local government lobbyists.

Founded in 1975 by former Assembly Member **Joe A. Gonsalves**, the firm represents 50-plus cities and is a key player in city legislation. The firm works closely with the League of California Cities.



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

Jason & Paul Gonsalves are recognized local Government legislation experts.

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son

1201 K Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone No. 916-441-0597



Robert G. Gutierrez began his public service career as an Administrative Assistant in Walnut in 1977. In 1979 he took similar positions in Downey (1979), and Rosemead (1980). In 1982 Bob was appointed City Manager for La Habra Heights, and in 1991 he started a 10-year tenure as the La Puente city manager. In 2001 Bob took the Assistant City Manager job in Pomona and in 2006 he was recruited to serve as the Moreno Valley city manager. Bob earned a BA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton. Bob taught public management courses at California State University, Los Angeles and Cal Poly Pomona, He was a member of the International Hispanic Network Board.



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. **EKA** also provides professional litigation communication and expert witness services led by a team of strategists, lawyers, journalists, and media relations specialists.

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.

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

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta



Morgan Hill is a Santa Clara County city located at the southern end of the Silicon Valley in the San Francisco Bay Area. A 1772 Spanish expedition into the area led to the main camp site become the place where Spanish soldiers stayed while visiting the area. In 1777, with the founding of Mission Santa Clara de Asis, the land of present-day Morgan Hill was granted to the Roman Catholic Church. After Mexico's independence from Spain, ownership of area land changed, and in 1892 the area was subdivided, and a Southern Pacific Railroad station was built. The town was incorporated in November 1906 and named for Diana and Hiram Morgan Hill. The 2020 population is 45,483. **Christina Turner** is the current city manager for Morgan Hill and **Michelle Bigelow** is the first appointed City Clerk since the city's 1906 incorporation. The Assistant City Managers are **Edith Ramirez** and **Chris Ghione**. The Chief of Police is **Shane Palsgrove** and the Finance Director is **Tina Reza**.



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

The Olson Company has successfully partnered with more than 100 cities since 1988.

Todd Olson
President of Community Development

Telephone: 562-370-2209
The Olson Company
562-370-2259
562-430-4413 Fax

3010 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 100
Seal Beach, CA 90740



Casey
Simpson
- Brand Ambassador

Cellular
Absorbtion
Supplements



Vitamins are important to your health!

<https://Caseysimpson.iii.earth>

Some of the most effective vitamins you can buy! Vitamins supplements that are not absorbed can be a waste of money. Contact **Casey Simpson** to discover vitamin products. that provide maximum absorption.

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta



Christina Turner served as the Finance Director and City Treasurer for the City of Gilroy for several years prior to joining the Morgan Hill city staff in 2016. She initially served as the Assistant City Manager for Administrative Services. Christina

was selected to serve as Morgan Hill city manager in September 2017. She succeeded City Manager **Steve Rymer**, who served as city manager for 11-years. Chirstina is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She earned a BS in commerce from Santa Clara University.

Steve Rymer served as the Morgan Hill city manager from 2013 until 2017. He currently works as a local government consultant. Steve joined the Morgan Hill city staff in 2011 and held several key positions before his appointment as city manager in February 2013. Steve worked as City Administrator in Rochester, Minnesota (2017-2021), and currently as city manager for Tigard, Oregon (2021 to the present). He earned a BS from the University of Minnesota and an MPA from Hamline University.

J. Edward “Ed” Tewes served as the Morgan Hill city manager from 2000 to 2012. Prior to his 13-year Morgan Hill tenure, he was Modesto city manager (1991-1999) and Clovis (1986-1991). Ed began his work career with the city of Long Beach (1979-1986). He has completed “interim” city manager assignments in San Juan Bautista, Gilroy, Guadalupe and Soledad.

Jan Perkins began her public service career in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1976. She worked for Santa Ana as Deputy and Assistant City Manager starting in 1984. She was City Manager in Morgan Hill (1990-1992) and Fremont (1993-2004). Jan is an ICMA Credentialed Manager, Retired. She currently works as a public agency consultant. Jan earned a BA in sociology and an MPA from the University of Kansas.

HdL Companies

WHAT WE DO

Simplify
Compliance, licensing, tax and fee administration made easy.

Boost
Maximize revenue with comprehensive solutions including discovery, recovery, and economic development.

Thrive with Better Data

Founded by City Managers for City Managers and staffed by former civil service professionals, HdL Companies understands the challenges of municipal finance and backs you with expertise in local government administration solutions.

We empower local governments to thrive with better data and resources.

SINCE **1983** MORE THAN **800** CLIENTS RECOVERED **\$3B** REVENUE

Scan for more information

714.879.5000

solutions@hdlcompanies.com

Never to be Forgotten

Those who attended “Proof of Life” lunches, who have passed away. These city managers should all be remembered.

- 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**



The late **Jim Purtee** at a POL lunch with **Glenn Southard**.



**A MUNICIPAL PARTNER
YOU CAN COUNT ON**

Founded in 1964, Willdan is a leading, nationwide provider of professional and consulting engineering services. We have worked with nearly 90% of California's cities and counties and have recently expanded our services across the country.

With 1,700+ employees in over 50 offices throughout 20+ states nationwide, we are ready to serve you!

Willdan is a trusted partner for municipalities, with solutions including:

- Building & Safety, Code Enforcement, and Fire
- City Engineering
- Construction Services
- Design Engineering
- Planning

Other Services Include: Energy & Sustainability, Financial & Economic Analysis, Transportation Electrification, Microgrids, and Smart Cities

At Willdan, we lead with our people!
Meet our management team by clicking [here](#):



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



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

www.willdan.com



This 1970 Ford Mustang Mach 1, with the legendary 428-cubic-inch Cobra Jet V8 engine, was on magazine covers. It belonged to the late **Frank G. Tripepi**, a former Rosemead city manager & **Willdan** executive.

California Managers in Cities from Moraga to Mount Shasta



Morro Bay is one of the most picturesque places on California's Central Coast. A Spanish galleon delivered Filipino visitors to the Morro Bay in 1587, and the first Europeans came in 1769 on a Franciscan missionary expedition. The town of Morro Bay was founded in 1870 by **Franklin Riley**. Schooners would visit the wharf that he built that became the Morro Bay Embarcadero. During World War II, a U.S. Navy Amphibious Training Base was operation at Morro Bay. The city was incorporated in July 1964. The 2020 population is 10,757. The current city manager is **John Craig**, and the City Clerk is **Dana Swanson**. The Chief of Police is **Amy Watkins**, and the Fire Chief is **Daniel McCrain**. **Emily Conrad** is the Finance Director and **Greg Kwolek** is the Director of Public Works.



Expert Public Agency Legal Services. Committed to counsel that is helpful, understandable, and fairly priced.

CH&W has offices in Pasadena and Grass Valley in the Sierra Foothills and represents both public and private clients throughout California in municipal law.

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).

<https://chwlaw.us/>

Call telephone No. 530-432-7357; 213-542-5700.
916-400-0370; 858-682-3665



California Managers in Cities from Morro Bay to Mount Shasta



John Craig was selected to be the Morro Bay city manager in January 2026. From 1998 to 2001, John worked as a Senior Analyst for the Moddy Investors Service. His first city manager job was in 2007 in the city of Barre, Vermont. In 2010, John

became the County Manager for Talbot County, Maryland. He took the Deputy City Manager position in Rio Rancho, New Mexico in 2015. In 2021, John took the Assistant County Administrative Officer position for Mono County, California. In 2022, he went to work for the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico as Director of General Services, and in 2024, he took the Deputy County Manager job in Los Alamos County, New Mexico. John earned a BS from Belmont University and an MPA from Columbia University.



Founded in 1986 by former City Manager **Larry J. Kosmont**, Chairman and CEO. **2022 CCMF Corporate Sponsor of the Year.**

Kosmont Companies serves cities, counties, quasi-government agencies, private companies, developers, and non-profit organizations, including educational institutions across California. With unmatched expertise in public/private transactions,

Kosmont Companies is on the cutting edge of evolving trends, challenges, and solutions.

A transactional firm that takes a hands-on approach to economic development focused on successful outcomes. The firm is expert in economic development, real estate consulting, financial analysis, and redevelopment agency dissolution.

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

Headquarters – El Segundo: 2301 Rosecrans Avenue Suite 4140, El Segundo, California 90245
Telephone: 424-297-1070 | Fax: 424-286-4632

Demonstrating how time flies!



Someone sent this picture to me a couple of years ago. I am still amazed about how fast time flies.

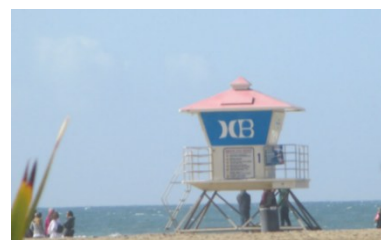
The time **1968**. Torrance Senior Assistant to the City Manager, **Lloyd de Llamas**, becomes Woodlake's first City Manager, and California's first Hispanic City Manager.

The Torrance Central Services Director, **Caroline de Llamas**, uses the Woodlake time to work toward a BA, co-found and become first President of the Tulare County League of Voters, as well as, become President of the Woodlake Lady Lions Club. She later becomes City Clerk of the Cities of La Cañada Flintridge and Cerritos, and she was President of the City Clerk's Association of California.

Amazing how much younger everyone looked back then.

Lloyd de Llamas, **HdL Companies**, retired

NOTE: Lloyd started his career in San Diego and Torrance, and served as city manager in Woodlake, Lawndale and Monterey Park. He partnered with **Robert Hinderliter** to found **HdL Companies**. He retired as Executive Chair of **HdL Companies** in 2021.



Summer will be upon us soon, and many of us will be looking to relax at the beach. This is a Lifeguard tower at "Surf City," also known as,

Huntington Beach where **Travis Hopkins** is city manager.



**PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT.
STRENGTHEN OUR CITIES.**

MuniEnvironmental's experienced professionals provide **solid waste** and **recycling** expertise that helps cities and other government agencies:

- Review, analyze and optimize rates and expenses
- Audit contract service providers
- Comply with regulatory requirements
- Implement commercial, organics and construction & demolition recycling programs

Jeff Duhamel, CEO/Principal Consultant
562-432-3700 jeff@munienvironmental.com

**California Managers in Cities from
Moraga to Mount Shasta**



Mount Shasta is a city in Siskiyou County about 9 miles from the Mount Shasta volcano. During the 1820s trappers and hunters passed through the area. Discovery of gold in nearby Yreka in 1851 increased traffic along the Siskiyou

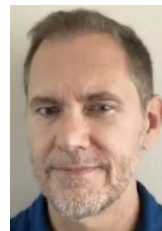
Trail through the modern-day site of the city of Mount Shasta. The town that grew was first known as Strawberry Valley and then Berryvale. The post office opened in 1870 as Berryvale. After 1886, it was known as Sisson, for local businessman, **Justin Hinckley Sisson**. In 1887 the Central Pacific Railroad completed a line along the Siskiyou Trail and a station was built. The city incorporated in May 1905. The City of Mount Shasta name was approved in November 1925. The 2020 population in 3,223. **Todd Juhasz** is the city manager and **Malisa Dodd** is the Finance Director and elected City Treasurer. The Chief of Police is **Robert Gibson** and the Fire Chief is **Corey Burns**. **John E. Kennedy, Sr.** is the elected city clerk. **Kenneth Kellogg** is the Public Works Director.



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



Alexander Smith
Chief Executive Officer



Mount Shasta City Manager **Todd Juhasz** began his public service career in the United State Air Force's stationed at Edwards Air Force Base, 1984 to 1991. He worked for the New York City Department of Transportation for a little more than 5 years, before taking a Development Manager job in Portland, Oregon. He worked as Transportation Division Manager for Beaverton, Oregon (2013-2019). After working in the private sector for a time, he served as Dunsmuir city manager (2019-2021) before he was appointed city manager for the City of Mount Shasta starting in November 2021. Todd earned an BS from the University at Buffalo, and MLA from State University of New York, and an MPA from the Syracuse University Maxwell School.

A list of former city managers for Mount Shasta includes **Bruce Pope** (2017-2021), **Jeff Butzlaff** (2011-2017), **Kevin Plett** was interim city manager (2010-2011), **Geoffrey "Geoff" Greet** (2004-2010) and **Joe Guzzetta** served as city manager during the 1990s.

California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
cjpia.org | info@cjpia.org | (562) 467-8700



Founded in 2015, **MuniEnvironmental, LLC** specializes in providing Solid Waste, Recycling, and Stormwater consulting services to communities, non-profits, and governmental agencies. **Integrity, Diligence** and **Honesty** are **MuniEnvironmental's** underlying principles in providing ethical and impartial services.

We came together to build an environmental firm that will have a positive and lasting ecological impact on local communities — improving the quality of life for future generations.

With more than 50 years of combined experience, the firm has a well-rounded team of professionals that provides the needed expertise and disciplines to assist clients to meet their project goals. **MuniEnvironmental, LLC** has succeeded in implementing programs that have provided increased recycling rates, auditing services that have recovered unpaid fees, and regulatory compliance programs in the Solid Waste, Recycling and Stormwater industries.

Jeff Duhamel: CEO/Principal Consultant



Jeff Duhamel is a professional Solid Waste and Recycling consultant specializing in Solid Waste facility development and municipal regulatory compliance.

In 1997 **Jeff Duhamel** formed Waste Systems Technology, Inc., a professional consulting firm helping local municipalities, Recycling firms and material recovery facility (MRF) operators meet Recycling and Solid Waste compliance requirements mandated by the State of California and local agencies.

With more than two decades of experience in the Solid Waste industry, **Jeff Duhamel** has consulted to numerous public agencies.

Under contract for the **City of Los Angeles**, **Jeff Duhamel** conducted site feasibility studies for three potential Solid Waste facility locations, preparing preliminary site plans, traffic diagrams, preliminary environmental programming, and project recommendations.

Additionally, Mr. Duhamel has provided local municipalities with Solid Waste consulting and auditing services that have recovered millions of dollars of unpaid fees.

In 2015 Mr. Duhamel founded **MuniEnvironmental, LLC**, a professional environmental consulting firm specializing in Solid Waste, Recycling and Stormwater compliance.



John A. Telesio: Senior Vice President

John is a waste industry veteran and former owner of Consolidated Disposal Service (CDS) that merges with Republic Services.



Stephen Howe: Senior Consultant

Stephen Howe joined the firm January 2020. With 27 years in the solid waste and recycling industry experience.



Trieu Le: Project Manager/Consultant

Trieu joined the company in October 2014. He plays an active role in helping clients both achieve and maintain compliance with State requirements by maintaining and implementing recycling and permit programs at the local level. He also conducts internal and external audits for RFPs and compliance.



Spencer Troutman, Associate Consultant

MuniEnvironmental has the expertise required to help cities meet waste disposal and recycling issues professionally.

MuniEnvironmental, LLC

Post Office Box No. 12468
Costa Mesa, California 92627

Telephone: 562-432-3700
General Inquiries Please Direct To:
jeff@munienvironmental.com



Picking Up the Pieces: Michelle Bigelow is the first appointed City Clerk for the City of Morgan Hill since its incorporation in 1906. Morgan Hill has had elected City Clerks. The local voters changed the City Clerk position in 2018 from elected to appointed. The selection has gone from a popularity contest to finding a candidate with professional qualifications. Michelle has

worked for Morgan Hill since March 2008 when she joined the city staff as a Municipal Services Assistant. Veteran city manager **Garrett Evans** has taken the Interim City Manager assignment for the City of Pinole following the conclusion of City Manager **Kelcey Young**'s tenure. Kelcey stepped down in November 2025, after serving in the position for about 15 months. Chief of Police **Melissa Klawuhn** served as Acting City Manager for approximately three months. Garrett worked for the city of Pittsburg starting in 1997. He was appointed Pittsburg assistant city manager in 2011 and served in that post for nearly 8 years. He became Pittsburg City Manager in 2019 and retired in September 2025. Garrett earned a BA from the University of Arizona and an MPA from **USC**. **Aaron Schulze** is the new city of Vista Economic Development Manager starting this month (March 2026). Aaron has worked for the cities of Santa Ana, Huntington Beach, Garden Grove and Orange. He replaces former Director **Larry Vaupel**, who retired. Aaron is a member of CALED and the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). Aaron earned a BA and MBA from California State University, Fullerton. Aaron is an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. **Carrie Wright** began her tenure as the city manager for the city of Nevada City on March 2, 2026. Carrie was selected following a recruitment process that included 58 applicants. Carrie succeeds city manager **Joan Phillippe**, who served as the Interim City Manager since October 2025, following the departure of former manager **Sean Grayson**. Carrie previously worked for the city of Stockton, the University of California, Davis and Cal Expo. Shortly after leaving Nevada City, Sean accepted the California City Interim City Manager position, starting in January 2026.



Summer is on the horizon!



Fullerton's new city manager is **Eddie Manfro**. Eddie has been working as the city's "interim" city manager. Eddie began his public service career in January 1992 as a Personnel Analyst for the city of Alhambra. He a similar position with the city of Hawthorne in October 1994, and in 1998 he moved to the Santa Monica Human Resources Department. Eddie became the Human Resources Manager in La Mesa in 2003, before he took the Director's position in Human Resources and Risk Management for the city of Westminster. Eddie became the Westminster Assistant City Manager in 2011, and he was appointed City Manager in July 2012 and served more than a dozen years in that post, leaving in March 2020. Eddie earned a BA from the University of Redlands and an MPA from California State University, Dominguez Hills. **Salvador Mendez** is the new Palmdale city manager succeeding City Manager **Ronda Perez**. **Sara Gallagher** and **Nardy Lopez** continued as the Palmdale Deputy City Managers. Sal has served as the Interim City Manager since September 2, 2025. Prior to his "interim" assignment, Sal was the Assistant City manager. Sal was named the 2024 Top Leader of the Year in the Public Sector by the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). He earned a BA in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley and an MPA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. There are three city managers of California cities named Peter. **Peter Grant** has been the city manager for the city of Yorba Linda since October 2025. Since January 2021, **Peter Pirnejad** is the city manager for Foster City, and **Peter L. Kim** began his tenure as the La Palma city manager in October 2025. **Peter Castro** is the Assistant City Manager for Rancho Cucamonga and **Peter James** is Deputy City Manager for the City of Santa Monica. **Peter Kim** is a former Chief of Staff for former State Assembly Member **Tyler Diep**, and Peter is a former two-term Mayor and Council Member for the City of La Palma. The late **Peter B. Feenstra** served as city manager for the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, South El Monte and Westminster. **Janisse Quiñones**, the Chief Executive Officer and engineer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, is resigning from her position at the end of March to go to work in Puerto Rico help build an electric power grid. Janisse was born and raised in Caguas, Puerto Rico. She was hired in Los Angeles from an executive position with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG & E). Los Angeles city officials defended her \$750,000 annual salary. Brentwood appointed **Terrance Davis** as Assistant City Manager. He was serving as the Director of Public Works for the City of Berkeley. He previously served the cities of Vallejo, Sacramento and Compton. This new assignment has him working with Brentwood city manager **G. Harold Duffey**.



An archive picture of **Sam Olivito**, **Jeff Stewart** and **Wesley Wolf** of **Wolf & Company**.



More Pieces Picked Up: Sonoma is recruiting for a new City Manager and Director of Finance. City Manager **David Guhin** is leaving the city to work as the County of Sonoma's Chief Executive Officer. His last day with the city is April 5. Former Finance Director **Prapti Aryal** joined the city staff in May 2024. She

previously served as Director of Finance for the city of Clayton, and she worked in Finance for the City of Napa from 2016 to 2023. Former Lodi City Council Member **Shakir Khan** pleaded no contest to 71 felonies and 6 misdemeanors as a result of voter fraud he committed in 2022. Of the 77 counts, 41 were related to illegal gambling, money laundering, tax evasion and grand theft. 14 counts are specifically related to election fraud. Founding members of Women Leading Government (WLG) include **Penelope Culbreth-Graff**, **Tamara Letourneau**, **Cathy Standiford**, **Roberta Burns**, **Jenny Haruyama**, **Irma Hernandez**, **Debra Rose**, **Jan Perkins**, **Sarona Vivanco**, and **Nancy Hetrick**. This group was listed in the April 2007 issue of the *City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown*. At the time of incorporation, the City of Lakewood's entire four-person staff included: City Administrator **Robert Andersen**, City Attorney **John Sanford Todd**, City Clerk **Nita Birch** and Executive Secretary Director **Guy Halferty**. Starting 2026 **Thaddeus McCormack** is the city manager, and **Steve Skolnik** is the city attorney. The late **Howard Chambers** served as the Lakewood city manager from June 1976 until his retirement in August 2017. **Michael Stover** worked for Lakewood for 30 years and retired as the Assistant City Manager. **Trackdown Management** salutes all those who practice the difficult craft of city management. This publication, dedicated to California city management professionals, misses many fine practitioners at the assistant, department head and other organizational levels due to time and document limits. We recognize the sometimes-thankless invaluable service local government workers provide to the democratic process, the Council-Manager Plan and cost-effective local government. We salute you all!

Letters, notes and observations by readers:

I hope you are doing well. My story is just one of many. Granted, it is ancient history. But my pathway was cleared by those I met during my graduate education. If nothing else, as I entered the public service, I still had that positive youthful step. Most grads still do but they also need to know that someone actually gives a damn as they move forward. I was still getting letters of support from both Dean Powell and President Horn 10 years after graduation.

Mentoring does not stop upon graduation. I certainly should have done more. Just keeping in contact makes a big difference.

---**Steve Harding**, Former city manager
<https://our-civic-culture.com/2022/12/20/when-i-wore-a-tie/>

Loved the picture of you and Casey at Clearlake! My Godparents moved to Clearlake from San Mateo and had a beautiful piece of property that butted up to the Dam or water tower. I used to visit often when I worked in Sacramento for **Governor George Deukmejian**, and I loved the Konocti Winery, played golf at the golf course, fished off their friends dock and had dinner at the Lodge. Special memories that were brought back by your picture!



---**Natalie D. Salazar**, Executive Director
Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers, Inc.
www.lacrimestoppers.org
Nsalazar@lacrimestoppers.org
(626) 664-6598



Gregory Korduner, retired city manager from Huntington Park, El Monte, South El Monte and interim for the cities of La Habra Heights and Los Alamitos. Here he visits **Hank Greenberg** last season. The 2026 MLB season started March 25, 2026.



Still More Pieces Picked Up: Glendora has a new city manager. He is Riverside Chief Financial Officer **Adam Raymond**. Adam is scheduled to begin in Glendora on September 4. Prior to his Riverside experience, Adam worked in Rancho Palos Verdes, San Bernardino, and for a private firm in Rancho Cucamonga.

Adam earned a BS in accounting from the University of La Verne, and an MPA from California Baptist University.



SHORTS: ***Alexandra Orologas**, Assistant City Manager for El Cerrito, was awarded the John H. Nail Memorial Award in February 2026. *Yamaha Motor Corp. is leaving its Cypress headquarters after nearly 50 years and relocating to Kennesaw, Georgia. *Take a good

look at the amazing photography galleries presented by retired city of Coronado city manager **Mark Ochendusko** at <https://www.markochendusko.com/> *Costa Mesa Finance Director **Carol Molina** has left her position abruptly and is no longer employed by the city as of March 9, 2026. *Under the leadership of Chief Financial Officer **Greg Morley**, the city of Ventura Finance Department was recognized for excellence in budgeting and reporting by the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) and the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). ***Henry Garcia** served as the Moreno Valley city manager from 2011 to 2013 following **Bob Gutierrez's** Moreno Valley city manager tenure. *Bakersfield has a new Chief of Police as Assistant Chief **Brent Stratton**, a 22-year department veteran, was selected to replace retiring Chief **Greg Terry**. *Temecula Assistant City Manager **Kevin Hawkins** will retire May 1, 2026, after a 35-years public service career and several years as the Director of Parks and Recreation for San Bernardino (2013-2021). *Retired Wasco city manager **Larry Pennell** earned a BA and Master's degree from San Jose State University. ***Chris Jensen** is the new Palo Alto City Attorney, succeeding **Molly Stump**, who retired after 15 years with the city. *Starting with Visalia in 2010 as a Recreation Manager, **Jeannie Greenwood** was appointed Parks and Recreation Director in October 2015. *Monterey Parks & Recreation Director **Nicole Banks** previously worked as the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Culture for the City of Newton, Massachusetts. *Culver City has appointed former Long Beach Director of Technology & Innovation and Chief Information Officer, **Lea Eriksen**, to a Senior Assistant City Manager position. ***Jackie Rocco**, city manager for the city of West Hollywood, earned a BA and MA from the University of California, Los Angeles (**UCLA**). *Past MMASC President **Laura Biery** is the Economic Development Director for the city West Hollywood.***



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

Cayucos is an unincorporated California central coast community located between Cambria and Morro Bay. Cayucos is the Spanish name for canoe. The Cayucos Pier was originally built 380-foot long in 1872 by the town's founder, Captain **James Cass**. In 1876 the pier was lengthened to 982 feet creating a vital trade center for shipping goods. During World War II, in December 1941, the crew of the SS Montebello was brought to the pier following a Japanese submarine attack. The General Sherman Tree is the largest living tree on Earth by volume. This Giant Sequoia is located in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park in Tulare County. It is about 275 feet tall and has a diameter of over 36 feet at its base. The tallest tree is a Coastal Redwood in Redwood National Park in Northern California. It reached a recorded height of approximately 380.8 feet in 2019. The federal government recently allocated \$40 million for the planning to raise Shasta Dam by 18.5 feet. This will



increase the water storage capacity by approximately 634,000 acre-feet of water. Federal and State investments of more than \$540 million were announced in March 2026 dedicated to fixing the sinking infrastructure of the canals of the State Water Project caused by land subsidence. \$235 million will go to the raising of embankments and repair structures of the Delta-Mendota Canal.

Passing of Phil Brown and Ed Wohlenberg

Former city manager **Michael "Mike" Fuson** reports the passing of retired city managers **Phillip M. "Phil" Brown** and **Edward Gish "Ed" Wohlenberg**. Phil on November 5, 2025, and Ed on November 13, 2025. Mike served as Ed's Finance and Personnel Director in the city of Pinole from 1972 to 1977. He served as the Assistant City Manager in Novato (1978-1983) with Phil. Phil passed away at the age of 94. He served as City Manager in Novato (1974-1992), Madera (1965), and Arcata (1961). He was "Citizen of the Year" in 2018 in Novato. Ed, passed at age 86, served as city manager in the cities of Pinole, Emeryville, Brea and South San Francisco. He was the Interim city manager in Half Moon Bay and Goleta. **Mike Fuson** served as City Manager in the cities of Sausalito (1983-1993), Pismo Beach (1995-2001), and Sonoma (2001-2007), Mike received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award in 2007. Mike earned a BA and two Masters from the University of Washington.