

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



April 2026 Special

Volume No. 20 | Issue No. 07

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Retired La Mirada city manager **Tom Robinson** and the 2025 Major League Baseball, World Series trophy won by the Los Angeles Dodgers. Experts project the Dodgers to win between 96 and 102 games in 2026 in their effort to "3-pete". Playoff probability models give the team about a 98% chance of making the post season. Tom is a Certified Management Consultant. In addition to his La Mirada service he served as the La Habra Heights city manager. TR Management Services, Inc. is Tom's consultant firm and can be reached at 562-237-1629.

California Managers in Cities from Mountain View to Needles

This Special April 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of Mountain View, Murrieta, Napa, National City, and Needles.

City executives in this issue include Mountain View City Manager **Kimbra D. McCarthy, JD. Justin Clifton** is the city manager in Murrieta, **Steve Potter** is the City Manager in Napa, **Scott Huth** is Interim City Manager in the city of National City, and **Patrick Martinez** is the City Manager for the city of Needles.

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

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California Managers in Cities from Mountain View to Needles



Kimbra D. McCarthy, JD. began her public service career as a Legislative Analyst of the Kansas Legislature in August 2007. In October 2008 she took a Fiscal and Policy Analyst position with the County of Santa Barbara, California. In November 2010, she went to work for the Santa Barbara County District Attorney as the Director of Administration & Finance. After four years with the DA, Kimbra was hired as the Deputy City Manager for the city of Mountain View in August 2014. In August 2016, she went to work for Redwood City as Assistant City Manager. Kimbra returned to Mountain View as City Manager in March 2020. She is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. Kimbra earned a BA in political science from Washburn University, a Master of Law from the University of Limerick, Ireland, and a Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law. In 2018, Kimbra received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award.

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"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 **Bill Crowe** and **Vern Lawson** 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. ***



James "Jim" DeStefano, served 11 years as the Diamond Bar city manager starting in July 2006 until his retirement in July 2017. Jim was Community Development Director for Chino Hills prior to his appointment in Diamond Bar. Jim is a regular attendee at the "Proof of Life" lunches.

California Managers in Cities from Mountain View to Needles

John Marchant is the Mountain View Community Services Director. This department includes parks, recreation, and community facilities. John was appointed in August 2019. He has worked for the city of Mountain View for more than 23 years. John earned a BS in recreation management from San Jose State University.

Former Mountain View city managers include an impressive list. **Dan Rich** was appointed in 2011 and served until 2019. The longest serving Mountain View city manager was **Kevin Duggan**, who was city manager for more than 20 years (1990-2011). **Bruce Liedstrand** preceded **Kevin Duggan** as city manager and served from 1976 until 1990. **John O'Halloran** was the Mountain View city manager from 1958 until 1976.



Kevin C. Duggan started his public service career as an Intern in June 1971 with the city of Mountain View. He worked as an Intern in Campbell starting in June 1972, and he was hired as a Campbell Staff Assistant in September 1973. Kevin worked his way up in the Campbell organization; Administrative Assistant July 1974, Assistant to the City Manager in September 1976, Assistant City Manager, July 1982; and he was appointed Campbell City Manager in October 1984. Kevin was hired as the Mountain View city manager in July 1990. Following his retirement, Kevin was appointed ICMA West Coast Regional Director from May 2011 until June 2019. In August 2019 he became an ICMA Senior Advisor. Kevin served as President of the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities in 2008-2009, and he was President of Cal-ICMA from 2003 to 2005. Kevin was the recipient of the ICMA Distinguished Service Award in 2019. He participated in an ICMA International Exchange with Limerick County, Ireland. Kevin received a 45 Year ICMA Service Award in 2018. He earned a BA and MPA from San Jose State University.



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Chief Executive Officer

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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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- Don Penman**, Retired City Manager, Arcadia
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Posse Roster:

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- Wayne Wedin**, Retired City Manager, Brea
- Karen Herrera**, Retired Deputy City Manager, Duarte
- David Jenkins**, Retired City Manager, & CC So. Lake Tahoe
- Laura Behjan**, Retired Simi Valley, City Manager

Contributor Roster:

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- 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 Mountain View to Needles



Mountain View was incorporated in November 1902 in Santa Clara County. The city was important to the early history and growth of Silicon Valley. **William Shockley** established his semiconductor

laboratory in Mountain View in 1956. Following a Spanish and Mexican land grant shuffle and land sales, European-Americans settle in the area in 1852 where a stagecoach station was established. The U.S. Navy developed the Moffett Field complex adjacent to the city starting in 1931. It attracted many workers to the area. The estimated 2024 population of Mountain View is 87,316. Technology is the foundation of the local economy, and there are very few remnants of the city's agricultural past.



Murrieta history is rooted in the rancho era of California's development. Originally founded by Basque sheep rancher **Juan Murrieta** in 1873. Sheep grazed the local meadows. The California

Southern Railroad came through the valley to Temecula in 1882. Many discovered the valley following the construction of the train depot in 1887. When the trains stopped in 1935 local commerce took a big hit. Tourists were sparse. Local interest and visitor increase after Interstate 15 was built in the 1980s. The city incorporated in July 1991. The estimated 2024 population is 112,539. **Justin Clifton** is the city manager and **Kristen Crane** is the Assistant City Manager. **Hildur Sam** is the Public Information Officer, and **Javier Carcamo** is the Murrieta Finance Director. **Brian Ambrose** is the Community Services Director, **Bob Moehling** is the Director of Public Works, **Cristal McDonald** is the City Clerk, and the Chief of Police is **Matthew Henry**. **Scott Agajanian** is Deputy City Manager and Economic Development Director. The Administrative Services Director is **Diego Chavez** and **Brian Crawford** is the Municipal Services Director. **David Chantarangsu** is Development Services Director.



Sandstorm Wind Power is a development in Riverside County currently in the planning stages. It includes a 60 MW wind project and a 90 MW battery storage project. It is expected to come online by February 2030. Trashing worn out components are still an important issue.



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California Managers in Cities from Mountain View to Needles



Justin T. Clifton, Murrieta City Manager, was appointed Town Manager for the Town of Bayfield, Colorado just six months after he took a graduate student internship with the town. He worked in that Town Manager position between 2006 and 2011. In October 2012, Justin started his tenure as the Delta, Colorado city manager, where he worked until 2015, when he became the city manager for Sedona, Arizona. In April 2021, Justin began a short tenure as the city manager for the City of Palm Springs. He left Palm Springs in September 2022 and joined the city staff in Murrieta in April 2024 as the Assistant City Manager. He was elevated to Murrieta city manager in November 2024, succeeding City Manager **Kimberley Summers**. Justin earned a BA from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and an MA in philosophy from Colorado State University, Denver. He is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. In 2017 he received a 10 Year ICMA Service Award.



Former Murrieta city manager **Kimberley Summers** worked for the city of Hesperia for more than 15 years starting in January 1999. She left Hesperia in February 2014, as the Deputy City Manager to become the Assistant City Manager for Murrieta. She was appointed Murrieta city manager starting in July 2017. She was awarded the Cal-ICMA Ethical Hero Award in February 2021 by the Cal-ICMA. Kim is an ICMA Credentialed Manager, retired. She retired in January 2025. She earned a BA in communications from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.

"It's easier to fire an incompetent and ineffective city manager than to remove an incompetent and ineffective mayor. San Diego needs to be more agile so changes can be made faster when city operations and leadership fail. Now is the time to abandon this "strong" (not) mayor model."

— **Larry Halford**, San Diego

California Managers in Cities from Mountain View to Needles



Napa is the county seat for Napa County located in “Wine Country” in Northern California. Napa is a tourist destination known for its wineries, restaurants and cultural arts. The first exploration into the Napa Valley by Europeans was in 1823 when the majority of inhabitants were Native Americans. American settlers began arriving in the area in the 1830s. The City of Napa was founded by **Nathan Coombs** in 1847. In the mid-1850s, the Napa Main Street was extremely busy with businesses bring many patrons. **John Patchett** opened the first commercial winery in Napa County in 1859. The California Gold Rush brought crowds of people and development to Napa. The Napa Valley Opera House was built in 1879. The City of Napa was incorporated in March 1872 and reincorporated in 1874. The estimated 2024 population is 76,921. **Steve Potter** is the Napa city manager and city clerk, and **Liz Habkirk** and **Julie Lucido** are Assistant City Managers. Jessica Lowe is the Public Works Director, Molly Rattigan is the Community Resources & Development Director, and Joy Eldredge is the Utilities Director. Hearther Ruiz is the Human Resources Director and Breyana Brandt is the Parks and Recreation Director.

Mike Parness (2006-2018), **Patricia S. Thompson** (1988-2006) and **Lee M. Roberts** (1953-1977) are former Napa city managers.

Known for a fabulous cheesecake recipe, Napa City Manager **Steve Potter** followed his 30-year law enforcement career with the Napa Police Department with a transition to city management. Steve was initially appointed Interim City Manager in July 2018 and the “interim” was remove in December 2018. Steve previously rose through the ranks of the police department to become Chief of Police in 2015. Steve earned an AA degree from Napa Valley College and has a BA too. He also attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



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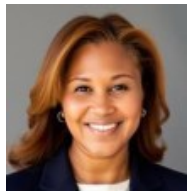


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California Managers in Cities from Mountain View to Needles



Patricia S. Thompson served as the Napa city manager from 1988 until her retirement in 2006. When she retired Pat had 30 years of city and county government service under her belt. Since her retirement she has completed a number of Interim City Manager assignments. She served as interim city manager in Novato (August 2008-April 2009), and Larkspur (September 2009-April 2020). From September 2010 until April 2011, Pat was the Interim Assistant City Manager for the city of Santa Rosa. She then took the Interim Town Manager position for the Town of Ross from October 2011 until July 2012. Pat began her public service career in 1976. In addition to the California jurisdictions she has worked for, she served Clark County, Nevada for seven years in a top management position. Pat earned a BA and MPA from San Diego State University, and then studies public policy analysis at Indiana University in Bloomington.



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Lee M. Roberts, Napa city manager from 1953 to 1971, died on Monday April 29, 2013, at his home in Sacramento at the age of 94. Lee was born in Oakland on February 11, 1919. Lee was an undergraduate student as the

University of California, Berkeley when World War II interrupted his education. He served in the United States Army and saw action in the Pacific. He was among the troops at Guadalcanal and later served as a radar operator on the Island of Tonga. He completed his degree and briefly attended UC Hastings School of Law in San Francisco. Through an internship arranged by the Coro Foundation, Lee was introduced to city management. He began his career as Assistant City Manager in Richmond and in Yuba City. In 1953 he was hired as the Napa city manager at the age of 34.



Here is a couple of retired city managers. The late **Joe Goeden** of West Sacramento and Montebello, and retired Sacramento city manager **John Shirey**.

John worked in Long Beach and served as the Cincinnati, Ohio city manager. This picture was taken by **Greg Korduner** at a "Proof of Life" lunch.



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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



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Michael "Mike" W. Parness served as the Napa city manager for nearly a dozen years (2006-2018). He retired in 2018. Mike previously served as the city manager for San Clemente (1989-2002) and Walnut Creek (2002-2006). He also worked for Renton, Washington. He was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). Mike earned a BA from the University of Santa Clara and an MPA from California State University, Hayward. Mike received a 45-Year ICMA Service Award in 2015. He currently resides in the city of Sisters, Oregon.



A "Proof of Life" lunch archive picture by retired city manager **Gregory Korduner**. Left to right are former Los Angeles County Supervisor **Don Knabe**, **Jack Simpson** and **Brandywine Homes** founder **Jim Barisic**.



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California Managers in Cities from Mountain View to Needles



National City was an original site where the native Indian population gathered along the Sweetwater River, which runs through the city limits of modern-day National City. In 1868, the Kimball brothers from

San Francisco, purchased the rancho that included the National Ranch..."Rancho de la Nacion." The Kimballs brought many trees to the area imported from Europe and Asia. National City incorporated in September 1887. The city's 2020 population is 56,173. **Scott Huth** is listed as the Interim City manager on the city's website, and **Shelley Chapel** is the City Clerk. The Human Resources Director is **Robert J. Meteau Jr.**, and the Community Services Director is **Mike Pacheco**.

Scott Huth is the interim city manager for the City of National City. He was hired to temporarily replace former city manager Ben Martinez to provide stability during a period of administrative transition. Scott worked 16 years as the Director of Public Services for the city of Coronado (1995-2011). Scott began his Del Mar city manager tenure in 2012. He worked in that position for eight years, leaving Del Mar in 2020. Scott earned a BA from San Diego State University and an MBA from the University of Redlands.

Benjamin Martinez served as the city manager for National City from 2023 to 2025, and **Armando Vergara** was city Manager in 2023. He passed away suddenly after his appointment in June 2023. **Brad Raulston** was city manager from late 2019 until May 2023, and **Leslie Deese** served as city manager for seven years between 2012 and 2019 when she retired. Chris Zapata preceded Leslie and served as city manager from 2004 and 2012. **Tom G. McCabe** held the city manager position for more than 23 years between 1979 and 2003. He was the chief executive officer and supervised city finances and operations. Tom retired in 2003.



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Michael Colantuono is Managing Shareholder, and currently is City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley. Michael is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and he is a leading expert in local government legal issues.

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

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California Managers in Cities from Mountain View to Needles



Needles is a city in San Bernardino County in the Mojave Desert. Needles was founded in May 1883 during the constructing of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. The city was named for the nearby pinnacle peaks in the

Mohave Mountains on the Arizona side of the Colorado River. Needles became a major stop on the historic U.S. Route 66 from the 1920s through the 1960s. Needles has become a tourism and recreation location on the Colorado River. The city is the eastern gateway to the Mojave National Preserve. **Patrick Martinez** is the city manager and **Candace Clark** is the city clerk. **Mark C. DeMay** is the Director of Finance and Administrative Services. **Rainie Torrance** is the Utility Manager, **Angelica Deermer** is the Housing Director, and the city planner is **Irene Romero**.



A nice archive picture of **Denise Pennell** and her husband, retired city manager, **Larry F. Pennell**. Denise retired in 2007 as the Clerk of the Board for the County of Kern. Larry retired in 2007 as city manager in Wasco. He served Fillmore, St. Helena and McFarland in interim city manager assignments since retiring.

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Needles City Manager **Patrick J. Martinez** joined the Needles city staff in November 2017 as the Director of Development Services. He was promoted to Assistant City Manager in September 2021, and in October 2023, Pat was appointed to the Needles city manager position. He earned a BS and an MPP from the University of Southern California (**USC**). He completed post graduate educational programs at **USC** and at California State University, Fresno. Pat is an ICMA Credentialed Manager, candidate. He is a past Chair of the USC Alumni Real Estate Network.

Mark DeMay is the Director of Finance and Administrative Services for the City of Needles. He started work as director in December 2025. Mark previously worked as the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Financial Services for the City of Laredo, Texas. He is a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). He earned a Master of Accountancy from Rutgers University.

"Happiness is not by chance, but by choice."

--**Emanuel James "Jim" Rohn**,
Motivational Speaker



Brandywine Homes is a residential homebuilder based in Irvine that specializes in challenging infill development. Founded in 1994, the family-owned and operated company has built or developed almost 600 homes in 21 small- and mid-sized infill communities, revitalizing and improving some of Southern California's oldest and most established neighborhoods. Brandywine builds homes that respect and complement the heritage, values and architectural integrity of existing neighborhoods and the people who live there.



James L. Barisic, the company Founder is a former Artesia City Manager, beginning his local government career as an Administrative Intern in Paramount. He also worked as Assistant City Manager in Cerritos. Jim is a Vietnam veteran.

"From day one, we have stayed true to our strategy, even though it was extremely tempting to go looking for targets of opportunity," says **Jim Barisic**. "The last time the market took off, many builders pursued large projects in outlying markets. Later, those same projects fell into distress, and everyone was chasing them. Both times, we took a hard look at our options and decided, 'Let's stick with what we know and do it better than anyone else.'



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Brett Whitehead is Principal and CEO of Irvine-based **Brandywine Homes**.



David Barisic, Principal Sales and Marketing



Alex Hernandez, President, Homebuilding Division

Brandywine Homes
 16580 Aston Street
 Irvine, California 92606-4805
Telephone: (949) 296-2400

Letters, notes and observations by readers:

Thanks for keeping us all in the loop. Sorry to see **Ed Wohlenberg** passed away - he was a serious professional with a dry sense of humor. I believe he was also a Range Rider - before we were re-titled Senior Advisors, LOL. Best wishes to you.

--**Jim Marshall**, Retired City Manager

Nice tribute to **Gene Rogers**. I miss my good friend. Thanks for keeping him in our memories.

--**Carlos Urrutia**, Retired City Manager

Carlos Urrutia Consulting

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Good picture of former city manager **Frank Tripepi's** 1970 Mach I Cobra in the last issue.

With regard to the Hank Greenberg statue picture, **Hank Greenberg** was a teammate and friend of my Uncle **Murray Franklin** on the Detroit Tigers. Greenberg was later General Manager for Cleveland and offered my uncle an opportunity to manage Cleveland. Uncle Murray humbly thanked him but electing to continue building his business, *Franklin Leather* in Compton, and manage American Legion baseball ⚾. After winning a championship on Catalina Island, my cousin Dell asked, "Dad, did you get more satisfaction managing American Legion baseball players vs pros?" Uncle Murray responded, "You bet your sweet a@* I did". Uncle Murray would leave his store to golf with his old baseball buddies on Thursdays at Rio Hondo, or Long Beach Big Rec. He shot a 69 at Rio Hondo (Dell gave me a putter with Uncle Murray's name engraved on it that he got after winning a tournament). He started as Commissioner of his own "Shoemakers Bowling League". It was a traveling league where he averaged 195. My brother Paul beat him one time for a \$1,000 sweepstakes. Paul rolled a 271 to Uncle Murray 269. Those baseball players have good "hand eye coordination" and play well in other sports.

--**Gregory Korduner**, Retired City Manager



Here are the late **Ray Harris** and **John Hammargren** enjoying lunch together.



Wesley Wolf, Jack Simpson and Gregory Korduner, three of the founders of the Southern California "Proof of Life" lunch program. The next lunch is on Thursday, June 25.

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. A locally popular black bear nicknamed "Blondie" by local residents in Monrovia, was euthanized by State wildlife officials on March 17, 2026, leaving two cubs orphans. Many Monrovia residents were distressed by the bear's death and held a memorial walk and vigil for the bear on March 21. Former actor **James Tolkan**, who played the principal who hates "slackers" in the original movie "Back to the Future" has died. He also played the commanding officer **Tom "Stinger" Jardian** in "Top Gun." He was born in Calumet, Michigan, but graduated high school in Tucson, Arizona, and then had a short career in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.



Anthony D. Gonsalves of **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**, and the late Lakewood City Manager **Howard Chambers** in 2014. The late **Joe Gonsalves** was a Mayor and Council Member in Dairy Valley, which is now Cerritos. He served in the California State Assembly. After he left the legislature, he founded his professional representation, lobbyist and government affairs firm, **Joe A. Gonsalves & Son** in 1975. Howard was Lakewood city manager for 41 years until his retirement in August 2017.



Picking Up the Pieces: Many “Thanks” to Industry City Manager **Joshua Nelson** for pointing out our error with regards to the city manager position start date of the Glendora city manager. Former Riverside Chief Financial Officer **Adam Raymond** began his Glendora city manager tenure on September 4, 2018. 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. San Dimas City Manager **Brad McKinney**, appointed in October 2024, played college baseball at Azusa Pacific University. Brad’s wife, **Janay McKinney**, is a well-known professional soccer player and coach. Brad previously held positions in Alhambra, Rosemead, Claremont and Anaheim. He earned a BA and MBA from Azusa Pacific University. Brad is not related to the legendary California city manager and longtime CCMF past President **Wade McKinney**. Starting May 4, 2026, **Sean Charpentier** will be the city of Pacifica city manager. Sean succeeds City Manager **Kevin Woodhouse**, who has retired. Sean has been serving as the Executive Director of the City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo County. He worked as the Assistant City Manager for the City of East Palo Alto from April 2015 to February 2018. Sean earned a BA from Clark University and a Masters from the University of California, Berkeley. **Michael Hodson** is the new City Administrator for the City of Angels Camp effective March 30 succeeding **Steve Williams**. He served as the Commanding Officer for the United States Marine Corp at MCRD San Diego (2012-2014). He served as Assistant Superintendent in Business Services for the Walnut Valley Unified School District (2015-2017) and a similar position with the Marysville Joint Unified School District (2017-2019). He spent six and a half years as a Rancher/Business Owner, and in 2021-2022 he worked for the Solana Beach School District. In December 2022 he took the Director of General Services post for Butte County. Mike earned a BS from California State University, Chico, and an MBA from Webster University, and an MA from U.S. Naval War College. **Yvonne Kimball**, who moved to the United States from China at age 26, is the new city manager for the City of Williams succeeding longtime City Administrator **Frank Kennedy**. Yvonne previously served as the city manager for the cities of Morro Bay (2023-2025) and Jackson (2017-2023). Prior to coming to California, Yvonne served as the Town Manager for Dewey-Humboldt, Arizona and city manager for the city of Bowling Green, Florida. She was an Intern in Palm Bay, Titusville, and Satellite Beach, Florida (2006-2008). Yvonne earned an MPA from the University of Central Florida.



Former Rosemead City Manager **William A. Crowe** retired in December 2010 as the El Segundo Assistant City Manager. Bill began his local government career in 1975 as an Administrative Assistant in the City of Paramount with then-City Manager **Harry Bond**. Bill was promoted Administrative Services

in 1978 and then Assistant City Manager in 1979. He served as Acting City Manager in Paramount for a time in 1980 before he joined the staff of then-Los Angeles County Supervisor **Peter Schabarum** as a Deputy Supervisor. Bill worked with the county for 10-years. In 1995 he served Unisys as a Business Development Manager in the private sector. In October 1999 Bill joined the Rosemead city staff as the Director of Administrative Services and he was appointed City Manager in May 2002. Bill left Rosemead in 2006 to join the El Segundo staff as the Assistant City Manager. Bill earned a BS and an MPA from the University of Southern California (**USC**). In 2005 he was the recipient of a 20-year ICMA Service Award. Bill is a regular participant of the “Proof of Life” lunch program.

Hemet City Manager **Mark Prestwich** is retiring effective May 4, 2026. Mark started his Hemet city manager tenure in February 2023. After serving in assistant positions in Napa and Sacramento, Mark served as city manager in Nevada City, St. Helena, and Palos Verdes Estates, before returning to his home city of Hemet. Mark is a graduate of Hemet High School. Mark is a past President of the Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC); 2007. He earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. Alameda Interim City **Adam Politzer** was appointed to his current position in December 2025 following the departure of City Manager **Jennifer Ott**. Adam, among other local government positions, served more than 13 years as the city manager for the city of Sausalito. Since, he has worked as Interim City Manager in several cities, including Emeryville, Fairfax and Clayton. There are now three “Jack’s” serving as city managers in cities in California since **Jackie Rocco** was appointed West Hollywood city manager in January 2026. The other two are **Jack Griffin**, who worked for San Marcos, and **Jack Castro**, who served as city manager and city treasurer for the city of Huron. Historical there was **Jack McGrory**, who was the San Diego city manager from 1991 to 1997, and the legendary **LeRoy “Jack” Jackson**, who was a longtime legendary city manager for the city of Torrance. He retired in 2020 after a 54-year career with the city. Also, there was **Jack A. Simpson** who was city manager for Hawaiian Gardens, Paramount and Bellflower between 1969 and 1993.



Still More Pieces Picked Up: Monrovia City Manager **Dylan Feik** confirmed that a mother black bear nicknamed "Blondie" is dead. The State wildlife officials killed the bear making her two cubs orphaned. The mother bear reportedly injured two people in separate incidents in less than a year. The wildlife officials opted to euthanize the black bear rather than relocate it.

California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) awarded the 2025 Award of Excellence in Park Planning to the City of Tulare's efforts developing Zumwalt Park and the Adventist Health Amphitheater. The award recognition was presented at the CPRS Conference May 12 in Long Beach. The Tulare city manager is **Marc Mondell**. Marc worked in Florida before coming to California to serve as Assistant City Manager and Director of Economic and Community Development for the city of Rocklin in January 2015. Marc was appointed Tulare city manager starting in September 2021. Former San Pablo City Manager **Rory C. Robinson** (December 1942-September 2000). He served as the San Pablo city manager from October 1988 until his death in 2000. Rory previously worked as the city manager of the cities of Cotati (1979-1981) and Arcata (1981-1988). He began his public service career in Pasadena, Carpinteria and Santa Barbara. He was a recipient of a 1987 ICMA Innovation Award. Rory earned a BA from California State University, Northridge and an MA from Occidental College. Rory passed away at home at the age of 57 following a battle with cancer. Rory was known as a very positive person. A national list of LocalGov250 was issued by the National Academy of Public Administration honoring the best of the best. California officials listed include **Alexander Fung**, Economic Development Manager, Eastvale; Moreno Valley City Manager **Brian Mohan**; **Dennis Kauffman**, Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, Roseville; **Jennifer Contini**, Chief Assistant City Attorney, Anaheim; **Jon Givner**, Chief Assistant City Attorney, San Francisco; **Juliana Lucchesi**, Assistant City Manager, City of Yreka; **Magda Gonzalez**, Retired, City of Half Moon Bay; **Patricia Martel**, West Coast Regional Director, ICMA; and **Rivkah Sass**, CEO Sacramento Public Library.



SHORTS: *Indio city manager **Bryan Montgomery** will retire this summer after working in Indio for about five years and accompany his wife as a missionary to Latin America for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *Former Huntington Beach city manager **Ray Silver** served as President of the City Managers'

Department of the League of California Cities in 2002-2003. *Hawthorne, where **Vontray "Von" Norris** is the city manager, is the 84th member city of the California



A Sincere "Trackdown" congratulations and best wishes on the wedding of **Taylor Gonsalves** and **Zack Pollack**. Sincere wishes for a long and happy life together.

Contract Cities Association (CCCA), where **Marcel Rodarte** is the Executive Director. ***Brett Channing**, Corona Assistant City Manager, is the President-elect for Cal-ICMA. *Temecula Assistant City Manager **Kevin Hawkins** has retired after 35-years of public service in the cities of Inglewood, San Bernardino and Temecula, and Deputy City Manager **Luke Watson** succeeded him effective March 7. *Retired Yorba Linda City Manager **Arthur Simonian** served in the Yorba Linda city manager position for 27 years until September 1999. *Retired Pacific city manager **Kevin Woodhouse**, who served as city manager from October 2017 until his retirement in March 2026, has been a supporter and coach for the Local Governance Summer Institute (LGSi) Program at Stanford University. *The late **William "Bill" Holt** held various position in Garden Grove, La Habra, La Mirada, Colton, and Santa Fe Springs prior to serving as Paramount city manager for 14-years starting in 1980 and retiring as the Executive Director of the **California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA)** in 2002. ***Bill Garrett**, a retired city manager who served the cities of El Cajon and Corona, was a longtime Executive Director for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). *Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Fesia Davenport** resigned effective April 16, stepping down following months on medical leave, and the County continues to face questions on the \$2 million payout approved to her. *Long Beach Millikan High School alumnus **Marlene (Tomlin) Towns**, who previously worked for the city of Bellflower and with **Willdan**, currently lives in the City of Carlsbad. *Former Stockton Interim City Manager **Steve Colangelo** is a two-time former President of the major regional cultural event, the Stockton Asparagus Festival. *Foster City Assistant City Manager **Marlene Subhashini** is a recognized professional artist with her work, including exquisite paintings of owls, displayed in the Foster City Art Gallery. ***Mary Gourley**, longtime Sebastopol City Clerk, who serves as the Interim City Manager, spent more than a decade with the Department of the United States Army before joining the ranks of city management. *Long Beach City Manager **Tom Modica** enjoys cooking, traveling and managing a household with large mastiff dogs. *Long-time Claremont city employee, **Adam Pirrie** became Acting City Manager in October 2020 following the resignation of City Manager **Tara Schultz**, and he was appointed city manager in February 2021. ***Laura Snideman** began her tenure as the South San Francisco city manager in January 2026. ***Stephen Agostini**, a former **UCLA** CFO, has been named to be the new Culver City CFO. ***



“Proof of Life” participants: March 26, 2026 “Proof of Life” lunch in [La Mirada](#).

Greg Korduner, retired [Huntington Park](#) City Manager. Greg is one of the Founders of the “Proof of Life” lunch program. He served as City Manager in [El Monte](#) and [South El Monte](#). He worked for [Norwalk](#) and [Artesia](#). He served as Interim City Manager in [La Habra Heights](#) and [Los Alamitos](#). Greg is an avid golfer and sports fan. He is an Angels and Dodgers Major League Baseball fan.

Ron Molendyk, former [Lake Elsinore](#) City Manager (1984-1997) and Interim City Manager in [Perris](#). Ron took delivery of a 2023 Corvette C8 Stingray on September 25, 2022. He is a past President of the Orange County Corvette Club.

Jim DeStefano, retired [Diamond Bar](#) City Manager. Jim was Community Development Director for [Chino Hills](#) when he was appointed [Diamond Bar](#) City Manager in July 2006. Jim retired in July 2017.

Tom Robinson, retired [La Mirada](#) City Manager (2008-2013). Tom previously served [Commerce](#) and [Cerritos](#). Since retirement he served as Interim City Manager and Assistant City Manager in [La Habra Heights](#). Tom is a Certified Management Consultant with his TR Management Services,

Lloyd de Llamas is a co-founder of **HdL Companies** with the late former city manager **Robert Hinderliter**. Lloyd received a 30-year ICMA Service Award in 1993. He served as city manager in [Woodlake](#) (1968-1971), [Lawndale](#) (1971-1976) and [Monterey Park](#) (1976-1987).

Bill Crowe worked for [Paramount](#) (1975-1980), including time as Interim City Manager, before joining the staff of L.A. County Supervisor **Pete Schabarum** (1980-1990). He served as the [Rosemead](#) City Manager (2002-2006) before serving until retiring as [El Segundo](#) Assistant City Manager.

Mike Egan retired as [Norwalk](#) city manager (2011-2017) after serving as [Bellflower](#) city manager. Since retiring, Mike served Interim City Manager assignments in [Artesia](#) 2022 and [La Palma](#) in 2025. He is a Director with **Tripepi Smith** consultants.

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

Jim Barisic, a former City of [Artesia](#) City Manager, who worked in [Paramount](#) and [Cerritos](#). He served in Vietnam as an officer in the U.S. Army. He is the founder of **Brandywine Homes**.

Bill Pagett is a retired Senior Vice President with Willdan Engineering. He was the City Engineer for [Paramount](#) and other cities and quite helpful to many city managers through his 50-year career. Bill is famous nationally in boat racing circles to legendary status as a fearless past National K-Boat Champion.

Chris J. Jeffers became the [Glendora](#) city manager in 2007. He joined the [South Gate](#) city staff as city manager, first as Interim, and retired in December 2023. He took the [Monterey Park](#) city manager position in 1991 and served 16. Years.

Jorge Rifa served as the city of [Commerce](#) City Administrator from 2008 until his retirement in 2017. He previously served more than 20 years with the city of [Salinas](#) in Monterey County, leaving there as the longtime Deputy City Manager. Jorge earned an MPA from **USC**.

Vern Lawson retired as [Lancaster](#) Economic Development Director. He worked 17 years as the Executive Director of the Lancaster Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) after he had served as city manager in the cities of [Lancaster](#) and [Walnut](#). Vern is a **UCLA** alumnus and a recognized excellent bass fisherman.

Glenn Southard, a [San Clemente](#) resident, is a well-respected veteran manager. He retired as City Manager for [Indio](#) and [Claremont](#). Former ACM in [San Juan Capistrano](#) and worked in [West Covina](#) and [Riverside](#). Glenn is one of the Founders of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).

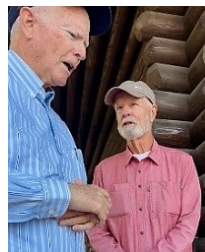
Steve Harding was the first [Jurupa Valley](#) city manager, and was city manager for the cities of [Murrieta](#), [Menifee](#) and [San Jacinto](#). He also had positions with [Santa Ana](#), [Bell Gardens](#), [Lancaster](#) and [Azusa](#). He is an instructor for the University of California, Riverside.

Robert R. “Bud” Ovrom began his public service career in [Simi Valley](#) in 1970. He served as city manager in [Monrovia](#) (1977-1983), [Downey](#) (1983-1985) and [Burbank](#) (1985-2003). He worked various positions for [Los Angeles](#) starting in 2003, including Deputy Mayor (2005-2010). Bud received a 35-year ICMA Service Award in 2013. He and his wife Denise are affiliated with the University of Southern California (**USC**).

Denise E. Ovrom was the Assistant City Manager in Beverly Hills (1995-2001). She retired as a Principle with **HdL Companies**. She served as the city manager for the City of [Temple City](#) (1990-1994) and Assistant City Manager in [Brea](#) (1984-1990). Denise began her career as an Administrative Assistant in [Simi Valley](#) in 1972.

Jon Shull is a retired Executive Director for the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA) where he worked 28 years (1995-2023) with the Authority; 21 years as CEO. He previously worked for [Signal Hill](#) and [Cerritos](#).

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



“Proof of Life” lunches are opportunities to share time and socialize with former colleagues. No one understands the challenges of the city manager craft like those who have served as a city manager. **Bill Crowe** and **Vern Lawson** at the **North Woods Inn Restaurant** in [La Mirada](#). The next “Proof of Life” lunch will be on Thursday, June 25, 2026, same venue.