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 City Management Community"

May 2026 Special

Volume No. 20 | Issue No. 9

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



Lisa Yanez Hughes and **Rich Pierces** of the Bellflower "1980's Era" executive team. Lisa work with recreation before working in the administrator's office, and she went on to work in the Anaheim city manager's office for 24-years. Lisa retired in December 2021. Rich retired as the Bellflower Parks and Recreation Director in July 2012. The primary ball diamond at Caruther Park is named "Rich Pierce Field" in his honor.

California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley

This Special May 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown includes information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of [Norwalk](#), [Novato](#), [Oakdale](#), [Oakland](#), and [Oakley](#).

City executives in this issue include the city manager for Norwalk **Jesus M. Gomez**. **Amy Cunningham** is the city manager in Novato, **Jerry Ramar** is the City Manager in Oakdale, **Jestin Johnson** is the City Administrator in the city of Oakland, and **Joshua McMurray** is the City Manager for the city of Oakley.

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

<p>ANTHONY D. GONSALVES JASON A. GONSALVES PAULA A. GONSALVES</p>			
<p>RICHARDS WATSON GERSHON</p>			

California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley



Norwalk is among the Gateway Cities. The community was founded in the late 19th century. By 1873, railroads reached into the area and a passenger stop brought the town site the name Norwalk. The farm-like community remained mostly undeveloped during the late 1880s. A town site was surveyed in 1873. Dairies and sugar beet farms were Norwalk successes. The city was incorporated in August 1957. The 2020 population is 102,773. **Jesus M. Gomez** is the current Norwalk city manager, and **Osbaldo “Ozzie” Ramos** is the Deputy City Manager. **Roxanne Diaz** is the Norwalk city attorney. **Albert Mendoza** is the Public Services Director, **Allan Perdomo** is Recreation and Park Services Director, and **Jesenia Sanchez** is the Human Resources Manager.



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.

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Alexander Smith is the **CJPIA** Chief Executive Officer. This is the front entrance to the **CJPIA** campus.



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

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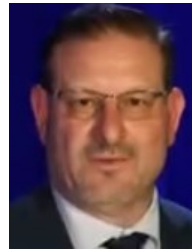


Anthony Gonsalves, President of the firm, is a long time Member of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) Board of Trustees.

Jason & Paul Gonsalves are recognized local Government legislation professionals.

Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
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California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley



Jesus M. Gomez began his public service career as a Planning Intern in 1989 for the City of Norwalk. He was hired by Norwalk and worked the next ten years for Norwalk in management and administrative capacities. Jesus worked as an investment banker with *Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios* from 2005 to 2008, and he worked as a fiscal management consultant for a year. In November 2009, Jesus joined the El Monte city staff as Economic Development Director. He was appointed Assistant City Manager in 2010, and he was elevated to El Monte City Manager in 2015. Jesus changed venues in January 2018, when he was hired to serve as city manager for the city of Norwalk. He earned an AA degree from Cerritos Community College and a BA in finance from California State University, Fullerton.



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Alexander Smith
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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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- Vern Lawson**, Retired, City of Lancaster
- Robert T. "Bob" Dickey**, Retired South Gate DPW
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- Rita Geldert**, Retired City Manager, Vista,
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- Donald Duckworth**, Retired City Manager
- Richard Rowe**, Retired City Manager

Posse Roster:

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- 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
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- Robert "Bud" Ovrom**, Retired City Manager
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- Ron Molendyk**, Retired City Manager, Lake Elsinore
- Kevin Duggan**, Retired City Manager, Mountain View
- Gary Milliman**, Retired City Manager, Brookings, Oregon
- Jim Lewis**, City Manager, City of Atascadero
- Donald Jeffers**, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
- Wayne Wedin**, Retired City Manager, Brea
- Karen Herrera**, Retired Deputy City Manager, Duarte
- David Jenkins**, Retired City Manager, & CC So. Lake Tahoe
- Laura Behjan**, Retired Simi Valley, City Manager

Contributor Roster:

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

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California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley

Norwalk has had an amazing list of former professional city managers, beginning with the city's first City Administrator **E. Fredrick Bien** in 1957. The list includes **M. D. "Mac" McKeown**, **Dr. Bill Kraus**, **Richard McDowell**, **Dick Streng**, **Ernie Garcia**, and **Michael "Mike" Egan** (August 2011-September 2017). **James Parker** served as Interim City Manager following Mike's departure and before the appointment of **Jesus M. Gomez** in February 2018.

Fred Bien started in Pittsburg, Kansas and Puyallup, Washington' prior to being hired to serve as the Monterey Park city manager in 1955. Following his 11-years of service to Norwalk (1957-1968), Fred went on to serve as City Administrator in Carson (1968-1982), where he retired after 14-years. Fred became an Interim City Manager specialist and served the cities of Westlake Village (1981-1982), San Fernando (1982), Agoura Hills (1982-1983), West Hollywood (1984-1985) and Santa Clarita (1987-1988). Fred retired again in June 1988. He earned a BS and MPA from the University of Kansas, and he earned a 30-year ICMA Service Award in 1981.



Ernie Garcia served as the Norwalk city manager from May 1994 until he retired in June 2011. Ernie on the far right posing with **Tom Robinson**, and **Linda Benedetti-Leal**, former Paramount city manager.

City Manager **Mike Egan** came to Norwalk (2011-2017) following highly successful city manager service in Bellflower (1997-2011). Since leaving Norwalk, Mike has served as Interim City Manager for the cities of Artesia (2022) and La Palma (2025). He works as a member of Team **Tripepi Smith**.

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

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These Trackdown Daughters have kept us in smiles and pride. This picture of Casey and Samantha was taken in 2006. They grew up attending city functions.



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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 City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley



Novato began pulling together after the 1839 land grants were distributed. Novato is in the North San Francisco Bay area in Marin County. Novato's first post office opened in 1856, closed in 1860 and re-opened in 1891. A railroad built in 1879 connected Novato to Sonoma County and San Rafael. **Amy Cunningham** (no relation to **Sophie Cunningham** of the Indiana Fever WNBA team), **William Rose** and **Carla Hansen** are Assistant City Managers and **Carla Carvalho-DeGraff** is the Finance Director. **Clare Hartman** is the Community Development Director, and the Public Works Director is **Chris Benigni**.



Novato City Manager **Amy B. Cunningham** began her public service career working for the City of Dublin, California in August 2010 as a Budget Manager. She took the added responsibility of Assistant to the City Manager in August 2011 and took that position as her sole responsibility in July 2013. In October 2015, Amy took the Administrative Services Director job for the Town of Moraga. In January 2018, she started a similar position for the City of Walnut Creek. In 2019 Amy worked in Half Moon Bay, as Interim Administrative Services Manager, and in February 2020 she became the Finance Director for the City of Novato. Amy took the Administrative Services Director position in Novato in August 2022. She was appointed city manager starting in May 2024. Amy earned a BA and MPA from California State University, East Bay.

A list of former Novato city managers includes **J. Michael Paules** (1960-1968), **Phillip Brown** (1974-1992), **Roderick "Rod" J. Wood** (1992-2004), **Daniel E. Keen** (August 2004-August 2008), **Michael S. Frank** (2009-2015), **Regan Candelario** (2016-2019), and **Adam McGill** (2019-2023). **Rod Wood** left Novato to take the Beverly Hills city manager position.

"Dream as big as you can dream, and anything is possible."

---**Michael Phelps**, Olympic Champion

California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley



Oakdale is a Stanislaus County community founded in 1871 as a railroad junction . It has been called the “Cowboy Capital of the World” with its deep-rooted rodeo history. The city started as an agricultural settlement and transitioned into ranching, and food processing. The 1909 Oakdale Irrigation District proved the necessary water for local farming, dairy farming and almond orchards. Oakdale incorporated in November 1906. Its 2020 population is 23,181. **Jerry Ramar** is the city manager and **Patrick Mondragon** is the city clerk and assistant to the city manager and Human Resources Director. **Jeff Gravel** is the Public Services Director, and **Albert Avila** is the Finance Director.



After a long law enforcement career, including service as Oakdale Chief of Police, **Jerry Ramar** was appointed Interim City Manager in March 2025. He became Oakdale city manager formally in July 2025. Jerry changed careers in 2002 when he went from the restaurant business to becoming a Patrol Officer with the San Jose Police Department. From 2004 until 2019, Jerry work with the Modesto Police Department. He joined the Oakdale Police Department in March 2019. Jerry earned a BS in criminal justice and police supervision from the Union Institute & University.

Former Oakdale city managers include **Bryan Whitemyer** (2013-2025). Bryan left the city in 2025 to accept the city manager position in Folsom. He worked in Modesto, Patterson and Hughson prior to his Oakdale service. **Chuck Deschene**, **Stan Feathers**, **Greg Wellman** and **Dee Tatum** all served “interim” city manager assignments. **Steven L. Hallam** served as the Oakdale city manager from 2006 until 2011.

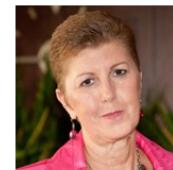


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California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley



Oakland, the county seat of Alameda County, is the 8th most populous city in the State of California. The Port of Oakland is the busiest port in Northern California. In the early 1800s the area that is now Oakland was used for farmland and timber. In 1870, Oakland's Lake Merritt became the first officially designated wildlife refuge in the U. S. The lake is now a National Historic Landmark. Oakland incorporated in in May 1852. The city's 2020 population is 440,646. **Jestin Johnson** was the Oakland City Administrator, appointed in 2023, he resigned in May 2026.



Elizabeth "Betsy" Lake is the Acting City Administrator for the city of Oakland, following the resignation of City Administrator **Jestin Johnson** due to inappropriate text messages. Jestin was appointed Oakland City Administrator in June 2023. Jestin previously served as the Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the city of Atlanta, Georgia. **Betsy Lake** worked as an Equity Partner for a global law firm from July 2005 until March 2018, when she joined the Oakland city staff as Deputy City Administrator. After a little more than three years, Betsy was elevated to Assistant City Administrator starting May 2021. Following **Jestin Johnson**'s resignation, Betsy was appointed Acting City Administrator.



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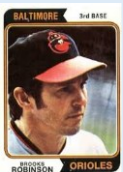
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"If you're not practicing, somebody else is, somewhere, and he'll be ready to take your job."

--**Brooks Robinson**



Members of the *California Contract Cities Association* gathered in Indian Wells this month at their annual Municipal Seminar. **Marcel Rodarte** was honored for his years as Executive Director. Picture by **Natalie Salazar**.

California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley

Jerome Keithley had a storied City Manager career. He served as City Manager in Stockton (1949-1950); Palo Alto (1950-1966); Oakland (1966-1972); and Glendale (1972-1978). He served as the President of the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities in (1968-1969). Jerry also was a Regional Vice President on the ICMA Board (1973-1975). Following his retirement he lived in Rancho Mirage.



John A. Russo was President of the League of California Cities (2002-2003) during his time as the first elected Oakland City Attorney. He was later honored by the League with its Past John Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award. John served as city manager for the cities of Alameda (2011-2015), Riverside (2015-2018) and Irvine (2018-2020). Currently, John is the Principal Consultant and Founder of Synchronicity Associates. He earned a BA from Yale University and a Doctor of Law (J.D.) from New York University School of Law.

Unfortunately, the successes of Oakland professional MLB, NBA and NFL teams have come to an end for the time being as the teams have relocated. The significant former accomplishments must be noted, though. The NFL professional football team the Oakland Raiders won the Super Bowl in 1977 (defeated the Minnesota Vikings 32-14), and in 1982 (defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 27-10). The Oakland Athletics won the MLB World Series 4 times: 1972 (defeated the Cincinnati Red 4-3), 1973 (defeated the New York Mets 4-3), 1974 (defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-1, and in 1989 (they swept the San Francisco Giants 4 games to 0). Hall of Fame baseball player **Reggie Jackson** played on all three of the 1970s championships, and he was the World Series MVP in 1973. **Steph Curry** played on three NBA championship teams while the Golden State Warriors were based in Oakland in 2015, 2017, and 2018. The team played homes games at Oracle Arena in Oakland before they relocated to Chase Center in San Francisco.



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Retired Indian Wells and Atascadero city manager **Wade McKinney** in Moab, Utah, as he and Cheryl return home to Missouri after a visit to some of their favorite California locations. (May 2026)



Chairman **Jim L. Barisic**, former Artesia City Manager who also served the cities of Cerritos and Paramount, is a Viet Nam



veteran, founded **Brandywine** in 1994.

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California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley

Former Governor **Jerry Brown** served as the mayor of the city of Oakland from January 1999 to January 2007. He was both the oldest and sixth-youngest governor of California due to the 28-year gap between his second and third terms of office. Jerry was born in San Francisco. His father **Pat Brown** was the 32nd governor of California (1959-1967).



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Retired Huntington Park city manager **Greg Korduner** and former city manager and founder of **Brandywine Homes**, **Jim Barisic**, at a "Proof of Life" lunch.



The next "**Proof of Life**" program lunch is planned for **Thursday, June 25, 2026**. Please save the date and prepare to RSVP your attendance to:

jack@trackdownmanagement.net

California City Executives in Cities from Norwalk to Oakley



Oakley is in Contra Costa County, one of the nine-counties that make up the San Francisco Bay Area. The abundance of oak trees in the area led to the city's name of Oakley. The city's founder **Randolph C. Marsh** wanted to name the city "Dewey" for Admiral George Dewey. His friend **Joel D. Wightman** Preferred "Oakley." To make the name selection they battled it out over a game of cribbage. Oakley incorporated as a general law city in July 1999. The 2020 population of Oakley is 43,357. **Joshua McMurray** was appointed Oakley city manager in 2008, and **Danielle Navarro** is the Assistant City Manager. **Kim Snodgrass** is the City Clerk, and **Jeri Tejada** is the Administrative Services Director. The Chief of Police is **Paul Beard**. **Ken Strelo** is the Oakley Planning Manager.

Joshua McMurray began his public service career as a Planner with the city of San Diego in 2004. He also worked as an Associate Planner for the city of Santee from January 2006 until August 2008. Joshua went to work for the city of Oakley in September 2008 as a Senior Planner. He worked his way up in the Oakley staff organization becoming the Housing and Economic Development Analyst in May 2013, Planning Manager in February 2015 and Community and Economic Development Director in May 2019. Josh was appointed Interim City Manager in May 2021 and hired as the City Manager in November 2021. He earned a BA and MPA from San Diego State University.

Michael Oliver served as the first city manager for the city of Oakley starting in April 1999. Mike went to work for San Leandro in June 1972 and left there as city manager in 1996 to become the Citrus Heights city manager. Mike left Oakley in 2005 to pursue a consultant career. **Bryan Montgomery** began his local government career in 1993 in Utah and worked in New Mexico, Idaho and Nevada before joining the Oakley staff in 2005. He is retiring as Indio city manager, serving from May 2021 to 2026.



Cypress resident **Dani Beebe** (granddaughter) graduated with a Master's degree from California State University, Fresno. She is sandwiched here between Aunts Chip and Sam.



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California Contract Cities Association



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Gracie Lewis, daughter of Atascadero city manager **Jim Lewis** and his wife Debi, at a formal signing day for her college selection, the University of Nevada, Reno. She is headed to a storied neuroscience study program.

City of Beverly Hills Former City Managers...

Years Served	City Manager
1952 to 1963	John B. Wentz , (Deceased 2003)
1964 to 1966	Lyman Cozad , (Deceased 2001)
1966 to 1971	Lohn R. Ficklin , (Deceased 1992)
1971 to 1978	George E. Morgan , (Des'd 2008))
1978 to 1979	John N. Matzer, Jr. , (Des'd 2002)
1979 to 1990	Edward S. Kreins ,
1990 to 2003	Mark Scott ,
2004 to 2010	Roderick Wood ,
2010 to 2015	Jeffrey C. Kolin ,
2015 to 2019	Mahdi Aluzri ,
2019 to 2022	George Chavez ,
2023 to pres.	Nancy Hunt-Coffey ,

"The number one thing fans want is affordability. They want safety, and they want a good experience when they come to the ballpark. Believe it or not, winning is not in their top five."

---**Arte Moreno**, Owner of the MLB Angels, Anaheim

Letters, notes and observations by readers:

Thanks. Good one, the May 2026 issue. Interesting regarding, **Leonard Chaidez**, and pic(s) of me & Gonzo, plus the one of Frank & Raul bring back memories. There is some good **HdL Companies** stuff; didn't know **Ken Nordoff** is a principal there. Interesting bio regarding CM of Nevada City, **Carrie J. Wright**. The picture of "Pieter" on guitar hits a cord. **J. Kimball Walker** was on my softball team in 1977 at La Mirada Regional Park with **Eddie Drayer**, **Judge Hanki**, **Frank Vicencia**, and Commissioner **Steve Burnett**, my brother-in-law (then a Bailiff/LA Marshall), future judge and **Burt Barnett**. Walker & Vicencia were good hitters. I would worry about Walker running to 1st as he was recovering from heart surgery. Eddie played shortstop and I was the third baseman. Eddie found it hard to continue playing after he was elected to the Bellflower City Council. He was a good athlete. Nice touch on memory of our "Proof of Life" luncheon friends. Gee, I overlooked news about **Keene Wilson**.

---**Greg Korduner**, Retired city manager

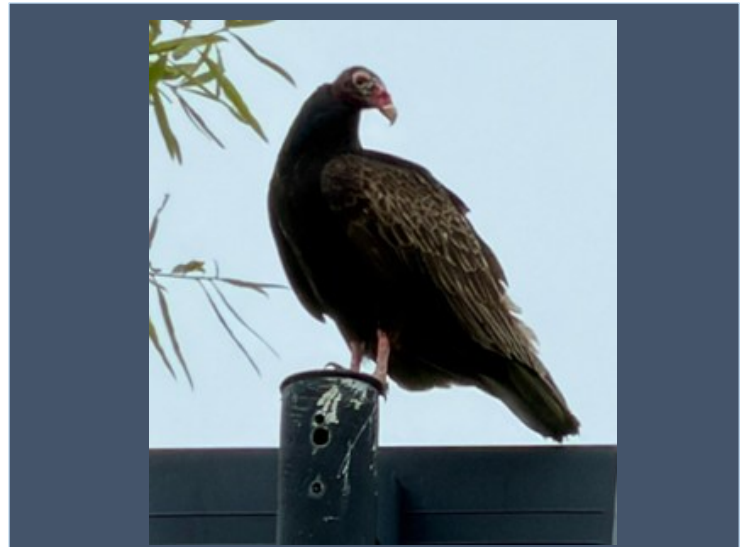
The section on remembering those "Proof of Life" participants who have passed on was sobering. Did not know about **Rich Pierce**'s injuries either. Thanks for passing on the news. Facing the challenges of getting older is not for sissies. Be well my friend!!

---**Mike Sakamoto**, Retired city manager



Picking Up the Pieces: Indio appointed **Jonathan Nicks** to succeed City Manager **Bryan Montgomery**, whose final day with the city will be June 12 as he retires. Jon has been the Indio Assistant City Manager since September 2024. Prior to joining the Indio staff, Jon worked in Menifee, for the Orange County Parks and Community Services and the city of

Placentia. He earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. Irvine City Manager **Sean Crumbly** was appointed in July 2025. He announced his retirement to be in August 2026, with his final day of employment to be August 14. Sean followed City Manager **Oliver Chi**, who left the position to accept the Santa Monica City Manager job. After beginning his career with private sector positions, Sean became a Civil Engineer for the city of Newport Beach in November 2000. He worked in Seal Beach and Stanton and left the Seal Beach post of Director of Public Works in 2015 to work as a Deputy Director of Public Works/City Engineer for Long Beach. He took the Huntington Beach job of Director of Public Works in August 2020 and joined the Irvine city staff in April 2023 as Director of Project Delivery and Sustainability. Sean earned a BS in civil engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. Long-time Laguna Beach city manager (1979-2010), **Kenneth Frank** has passed away at his Laguna Beach home at the age of 82. Ken was appointment Laguna Beach city manager in September 1979, after working with the League of California Cities and as Assistant City Manager for the city of Berkeley from 1975 to 1979. At Ken's retirement in December 2010, his tenure as city manager of 31 years was among the longest in State history. Ken was born in San Francisco. He earned a BA in economics and political science from San Francisco State College, and an MPA from the University of California, Berkeley. He was honored by the city of Laguna Beach by naming the *Ken Franks View Park* for him. Lassen county seat, Susanville, is the only incorporated city within the county. Effective in May 2026, City Manager **Dan Newton** moved on to become the Public Works Director for Tehama County. The Deputy City Manager for Susanville is **Jolene Arredondo**. Dan earned a BS in chemistry and an MBA from California State University, Chico. The city is recruiting for a new city manager. Richmond City Manager **Shasa Curl** will retire this year. She was appointed to the Richmond city manager position in April 2022 after starting as Interim City Manager in November 2021. After Shasa worked for the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, she joined the staff of the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency in 2003. She came to work for the Richmond City Manager's Office in 2011, and eventually was appointed Deputy City Manager.



This turkey vulture was observed cleaning carrion from the roadway. A public works helper. The picture was taken by Trackdown daughter **Casey Simpson**.

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

Bodega Bay was the site of the first Russian structures built in California in 1809. Bodega Bay was called Port Remyantsev by the Russians. It became the support port for Fort Ross and the Russian community known as Colony Ross. MLB Angels' outfielder **Garrett Anderson** died on April 16, 2026, at the age of 53 due to a severe form of pancreatic inflammation. He retired from the Major League Baseball field in 2011 and was named to the team's Hall of Fame in 2016. "GA" remains the Angels' all-time leader in Games Played: 2,013; Hits: 2,013; RBI's: 1,292; Total Bases: 3,743; Extra Base Hits: 796; Doubles: 489; and the single game record of 10 RBI in a single August 21, 2007, game against the New York Yankees. Retired Laguna Niguel City Manager **Tim Casey** was the focus of an article by Orange County Register writer **Teri Sforza** in December 2022, that proclaimed that the uninitiated often assume that *mayors* run cities. Wrong! Only five of California's 480+ cities have the "strong mayor" model. In the other 475+ cities, it's the *city manager* who runs the show. And, that show can often be a circus (author's words, not Casey's!). City managers must juggle the aspirations (and oft-fragile egos) of elected city council members who decide the policy "whats," while the city managers and staffers must provide the "hows" — within the limits imposed by law, reality and general physics. **Kyle Busch**, 41 year old two-time NASCAR Cup Series Champion, who won more races across the sport's three national series than any other driver in history died during a hospital visit earlier this month. Kyle is a future Hall of Famer. He is a Las Vegas native. Rest in Peace, **Kyle "Rowdy" Busch**.





More Pieces Picked Up: City Manager **Patrick Heisinger** of Redwood City, joined the City Manager's Office in March 2023. In December 2006 he went to work as the Housing and Redevelopment Programs Manager in the County of Santa Cruz Planning Department. In June 2011 he was hired

as the Housing Programs Manager of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara. In June 2012 he became the Division Manager for Multifamily Production and Preservation for the City of San Jose. In May 2018 he went to work for the City of East Palo Alto as Housing Manager. He was appointed Assistant City Manager in September 2019. He joined the City Manager's Office in Redwood City in March 2023, and he became Assistant City Manager in March 2024 working with the highly regarded City Manager **Melissa Stevenson Diaz**, who retired December 30, 2025. Richmond City Manager **Bill Lindsay** retired effective July 31, 2018. Bill served as the Richmond city manager for 13 years, from February 2005 until July 2018. Bill's early career was as a management consultant with Deloitte Haskins & Sells. He took the Hercules Finance Director position in October 1983 and in August 1987, he became the San Ramon Director of Administrative Services. Bill was selected to serve as the Orinda city manager in May 1995. He worked there until he was appointed Richmond city manager in February 2005. Bill received a 35 Year ICMA Service Award in 2018. He earned a BA from Yale University and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley. Funner, California is an unincorporated community of Valley Center in San Diego County. It is a promotional place named by the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians for the area of the Harrah's Resort Southern California. On August 1, 2016, the tribe unanimously adopted the name "Funner, California." Periodically, the Rincon tribe and Harrah's management have appointed a "Mayor of Funner", who is a notable celebrity to promote the resort: **David Hasselhoff** was the first Mayor appointed in May 2017; **Rob Riggle** in May 2019, **Jane Lynch** in May 2022 and **Martin Short** in May 2024. One of the rare California city managers, **Chris Zapata** has worked in cities in southern and northern California. He worked in National City, San Leandro, Anaheim and, since 2021, he is currently the City Manager in Sausalito. Chris has more than 35 years of public service experience, with his work in Arizona and California local governments. Chris contributed his severance package from San Leandro to a homeless charity. Thirty-year old Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff **Levi Vargas**, a 13-year department veteran, died on Saturday, March 28, 2026, after suffering a medical emergency during the annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. He was assigned to the San Dimas Sheriff's Station. The Baker to Vegas Relay is a premier 120-mile, 20-stage event for law enforcement, held annually since 1985. He graduated with Academy Class 413. ICMA Senior Program Manager **David C. Lang** began his



Trackdown Management

10 Claret

Rancho Mirage, California 92270

www.trackdownmanagement.net

working career as a Public Diplomacy Intern with the U.S. Department of State in October 2017. Starting in March 2019, David worked as a Copywriter for Blueprint Digital headquartered in Duluth, Georgia. In August 2019 he joined the ICMA staff in Washington, D.C., as a Business Development Associate. From 2021 to March 2025, David has worked with the ICMA Global Programs Management Team. He became a Senior Program Manager in the Membership and Career Advancement group in March 2025.

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

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



SHORTS: *San Francisco Mayor **James D. Phelan** was the first President of the League of California Cities in 1898. *Prior to joining the city staff in Bellflower as Assistant Finance Director in 1987, retired Pomona city manager **Linda C. Lowry** worked for Josephine County, Oregon.

***Ryan C. Smoot**, city manager for the city of Bellflower, earned a BA from California State University, Long Beach. *Unincorporated town of Happy Camp in Siskiyou County is famous for its Bigfoot statue, made of recycled metal, and many legendary sightings of the big guy! *Long time former Santa Rosa city manager, the late **Kenneth R. Blackman** (1935-2017), held the Santa Rosa city manager position for exactly 30 years from 1970 to 2000. *Recently retired (July 2025) Lynwood city manager **Ron Bow** is a 24-year veteran of the United States Air Force. ***Ron Walker**, city manager for the city of Colfax since January 2024, was the city's Director of Public Works for more than 14 years. *Guerneville in an unincorporated community in Sonoma County built along the Russian River in the California Coastal Redwoods. *Former Brea City Manager **Wayne D. Wedin**, President of *Wedin Enterprises, Inc.*, worked as an Administrative Intern in the City of Pasadena from September 1960 to June 1961. *Milpitas Assistant City Manager **Matt Cano** worked as the Director of Public Works for the City of San Jose from 2018 to 2023. ***Dr. Suja Lowenthal**, who became the Lynwood city manager in January 2026, previously served as the Hermosa Beach city manager from 2018 to 2025. *Morro Bay's Public Works Director **Greg Kwolek** has been hired to serve as the General Manager for the Los Osos Community Services District. ***Ricardo Reyes** has been the Huntington Park City Manager since October 2017. ***Shanell Shipe** is the current Assistant to the City Manager, working with Lynwood City Manager **Suja Lowenthal**. ***