

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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



July 2026

Volume No. 20 | Issue No. 11

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"Milking Time – A Tribute to Dairy Valley"

by **Jane DeDecker**, represented by the National Sculptor's Guild. It was officially unveiled at the Cerritos Civic Center in Cerritos on Saturday, April 25, 2026, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the city's incorporation. Cerritos was incorporated in 1956 as the city of Dairy Valley, when it was populated by many dairy farms and more cows than people. The city's name was changed to "Cerritos" in January 1967. [Pictures taken by **Samantha, Koa and Leilyn** on a visit to the wonderful Cerritos Library.]

California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove

Please find the July 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown attached to this distribution letter. This issue presents information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of [Orinda](#), [Orland](#), [Oroville](#), [Oxnard](#), and [Pacific Grove](#).

City executives in this issue include the city manager for [Orinda](#) **Linda Smith**. **Janet Wackerman** is the Interim City Manager in [Orland](#), **Brian Ring** is the City Administrator in [Oroville](#), **Alexander Nguyen**, who worked with **John Russo** in [Riverside](#), is the City Manager in [Oxnard](#), and **Matthew Mogensen** is the City Manager for the city of [Pacific Grove](#).

Please find some information about the newest Trackdown Sponsor on Page 2: **Marc Mitchell** of **Mitchell Public Affairs & Advocacy**. Welcome to the Trackdown family. www.mitchellpaa.com

California City Executives in Cities from Orinda to Pacific Grove



Orinda was an area that was predominantly known for being rural in nature with ranching and summer cabins in Contra Costa County. The Moraga Adobe was built in 1841. It is the oldest building

in the East Bay. In the 1880s an estate was built and named Orinda Park, and the Orinda Park post office opened in 1888. The post office name was changed to simply "Orinda" in 1895. Orinda grew as a year-around residential area after the construction of the Caldecott Tunnel in 1937. The tunnel access helped connected Orinda. Orinda incorporation in July 1985. The 2020 population is 19,514. **Linda Smith** is the city manager, and the city clerk is **Sheri Smith**. **Douglas Alessio** is the Assistant City Manager and Administrative Services Director. The Director of Parks and Recreation is **Todd Trimble**, and the Planning Director is **Lashun Cross**. **Scott Christie** is the Director of Public Works and Engineering, and the Chief of Police is **Anthony Rossi**.



m.

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Marc & his family are "Flag waving" American patriots honoring all those who have worn our country's uniform.

"I'll continue to fly the flag every day. All gave some; some gave all. Lest we forget." – **Marc Mitchell**



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Honorably serving clients in both the public and private sector; achieving solutions at the regional and local

level in the LA Basin. Marc's focus has been on infrastructure, transportation, energy, ports, and health care. Marc brings nearly three decades of government relations and political experience with public affairs and advocacy focus.



Linda Smith D'Ambrosio is the Orinda city manager. After four private sector jobs beginning in 1994 as an Account Executive for Ketchum Public Relations, Linda took an Economic Development Analyst position for the city of Tracy in March 2002. In June 2005 she took the city of Brentwood Economic Development Manager post, and in February 2009 she was hired as the Dublin Economic Development Director and Public Information Officer. Linda was promoted the Assistant City Manager in December 2013, and she became the Dublin city manager in December 2019. Linda left Dublin in October 2024 to accept the Orinda city manager position. Linda earned a BA in public relations from San Jose State University.

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Donald Jeffers, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
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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

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California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove

Orinda city managers of the past started with **Thomas C. "Tom" Sinclair**, who was appointed shortly after the city's 1985 incorporation. He was city manager until 1995. **William "Bill" Lindsay** stepped in following the conclusion of Tom's tenure and served as Orinda city manager for nearly 10 years before he moved on to serve as the Richmond city manager in 2005. In August 2005, **Janet Keeter** took the city manager reigns and served in that position until February 2017 when she retired. Janet is currently a member of the Board for the Tahoe Truckee School of Music. Prior to coming to Orinda, Janet worked for the cities of Lodi and Tracy. She actually began her public service career as an Assistant Coordination for the San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services in October 1986.

Following **Janet Keeter**'s retirement, Steve Salomon became the Interim City Manager, and he continued to work in the office until April 2021, when **David Biggs** was hired to serve as City Manager. David worked as city manager for the cities of Morgan Hill (1992-1995), Tustin (2010-2011), Carson (2011-2013), Hercules (2014-2021) and Orinda (2021-2024). David earned a BA from California State University, Fullerton and an MBA from the University of California, Irvine. Orinda City Manager **Linda Smith** officially took the position in October 2024.

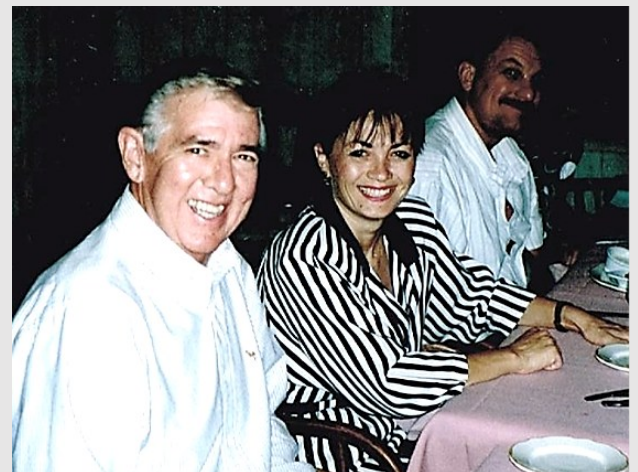


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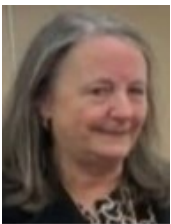


Picture of City Attorney **Maury F. O'Shea**, who represented Paramount, Bellflower and Hawaiian Gardens, and Trackdown's **Susan Simpson**, circa 1980s.

California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove



Orland is the largest city in Glenn County by population. During World War II, Orland was selected by the United States Army as a location for a training pilots' airfield. Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress aircraft flew from the Orland airport. Orland was named in 1908 for the United States Bureau of Reclamation irrigation project in the area. Project dams continue to provide agricultural irrigation water. Orland was incorporated in November 1909 and the first Orland post office opened in 1916. The 2020 population is 8,298. **Janet Wackerman** is the Acting City Manager and City Clerk. **Rebecca Webster** is the Assistant City manager and Director of Administrative Services. **Joe Vlach** is the Chief of Police, and the Fire Chief is **Justin Chaney**. **Zach Barber** is the Director of Public Works and **Olivia Esquivel** is the Recreation Manager.



Orland Interim City Manager **Janet Wackerman** has worked for the city of Orland for more than 32 years. She has served as Grant Administrator, Accounting Manager, and on multiple occasions as Interim or Acting city manager. Janet earned a BA in liberal arts from California State University, Chico.

Chronological List of Former Orland City Managers

William F. Olney: 1981 – 1995

John K. Viegas: 1995 – 2001

Richard F. Quenzer: 2001 – 2004

Robert F. Pasero: 2004 – 2010

Paula A. Carr: 2010 – 2011

JC Tolle: 2011 – 2019

Pete Carr: May 2012 – April 2025

(Note: Appointed in 2012 following JC Tolle's transition to other city roles)

Joe Goodman (also cited as Jim Goodman):



The late **Dr. R. William "Bill" Mathis**, founder of the Mathis Group, a longtime member of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) and former President of the Board, **Wade McKinney**.



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--**David Jinkens**, Good Government Advocate



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California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove



Oroville is the county seat of Butte County, California. Following the 2018 Camp Fire "wildfire" that destroyed much of the town of Paradise, Oroville's population drastically increased. Many

people, who lost everything in Paradise moved to Oroville, the gateway to Lake Oroville and the Feather River recreation areas. Oroville was originally named "Ophir City" but was renamed when the first post office opened in 1854. Gold was found at Bidwell Bar, one California's first gold mines that brought many prospectors to the area. Lake Oroville now covers the Bidwell Bar site. Oroville incorporated in January 1906. The city's 2020 population is 20,042. The City Administrator is **Brian Ring**, and the Assistant City Administrator and Finance Director is **Ruth Duncan**. The Director of Public Works is **Tim Kaber**. The City Attorney is **Scott Huber**. **Patrick Piatt** is the Oroville Community Development Director and **Ron Belser** is the Code Enforcement Director.



Brian Ring went to work for the Butte County Office of Education in December 2006 as an HR Manager. In January 2008, Brian was hired to serve as the Personnel Director for Colusa County. He rejoined the Butte County staff in July 2010 as HR Director. Brian was appointed Assistant Chief Administrative Officer in July 2016. He stepped away from Butte County after more than 13 years in July 2023. Brian was appointed Oroville City Administrator starting in February 2023. The city approved a three-year employment agreement with Brian. He earned a BA and an MBA from California State University, Chico.



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Alexander Smith
Chief Executive
Officer

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"In the hearts captivated by innocence, the eternal peace of a quiet lake is experienced!"

--**Mehmet Murat Ildan**, a contemporary Turkish philosopher

California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove



David Jinkens came to Oroville early in his long and incredible public administration and municipal management career prior to leaving to be the city manager in Avalon. David is currently a member of the South Lake Tahoe City Council. He distributes a good government newsletter well worth reading. David moved on from Oroville in 1982 .

Others who have served Oroville in the City Administrators office include **Sharon Atteberry**, 2003 to June 2010. **G. Harold Duffey**, after serving from July 2010 to July 2012, resigned to take the city manager position in the City of Compton. He left Compton in 2014 and took the Grand Terrace city manager post in June 2015 and left there in July 2021. Harold joined the Oakland city staff as the Director of Public Works in July 2021, and he was appointed Assistant City Administrator in May 2024. He left Oakland in 2025 and was hired to be the Brentwood city manager starting in November 2025.

Peter Cosentini was the Oroville Interim City Manager in 2012 to 2013, and **Randy Murphy** stepped in after Peter and worked the position until 2015. Planning and Development Services Director **Don Rust** held the Acting City Administrator position from March 2015 until April 2018, when **Tom Lando** took over as Interim from 2018 until July 2019. **Bill LaGrone** was then hired as City Administrator and served until December 2022 when he retired.



This Siberian Husky is the late **Lilo Simpson**, who lived to be a little more than 13 years old. This picture is one of Trackdown's resident artist **Susan Simpson**'s recent projects.



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This is a September 1966 picture of **Valentina and Frank Tripepi**. Valentina assumes that they were dressed up for Frankie's 19th birthday. She was 13 at the time.

It is hard to believe that retired city manager and **Willdan** executive **Frank G. Tripepi** passed away four years ago. Many "Thanks" to Valentina for the picture.

California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove



Oxnard, is largely a Latino community, and is Ventura County's most populace city. It is located adjacent to agricultural fields with strawberries, lima beans and other vegetable crops. Oxnard is also a major Southern California transportation hub, with Amtrak, Union Pacific, Metrolink, Greyhounds. It also has a small regional airport, Oxnard Airport (OXR). Mission San Buenaventura, founded in 1782 and the Oxnard area was used for raising cattle. Ranching took hold with the settlers to the area, and many farmers cultivated barley and lima beans. The city was named for **Henry T. Oxnard**, the founder, with his brothers, of a sugar beet factory. Oxnard was incorporated in June 1903. The 2020 population is set at 202,063. **Alexander Nguyen** is the city manager and **Ashley Golden** and **Eric Sonstegard** are Assistant City Managers. The Deputy City Manager is **Katie Casey**. **Javier Chagoyen-Lázaro** is the Chief Financial Officer and **Stephen Fischer** is the City Attorney. **Jeff Pengilley** is the Community Development Director, the Cultural and Community Services Director is **Terrel Harrison**, and the Public Works Director is **Michael Wolfe**. The Chief of Police is **Jason Benites** and the Fire Chief is **Alexander Hamilton**.



This is the new **Taylor Gonsalves Pollack** standing with her father **Jason Gonsalves** at Taylor's and **Zachary "Zack" Pollack's** June wedding.



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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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 of Orinda to Pacific Grove



Alexander Nguyen was appointed to serve as the Oxnard city manager in July 2018 when he was 51 years old. He has more than 25 years of municipal government experience working for the cities of Oakland, Alameda and Riverside. He worked as the Assistant City Manager in both the cities of Alameda and Riverside (2015 to July 2018). He previously worked as Chief of Staff in the city of Oakland from July 1998 until June 2011. He worked for a member of the city council, and he spend 11 years as Chief of Staff for the elected City Attorney. He speaks fluent English and Vietnamese. He was born and raised in Vietnam. Alex earned a BA from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Ashley Golden has worked for the city of Oxnard for more than 22 years. She came to the Oxnard city staff in April 2003 as an Assistant Planner. She previously worked for the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (2001-2003). She worked in planning working her way up in the organization until January 2018 when she was selected to serve as Interim Assistant City Manager. She became Assistant City Manager in December 2018. Ashley earned a BS in community and regional development from the University of California, Davis.



William J. "Bill" Pendleton served as the Bellflower Mayor (1991-1992). Bill was a member of the Bellflower city council from 1986 to 1994. This is Bill with **Susan Simpson** at a city event. Bill worked as a Service Crew Foreman for the Southern California Edison Company. Bill passed away in March 2021. Susan was a Management Incentive Program staff member for In-N-Out Burger.



Summer is coming!
We should all be getting ready. Here is **Samantha Simpson** and her father Jack in a Duffy electric cruiser on Newport Bay in Newport Beach.

California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove

Oxnard, California operates under the council-manager form of government. The city employed its first official city manager in 1947. Many of Oxnard's city managers are examples of highly professional public managers. Here is a few of them.

George C. Shannon (1947–1953) – is Oxnard's first city manager. In 1951, George served as President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities.

Paul E. Wolven (February 1953–January 1979) –holds the record as the longest-serving Oxnard. Paul was city manager for 26 years between 1953 and 1979. He attended **UCLA** and served in the United State Navy during World War II. Paul was born in 1918. He retired in 1979, and he passed away in 2014.

David R. Mora (1985–1990) Paul served as Town Manager in Los Gatos (1981-1985) prior to becoming the Oxnard city manager in July 1985. Dave left Oxnard to be the Salinas (1990-2008). Following his retirement from Salinas he became the ICMA Western Regional Director (2009-2011). Dave is currently an ICMA Senior Advisor for the Monterey Bay Region.

Vernon G. Hazen served Oxnard during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Vern retired at the end of 1993. Vern passed away peacefully in his sleep on September 4, 2021. Vern was born May 3, 1936, in Red Bluff, California. He served as city manager for the cities of Mill Valley, Escondido, Oxnard, and Cathedral City. Vern was Chairman of the Marin County City Manager Association in 1981-1982.

Edmund F. Sotelo (February 1998–February 2012) was Oxnard city manager for 14 years before being placed on administrative leave amid a city council dispute. Ed started his public service career with the city of Compton in 1977. He left Compton in May 1990 to take the Colton city manager position. He joined the Pasadena city staff as Assistant City Manager between 1991 and 1998. Ed started as Oxnard city manager in February 1998.

Karen Burnham (February 2012–June 2014) Stepped up from Assistant City Manager to serve as Interim City Manager for more than 2 years following the end of City Manager Sotelo's tenure.



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California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove



Pacific Grove is on the southern edge of Monterey Bay. It was settled in 1853 by a large group of Chinese immigrants who established a successful fishing village. This group was first to recognize the potential for commercial fishing in Monterey Bay. The city of Pacific Grove was founded as a Methodist Christian seaside resort in 1874. Renowned author **Robert Louis Stevenson** was a visitor to the area. The first Pacific Grove post office opened in 1886 and closed a year later. It was reopened in 1887. The city of Pacific Grove incorporated in July 1889. The city's 2020 population is 15,090. **Matthew Mogensen** is the Pacific Grove city manager, and **Sandra Kandell** is the City Clerk. **Daniel Gho** is the Public Works Director and **Fred Marsh** is the Administrative Services Director. **Alex Lorca** is the city attorney.

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



Matthew Mogensen served as an Intern for Development Services in the city of Brea starting in October 2002. He joined a private consulting firm in March 2004 and worked as an Assistant Project Manager in Montebello. In July 2005 he was hired as an Assistant Planner for the city of Brea. Matt joined the Fountain Valley city staff in February 2008 as Assistant to the City Manager and in 2015 he became the Planning and Building Director for Fountain Valley. After working in in Fountain Valley for nearly 11 years, Matt joined the city of Marina as Assistant City Manager in October 2018. He was selected to serve as the Pacific Grove City Manager in May 2024. Matt earned a BA in geography from California State University, Fullerton and an MPA from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



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California City Executives in Cities of Orinda to Pacific Grove

Erwin Dames served as Pacific Grove city manager in the early 1930s. Erwin served as the President of the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities in 1935. **Margaret Butera** worked as a secretary to City Manager **Erwin Dames**. Following the unexpected death of his wife in 1940, Margaret and Erwin married a year or so later. Erwin was city manager for 17 years. It is said that he was a force to keep the town dry. **Gary Bales** was Pacific Grove city manager for 25 years until he retired in 1994. Other former city managers include **Ross G. Hubbard**, **James "Jim" Colangelo**, **Charlene Wiseman** (Interim in 2008-2009), **Thomas Frutchey**, who retired as the Paso Robles city manager in April 2021. Tom was Pacific Grove city manager from 2009 to 2016. From 2016 to 2023, **Ben Harvey** was city manager. He currently serves the city of Ojai.

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Atascadero City Manager **Jim Lewis** and his son Troy with the Alaska State Capitol behind them. Jim always does an excellent job of turning vacations into learning experiences for his family.

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Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley is a municipal law firm with offices in Pasadena, Grass Valley, Solana Beach, and Sonoma that represents public and private clients throughout California in municipal law, including public revenues, land use, elections, labor and employment, post-redevelopment, housing, public works contracting, utility services, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act regarding Local Agency Formation Commissions, sex offender and marijuana regulation and related public safety topics, and associated litigation. Our core commitment is to provide advice our clients find helpful, understandable, and fairly priced.

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The firm was recognized as one of California's Top Ranked Law Firms by Martindale-Hubbell in 2014 and **Michael Colantuono**, **Terri Highsmith**, **Jenni Pancake**, **Michael Alderdice** and **Scott Howard** have each achieved the highest AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell. **Michael Colantuono** (2011–2013) and **Holly Whatley** (2013) have been listed as among the Top Municipal Lawyers in California by the **Daily Journal** newspaper. Michael was awarded the 2010 Public Lawyer of the Year Award by the California State Bar, is a former President of the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities, former President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the State Bar, and Secretary / Treasurer of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers—a prestigious organization of about 100 of the most respected appellate advocates in our State. Michael is also certified as an Appellate Specialist by the California State Bar's Board of Legal Specialization.

The firm serves as general counsel or city or town attorney of the cities of Auburn, Barstow, Calabasas, Chico, Grass Valley, Lakeport, Ojai, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, Weed, the Town of Yountville, and the Successor Agencies to the Auburn, Barstow, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena Redevelopment Agencies, to Oversight Boards for Successor Agencies in Huntington Park, Pomona, Rialto, San Bernardino, San Gabriel and Temple City, the Garden Valley, Higgins, Ophir Hill, North San Juan, Penn Valley, and Rough & Ready Fire Districts, the Orange Line Development Authority, the SELACO Workforce Investment Board, the Calaveras, San Diego and Yuba County LAFCOs, the Oak Tree Park and Recreation District, the Pine Grove, and Peninsula Community Services Districts, the Tahoe Forest Hospital District, the First Five Yuba Commission, and Upper Valley Waste Management Agency. The firm serves as special counsel to local governments throughout California.

Newsletters: CHW periodically distributes newsletters that highlight new developments in the law that might be of interest. [Click here](#)



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

In 2007, native Alaskan whalers found fragments of a 100-year old harpoon in the carcass of a dead whale. The harpoon was traced to the 1900s. Scientists

estimate that the whale was about 115-years old, if not older. The harpoon was an exploding lance device that was traced to between 1885 and 1895, confirming that the whale was around 115-years old. Former All-Pro defensive lineman **Aldon Smith** passed away at the age of 36 on June 13, 2026. Aldon was drafted by the San Francisco 49er in 2011. He set the 49er's franchise record with 19.5 sacks in his second season. He later played for the Raiders and the Cowboys. Oakland is home to many highly touted restaurants. MICHELIN-rated eateries include Commis, Millennium, Taqueria El Paisa, MAMA Oakland and Mögo. Burdell was named the best restaurant in America by Food & Wine. **Henry John Deutschendorf Jr.** became well-known as the 1970s acoustic, folk-country singer-songwriters, actor and humanitarian **John Denver**. He was born in Roswell, New Mexico on December 31, 1943, and passed away as a result of crashing his airplane into Monterey Bay on October 12, 1997, at the age of 53. His first hit as a songwriter "Leaving on a Jet Plane" was released in 1969 by the group Peter, Paul and Mary. He sang many hits in the 1970s, including "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "Rocky Mountain High," "Sunshine on My Shoulders," and "Thank God I'm a Country Boy." He appeared alongside of actor **George Burns** in the 1977 film, "Oh, God!" John founded the Windstar Foundation in 1976 to promote sustainable living and environmental conservation. He was posthumously inducted into the songwriters Hall of Fame in 1996. The picture below shows, from left to right, **Jack Simpson, John Jameson, Ray Harris, Frank G. Tripepi, John E. Maulding** and **Dan W. Heil**, a group called the Certificated Urban Managers. Ray, Frank, John and Dan have all passed and are missed. Former California Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, 78, and **Heather Milligan**, 51, appeared with former U.S. Vice President **Kamala Harris** at the *Austrian World Summit of the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative* in Vienna, Austria this past month. Arnold founded the summit in 2017. Heather, a physical therapist, first met Arnold in 2012 when she helped him heal and overcome shoulder surgery. They have been together for more than 14 years.



Letters, and notes by readers:

I thought you or a colleague might have an interest in what a city manager here in Scottsdale, AZ is dealing with. Very dicey! Check out this article from azcentral: **Scottsdale rejects \$1.5M claim by mayor's ex-top aide** <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/scottsdale/2026/06/16/scottsdale-rejects-1-5m-claim-by-mayors-ex-top-aide/90566468007/>
---**Dave Harris** (Mesa, AZ)

Cheers to the Simpsons. Happy 44th anniversary. Always enjoy the newsletter and reminiscing over past friends and colleagues.

Carl Hatfield served in Ojai when he left Oakdale before going to Rancho Mirage. Sadly, Alzheimer's took him way too young. His widow Jeanne is still doing well. We spoke around Christmas last year.

Thanks again for keeping us "together ".

---**Jim Marshall**, ICMA-CM Retired, Senior Advisor, Retired



NOTE: **Carl Alvin Hatfield Jr.** passed away in January 2003 at the age of 68. He served as city manager in the cities of Ojai from March 1979 until 1985, and Rancho Mirage from 1985 until October 1990. He started his career as an Intern for the City of Anaheim and was hired there as an Analyst and promoted to Administrative Assistant. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. Thank you, **Jim Marshall** for your readership. Take care!

A varying student body requires flexibility in MPA urban management curricula. One that is structured for the more generalist approach to pathways to upper management may not be one that best meets the needs of today's contemporary mid-level specialist. Of course, the opposite holds true as well.

<https://practionerscholar.com/2018/09/30/the-advent-of-the-street-level-bureaucrat-in-the-classroom-new-challenges-for-graduate-urban-management-education-by-stephen-g-harding/>

---**Steve Harding**

<https://our-civic-culture.com>

Thanks for continuing to keep me on your list. Nice picture of Lisa and Rich (Special May 2026 issue.) I was headhunted for the Oakley City Manager job in '04. In retrospect I should have tried. Did you ever meet **Bill Lindsey**? He is a good soul.

---**Michael Sakamoto**, retired city manager



Picking Up the Pieces: Diamond Bar has selected **Ryan McLean** as the city's new city manager, succeeding **Dan Fox**, who is retiring after 9-years as city manager. Ryan grew up in Diamond Bar. He began his public service career with Diamond Bar in 2001 as a full-time Recreation Coordinator. He moved to the City Manager's Office in 2005. Ryan earned a BA in economics from

the University of California, Irvine. The Diamond Bar Mayor is currently **Steve Tye**, a past President of the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA). **Sage Sangiacomo**, Ukiah city manager, is riding point on the city's Ukiah 2026 Reorganization Project to annex unincorporated areas adjacent to the city. Deputy City Manager **Shannon Riley** has done most of the administrative work for the project. Sage has served as Ukiah city manager since June 2015. The project is aimed at absorbing territories served by the Millview County Water District, Willow County Water District, and the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District. The objective is to unify infrastructure under the newly formed **Ukiah Valley Water Authority** and capture major available state funding. **Douglas Schulze** is the new city manager for the city of National City effective June 17, 2026. National City has been operating with interim city managers since May 2023, when City Manager **Brad Ralson** left the position. His replacement City Manager **Armando Vergara**, died of a heart attack two days after being hired. The new city manager, Doug has risen from driving a Zamboni in Sandstone, Minnesota to managing Medina, Washington, to serving as the city manager of Banning, California. He also worked for Bainbridge Island, Washington prior to landing in Banning where he served as city manager from October 2018 until March 2025. Richmond city manager **Shasa Curl**, who announced her upcoming retirement, was sworn in as city manager by City Clerk **Pamela Christian** on April 6, 2022. Shasa has worked for the city for more than two decades. She came to work for the city in 2003. Shasa earned a Master's degree in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She and the Richmond Police Officer's Association (RPOA) have developed tension recently over the reinstatement of officers involved in fatal shootings, who have been cleared of wrongdoing by the Contra Costa County District Attorneys Office. Three members of the Calipatria city council are facing a recall effort following their vote to terminate Calipatria City Manager **Laura Gutierrez**. On April 14, the city council voted 3-2 to terminate the city manager without cause. In a dramatic turn-around, the Calipatria city council met in an emergency session and fully reinstated Laura's employment agreement, which runs through June 1, 2027. She was hired to serve as the city manager and Finance Officer in June 2025. Prior to June 2023, Laura served as the Director of Administrative Services for the city of Imperial.



Boogie boarding at T-Street in San Clemente.

Susan Freeman, the wife of Riverside City Manager **Mike Futrell** — who briefly agreed to become Pasadena's city manager before withdrawing his application — has filed an official government claim against the City of Riverside, alleging that the city retaliated against her and damaged her reputation. She has reached a settlement with the city, and Mike, who has been the Riverside city manager since January 2023, has resigned. He previously served as the South San Francisco city manager (April 2014-January 2023). Mike is a former Captain in the United State Navy. **Alan Flora** is the city manager for the city of Clearlake in Lake County, California. Alan began his public service career as a Student Volunteer when he attended Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. He served as a Board of Zoning Appeals and as a Planning Commission Member for the Town of Flora, Indiana from 2004 to 2008. In October 2008, Alan took a Associate Planner position with Lake County, California. He worked as a Redevelopment Analyst and in the Administrative Office of the county before he was appointed Deputy County Administrative Office in June 2012. He became the Assistant Chief Executive for the County of Mendocino in January 2015, before he joined the Clearlake city staff in March 2018 as Finance Director. Alan was appointed Assistant City Manager in July 2018, and he was hired as Clearlake city manager in March 2019. From January 2019 until December 2022, Alan served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Lakeport Fire Protection District. He earned a BA in urban planning & development marketing from Ball State University. The Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College and the San Gabriel Valley City Managers' Association have conducted research on local perspectives on Los Angeles County governance reforms. Rose Institute Director **Ken Miller** is the lead researcher on the Measure G project. It is essential that cities are informed about major changes to county government. City of Perris City Manager **Clara Miramontes** worked as a Planner for the City of Riverside from 1999 to 2010. Clara was appointed Interim City Manager for Perris in January 2019, and she was hired to serve as city manager in January 2021. Clara earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and an MPA and MBA from California State University, Long Beach.



Cerritos/Dairy Valley City Managers

The City of Cerritos (originally incorporated as **Dairy Valley** in April 1956) has had six former City Managers in its history. A chronological list of former city managers and their service dates includes:

- **William Cecil** — April 1956 to September 1956
- **Mayrant D. "Mac" McKeown** — September 1956 to March 1961
- **William J. "Bill" Stark** — April 1961 to June 1970
- **John DeWeerd** — June 1970 to June 1973
- **Gaylord Knapp** — June 1973 to April 1991
- **Art Gallucci** — April 1991 to November 2023
- **Robert A. Lopez** --November 2023 to Present.



More Pieces Picked Up: **Richard R. Powers**, the retired Executive Director of the Gateway Cities COG (1995-2017) served as city manager for the cities of Garden Grove (1972-1980) and Norwalk (1988-1994). **Ernie Garcia** became the Norwalk city manager following Dick's tenure. Dick

was the Community Development Director for the city of Paramount (1981-1988) working with city manager **Bill Holt**. Dick began his public service career as an Intern for the city of Anaheim in 1964 before working for La Mirada as Planning Director (1965-1969). He earned an AA from Fullerton Junior College, a BA from the University of California, and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton. **John Edward Maulding** spent the 1960s and 1970s working with the office of the Los Angeles County Engineer. While with the County Engineer, John served as a District Engineer, Superintendent of Building (he would say that he was the official county "SOB"), and as Chief Engineer of the County Mapping Division. When John retired from the county, he joined the professional consulting team at **Willdan Engineering**. Following his **Willdan** tenure, John served as the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, a court-appointment. He was also among the 51-member Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. John was known for his jokes and simple magic tricks. He took his match games, rope tricks and "woo-full dust" wherever he went. John was one of those "unforgettable" people we are fortunate to have the opportunity meet. He passed away in 2008. Stanton City Manager **Hannah Shin-Heydorn** was awarded a "cost of living" pay adjustment that brings her annual compensation to more than \$300,000. Hannah became the Stanton city manager in July 2022. She worked as the city manager for the city of Signal Hill from November 2019 until July 2022. Hannah previously worked for the city of Lake Forest. She earned a BA in English from the University of California, Berkeley and an MS in management from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey.



SHORTS: ***Lee Whittenberg**, retired professional municipal planner of Seal Beach and Bellflower, relocated to Summerville, South Carolina, to live near family. ***Darin Hughes**, an alumnus of Arizona State University, and **Celina Palmer**, who earned a BA from the University of California, Irvine, are both Associate Planners for the city of Orinda. ***Santa Clarita** City Manager **Ken Striplin**, host of the "Santa Clarita Voices" podcast, is President of the Board of Trustees for the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). ***Kayla Friederich**, who earned an AA at Palomar College and a BS from the University of California, San Diego, worked consultant assignments in Stanton and Rancho Palos Verdes, and served as a Project Analyst for the Imperial Valley Resource Management Agency. ***Peter James**, working on regional recovery of infrastructure following the World Cup soccer competition and the 2028 Olympic game, has been working since September 2025 as a Deputy City Manager for the city of Santa Monica serving with City Manager **Oliver Chi**. *University of California, Berkeley graduate, **Samuel S. McMurry** began his tenure as the Redding Assistant City Manager in November 1987. ***Ben M. McMakin** worked as city manager in Willits (1969-1971), Coachella (1973-1978) and Bandon, Oregon in the late 1990s, after he started his career as an Intern in Mountain View in 1964. *Oceanside city manager **Jonathan Borrego** was appointed in August 2022, after previously serving as the city's Deputy City Manager and Development Services Director. ***Donte Watson**, former Chief of Parks and Recreation for the city of Santa Rosa, was hired to start June 15 as Stockton's Community Services Director. *Mountain View City Attorney **Jennifer Logue** has been appointed to serve as a judge on the Contra Costa County Superior Court. ***Amy Gallagher** is the new Managing Editor of the **Tripepi Smith PublicCEO** as former Managing Editor **Ethan de la Peña** joined the Clovis city staff. ***Amy Aller**, who previously served in the Fresno County District Attorney and City Attorney's offices, is the new Fresno City Clerk replacing **Todd Stermer**, who left the position last year to serve as the Sacramento County Clerk. *Starting June 1, 2026, **Tomás Herrera-Mishler** is the new Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services for the city of Culver City. *Former Community Development Director **Kevin Ingram** has been the city manager for the City of Lakeport since August 2020.



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