

City Manager Newsletter By TRACKDOWN MANAGEMENT

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City Management Community"



August 2026 Special

Volume No. 20 | Issue No. 14

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September is

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MONTH**



Each September, people from all corners of the world unite to raise awareness and to challenge the stigma that persists around Alzheimer's disease and all types of dementia. The Alzheimer's Association is focused on the disease and other dementias. Its work is in three major areas: care and support, research, and advocacy. The President and CEO is **Dr. Joanne Pike**.

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California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera

Welcome to the Special August 2026 issue of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown. This issue presents information regarding the executive leadership in the cities of [Paso Robles](#), [Patterson](#), [Perris](#), [Petaluma](#), and [Pico Rivera](#).

City Managers in this issue include [Paso Robles](#) city manager **Chris Huot**, **Fernando Ulloa** of the city of [Patterson](#), **Clara Miramontes** is the City Manager in [Perris](#), **Peggy Flynn** is the City Manager in [Petaluma](#), and **Steven Carmona** is the City Manager for the city of [Pico Rivera](#).

We hope you enjoy the read! We're working to provide useful information, interesting stories, and a few opportunities for fun and entertainment along the way. Please let us know what you think. Are we hitting the mark, or are we getting a little boring?

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

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

www.trackdownmanagement.net | Jack@trackdownmanagement.net

California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



El Paso de Robles, the city's full name, is Spanish for "The Pass of Oaks." Paso Robles is located on the Salinas River in San Luis Obispo County. The area is known for its

temperature hot springs, abundance of wineries, production of olive oil, and almond orchards. The community's site is located on an old Mexican land grant that was purchased in 1857. The land became a rest stop for travelers on El Camino Real Trail. It was known for its mineral hot springs. Paso Robles' settlers established cattle ranches, apple and almond orchards, dairy farms, and vineyards. The town site was laid out in 1886, after the coming of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Paso Robles was incorporated in March 1889. The 2020 population is 31,490 people. The current city manager is **Chris Huot** and David **Malewitz** is the Assistant City Manager. **Melissa Martin** is the city clerk. The Chief of Police is **Damian Nord** and the Fire Chief is **Jonathan Stornetta**. **Ryan Cornell** is the Administrative Services Director and City Treasurer, **Leslie Frazier** is the Public Works Director, and **Warren Frace** is the Community Development Director. **Paul Sloan** is the Economic Development Manager. The Paso Robles Community Services Director is **Angelica Fortin**, and the Utilities Director is **Christopher Alakel**.



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Chris Huot was appointed city manager starting in May 2025. He began working as the Paso Robles Assistant City Manager in January 2022. He filled in twice as interim City Manager. Chris previously worked six years as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Bakersfield. He began his public service career in 2008 and worked as a Marketing and Event Specialist in the Economic and Community Development Department in Bakersfield. Chris is an ICMA Credentialed Manager. He earned a BA and MA in communications from Texas Tech University. He received a 10 years ICMA Service Award in 2021. From February to December in 2007, Chris was the Morning News Anchor for KFYO Radio in Victoria, Texas.



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California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



Jerry Bankston served as the Paso Robles city manager prior to City Manager **Richard J. Ramirez**, who was in office from 1986 to 1991. Jerry began his public service career in 1974 as an Administrative Analyst in Garden Grove. In 1975 he took an Administrative Assistant job in Gardena. Jerry left Gardena a year later to work as the Assistant to the City Manager in Camarillo, where he served for 10 years. In 1986, Jerry was appointed Paso Robles (El Paso de Robles) city manager. He worked as Seal Beach city manager starting in 1991, and in 1995 he became city manager in La Habra. Jerry moved from La Habra in 1999 to return to Camarillo as city manager, where he retired at the age of 64 in October 2010. Jerry earned a BA and MPA from California State University, Long Beach. In 2009 he received a 35-year ICMA Service Award. The last we information found is that he is living in Bellflower.



Debbie Smith, Executive Director

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Independent Cities Finance Authority

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m.

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California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



Richard J. Ramirez retired as the city manager for the City of American Canyon in Napa County in October 2011 at the age of 59. Rich began his local government career in 1975 under the mentorship of then-city manager **Peter B. Feenstra**. In 1978, Rich transitioned to a position with the city of

Stanton working with city manager **Kevin O'Rourke** as the Assistant Director of Housing and Community Development. After working for South El Monte and Stanton, Rich went on to build a long successful career in California municipal government, including serving as city manager for Lincoln, Paso Robles, Hemet and American Canyon. He also served as Assistant City Manager for the city of Sacramento. Rich earned a reputation as being a leader among the State's city managers. While building his personal consultant services, Rich has used the slogan, "Need Interim Will Travel."

Other former Paso Robles city managers include **Ty Lewis**, who served as Chief of Police from 2018 to 2021, before he was selected to be city manager from August 2012 to January 2025. **Tom Frutchey** was the Paso Robles city manager from January 2016 until he retired in April 2021. Tom previously was the city manager for the cities of Campbell, Los Altos Hills and Pacific Grove (October 2009-January 2016). Tom was Assistant City Manager for Oxnard from 1992 to 1997. Tom also served as the General Manager of the Hollister Ranch Owners Association. Tom earned a BA from Dartmouth College and an MPP from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to Tom's tenure in Paso Robles, **Jim App** served as city manager from 1997 until 2015. He started in Paso Robles as Interim City manager. He served as city manager for 18 years. Jim retired December 30, 2015, at the age of sixty-three. He earned a BA in communications from California State University, Long Beach and an MPA from California State University, Fullerton.



CALIFORNIA
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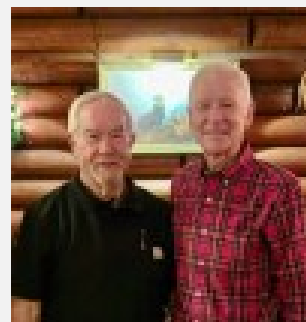
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Alexander Smith
Chief Executive
Officer

California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
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September 24, 2025 "Proof of Life" Lunch



"Proof of Life" lunches are opportunities to share time with old friends and former colleagues. No one understands the challenges of city management like those who have

practiced the craft. Pictured here are retired city managers **Mike Sedell** of Simi Valley and retired Arcadia city manager **Don Penman** at the North Woods Inn Restaurant in La Mirada. The next "Proof of Life" lunch will be on Thursday, September 24, 2026. Include it on your calendar and let us know you are coming. Please come and enjoy the camaraderie. RSVP to: jack@trackdownmanagement.net ***

Executive Level Posse Roster:

Wade McKinney, Retired Indian Wells City Manager
Mike Sedell, Retired Simi Valley City Manager
Larry F. Pennell, Retired City Manager, Wasco
Kevin O'Rourke, KOLGS; Retired City Manager
Glenn Southard, Retired CM, Indio & Claremont
Joe Tanner, Retired Vallejo City Manager
Guy Huffaker, Retired Porterville City Manager
Vern Lawson, Retired, City of Lancaster
Robert T. "Bob" Dickey, Retired South Gate DPW
Doug Dunlap, Retired City Manager, Pomona
Rita Geldert, Retired City Manager, Vista,
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF State Director
Lloyd de Llamas, Retired City Man./**HdL** Co-founder
John Shirey, Retired City Manager, Sacramento
John Russo, Retired City Manager; SynchroniCITY
Lee McDougal, Retired City Manager, Montclair
Mark Scott, Interim City Manager
Doug La Belle, Retired City Manager, Chino Hills
Don Penman, Retired City Manager, Arcadia
Sam Olivito, Retired CCCA Executive Director
Donald Duckworth, Retired City Manager
Richard Rowe, Retired City Manager

Posse Roster:

Gregory Korduner, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
Rod B. Butler, Jurupa Valley, City Manager
Rita Geldert, Retired City Manager, Vista
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director, State of CA
Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia, Retired City Manager, Rocklin
Ray Taylor, Retired City Manager, Westlake Village
Denise Ovrom, Former CM retired from **HdL Companies**
Robert "Bud" Ovrom, Retired City Manager
Cynthia Kurtz, Interim City Manager, Pasadena
Ron Molendyk, Retired City Manager, Lake Elsinore
Kevin Duggan, Retired City Manager, Mountain View
Gary Milliman, Retired City Manager, Brookings, Oregon
Jim Lewis, City Manager, City of Atascadero
Donald Jeffers, Retired City Manager, Huntington Park
Wayne Wedin, Retired City Manager, Brea
Karen Herrera, Retired Deputy City Manager, Duarte
David Jenkins, Retired City Manager, & CC So. Lake Tahoe
Laura Behjan, Retired Simi Valley, City Manager

Contributor Roster:

Robert & Karen Flores, Retired El Cajon, residents



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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 of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



Patterson is a city in Stanislaus County. Patterson is known as the "Apricot Capital of the World." The community holds an annual Apricot Fiesta. Patterson grew from

an 1844 Mexican land grant. **Thomas W. Patterson** subdivided the land into ranches of various sizes with a determination to make Patterson different from most rural towns at the time. Patterson was incorporated in December 1919 and became the third city in Stanislaus County. The 2020 population is 23,781. The current city manager is **Fernando Ulloa** and the elected city clerk is **Aracely Alegre**. **Mike Willett** is the Assistant City Manager, and the Director of Finance is **Kevin Williams**. The Patterson Chief of Police is **Casey Hill** and the Fire Chief is **Jeff Hakola**. The Planning & Community Development Director is **Bryan Stice**. **Diana Hernandez**, Acting Director of Recreation & Community Services, has worked for Patterson for 32-years.



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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The Simpson girls! Four daughters of Jack and Susan's of Trackdown at a rare gathering a few years ago. Casey, Cookie, Samantha and Kellee.



Patterson city manager **Fernando Ulloa, P.E.**, is a registered civil engineer. From 1997 to 2008, he worked as a Project Manager for a private consulting engineering firm in Pleasanton. Fernando worked for the city of Lathrop, with his own consulting firm from April to June 2008. In June 2008, he was hired as the Senior Civil Engineer for the City of Manteca. After serving Manteca for more than 7 years, Fernando joined the Patterson city staff in October 2015, as Director of Engineering & Building Services and City Engineer. He was appointed Patterson city manager effective Wednesday, December 4, 2024. He previously was the Interim City Manager starting on the 1st of July. Fernando earned a BS in civil engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



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California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



Among former Patterson city managers is highly respected public manager **Jeffrey C. "Jeff" Parker**. Jeff, was the Patterson city manager from 1991 to 1995, when he became the Walnut city manager. He served in Walnut until December 2005. From 2005 until 2011, Jeff was city manager for the city of Claremont, and he worked as the Tustin city manager from 2011 to 2019. After leaving Tustin, Jeff served as the Laguna Woods Village CEO and President between February 2019 until February 2022. Currently, Jeff works as an executive and leadership coach. Jeff earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. Other former Patterson city managers include **Ken R. Irwin**, **Rod Butler**, **Bryan Whitemyer**, **M. Cleve Morris**, and **George T. Lambert**.



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Kevin Murphy

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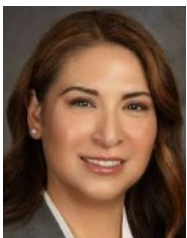
Former City Manager and Chief Operating Officer for PARS is not forgotten. Kevin served as city manager for the cities of Alhambra and Newport Beach.

California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



Perris, California is an old railway city in Riverside County. Perris is known for its fishing in Lake Perris, area skydiving and races at the Perris Auto Speedway, a fast dirt track that features sprint car racing

and other dirt track events. The city was established in 1885 around a new railway depot when California Southern Railroad connected between Barstow and San Diego. The city is named for **Fred T. Perris**, chief engineer of the California Southern Railroad. Originally in San Diego County, Perris was incorporated as a city in 1911, after the area had been transferred to the newly established Riverside County in 1892. The 2020 population of Perris is 78,700, and the 2024 population estimate is 83,032. The current city manager is **Clara Miramontes**, Deputy City Manager is **Ernie Reyna** and Assistant City Manager **Wendell Bugtai**. **Nancy Salazar** is the city clerk. The Development Services Director is **Kenneth Phung**, and the Economic Development Director is **Benigno "Ben" Sandoval**. **Claudia Hurtado** is the Finance Director, **Sabrina Chavez** is Public Services Director, **Bryant K. Hill** is the Public Works Director and the City Engineer is **John Pourkazemi**.



Clara Miramontes served as a Principal Planner for the city of Riverside from 1999 to 2010. She worked as the Perris Director of Development Services from December 2010 to the present. Clara served as Interim City Manager for Perris from January 2019 to December 2020. She was appointed city manager in January 2021, maintaining the Director position. She earned a BS from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach.

After working as a Program Manager for South Gate (2001-2002) and as a Project Manager for a private firm with projects in Montebello, Huntington Park and Perris, Public Services Director **Sabrina Chavez** joined the city staff in Perris as an Associate Planner in August 2003.



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**.

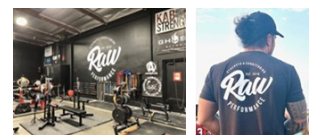
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Palm Desert location is still going strong.

Recent analysis finds that many restaurants and restaurant chains are closing their doors across the country. Bankruptcy and downsizing are typical strategies. Red Lobster has trimmed its national footprint by more than 130 locations. One of their reasons is the "Endless Shrimp" promotion blunder losing the chain more than \$11 million. This

California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



Richard Belmudez was the Perris city manager from October 2006 until December 2020. Prior to his 14 years as city manager, Richard was the Perris Director of Development Services. Richard began his public service career as a Code/Zoning Inspector for the city of Pomona in April 1992. When he left Pomona in December 2004, he was a Senior Planner. He left Pomona to become the Planning Manager for the city of Perris. After working as the Director of Development Services from January 2006 to October 2006, Richard was appointed Perris city manager, where he served until January 2021. He earned a BS and an MBA from the University of La Verne. Since leaving Perris, he has worked for a private development advisor firm, and he has served as a lecturer in urban and regional planning for California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

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California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



Petaluma is a city in Sonoma County in the North Bay section of the San Francisco Bay area. Petaluma as a city originates on the 66,000 acres of Rancho Petaluma, granted in 1834. Pioneers and would be prospectors moved to Petaluma after the 1848 discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada. Petaluma was a center of commerce for the area. The area became know for its grain milling and chicken processing industries. At one time, Petaluma was known as the "Egg Capital of the World."

"Petaluma has always been known for its charming downtown area and its historic architecture, not to mention is Any Town, USA movie-friendly aesthetic..."

---Filmmaker **George Lucas**

The Petaluma city manager is **Peggy Flynn** and the Assistant City Manager is **Brian Cochran**. **Patrick Carter** is the Assistant to the City Manager. **Caitlin Corley** is the City Clerk. The Finance Director is **Jessie Gooch**, City Attorney is **Eric Danly**, Chief of Police is **Brian Miller**, and Fire Chief is **Jeff Schach**. **Brian Oh** is the Director of Community Development, **Drew Halter** is the Director of Parks and Recreation and **Gina Benedetti-Petnic** is the Interim director of Public Works & Utilities.



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 Annual Conference, September 27-30, 2026
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 Sacramento, CA 95864



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Peggy Flynn, the Petaluma city manager, started working public service jobs as a Communications & Government Affairs Manager and Special Projects Manager for the San José Redevelopment Agency in March 1998. From 2004 to 2006, Peggy worked with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and in 2006 she took the Executive Director job for the Downtown Bloomington Association in Illinois. She worked as a self-employed communications & government affairs consultant (2008-2009), and in 2009, Peggy returned to California to work as a Community and Government Relations Manager for the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District. Peggy was hired by the city of Novato in 2012 to serve as the Assistant to the City Manager. In 2017 she was promoted to Assistant City Manager. In 2019, Peggy was hired to be the Petaluma city manager. She earned a BS from San José State University.



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California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera

Petaluma transitioned to a council-manager form of government following a voter charter amendment in 1947. Since then, ten individuals have served a city manager. Former Petaluma city managers include **James L. Krause** (1948 – 1951) was appointed as the first-ever Petaluma city manager.

Other city managers include **Edward Frank**, **Robert “Bob” Meyer**, and **John Scharer** (1981-1996), one of Petaluma's longest-serving city managers with a 16-year tenure. **Gene Beatty** worked as Interim city manager in 1997 and again in 2002 and 2008. **Frederick “Fred” Stouder** (1998-2002) left Petaluma to be the city manager for newly incorporated Goleta. He later returned to Washington State and worked in Prosser and Kenmore, Washington (2008-2011), and Fred retired from public service in April 2012.

Michael “Mike” Bierman (2002-2008) retired in 2008. Mike is credited with the leadership with the revitalization of downtown Petaluma and the riverfront corridor. He also served as the city manager for the City of Fresno from November 1990 to January 1997. Mike passed away at the age of 66 on August 10, 2015, after a battle with cancer.

John Brown (2008-2018) was Petaluma city manager for 10-years and 8-months before retiring at the end of November 2018 at the age of 60. John earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MPA from California State University, Northridge. John was the city manager in Woodburn, Oregon prior to joining the Petaluma city staff. When John left Petaluma, Assistant City Manager **Scott Brodhun** filled the city manager role temporarily.



Crime Stoppers,
Natalie Salazar with
Commander **Rob Hähnlein**
of the Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department at
National Night Out at
Loma Alta Park in Altadena.

California City Executives in Cities of Paso Robles to Pico Rivera



Pico Rivera is a Los Angeles County city bordered by Montebello, Downey, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier. Pico Rivera was originally two unincorporated agricultural communities: Pico and Rivera.

Railroad service to the area was completed by 1902. The Santa Fe, Union Pacific and Pacific Electric were joined by that year. The city of Pico Rivera was officially incorporated on January 29, 1958. It became the 61st city in the County of Los Angeles. Prior to the city's post WW II development, the area was noted for incredibly rich soil and groves of citrus, avocado orchards and walnut trees. Residential tracts and small to medium industrial facilities were built. The 2020 population is 62,088. **Steve Carmona** is the city manager and **Angelina Garcia Graves** is Assistant City Manager. **Cynthia Ayala** is the City Clerk. The Directors of Administrative Services is **Jane Guo**; **Alvaro Betancourt** is Community & Economic Development; Human Resources Director is **Karine Schirinian**; **Javier Hernandez** in the Director of Innovation and Communications; Parks & Recreation is **Pamela Yugar**, Public Works is **Noe Negrete** and **Victor Ferrer** is the Director of Sustainability and Energy.



Steve Carmona worked as a Business Team Member for the Los Angeles Mayor's Office from November 1996 to June 2000. From 2000 to 2002 he was a Commissioner on the Los Angeles city Board of Public Works. From January 2002 until June 2007, Steve served as

Executive Director for the NECA-IBEW Local 11 (January 2002-June 2007). He was President of a self-employed company from 2007 to 2012, and then worked for a Los Angeles real estate company as Vice President for 2013-2015. Steve joined the Pico Rivera city staff as the Director of Community & Economic Development in June 2016. He was appointed city manager for Pico Rivera in May 2019. Steve earned a BA from California State University, Los Angeles.

California Contract Cities Association



John Erickson of West Hollywood, President
Ed Reece of Claremont, Vice President
Sal Melendez of Montebello, Secretary
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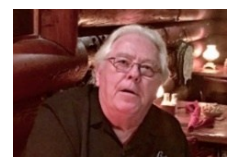


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Picking Up the Pieces: Vacaville Assistant City Manager **GeorgeAnne Meggers-Smith** is retiring in November 2026. She began her city employment in 2007 as a management analyst. She joined the city manager's office in 2020 as a program manager and deputy city manager. She was appointed Assistant City Manager in 2022. She served as Director of Parks and Recreation for a time. City Manager **Savita Chaudhary** gives GeorgeAnne high marks as an outstanding assistant. GeorgeAnne earned a BS and an MS from California State University, Sacramento.

Auburn is at the heart of Northern California's horse country, and hosts the world famous Tevis Cup, which is a legendary 100-mile, one-day equestrian endurance ride. Former Auburn City Manager **John Donlevy** was active with the Auburn horse riding community. John is also known as an avid ultramarathon runner and endurance athlete.

Gary Milliman, retired South Gate and Brookings, Oregon City Manager now serves as a Municipal Court Judge in five rural Oregon cities: Brookings, Bandon, Port Orford, Powers and Sublimity. In addition to South Gate, Gary, served as City Manager in Fort Bragg and Cotati, as Deputy City Manager in Bell Gardens and on the staff of the League of California Cities. In Oregon he served as City Manager in Ashland and Talent. Gary and his wife Liangfeng reside in Medford, Oregon.



Former Stanton city manager **Greg Hulsizer** (1993-1995), who previously served as an Assistant City Manager for the city of San Clemente, is currently the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of USA Surfing, the national governing body for the sport in the United States. Greg assumed the CEO position on June 7, 2026, succeeding **Beck Fleischauer**. Greg's major task is to prepare USA Surfing for the LA28 Olympic Games, where the surfing events will be held at Lower Trestles in San Clemente; a world-class wave Greg has personally surfed for more than 50 years. Greg began his public service career working nearly a decade as an Ocean Lifeguard and Lieutenant (1973-1982) for the city of San Clemente before serving as Assistant City Manager and as Deputy City Manager for Fontana.

Eric Figueroa is a part-time senior consultant with The Consulting Team, LLC and a consultant for Renne Public Management Group. He left the Martinez city manager position in January 2023. Eric earned a BA from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business.

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

The latest winter survey of western monarch butterflies' migration has discovered a collapse from the millions in the 1990s to 12,260 in 2025; the third-lowest count ever recorded. Scientists say that the latest figures show that isolated year-to-year population improvements should not be mistaken for recovery. Habitat loss, changing weather patterns, wildfires and other environmental pressures continue to shape the population of one of North America's most recognizable migratory insects.



Alex Kostich, a 56-year-old swimmer from Los Angeles, broke the record for the 10.6-mile Vikingsholm swim on Lake Tahoe by 31 minutes. He swam it in 3 hours, 48 minutes and 51 seconds. The swim from Cave Rock, Nevada to the beach below the historic Vikingsholm Castle in Emerald Bay is the second swim in the Lake Tahoe Triple Crown, which includes the Lake Tahoe True Width (12 miles) and the Lake Tahoe Length (21.3 miles). Alex set the Lake Tahoe True Width record last summer.

All four of the principal cast members of the 1950s sitcom, *The Honeymooners*, have passed away. **Jackie Gleason**, the inimitable Ralph Kramden died at the age of 71 on June 24, 1987, from colon cancer. **Art Carney**, who played Ed Norton, passed away November 9, 2003, at the age of 85. **Audrey Meadows**, who played Alice Kramden, passed on February 3, 1996, at age 73. **Joyce Randolph**, who played Norton's wife, Trixie, passed away on January 13, 2024, at the age of 99.

San Francisco Giants' team members who are from communities in the State of California are **Logan Webb**, born in Rocklin; **Matt Chapman**, born in Victorville; **Casey Schmitt**, born in San Diego; **Daniel Susac**, born in Roseville; **Tristan Beck**, born in Corona; **Carson Seymour**, born in Poway; and **Christian Koss**, born in Riverside. San Francisco Giants' legends that are California natives include **Barry Bonds**, born in Riverside; **Jeff Kent**, born in Bellflower; **Brandon Crawford**, born in Mountain View; **Jim Barr**, born in Lynwood and **Chris Speier**, born in Alameda. **Barry Bonds** played high school athletics at Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo. His high school career batting average was .405, and he batted .467 in his senior year.

Auburn is at the heart of Northern California's horse country, and hosts the world famous Tevis Cup, which is a legendary 100-mile, one-day equestrian endurance ride. Former Auburn City Manager **John Donlevy** was active with the Auburn horse riding community. John is also known as an avid ultramarathon runner and endurance athlete.

More Pieces Picked Up: Longtime Temecula city manager **Aaron Adams** is retiring following a 31-year public service career that he began as a 22-year-old, intern in 1995. Aaron will be succeeded by Assistant City Manager **Luke Watson**. Aaron was named the 2026 City Manager of the Year by the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). Aaron served 14-years as the Temecula city manager. He earned a BSBA from Northern Arizona University and an MA from the University of Redlands.



Sausalito City Manager **Elaine Forbes** pleaded not guilty on August 11, 2026, to misdemeanor charges levied when she was arrested last month on a yacht she does not own. She faces four misdemeanor counts: one for prowling, two counts of unauthorized lodging on different vessels and one count of petty theft. She allegedly took some woman's clothing. Her defense attorney, **Randy Knox**, said there are plans to apply for California's mental health diversion program. If accepted and she successfully completes the program, the criminal charges will be dismissed. There will be a follow-up hearing on February 10, 2026, to check the status of the diversion application. Sausalito Assistant City Manager **Brandon Phipps** is currently serving as interim city manager.

Hilary Roverud is the next South Lake Tahoe with the approval of an employment agreement on August 11. She has served as Interim City Manager since February and previously since October 2023 she has worked as the city's Assistant City Manager. Hilary joined the city staff in 2005. She served as Director of Development Services starting in 2020, and Assistant City Manager starting in 2023. Hilary earned a BA in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MS in city and regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo.

Thomas R. Hatch is the Interim City Manager for the city of Riverside since City Manager **Mike Futrell** resigned to take the Pasadena city manager position. Mike has since withdrawn from the Pasadena opportunity. Thomas brings 36-years of local government experience to the new position. He served with the cities of Walnut, Brea, South Pasadena, West Covina, El Monte, Costa Mesa, Orange, Santa Ana, Santa Fe Springs and Placentia, as well as, with the County of Orange. He earned an AA degree from Mr. San Antonio College, and a BA and MPA from California State University, Fullerton.

There are two city managers in California cities named "Eric;" **Eric Levitt** of San Bernardino and **Eric Wier** of Crescent City. Former city manager **Eric Figueroa**, a former Martinez city manager, is a well-known professional public manager.



City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown Management

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Cell Phone: Susan Simpson | 310-418-1035



Wesley Wolf and Susan Simpson



Retired Bellflower City Clerk **Debbie Bauchop**, and retired Bellflower City Manager **Jeff Stewart**.



Leilyn Marley Simpson Ha of Lakewood.



Still More Pieces Picked Up: Dixon city manager **Jim Lindley** officially retired in July 2026 following a 28-year career in public service and moved to Texas to be closer to family. Jim served as a Hesperia city council member, December 1998 to December 2006. Jim served as the

San Bernardino Director of Public Health from 2005 to 2010, when he was fired. He was city manager for the city of Dunsmuir from June 2010 to March 2012. Jim was Dixon city manager from March 2012 until his July 2026 retirement. Jim earned an AA degree from Victor Valley Community College, a BA and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino.

SHORTS:

- Ninety-six-year-old **Glenn "Hutch" Hutchinson**, a retired Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff and Bellflower Public Safety Manager, called from his Palmdale home this past week to touch base and say "Hello."
- Retired Indian Wells and Atascadero city manager **Wade McKinney** called this past week to check in and chat about the old days and how things are currently going.
- The late city manager **Ralph Henry Webb II** (December 22, 1947-September 3, 2014) was toasted at a memorial service reception on September 27, 2014, at Spaghetini's in Seal Beach.
- Orland Fire Chief since June 2022, **Justin Chaney** assumed the Interim City Manager position in July 2026 following the resignation in 2025 of city manager **Pete Carr**.
- Retired Fairfield (1997-2007), Buena Park (1885-1997) and Stanton (1981-1985) city manager **Kevin O'Rourke** studied for the priesthood prior to taking a human service coordinator position with the city of Stanton in 1977, which lead to his city manager career.
- Erin Spragan** is the new Culver City Chief Financial Officer, and **Stephen J. Agostini** is the new Assistant City Manager of Fiscal Sustainability and Transparency.
- Mayor Ana Maria Quintana** of the city of Bell where **Michael L. Antwine II** is the city manager, is the new President of the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities.
- Atherton has reclaimed its title as the country's most expensive ZIP code, overtaking Florida's Fisher Island, with median home sales reaching \$9.93 million through the first 6 months of 2026.
- Former Newport Beach city manager **Grace Leung** enjoys paddling her outrigger in the Newport Harbor.
- Hannah Shin-Heydorn** is the city manager for the city of Stanton in Orange County.
- Former city managers **Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia** and **Ann Marie Gallant** have joined the Board of the Institute for Local Government along with former Mountain View Mayor and Council Member **R. Michael Kasperzak, Jr.**
- Elaine Winer**, a "transplanted Fed," who served as Personnel Manager among her various positions, retired from the city of Torrance in March 2011, after 35-years of service to the city that started in January 1976.
- Perry Minasian**, 46, General Manager of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, from November 2020, was fired June 26, 2026, after his sixth losing season unfolded, pushing losing Angel seasons to eleven, and **John Mozeliak**, a former longtime St. Louis Cardinals General Manager, was hired as a consultant to fill in behind Perry's vacancy until a new General Manager is hired.
- Past President of the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA), **Larry Chimbole**, a past Palmdale Mayor and council member, served as a member of the California State Assembly from 1974 to 1978 representing the High Desert and Antelope Valley areas.
- James C. Hankla**, former Long Beach city manager, concluded 52 years of public service when he retired from the Board of Harbor Commissions on June 30, 2009.

Work continues on the California's high-speed rail project, with significant progress of major segments from Merced to Bakersfield currently under design and construction. Nearly 90 miles of guideway are complete, including 62 fully completed major structures and 30 more structures underway across Madera, Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties. The project continues to advance statewide, with 463 miles of the 494-mile San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim segment fully environmentally cleared and construction-ready. You may wish to contact the California High-Speed Rail authority Augie Blancas at 559-720-6695; augie.blancas@hsr.ca.gov