



Jack A. and Susan Simpson, Trackdown Management Services, 16707 Gerritt Avenue, Cerritos, California 90703-1442
Salsa546@aol.com Telephone No. 562/926-0800 Cell phone No. 562-896-5424

California's Contract Cities City Managers

Since its inception in 1957, the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) has championed the causes of cost-efficient local government through contracting out where local-control deems appropriate.

The Association grew out of the contract "service delivery" method originating with the "**Lakewood Plan**" in Los Angeles County, California.

Contract Cities City Managers usually have lean and mean staffs charged with the same full broad range of responsibilities of their full-service city brethren. One difference is a need for multi-discipline hands-on actions due to the lack of full-time staffing. Monitoring contract services can be demanding and require City Managers to be personally involved with citizen complaints, demands and suggestions in a multiplicity of service areas.

Long-time "contract cities" Executive Director Sam Olivito suggested that we mention the hard work of the Association's City Manager/Administrator Committee Chaired this year by West Hollywood City Manager Paul Arevalo. However, since the Association's Annual Conference is in May (this month), we have taken the suggestion a step further and highlighted some of the Contract Cities City Managers in this edition of the City Manager Newsletter by Trackdown.

Of course, we are not claiming to have included everyone who deserves a mention because of time and room constraints. On the other hand, this compilation should provide a good view of the highly professional California Contract Cities Association's City Managers. This presentation is not made in any particular order, and, as with previous listings, please forgive any errors and do not hesitate to point them out.

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West Hollywood City Manager **Paul Arevalo** has served as the California Contract Cities Association's City Managers/Administrators' Committee Chair during the past year. Paul has served in his current position since January 1999, and served as the City's Director of Finance prior to his appointment. Paul is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. In addition to his City duties, Paul is a member of the Rose Bowl Operation Company Board.

After working in staff positions in the Cities of Lakewood and Rosemead, veteran public manager **Howard L. Chambers** was appointed Lakewood City Manager in March 1976. Howard earned his BA at Long Beach State, and holds two Masters Degrees; an MA from Pepperdine University, and an MPA from the University of Southern California. Howard has participated in the ICMA International programs, including the 1993 Japan Fellowship Exchange, and the 1983 Exchange Program to New Zealand. He is a leaders among "contract cities" City Managers.

Tom A. Odom became the Lomita City Manager in August 2001 after serving as City Manager of Grover Beach and Greenfield, California. Prior to coming to the Golden State Tom served in various staff position in Monroe, Louisiana, and Camp Verde, Coolidge and Surprise, Arizona. Tom is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University.

Bellflower City Manager **Michael J. Egan** moved to a public management career from top management positions in the food service industry. Mike worked in Planning, Public Works and general administration prior to his appointment in October, 1997 as City Manager. Mike earned his BA at Cal Poly Pomona.

The "Lakewood Plan" is a cost-effective service delivery system.

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Contract Cities City Managers

One of California's youngest City Managers is 26-years old **Jennifer Vasquez** of Bradbury. According to one of her mentors, Jennifer was inspired to the city management craft by her father Joe, who served on the Rosemead City Council, and is a Past-President of the California Contract Cities Association. Jennifer worked as an Intern with the League of California Cities prior to taking a staff position with Bradbury. She has a BA from the University of California, Riverside, and is currently in the Masters program at California State University, Los Angeles.

Calabasas City Manager **Anthony M. "Tony" Coroalles** has a BS from the University of San Francisco and an MS from the University of Southern California. Tony served in the U.S. Army from June 1974 until March 2001. He has been the Calabasas City Manager since December 2003.

Camarillo City Manager **Jerry Bankston** has earned an ICMA 30-year Service Award. He started his career with staff positions in Garden Grove, Gardena, and Camarillo. He then served in city manager capacities in Paso Robles, Seal Beach and La Habra before moving to Camarillo.

In March 1991 **Art Gallucci** took the reigns as City Manager of the City of Cerritos. Art had originally been hired in Cerritos as a Recreation Superintendent from the former Southeast Parks & Recreation District in 1971. He headed the Cerritos Human Affairs Department from 1973 until 1981 when he became the Assistant City Manager. Art has a highly professional entrepreneur public manager reputation.

Claremont City Manager **Jeffrey C. "Jeff" Parker** began his public management career as an intern in West Covina. After staff positions in Poway and San Juan Capistrano, Jeff was appointed to the City Manager position in Patterson and then later Walnut, California. Jeff has a 20-year ICMA Service Award.

"Contract administration takes attentive professional management"



Lomita City Manager Tom Odom is a multi-state public manager

Ernesto Marquez is the City Administrator in the City of Hawaiian Gardens. Ernesto has a BA and an MPA from California State University, Long Beach. He has worked his way up in Hawaiian Gardens from a Recreation Department position following a short stint with the State Department of Fish & Game.

Gateway Cities City Managers' President **Maria Dadian**, City Manager of the City of Artesia started her career in South El Monte and Hawaiian Gardens. She came to Artesia as the Assistant City Manager in 1995, and was appointed to the top job in January 2001. Maria holds a BA from California State University. Maria has earned a 25-year ICMA Service Award.

Huntington Park's veteran City Manager **Gregory D. Korduner** started his current assignment in September 1999 following an Interim stint in La Habra Heights. Greg began his career with staff positions in Norwalk and Artesia before his appointment as South El Monte City Manager. He also served as the El Monte City Manager for 15-years. Greg, AKA "Dune Man", has a BA and MPA from California State University, Long Beach. He has a 30-year ICMA Service Award.

El Segundo City Manager **Jeff Stewart**, and avid sports fan and family man, accepted his current assignment in July 2005 after notable service in the City Manager's office in the City of Rosemead, and then moving to El Segundo as the Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director.

El Segundo City Manager Jeff Stewart is well-known among CCCA members.



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City of La Cañada Flintridge City Manager **Mark R. Alexander** is a former Chair of the California Contract Cities Association City Managers' Committee. He is a Cal Poly Pomona Political Science graduate, earned an MPA in 1990 from the University of Southern California, School of Policy, Planning and Development, and a 1996 alumni of the Southwestern University School of Law. Mark has also served on the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments City Managers' Steering Committee.

Dr. Ronald R. "Ron" Bates was appointed La Habra Heights City Manager in 2005. He earned a PhD and MPA from the University of Southern California. He worked staff positions with the City of Los Angeles and the County of Orange prior to becoming City Manager in the City of Buena Park and Anaheim Assistant City Manager. He has earned a 20-year ICMA Service Award. Ron operated his own consultant firm for several years and served as a Mayor & City Council Member during that time in the City of Los Alamitos. He is a Past-President of the League of California Cities.

Whittier College graduate and Vietnam veteran **Ernie V. Garcia** has been the Norwalk City Manager since May 1994. Ernie is a member in good standing of the Cerritos College class of 1966. Ernie started his public management career in the old Southeast Parks & Recreation District, and first came to Norwalk as the Assistant Recreation Director. He has earned a 25-year ICMA Service Award.

Edward W. Ahrens has served as Maywood's Chief Administrative Officer since 1974. He wrote a history of May Wood's 1919 development that grew into the City of Maywood, and he is also the author of "The Devil's Hole Massacre." He has a 30-year ICMA Service Award.

Through the years Paramount has had a number of city managers, but none more respected as a professional public manager than current City Manager **Linda Benedetti-Leal**. Linda came to the city manager position following faithful service as the City's Assistant City Manager and 22 years of city government experience. She earned a law degree from Yale University.



Norwalk's Ernie Garcia is one of the many excellent California city managers to come out of parks & recreation.

A former life guard and competitive swimmer, and a present day surfer, **Douglas R. Prichard** became the City Manager of the City of Rolling Hills Estates in April 1990. Doug has a BA from the University of California. Prior to going to Rolling Hills Estates as the Assistant City Manager, Doug worked in the City of Bellflower. Doug has a 20-year ICMA Service Award.

A well-known jogger and long-time public service professional, Rosemead City Manager **Andrew C. "Andy" Lazzaretto** started his career with staff positions in Montebello and Lynwood. Prior to operating his own successful municipal consulting firm for some 21-years, Andy served as City Manager in the Cities of Walnut, Stanton, Alhambra and Burbank. He also served as City Administrator in Pomona. He has graduate and undergraduate degrees and a 20-year ICMA Service Award.

Santa Fe Springs City Manager **Frederick W. "Fred" Latham** has worked in Santa Fe Springs since 1973. Fred was appointed City Manager in July 1999. He is a graduate of California Polytechnic University, Pomona, and completed graduate studies at both the Universities of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles. He has earned a 30-year ICMA Service Award. Fred has served on Boards of Directors for a number of community organizations, including the American Red Cross.

Kenneth R. "Ken" Pulskamp was appointed Santa Clarita City Manager in November 2002, following several months in the position as Interim. Ken held staff positions in Fresno and Bakersfield prior to joining the Santa Clarita staff in 1988 as the Assistant City Manager. He has earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees, including an MPA from the University of San Francisco, and a 25-year ICMA Service Award.

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City Manager **Ken Farfsing** served as City Manager in South Pasadena prior to his 1996 appointment in Signal Hill. He is also a former Community Development Director in the City of Downey. He has earned a reputation as a leader among public managers as a spokesperson for the Coalition for Practical Regulation, a coalition of 46 cities in the Los Angeles basin, in dealings with the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

South Gate City Manager **Gary D. Milliman**, who earned an MPA at the University of Southern California, was appointed to his current assignment in August 2003. Gary began his career in 1971 in the City of Bell Gardens. During his time there he served about a year on the Maywood City Council. Gary went on to City Manager positions in Cotati and Fort Bragg, before going into private business and then working with the League of California Cities. Gary was once one of the owners of the Skunk Railroad which is largely a tourist rail line between Fort Bragg and Willits, California. Gary is a 1979 ICMA Management Innovation Award winner, and he has earned a 25-year Service Award.

Raymond B. "Ray" Taylor has served as the City Manager of the City of Westlake Village since January 1993. Ray started his public management career on the staff of Simi Valley in 1977, and left there to become the Assistant to the City Manager in Rolling Hills Estates. Since then Ray has had City Manager assignments in Rolling Hills Estates, Ojai and Malibu. He also spent a little more than a year with Norman Roberts & Associates. Ray has a 25-year ICMA Service Award.

Another of those "multi-state" city managers, **Robert S. "Bob" LaSala** was appointed City Manager of the City of Lancaster in January 2005. Bob is the incoming President of the League of California Cities' City Managers' Department Board. He started his public management career in the States of New York and Florida. He served as the City Manager of Boca Raton and Deputy County Administrator in Sarasota County, Florida before coming to California as the City Manager of the City of Sunnyvale. Bob has an MPA from Syracuse University and a 30-year ICMA Service Award.

A former ICMA Executive Board Member, **Anton "Tony" Dahlerbruch** was appointed City Manager in the City of Rolling Hills in January 2007. Tony began his career as an intern in Rockville, Maryland, and then Phoenix, Arizona. He worked in Scottsdale prior to coming to Beverly Hills where he worked his way up in the organization to Deputy City Manager. Tony has an MPA from American University, Washington, D.C., and a 20-year ICMA Service Award.

After several months as Interim, **Greg Ramirez** was appointed City Manager in the City of Agoura Hills in 2004. Prior to going to the Agoura Hills staff, Greg worked with the League of California Cities as the Southern California Regional Manager. A native Californian, Greg graduated with a degree in economics from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and he earned his Master's Degree from California State University, Hayward.

Malibu City Manager **Jim Thorsen** came to the city in 2006 following nine years in the City of Agoura Hills. He went to Agoura Hills as an engineer, but moved up to Director of Public Works and Assistant City Manager.

Of course, this listing is not comprehensive, as we indicated at the outset. We hope that we have provided an appropriate representation of California's "contract cities" City Managers.



Veteran City Manager Andy Lazzaretto returned to the front lines after many years as a successful local government consultant.

Welcome back to California:

David N. "Dave" Carmany is returning to California and returning to public management after a stint with PARS. Congratulations to Dave on his appointment as the new City Manager in the City of Seal Beach. Prior to his PARS assignment, David had served as city manager in Agoura Hills, Malibu and Pacificia. He had staff positions at Lancaster, Grand Terrace and Alhambra. He is a USC graduate.



Congratulations to our 4-year old Grandson Tyler Pouncey on his Disney photo-shoot last month.

48th Annual Seminar of the California Contract Cities Association, May 17-20 at the Renaissance Esmeralda Hotel, Indian Wells, California.

We plan to be there! In fact, Country Singer Casey Simpson has been invited by Sally Flowers of Artesia to sing the National Anthem at the Opening Session.

We will be guests of Bob Hornaday of Keenan & Associates. Please drop by the Keenan exposition booth to say "hello" and to meet Bob and his Keenan colleagues in attendance.

Founded in 1972, Keenan has grown into a premier public agency service company. They are well-g geared to help cities satisfy the GASB requirements. Please come by and meet Bob. You may wish to talk to him about city business applications or you may wish to talk to him about his brother Ron, who is one of the very best NASCAR Truck race drivers.

www.keenanpa.com

www.caseysimpson.com

Trackdown Management Service
16707 Gerritt Avenue
Cerritos, California 90703-1442

Every California City Manager should be a member of the California City Management Foundation.



<http://www.cacitymanagers.org/>

Picking up the pieces:

Among the City Managers who attended the very successful 2007 Joe A. Gonsalves & Son Legislative Appreciation Program in Sacramento on April 30 were: John Danielson, Elk Grove; Jerry Fulwood, Culver City; Jim Destafano, Diamond Bar; Kevin O'Rourke, Fairfield; Greg Korduner, Huntington Park; Bob Griego, Irwindale; Bruce Channing, Laguna Hills; Howard Chambers, Lakewood; Bob Gutierrez, Moreno Valley; Ernie Garcia, Norwalk; Linda Benedetti-Leal, Paramount; Jack Lam, Rancho Cucamonga; Kurt Starman, Redding; Andy Lazzaretto, Rosemead; Fred Latham, Santa Fe Springs; Dave Anderson, Saratoga; Mike Sedell, Simi Valley; and Andy Pasmant, West Covina. Retired City Manager Frank G. Tripepi and MuniFinancial hosted the dinner for the first time.

Personal thank yous go to: Glenn Southard, Indio; Kevin O'Rourke, Fairfield; Bill Kelly & Don Penman, Arcadia; Greg Korduner, Huntington Park; CCMF President Rita Geldert of Vista; former city manager Jim Barisic of Brandywine Development; Howard Chambers, Lakewood; former La Mirada City Manager Gary Sloan; retired city manager Dennis Courtemarche; Anthony, Jason and Paul Gonsalves; retired LASD Commander John Hammargren; Erin Stibal and her boss L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe; Matt Knabe; Lyle Defenbaugh; Wes Wolf; Bob Hornaday of Keenan & Associates; retired city manager Terry Belanger; one of the brightest young public managers around, John Keisler of Long Beach; retired city manager Mike Sakamoto; Ken Bayless, retired LASD Chief currently heading up American Homeland Solutions; MuniFinancial President & CEO Frank Tripepi; Linda Benedetti-Leal, Vince Torres and the rest of the Paramount gang; Susan, Samantha, & Casey Simpson; and Mary Ann Kelly of In-N-Out Burger. Thank you one and all!

Jack A. Simpson

Please visit Cal-ICMA's Women's Leadership website:

<http://www.womenleadinggovernment.org/>