

Graham Mitchell

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

City Manager | **City of El Cajon, California** | **May 2018 – Present**

Lead an organization of 425 full-time equivalent employees/ten departments and a budget of 85 million.

Significant Programs/Accomplishments:

- Opened performing arts center with Live Nation as the operational partner
- Oversaw procurement of a new waste hauler franchise
- Established a comprehensive homeless intervention program

Assistant City Manager | **City of El Cajon, California** | **March 2017 – May 2018**

Provided management assistance to the City Manager, managed the Administrative Services Department upon the retirement of its director, and managed special projects (homeless program efforts, ECPAC reopening, Animal Shelter)

City Manager | **City of Escondido, California** | **December 2015 – March 2017**

Lead an organization of 875 full-time equivalent employees/ten departments and a budget of \$184.4 million

Significant Programs/Accomplishments:

- Negotiated two economic incentive agreements to attract hotels to an underserved area of the community and an economic stimulus effort
- Created a culture of innovation and pro-business approaches, including the initiation of a streamlined business/development approval process
- Worked with a private college in its expansion efforts in the City's downtown
- Oversee the management of the Neighborhood Transformation Program (a program that comprehensively addresses distressed neighborhoods with assistance from proactive law enforcement, public infrastructure improvements, code enforcement, crime-free multi-housing assistance, volunteer group clean-up projects, and neighborhood leadership development)

Assistant City Manager | **City of Escondido, California** | **July 2015 – December 2015**

Managed the development services departments (planning, engineering and utilities) in an effort to streamline the development process and attract development opportunities

Significant Programs/Accomplishments:

- Evaluated and identified improvement opportunities in the City's development approval process by holding focus groups with the development and real estate broker community and with City staff
- Initiated an overhaul of the City's development and business approval process through code amendments, eliminating redundant requirements, and increasing internal and external communication

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City Manager | City of Lemon Grove, California | July 2003 – June 2015

Managed an organization of 57 full-time equivalent employees/six departments and a budget of \$24.6 million

Significant Programs/Accomplishments:

- Between 2003 and 2008, grew the City's total General Reserves by 71 percent
- Facilitated the vision of the Lemon Grove Downtown Village Specific Plan
- Attracted developers to implement the vision set forth in the Lemon Grove Downtown Village Specific Plan
- Oversaw the design and construction of a downtown urban park that linked new housing development with mass transit facilities
- Attracted quality businesses to the City's downtown
- Shepherded significant capital improvement projects, including the realignment of a freeway interchange
- Oversaw the planning of a linear park that traversed the City, providing walking and biking opportunities throughout the City

City Manager | City of Farmersville, California | April 2000 – July 2003

Managed an organization of 25 full-time equivalent employees/five departments and a budget of \$7 million

Significant Programs/Accomplishments:

- Initiated a downtown capital improvement program
- Modernized the City's finance reporting process
- Oversaw management of City's utility operations (water and wastewater)
- Rebuilt trust in a government that had experienced five city managers in a three-year period

Sr. Management Analyst | City of Moorpark, California | January 1998 – April 2000

- Managed downtown redevelopment activities
- Managed filming permit program
- Represented the City with regional organizations
- Managed the establishment of community facilities districts

Economic Development Specialist | City of Monterey Park, California | November 1996 – January 1998

- Managed business attraction/retention and economic development activities
- Assisted in establishing a public/private lending institution for business start-ups with local governments and commercial banks
- Established and managed the City's Youth Advisory Board and won a Helen Putnam Award for the City for the program
- Managed various community events

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OTHER EXPERIENCE

Instructor (Public Administration), San Diego State University, 2018 - Present

Instructor (Local Government Finance and Human Resource courses), Police Officers Standards & Training (POST) Management Course, 2014 – 2018

Instructor (Public Administration), California Lutheran University graduate program, 2000

Instructor (Political Science), Moorpark Community College, 1999 – 2000

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International City/County Management Association

Preparing the Next Generation Committee Chair, San Diego City/County Managers Association, 2005 – 2014

San Diego State University's Public Affairs Task Force, 2013 – Present

San Diego City/County Managers Association, Chair, 2013

Lemon Grove Healthy Easting Active Living Steering Committee, 2013 – 2015

Regional Training Center of Southern California, Board Member, 2014 – Present

EDUCATION

M.A., Public Administration, University of Southern California, 1997

B.A., International Relations, Brigham Young University, 1994

CONFERENCE SPEAKER

International City/County Management Association Annual Conference (2020) – Public Safety Mental Wellness Programs

Route Fifty's Pop Up Town Hall (2020) – Use of technology to connect with residents