



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michele Frisby, Director, Public Information
mfrisby@icma.org; 202/962-3658

**ICMA RECOGNIZES LIFE MEMBER FRANK BENEST WITH
PRESTIGIOUS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

WASHINGTON, D.C.— **Frank Benest**, retired city manager of Palo Alto, California, was selected by the executive board of [ICMA](#), the International City/County Management Association, as a 2011 recipient of that organization’s Distinguished Service Award (DSA). Frank is a noted [consultant and trainer](#) on rightsizing public organizations, entrepreneurial government, civic engagement, leadership development, and succession planning. His contributions were commemorated during the 97th ICMA Annual Conference in Milwaukee, September 18-21, and in a special insert to the October 2011 issue of ICMA’s *Public Management (PM)* magazine.

ICMA’s [Distinguished Service Award](#) is presented to a manager who has retired from the profession and made an outstanding contribution to local government and the management profession. Rather than focusing on longevity, ICMA’s DSA recognizes a manager whose service in his or her community(ies) has been evaluated by his or her peers as strong or exceptional, and who has made major contributions beyond direct service to local government.

“Local government is not an easy career,” said Benest. “I am therefore grateful to all my ICMA colleagues who have supported me over my career as I have tried to build communities and make a difference.”

Benest was nominated for the award by two emerging leaders in California who have received ongoing career support and coaching from him.

In an area of the country known for technological innovation, Benest has been a thought leader in reinvigorating government, helping late-career managers leave a legacy of expertise and wisdom, and attracting talented young people to public service. He currently serves as the ICMA senior advisor for [Next Generation Initiatives](#) and co-chair of the [Cal-ICMA Coaching Program](#). He helped develop the Silicon Valley Regional Internship Program, which provides 100 summer internships to university students along with coaching and learning forums. He established Palo Alto's summer internship program for university students and its management fellowship program for university graduates with a Master's degree in public administration.

Benest teaches at Stanford University and has served as city/county manager in residence at Stanford, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of LaVerne. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

A resource to his colleagues who are in transition and or facing career milestones, Benest helped create and co-chairs the [Cal-ICMA Encore Manager/Senior Managers Initiative](#). In this role, he provides peer counseling and organizes support network meetings and workshops for senior managers who are about to transition to their next phase or have already started "encore" careers.

Benest retired as Palo Alto city manager in August 2008. Before coming to Palo Alto, he served as city manager in Colton and Brea, California. A [Credentialed ICMA Manager](#), Frank is past president of the California City Managers Department and past vice president of ICMA. He has a doctorate in management from Brigham Young University; a Masters in public administration from California State University, Long Beach; and a Bachelor of arts degree from Yale University.

About ICMA

The mission of ICMA is to create excellence in local governance by developing and advancing the professional management of local government. In addition to supporting more than 9,000 members, ICMA provides publications, data, information, peer and results-oriented assistance,

and training and professional development to thousands of city, town, and county experts and other individuals throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA's members affect millions of individuals living in thousands of communities, from small villages and towns to large metropolitan areas. Visit icma.org to learn more.

#