

# Vega fulfills wish to run city

*Greenfield's manager has 30 years experience keeping things running smoothly*

By **DAWN WITHERS**  
The Salinas Californian

To hear Anna Vega talk, she was meant to run a city. Vega, Greenfield's city manager, has worked in municipal government for 30 years. This is the first time she's held the post of city manager but she served as assistant city manager in Richmond in the San Francisco Bay Area before coming to Greenfield 2 1/2 years ago. Vega took the job in Greenfield, she said, because she long had the professional goal of managing a city.

"Here you don't have the staff for analysis and reports," Vega said. "You have to do it yourself. That was one major adjustment."

As Greenfield's city manager, she said, she works closely with the city's 48 employees and department heads, overseeing personnel issues and each department's day-to-day decisions. She has created two new jobs during her tenure by finding city money for a community development director and a director of the city's home-buyer programs.

In guiding city operations, Vega said, one of her biggest challenges is ensuring the city's future economic growth. She started by hiring a consultant to help update the city's general plan, which was approved by the City Council in March. Now, she said, she spends much of her time trying to persuade developers to invest in Greenfield by building commercial space.

"We're trying to achieve a balanced community," Vega said. "We have the labor force but not the jobs."

She said she also wants to bring in more community services by building a recreation complex and luring the Boys & Girls Club to the area. She's working on plans for a new civic center complex with police and other city officials in the same building and space to accommodate future increases in



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**Greenfield City Manager Anna Vega stands in front of her City Hall office in Greenfield.**

employees. "The city runs much more efficiently," said Lee-Ann Ruyle, Vega's administrative assistant. "Because of her financial background, she knows how to invest our money in ways to get the best value for our dollar."

In addition to her city duties, Vega is the president of the Greenfield Rotary Club and sits on the board of trustees for Mee Memorial Hospital in King City.

"She is demanding; you have to be on time and on budget," said Greenfield police Chief Joe Grebmeier. "She has a really good sense of humor, and she leads more than directs by setting example."

Because of those qualities, Grebmeier said, Vega has earned the loyalty of the city staff, especially since she's the "kind of boss where everyone feels comfortable telling her the truth and the bad news."

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## **ANNA VEGA**

n **AGE:** 49

n **JOB:** Greenfield city manager since 2003.

n **EXPERIENCE:** Worked previously as assistant city manager of Richmond for five years; overall has worked in municipal government for 30 years.

n **EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from National University, based in the San Diego area. She received a master's degree in public administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

n **PERSONAL:** Divorced, lives in Greenfield and has three adult children.