

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Seth Eckard Credentialed by
International Local Government Management Organization**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Seth Eckard, Town Manager of the Town of Valdese, recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA, the International City/County Management Association. Mr. Eckard is one of over 1,300 local government management professionals currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

ICMA's mission is to create excellence in local governance by promoting professional management worldwide and increasing the proficiency of appointed chief administrative officers, assistant administrators, and other employees who serve local governments and regional entities around the world. The organization's nearly 10,000 members in 27 countries also include educators, students, and other local government employees.

To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government; have earned a degree, preferably in public administration or a related field; and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

Seth Eckard is qualified by seven years of professional local government executive experience. Prior to his appointment in 2015 as Town Manager of Valdese, he served as Town Administrator of the Town of Sawmills.

Highlights of Seth Eckard's ICMA membership include: UNC School of Government, Public Executive Leadership Academy 2013; ICMA, Gettysburg Leadership Institute 2017; North Carolina City/County Managers Association, Program and Conference Committee 2011 – 2016; ICMA, Program Conference Committee 2012 and ICMA, Young Professional Scholarship Recipient 2011.

Seth Eckard has also made significant contributions to a number of other organizations, including: Appalachian State Local Government Alumni Association, Valdese Rotary Club, Burke Development Inc. (Board of Directors—Treasurer), The Education Foundation of Caldwell County (Board of Directors), Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce (Board of Directors), Caldwell County Heritage Museum (Board of Directors - Treasurer), Communities in Schools of Caldwell County (Board of Directors), Granite Falls Rotary Clubs (President 2013-2015) and Sustainable Foothills (Board of Directors—Treasurer).

For more information regarding the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program, contact Jenese Jackson at ICMA, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., #500, Washington, D.C. 20002-4201; jjackson@icma.org; 202-962-3556.

About ICMA

ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, advances professional local government worldwide. The organization's mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional management to build better communities.

ICMA identifies leading practices to address the needs of local governments and professionals serving communities globally. We provide services, research, publications, data and information, peer and results-oriented assistance, and training and professional development to thousands of city, town, and county leaders and other individuals and organizations throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA's members affect millions of people living in thousands of communities, ranging in size from small towns to large metropolitan areas.

The ICMA logo is located in the bottom right corner of the page. It consists of the letters "ICMA" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The logo is positioned over a decorative background of overlapping, semi-transparent light blue squares of various sizes, which are arranged in a pattern that suggests a staircase or a series of steps. The overall design is clean and professional.