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City Managers Have No Geographic Limits

Many Northern California City Managers Have Southern California Roots:

Here is a listing of some Northern California City Managers whose careers started in or touched Southern California. There is no claim that the listing is complete. It is intended to show that many California City Managers have broad-based California municipal government experience. There are a few surprises thrown in for good measure. We hope you find this listing of interest.

There is no intended order of listing. Though the ICMA Who's Who Directory was used, much of the information is memory based so please feel free to correct any errors, and please let us know of those we may have overlooked.

A former West Coast Representative to the ICMA Board of Directors, and a member of the California City Management Foundation Board of Trustees, **Kevin O'Rourke**, Fairfield City Manager, served in Stanton and Buena Park prior to moving north.

With a BA from Yale, an MPA from CSU and a Doctorate from Brigham Young University, Palo Alto city manager **Frank Benest** began his city government career as a Recreation Supervisor in Covina. He also worked in Gardena before becoming a city manager in Colton and then Brea.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HERE IS A LISTING YOU MAY FIND ENTERTAINING AND /OR INSTRUCTIVE. THIS MAY BE THE ONE AND ONLY ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER DEPENDING ON WHETHER THERE IS ANY INTEREST FOR ANOTHER EDITION.

Northern California Range Rider **Joe Goeden**, retired from West Sacramento, is a former CM and assistant in Montebello.

Paradise CM **Chuck Rough**, who also served as CM in Ukiah, is a former Norwalk assistant.

Fremont CM **Fred Diaz**, formerly of Tracy, is also a former Azusa and Indio City Manager and worked as an assistant in Pico Rivera.

Retired Porterville City Manager **Guy Huffaker** was an assistant in Montebello. Guy is a past member of the CCMF Board.

Alameda CM **Debbie Kurita** is a former ACM in Santa Ana, assistant in Torrance, and intern in Lawndale and Los Angeles. She serves on the ICMA Board and is a former CCMF Board member.

Retired Lakeport CM **Randy Johnsen**, who also served in Cotati, Orland, and lone is a former Southern California assistant in Montclair, Colton, Santa Fe Springs and interned in Lakewood.

American Canyon CM **Rich Ramirez**, who was a Deputy CM in Sacramento and CM in Hemet, Paso Robles and Lincoln, served in assistant capacities in Stanton and South El Monte.

Hercules City Manager **Michael Sakamoto** is a former ACM and Director of Finance in Bellflower. He is also a former CM in Adelanto.

CMs With Southern Roots And More:

(Continued from Page 1)

Scott Morgan, Anderson City Manager, is a former ACM in Orange and staff member in Fountain Valley.

Atherton CM **Jim Robinson**, a former manager in Corte Madera and San Ramon, is a former ACM in Rancho Cucamonga and staffer in Chino, though he was first an administrative aide in Pleasant Hill.

Belvedere CM **George Rodericks** is a former Villa Park CM and an ACM in La Mirada after staff stints in Rancho Palos Verdes and La Habra Heights. He also interned in La Mirada.

Rick Pucci was an assistant in La Mirada and Temple City prior to becoming the City Manager of Bishop in 1980.

Brentwood City Manager **Donna Landeros** has worked in both ends of the State in Butte and Yolo Counties and City Manager in Ventura.

Ceres CM **Brad Kilger** started in the Planning Department in San Bernardino, and has worked in Apple Valley, Yucca Valley and Modesto.

Clayton CM **Gary Napper** started his local government career in Garden Grove and



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Hey! It's my newsletter!

Tustin before he moved north to Morro Bay and Ceres. He went back south to serve as Glendora city manager before going to Clayton.

Steve Julian, city manager of Coalinga, started his local government career in Garden Grove, La Mirada and Ontario before becoming a CM in Banning, San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point and Mammoth Lakes.

Corning CM **Stephen Kimbrough** started his local government career as an intern in the La Habra Planning Department, and served in Palm Springs, Montclair, Covina, Arcadia, Temple City, and Chino Hills.

Cotati City Manager **Terry Stubbings** was an Assistant to the City Manager in Palmdale before moving north to a staff position in Santa Rosa.

Marc Grisham, Pittsburg, California city manager, is a Long Beach City College and Long Beach State graduate. He worked in Imperial Beach before becoming an ACM & CM in Pinole.

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"California City Managers have no geographical bounds...broad based knowledge strengthens the city management craft."



Diversity is a good thing!

CMs With Southern Roots And More:

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Crescent City, one of California's most northerly cities, has Eli Naffah as city manager. Eli started his local government career as an intern in La Mirada, and then went to positions in Montebello and Huntington Beach before moving north to Antioch and his first CM position in Rio Dell.

Starting his city government career in San Diego, US Air Force veteran Cupertino CM David Knapp moved on to Boulder, Colorado before returning to California as Town Manager in Los Gatos.

Daly City CM Pat Martel started in city government in the City Engineer Department in Inglewood before moving up there and then moving north to South San Francisco. Joe Curran, Assistant to the City Manager in Daly



Membership in the California City Management Foundation is a good idea!

City, started his city government career in Norwalk. Daly City ACM Kerry Burns started as a Manhattan Beach intern, and also worked in Norwalk prior to moving north.

Bill Emlen, Davis city manager, work 10 years in the Palmdale Planning Department prior to moving north to American Canyon and Davis.

Please see *CMs With Southern Roots* on page 4

The Care and Feeding of California City Managers

In California the City Manager has many different support groups, but only one with its sole purpose being the “care and feeding of California City Managers.” That one dedicated and focused group is the *California City Management Foundation (CCMF)*.

ICMA serves its' California members better than ever with the advent of Cal-ICMA. Of course, ICMA's membership transcends city managers. However, Mike Busch and the Cal-ICMA leadership do well by the California membership.

The League of California Cities City Manager's Department does a fine job of conference planning and training for city managers and assistants, and the Municipal Management Assistants of Northern California (MMANC) and the Municipal Management Assistants of Southern California (MMASC) serve their members well.

The CCMF President is Rita Geldert, City Manager of the City of Vista, and the Executive Director is retired El Cajon City Manager Bill Garrett. The CCMF mission is to be the premier advocacy organization for California's City Managers and the Council-Manager form of government. City Managers and primary assistants are urged to become CCMF members, and corporate sponsors are encouraged to support this fine group in the name of professional development and good government.

Please visit the CCMF website at: <http://www.cacitymanagers.org/>

CMs With Southern Roots from Page 3

Dublin City Manager **Rich Ambrose** was an intern in Glendale, and his Administrative Services Director **Paul Rankin** got his start as an intern in Claremont and then moved to Rosemead before moving north.

Fairfax manager **Linda Kelly** interned in Pasadena prior to working in Long Beach, La Puente, and Whittier before moving north to Sunnyvale and Atherton.

Folsom city manager **Kerry Miller** moved there from Encinitas, though he started his career as an intern in Fairfield before moving on. He has also served as CM in Sanger and South Lake Tahoe.

Jesus Armas, Hayward CM, started his career in Glendale prior to moving to Santa Cruz and his first CM position in South San Francisco.

Jackson CM **Mike Daly** began his local government career in Manhattan Beach before becoming a city manager in Rio Dell.

Lafayette city manager **Steve Falk** was an analyst in Long Beach before moving north to a position with the San Francisco International Airport.

Anthony Altfeld, Marina city manager, went to school at El Camino Community College and CSU, and worked in the Hermosa Beach Police Department before his appointment as Chief of Police in Atwater.

“Kevin O’Rourke, Carlos Urrutia, Frank Benest and Mike Sakamoto are among California’s finest city managers with experience in both ends of the State.”

It has been so long ago many may have forgotten and many others never knew that Martinez city manager **Don Blubaugh** started in Riverside and Palm Springs before heading north to Hayward and Walnut Creek.

Retired McFarland city manager **Anthony Lopez** got his start as an intern in the City of Paramount. He also worked in Long Beach, Stanton, Desert Hot Springs and Coachella before moving north to Corning and Orange Cove. He came south to Hawaiian Garden for a few years before returning north.

Merced city manager **Jim Marshall** started as an intern in National City before going to Duarte. He moved north to Ceres and served as the Ceres CM from 1978 to April, 1992 when he went to Merced.

Morgan Hill CM **Ed Tewes** began as an intern in Pasadena before working his way up to ACM in Long Beach. He left to the north for his first CM position in Clovis, and then Modesto.

City of Mount Shasta CM **Jeff Butzlaff** started his city government career in West Covina before heading north and serving as CM in San Joaquin, Kingsburg, and Calistoga. He came south for a time to serve as CM in Canyon Lake.

Napa City Manager **Mike Parness** started his career in the State of Washington. He served as CM in San Clemente before moving to Walnut Creek and Napa.

Novato CM **Dan Keen** started in the City of Paramount, moved to Norwalk and became CM in La Palma before moving northerly to Seaside.

Porterville city manager **John Longley** has had two tours of duty as CM in Avalon.

Before moving north, Rohnert Park’s city manager **Steve Donley** interned in San Diego and served in Alhambra and Burbank.

Please see *CMs With Southern Roots* on page 5

CMs With Southern Roots from page 4

Riverbank city manager **Rich Holmer** started in Fountain Valley, Lakewood, Gardena, Colton and Fontana prior to moving to Folsom and Riverbank.

Rocklin City Manager **Carlos A. Urrutia** got his start as an intern in the City of Rolling Hills and as an AA in Hawaiian Gardens before moving north to Sunnyvale and Soledad. He has been in Rocklin since 1984, and has a Doctorate from U.S.C.

Roseville City Manager **Craig Robinson** started as an intern in Thousand Oaks and later moved to Rolling Hills, and Huntington Park.

League of California Cities' City Managers' Department President, Santa Rosa City Manager **Jeff Kolin** got his start in Parks and Recreation in Newport Beach. After serving in positions in Anaheim and Santa Clarita, he moved north as the City Manager of the City of Pittsburg, California.

Saratoga City Manager **Dave Anderson** started in Lancaster and San Jacinto prior to moving north for a position in Danville.

Gordon Palmer, Stockton City Manager, got started as a planner with SCAG and then worked for the Port of Long Beach before moving to the Port of Stockton.

Tracy City Manager **Dan Hobbs** held government positions in Ohio, Maryland, Texas and Michigan before coming to Southern California as the City Manager of the City of West Covina. He moved north as the Fresno City Manager.

Turlock City Manager **Tim Kerr** worked in San Luis Obispo, Rosemead, and Burbank before moving north to San Benito County, and then city manager positions in Livingston and Ceres.

City Manager **Larry Cheeves** of Union City got started as an intern in the City of Cerritos. Following positions in Pico Rivera, Buena Park and Norwalk, he moved north. Larry earned his MPA at Cal State Fullerton.

Wheatland City Manager **Steve Wright** started his local government career in Signal Hill. Since then he has served as CM in Lynwood, Taft, Big Bear Lake and Truckee.

The following are random add-ons you may find of interest:

Then there are folks like Calimesa CM **David Lane** who went to school in Southern California in Redlands and San Diego, but started his local government career in Humboldt County. David has also served as CM in Clearlake, California.

Starting in West Covina, Poway and San Juan Capistrano, Claremont CM **Jeff Parker** became a city manager in Patterson before coming back to Southern California in Walnut.

Concord ACM **Mark Deven** started in Lakewood, Newport Beach and Anaheim.

Troy Brown, Elk Grove's Assistant to the City Manager, worked in Santa Clarita and Riverside before moving north.

Lancaster CM **Bob LaSala** has worked in government in New York, New Jersey and Florida, though he came to Southern California from the CM position in Sunnyvale.

Lincoln City Manager **Jerry Johnson** started in New York and then served as CM in Desert Hot Springs, Rialto and Norco before moving to Lincoln.

Salinas ACM **Jorge Rifa** started with positions in Compton and El Monte before becoming a city manager in Soledad.



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About Trackdown Management Services:

Trackdown was established by Jack and Susan Simpson several years ago. Susan, who currently works for the Travel & Events group in the corporate office of In-N-Out Burger in Irvine, represented country singer daughter Casey Simpson through the Trackdown offices prior to Casey's move to Nashville. Susan also did consulting work and document preparation through Trackdown.

Following 25-years as a City Manager, Jack left the business. During the past-dozen-plus years he has worked as a local government consultant. A strong belief that focused professional city managers are needed to maximize the benefits of the Council-Manager Plan and the democratic process have held Jack's interest in city management. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the California City Management Foundation (CCMF) and on the Cal-ICMA Board.

This newsletter is intended to be a fun thing. We apologize in advance for any errors. City Management has a pressure-packed working environment. Respite are needed to recharge the old batteries. We hope that this short reading has done just that.

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