Here is retired City Manager Dr. Carlos A. Urrutia sitting in front of the Oslo, Norway City Hall, where the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded annually on December 10. Carlos began his public service career as an Administrative Intern in Rolling Hills in 1974. He worked as an Administrative Assistant in Hawaiian Gardens (1975-1977), and in Sunnyvale (1977-1981). He then served as the City Manager in Soledad (1981-1984) and he retired from Rocklin after working as their City Manager from 1984 to 2010. Carlos is now the Principal Consultant for Carlos Urrutia Consulting of Sacramento.

City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Those of you who have been reading our material for the past few years have seen many contrived listings. We continue to try to find ways to include municipal government professionals throughout the State of California. A good number of the smaller cities operate without City Managers or City Administrators. Usually in those cases, the City Clerk provides the staff leadership in addition to the City Clerk responsibilities. An old 2006 League list included: Alturas, Amador, Dorris, Etna, Fort Jones, Loyalton, Montague, Point Arena, Tehama, Trinidad, Tulelake and Westmorland as non-City Manager Cities, along with San Diego. Our information search shows that some of these jurisdictions currently have City Managers or City Administrators.
City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

At the risk of offending everyone, it is important that we explain why we do not feel that City Manager is a profession, though there are many “professionals” serving in the craft. To be a City Manager one does not have to have any particular education, or earn any license or certifications. A City Manager is selected by the City Council; a majority vote of the City Council. The members of the City Council vote based on their personal criteria. Yes! Many highly professional individuals serve as City Managers, but there are examples of City Managers who do not have college degrees or any previous or significant city management experience. Some of these “under qualified” individuals have been successful City Manager.

Members of the League of California Cities City Managers Department; Cal-ICMA; ICMA; MMANC; MMASC; and the California City Management Foundation are responsible for many wonderful training opportunities, and learning experiences. These groups are continually doing their best to “professionalize” City Managers. These groups are important; critical even; to developing professionals to serve in the City Manager craft.

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“In order to excel, you must be completely dedicated.”
---Willie Mays, MLB Hall of Fame
City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Alturas City Clerk Cary L. Baker has served in that position since April, 1992; 25-years. The Alturas City Clerk is an elected position. Alturas incorporated as a city on September 16, 1901. The city was originally named “Dorris Bridge” when a post office opened in the community in 1871. It was named after Pressley and James Dorris, who built a bridge across the Pit River at that location. It was renamed Dorrisville in 1874 and finally named Alturas in 1876. The current population is about 2,537.

Amador City was founded in 1863 and incorporated as a city in 1915. Its 2010 population was 185. The town is named for Jose Maria Amador, a rancher who mined along the creek in the area. Joyce Davidson is the Amador City Clerk, and Holly Groth is the City Treasurer. Some believe that there were more than 4,000 people in Amador during the Gold Rush years. Today, Amador is an historic town retaining the look and feel of a thriving Gold Rush town from 150-years ago.

Trackdown Congratulations to Pismo Beach City Manager James R. Lewis who has been installed as the new President of the City Managers Division of the League of California Cities. On the right, you see Jim at the podium and immediate past President Dan Keen on the right. The picture on the right is of retired City Manager and past President Frank Benest and Jim at a previous City Manager event. Jim has served as the Pismo Beach City Manager since 2013. He is a past President of MMASC (2001).

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“The pursuit of perfection often impedes improvement.” --George Will
City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Did we mention that it is nearly impossible to readily find information on some municipal leaders?

Dorris, California incorporated on December 23, 1908. The City was named by the Southern Pacific Railroad after the brothers Presley A. and Carlos J. Dorris, who raised live stock in Little Shasta in the 1860s prior to moving to Dorris Bridge on the Pit River in 1876. Dorris has a 2010 census population of 939. City Hall was built in 1935 with WPA funding. In 2006 the League listed Shelley Rushing as the Dorris City Clerk. In a book entitled, On the Back Roads, by Bill Graves, originally published in 1999, Bill names Donna Burcher as the City Clerk.

Executive Level:

Wade McKinney, Indian Wells CM & President of CCMF
Michael J. Sedell, Retired Simi Valley City Manager
Larry F. Pennell, Retired City Manager
Marcia Raines, Millbrae City Manager
Kevin O’Rourke, KOLGS/PARS
Frank G. Tripepi, Retired City Manager & Vice President

Posse:

Gregory Korduner, Retired City Manager
Howard Chambers, Lakewood
Lyle Defenbaugh, CalTrust
Ernie Garcia, Retired Norwalk City Manager
Joe Tanner, Retired City Manager
Dave Carmany, La Puente City Manager
Ken Bayless, Retired, Greater L.A. Vector Control District
Richard Ramirez, Retired City Manager, American Canyon
Vern Lawson, Lancaster
Don Penman, Retired City Manager, Arcadia
Anthony Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Ernesto Marquez, City Manager In Transition
Gary K. & Mary Jo Sloan, Retired La Mirada City Manager
Anthony R. Ybarra, Retired South El Monte
Sam Olivito, California Contract Cities Association
Jack Lam, Retired Rancho Cucamonga City Manager
Gary Chicots, Retired City Manager
Anthony Lopez, Retired City Manager
Dr. Bill Mathis, Mathis Group
Roy Pederson, ICMA Past-President
Troy Butzlaff, City Manager In-Transition
Dale Geldert, Retired CDF Director
Rita Geldert, Retired Vista City Manager
Gary Milliman, Brookings, Oregon
Doug Dunlap, Retired City Manager, Pomona
Robert Dickey, Former CM & retired DPW, South Gate
Clay Curtin, Menlo Park
Jim Lewis, Pismo Beach City Manager
Kevin Duggan, ICMA & retired City Manager
Charles G. "Guy" Huffaker, Retired City Manager
Rod B. Butler, Port Hueneme City Manager
Ray Harris, Retired Public Official
Jason Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Paul Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
John C. Bolan, Cheyenne River Ranch
John F. Shirey, Sacramento City Manager
Glenn Southard, Retired City Manager, Indio & Claremont
Paul Phillips, City Manager, City of Industry
Ray B. Taylor, City Manager, Westlake Village
Chris Freeland, City Manager, West Covina
Lee C. McDougal, Retired Montclair City Manager
Douglas N. La Belle, Retired Chino Hills City Manager
Ray Silver, Retired City Manager, Past Pres. CM/LCC
John P. Thompson, Retired City Manager, Vacaville
Denise Ovrom, HdL Companies
Richard D. Rowe, Retired City Manager
Ronald Kiedrowski, Retired City Manager
Cynthia Kurtz, Interim City Manager, Santa Ana
September, 2017 Special

City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Etna is located in the Scott Valley area of Siskiyou County. It’s 2010 population was set at 737. Etna incorporated March 13, 1878. The community was originally known as “Rough and Ready.” The name was changed to Etna in 1874. Pamela Russell is the Manager of the Etna City Clerk’s office.

Fort Jones, California is also located in the Scott Valley area in Siskiyou County. The 2010 census puts the Fort Jones population at 839. Fort Jones is registered as a California Historical Landmark. The Fort Jones name was settled on in 1860 after several other names had been used previously, including Scottsburg, Scottsville, Wheelock, and Ottitiewa. Linda Romaine has served as the Fort Jones City Clerk since February, 1990; 27-plus years.
City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Loyalton is a City in Sierra County, California. Its 2010 Census puts the population at 769. The City incorporated in 1901. Loyalton has been called “the loneliest town in America.” Jennifer Hood is the Manager of the Loyalton City Clerk’s office. The 2006 League roster lists Phyllis DeMartini as the City Clerk.

According to the 2010 census, the City of Montague in Siskiyou County has a population of 1,443. Montague incorporated January 28, 1909. When the Southern Pacific Railroad extension was built from Dunsmuir to the California state line in 1886-1887, the station was named for S.S. Montague, Chief Engineer of the Central Pacific Railroad. The League’s 2006 listing shows Julie Johnson as the Montague City Clerk.

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There is no room in baseball for discrimination. It is our National pastime and a game for all.”
–Lou Gehrig
City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Point Arena has a population of about 449. It was incorporated July 11, 1908. Point Arena City Manager Richard Shoemaker began his public service career as a City Council Member in the City of Ukiah between 1986 to 1996. In 1997, he began to serve as a County Supervisor in Mendocino County where he served between 1997 and 2005. Following his service as an elected official he went to work as the Executive Director for the Ukiah Valley Cultural & Recreation Center between 2006 and November, 2014. Between 1984 and 2017, in addition to his public official capacities, he was the owner of Green Lion Landscape Irrigation Efficiency Consulting. Also, from 2005 to 2017 he was a Principal with RMS Consulting & Project Management. In 2015 Richard was appointed City Manager for the City of Point Arena. Richard says that he was educated at the College of Hard Knocks.

David W. Tyson was appointed Interim City Manager for Point Arena following the resignation of City Manager Phil Vince in 2015. David worked as an Auditor for the State of California in 1979 and 1980. In 1980, he joined the staff of the City of Arcata as an Accountant. In 1990 David was hired in Eureka as the City’s Director of Finance. He was selected to serve as the Eureka Assistant City Manager in 1995, and he was appointed City Manager in 2000 serving in that post until he retired in 2012 making him Eureka’s longest serving City Manager. He served for a time in 2013-2014 as the Eureka Interim City Manager. David earned a BA at Humboldt State University. In 2010, he received a 30-year ICMA Service Award.
City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Phil Vince is a former Point Arena City Manager. Phil worked for the City of Novato from July, 1986 until January, 2004. He worked in various capacities starting as a Management Analyst. In February, 2004 Phil was selected to serve as the Town Manager in Moraga. He left Moraga in 2008 when he was appointed City Manager in the City of Martinez. Phil was the Martinez City Manager for a little more than 9-years. He became the first City Manager in Point Arena in November, 2014. He resigned from his Point Arena position in May, 2015. Phil earned a BA from Saint Mary’s College of California and an MPA from San Francisco State University. In 2004 Phil served as the President of the Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC). Phil currently lives in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

Phil Vince and a friend in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

Sharon and Sam Olivito visiting Italy.

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Michael Colantuono is Managing Shareholder. Michael currently serves as the President of the State Bar of California Board of Trustees, City Attorney for the Cities of Auburn and Grass Valley. Michael is the current President Members of the firm serve as City Attorney or General Counsel in: Auburn, Barstow, Calabasas, Grass Valley, Lakeport, Ojai, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena and Yountville.

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City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Tehama incorporated as a city July 5, 1906 in Tehama County. It’s 2010 census population is 418. Tehama was one of the earliest communities in California north of Sacramento. The City was mapped out in 1850. Carolyn Steffan is the current Tehama City Clerk/Administrator. Carolyn retired as Superintendent of the Los Molinos Unified School District where she had attended elementary and high school as a student. She was previously taught in Yuba City prior to returning to Tehama where she was a teacher and teaching-principal at Vina Elementary School. Carolyn earned a BS and teaching credential from the University of California, Davis. She serves on the Tehama County Board of Education.

Former City Manager Jim Barisic founded Brandywine in 1994. Jim and his three sons Brett Whitehead, Mark Whitehead and David Barisic direct Brandywine Homes. Projects are now selling in Anaheim, Arcadia, Monrovia, Norwalk, Torrance, Yorba Linda, coming soon are projects in Yorba Linda, and Whittier. Call Brandywine at 949-296-2400
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Statistics are used much like a drunk uses a lamppost: for support, not illumination.” ---Vin Scully

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Ryder Todd Smith, Founder and President of Tripepi Smith & Associates Ryder serves on the Tustin Planning Commission, and among other things he is on the Board of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College.
City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Trinidad is located on the Pacific Coast in Humboldt County. It incorporated as a city on November 7, 1870. The 2010 census puts its population at 367. The first post office was established in 1851. The Trinidad City Manager is Dan Berman. He was appointed to the position in September, 2014. Trinidad’s City Clerk is Gabriel Adams. Dan succeeds City Manager Karen Suiker, who retired. He worked in watershed management for about 13-years before joining the Trinidad staff. He was the Program Director for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, and he served as the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District’s Director of Conservation. Dan grew up in Trinidad.

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Diana Norris, a veteran member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. Diana previously worked for the City of Bellflower. Picture taken at a Bellflower HS reunion.

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Urban Futures, Inc. (UFI) is a full service municipal consulting firm serving cities, counties, school districts, special districts, private higher education and non-profits since 1972. Urban Futures, Inc. has a broad base of expertise with highly skilled and experienced professionals. Services include strategic planning, financial analysis, management consulting, utility rate and feasibility studies and special study services with offices in the cities of Tustin and Walnut Creek.

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City Managers in Some of California’s Smaller Cities

Tulelake. California is a city in Siskiyou County. The community incorporated on March 1, 1937. The 2010 census put the population at 1,010. The City Hall Administrator in Jenny Coelho, and the City Administrative Clerk is Heidi Cureton. The elected City Clerk is Iva Rogers. Jenny has been in her post since August, 2012. She earned a BA in agricultural economics from Oregon State University.

Westmorland is a city in Imperial County with a 2010 census population of 2,225. Westmorland is included in the El Centro Metropolitan Area. The Westmorland post office originally opened in 1909, and the was incorporated in 1936. The City Clerk is Sally Traylor.

We hope you enjoyed our travels through some of California’s smallest cities. We continue to try to include everyone who is out there working on the local government front-lines. Cheers! **

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**Willdan Financial Services:** Since April 6, 2015 Economist.com, a leader in economic and financial analysis, utility cost-of-service studies, and regulatory representation and litigation support, is part of Willdan Financial Services. Economist.com is located in Dallas, Texas. Dan V. Jackson is the Managing Director of Economists.com. Dan is also an author who has written successful fiction. Look for his novel, The Forgotten Men, on Amazon.com. With this acquisition, Willdan Financial Services expanded its qualifications and is now able to provide an even more comprehensive set of service skills.
Christina Turner is the new Morgan Hill City Manager. Christina previously worked in the City of Gilroy as the Finance Director and Treasurer. She joined the Morgan Hill city staff in January, 2016. Christina replaces City Manager Steve Rymer, who accepted the City Administrator of Rochester, Minnesota. Christina earned a BS in commerce from Santa Clara University, and she is a Certified Public Accountant. Moraga Town Manager Robert Priebe announced his retirement. Bob worked for Moraga for 38-years. After he served as a Police Officer in Berkeley in 1978, he joined the Moraga Police Department in 1979. He rose to the rank of Chief of Police in 2009. He has been the Town Manager since 2016. Waterford Administrative Services Director Miranda Lutzw worked as a Human Resources Intern in the City of Patterson in 2009. She then served as the Assistant City Clerk in Merced from October, 2013 to September, 2015. Miranda then took a Management Analyst position with the City of Oakdale from 2015 to 2017. She joined the Waterford staff in April, 2017. Miranda earned a BA from the University of Guelph, and an MPA from California State University, Stanislaus. Miranda serves as the Vice President of MMANC. South Gate City Manager Michael Flad and Palmdale City Manager James Purtee will appear on a panel discussing “Environmentally Friendly Communities – Ideas and Achievements” at the 37th Annual Fall Educational Summit of the California Contract Cities Association. The 2017 Summit is being held at the Lake Arrowhead Resort & Spa, September 29 – October 1, 2017. Dublin Management Analyst II, Erin Steffen is currently serving as President of the Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC). Erin lists Orville Powell as an individual who inspired her to work in local government. She says that he has been a mentor for many years. Retired Artesia City Manager Maria Dadian is off on a vacation trip to Denali and then a 7-day Alaska Cruise before she and her husband relocate their residence to Eagle, Idaho on October 1, 2017. Maria retired in 2012 after working for Artesia some 18-years. She was appointed Assistant City Manager in 1994, and she was elevated to City Manager in 2000. She previously held positions in South El Monte and Hawaiian Gardens. Former City of Big Bear Lake City Engineer Sam Rodriguez has been appointed City Engineer in the City of El Paso, Texas. Sam served in the United State Marine Corps and graduated from California State Polytechnic University with a BS in civil engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in California and Texas. Saratoga City Manager James Lindsay received a 2-percent salary increase this month. Jim has been the Saratoga City Manager since 2014. He previously worked as the City’s Community Development Director. Previously he served as the Milpitas Planning & Neighborhood Services Director. Alhambra City Manager Mark S. Yokoyama, 50, announced his retirement. Assistant City Manager Jessica Binnquist is expected to take an Interim City Manager slot. Mark had a 31-year law enforcement career, and served as the Alhambra Chief of Police. Redding City Manager Barry Tippin announced the appointment of Dan Beans as the Director of the Redding Electric Utility (REU). Dan earned a BS from Point Loma Nazarene University and an MPA from National University. He is a licensed Professional Electrical Engineer. With City Manager Deanna Santana leaving Sunnyvale to become the City Manager in Santa Clara, Assistant City Manager Kent Steffens will serve as the Interim City Manager. Kent has worked for Sunnyvale, Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Foster City during the past 30-years. Huntington Beach Chief Financial Officer Lori Ann Farrell-Harrison is the new Huntington Beach Assistant City Manager. She fills the vacancy created when Assistant City Manager Ken Domer left to become the Fullerton City Manager. *Mike Young is currently serving as the Interim City Manager in Crescent City, California.* *Fort Bragg, California is recruiting for a new City Manager.* *Good to see a veteran City Manager like Allen Parker back in the saddle in Hemet.* *Assistant City Manager Dave Sykes is the new San Jose City Manager as City Manager Norberto Dueñas retires.*
“Proof of Life” Lunch,  
Wednesday, September 20, 2017  
North Woods Inn, 
14305 Firestone Boulevard, La Mirada, California 90638

Thirty-one “Proof of Life” friends, acquaintances and colleagues came together for lunch on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Those who gathered include:

Greg Korduner  
Glenn Southard  
Mike Sedell  
Gary Sloan  
Lloyd de Llamas  
Wayne Wedin  
Denise Ovrom  
Terry Matz  
Ray Silver  
Bud Ovrom  
Linda Benedetti-Leal  
Ken Bayless  
Tom Robinson  
Ray Harris  
Tony Ybarra  
Gary Chicots  
Ernie Garcia  
Howard Chambers  
Tim O’Donnell  
Bob Williams  
David Carmany  
John Hammargren  
Anne Haraksin  
John Bolan  
Luci Romero Serlet  
Jeff Stewart  
Doug Dunlap  
Dennis Courtemarche  
Ernie Hernandez  
Julio Fuentes  
Jack Simpson

Retired Brea City Manager Tim O’Donnell took to the floor and introduce 97-year old Bob Williams, who served as City Manager in Needles, Tracy, Eureka, Santa Fe Spring, and Pico Rivera. Bob started his public service career in Montebello in 1950 as an Administrative Assistant. Since retiring, Bob has served as Interim City Manager in Paramount, Norco, Signal Hill, Santa Paula, and Commerce. He also served as the Interim City Treasurer in Los Angeles in 1990-1991. Bob earned a BA from Lafayette College in 1949. He received a 35-year ICMA Service Award in 1988. Bob was the recipient of an ICMA Management Innovation Award in 1974.

Retired City Managers Gary Sloan, Doug Dunlap, Julio Fuentes and Tom Robinson. Doug drove down from his home in Lompoc to attend the lunch.

Retired City Managers Gregory Korduner, and Howard Chambers. Greg retired from Huntington Park and Howard retired from Lakewood.

On the left is former City Manager Lloyd de Llamas, Executive Chairman for Hdl Companies. On the right is retired City Manager Bob Williams, and retired LA County Sheriff’s Commander John Hammargren.

Former City Managers Wayne Wedin, Denise Ovrom of Hdl Companies and retired Simi Valley City Manager Mike Sedell.