

FOCUS

Analysis, Commentary and Updates on Legislative and Policy Issues that Affect California Cities

May 5, 2006
Issue #18-2006

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS

LEAGUE THANKS LEGISLATORS AND GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER

The League of California Cities today applauded the Legislature's passage of a \$37.3 billion package of bond measures to provide funding for housing, transportation, levee repairs and flood control projects and educational facilities. The measures will be presented for voter approval on the November 2006 statewide ballot. (See also "Infrastructure Bond Details", p. 7).
For more, see Page 11.

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FEDERAL TELECOM REFORM MEASURE INTRODUCED IN U.S. SENATE

The strong push for a national franchise to accelerate telephone companies' "speed to market" continued this week with the introduction of a telecommunications reform measure by Alaska Senator Ted Stevens (R), chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.
For more, see Page 6.

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GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGREE TO EXPEDITE PERMITTING TO FIX CALIFORNIA'S LEVEES

Earlier this week the Governor and the Bush Administration finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide an expedited permitting process in order to fix California's critical levee sites by the end of the year. *For more, see Page 4.*

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WANT MORE DETAILS ON BILLS?

Visit the League of California Cities website at www.cacities.org/billsearch.

NOW AVAILABLE! THE 2006 CALIFORNIA MUNICIPAL LAW HANDBOOK

The *California Municipal Law Handbook* editorial board and volunteer municipal attorneys have completed the 2006 update of the handbook. The handbook provides municipal law practitioners a "source of first resort" in researching California municipal law. The handbook is available in three formats:

- **Bound Edition.** For those ordering handbook for the first time, the traditional bound version is available with a reusable binder and chapter tabs. For those who bought a handbook or new binder in 2004 or 2005, a 2006 handbook insert without a binder and tabs is available. Just put it in your current binder. Those with older binders should order the complete version with the new expanded binder. To order, contact CityBooks at (916) 658-8257, or visit www.cacities.org/store.

- **CD-ROM Edition.** The 2006 CD-ROM edition of the handbook features the award-winning Folio VIEWS® search-and-retrieval software to locate information throughout the entire handbook. Users can search for words, phrases, section numbers, statutory cites, or case law, and personalize their handbook with electronic notes, bookmarks and highlighters. The CD-ROM edition is available from American Legal Publishing at (800) 445-5588.

- **Online Edition.** Users can also access the CD-ROM edition free of charge from the League's website. Visit www.cacities.org/mlh.

The annual update of the *California Municipal Law Handbook* represents the work of many volunteer municipal law practitioners throughout the state. The League thanks them for their dedication to ensuring that the handbook continues to be a valuable resource for California cities.

STATE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING GRANTS

The state Department of Conservation has published their solicitation notice and application for 2006-07 Beverage Container Recycling Market Development and Expansion Grants. The department is authorized to issue up to \$10 million annually in grants aimed at increasing recycling rates.

The department is interested in new and innovative, but realistic, projects that have the potential to help achieve the State's overall 80 percent recycling rate goal, while creating jobs and increasing energy efficiency. Applications must be received by 5 p.m., Monday, June 5, 2006.

To view the solicitation, application, and additional information, visit the department's website at: www.consrv.ca.gov/dor/grants/rmdeg.htm. For questions about the grant program, please contact Zenny Yagen at: Zenny.Yagen@conservation.ca.gov.

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CCS PARTNERSHIP "STRETCHING COMMUNITY DOLLARS" WORKSHOP IN CLAREMONT

The City-County-Schools Partnership (CCS Partnership) reminds city officials that there is only one opportunity remaining this spring to attend the organization's highly regarded workshop on cross-jurisdictional collaboration. It is **Friday May 19, 2006**, at the Alexander Hughes Community Center in Claremont, California. Participants will hear a case study of a successful collaborative effort, and successful joint use projects. They will have the opportunity to work together in teams on ideas for their communities.

A participant at the CCS workshop in the city of Davis said, "I usually hate these things and planned to stay only one hour, but I loved this." Registration is online at www.ccspartnership.org.

WATER BOARD ADOPTS WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SEWER OVERFLOW SYSTEMS

On May 3, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for all publicly owned sanitary sewer collection systems. The non-NPDES WDRs prohibit all sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that: (1) reach the waters of the U.S., or (2) create a nuisance.

The WDRs were revised at the hearing to address several major issues raised by local government representatives, including the League. These include the timing and phasing of on-line reporting requirements of SSOs and changes to the proposed implementation schedule for the monitoring and reporting program. Despite repeated requests by the local government representatives, the State Board did not address the need to resolve interface issues between this new requirement of the WDR and those agencies with existing NPDES permits that cover the same systems.

The League was among the numerous public agency representatives that testified at the hearing. The League stressed the impact of these new requirements on numerous cities, the cost to implement, the need for a phase-in order to provide training and the need to resolve the WDR-NPDES overlap issue.

These new SSO requirements have been under development for more than a year, involving stakeholder meetings and input from local governments. Sanitary sewer overflows do present a serious environmental and water quality problem that need to be addressed and the new WDR is significantly improved from the version originally proposed by Water Board staff. The League will work closely with the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) and others as training and information resources are provided.

CASA's memo regarding the Water Board's actions, as well as a coalition comment letter, is posted on the Environmental Quality page on the

League's website at: www.cacities.org/eq. When the final WDR is available, it also will be posted.

LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS, MAY 17-18 SHERATON GRAND HOTEL, SACRAMENTO

Help support the League's package of incentive-based housing bills! Sign up NOW to attend the League's annual Legislative Action Days in Sacramento.

Join hundreds of local officials and state officials to meet one-on-one with legislators to urge them to work with us on telecommunications reform that protects local communities; funding for infrastructure; protecting redevelopment agencies' authority to work for our cities; housing legislation; and other important issues for cities. Confirmed speakers include: Assemblymember John Laird, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee; Sen. Bob Dutton, Vice Chair, Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee; Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, Chair, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee; California Housing and Community Development Director Lynn Jacobs; and Terry Abbott, Division Chief of Local Assistance, California Department of Transportation.

Registration is free – but we do need a count for our May 17 Legislative Reception and other events. Visit www.cacities.org to view the initial program agenda. Register online at www.cacities.org/events.

Issue Papers: Download background materials that will aid in your legislative lobbying on the Legislative Action Days webpage on the League website – www.cacities.org/lad.

- Housing & Infrastructure
- Telecommunications Reform
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Eminent Domain

LEVEES from page 1

The federal agencies have agreed to complete all federal permitting by June 21, 2006, so that critical repairs can be completed by November of this year, before the next flood season. If a federal agency can not meet the expedited timeline in the MOU, the agency is authorized to invoke emergency procedures to issue the permits. Visit www.governor.ca.gov/govsite to read the details of the MOU.

Since February, the state Department of Water Resources has evaluated approximately 50 levee erosion sites, primarily along the Sacramento River flood system, and has begun to design repairs for 29 critical erosion sites for construction this year.

In addition to the MOU expediting the permitting process, Sen. Feinstein is working to include \$23.3 million in the Senate supplemental appropriations bill for the federal government's share of the cost of fixing critical levee sites. The governor is in strong support of Sen. Feinstein's efforts, and has pledged that, "I will be working very closely with Sen. Feinstein and our congressional delegation to ensure the federal government meets its responsibility through direct funding and crediting for future work."

Water officials with the Schwarzenegger administration held a conference call the evening of May 2 for the League and other interested stakeholders to brief them on the agreement. The call was an opportunity for administration officials to describe the agreement in detail and answer questions regarding its implementation.

The League appreciates the governor's leadership and efforts to forge the agreement and work with the federal government to streamline the federal permitting process. In addition, the League thanks Sen. Feinstein for her efforts to secure the additional federal funding.

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER APPOINTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this week announced the appointment of Brenda Quintana, 43, of El Dorado, as director of local government and community relations for the Office of the Governor.

She most recently served as division deputy for the United Homecare Workers Union in Northern California. Prior to that, Quintana was regional director for the United Domestic Workers of America in 2005 and served as chief of staff for Assemblyman Bob Pacheco from 1998 to 2005 and Assemblyman Jim Morrissey from 1994 to 1998. This position does not require Senate confirmation.

Quintana wasted no time reaching out to her constituency, meeting with League Executive Director Chris McKenzie on May 3 – the same day her appointment was announced.

"We had a very productive introductory discussion," said McKenzie. "Gov. Schwarzenegger has been very receptive to local government concerns ever since he was elected. Brenda's appointment is one more indication of the high value he places on the partnership we have built on several issues over the past year. We look forward to working with her."

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NEW BILL INTRODUCED TO ADDRESS LEVEE FUNDING AND PROPOSITION 218

Assemblymember John Laird introduced ACA 30 this week, a new approach to raising revenue at the local level for levee improvements and maintenance.

ACA 30 would provide that, for purpose of imposing an assessment or increasing an existing assessment to maintain, operate, repair, relocate, or upgrade a flood control levee which was in existence before November 6, 1996 (the date of the enactment of Proposition 218), the so called “majority protest” requirements for adoption would be used. That is, laws governing adoption of such assessments that were in effect prior to Proposition 218 would apply for levees that existed at that time. It would only go into effect if the Legislature agrees to place it on the ballot. Which general election ballot will depend upon when the Legislature approves the measure.

ACA 30, which will be strongly supported by the League, represents a new approach to giving local governments more flexibility in raising revenue to upgrade, operate and maintain levees. ACA 13 (Harman), which would exempt flood control and storm water fees from the voter approval requirements of Proposition 218, has been languishing in committee, given the reluctance of many Republican members to vote for it – remember, a bill to change to Proposition 218 requires a 2/3 vote of the Legislature to move to it the ballot.

ACA 30 is more narrowly drafted than ACA 13 – it does not include storm water and takes a different approach to the voter approval exemption in ACA 13. Nevertheless, it still will be an uphill battle to pass ACA 30 – even in light of the state’s ongoing flood threat and the recognition that our levee system is in great need of repair.

According to the author’s office, most of California’s levees were constructed, operated, or maintained under the “majority protest” rule for raising funds that existed prior to the enactment of Proposition 218. Proposition 218 was enacted in

1996. This measure established stricter procedural requirements on assessments and changed the rule from “majority protest” to a standard election, where the assessment procedure would end if the “no” votes outnumbered the “yes” votes.

Some levee districts have been successful in gaining approval for levee assessments, but not many. Some districts have said that Proposition 218 made it virtually impossible for them to raise funds for the operation, maintenance, or improvement of their levees.

It is generally recognized that California’s levee system is in dismal shape and in need of upgrade and ongoing maintenance — not only for those communities already behind the levees, but for those areas that cannot urbanize without levee upgrades. For example, “underseepage” has been identified as a threat to “old” levees and it is inappropriate for levees originally built for agricultural to be used to “protect” urbanizing areas without upgrades.

It is also important to recognize that levee failures in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta have water quality, water supply and economic impacts that may have statewide effects beyond the local or regional levee break situation. The delta provides over 23 million people with drinking water and the levees throughout the valley and delta ensure that fresh water from the Sierra Nevada flows through the delta to pumps and then into millions of homes in Southern California.

While the League will strongly support ACA 30 in its current form, we will explore with the author’s office whether storm water fees can also be included. ACA 30 will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee Wednesday May 10. All cities, whether in northern or Southern California, should write letters to their Assemblymembers to support ACA 30. **Position:** **Support; Status:** Assembly Local Gov’t May 9; **Staff:** Yvonne Hunter.

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Called the “Communications, Consumer’s Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006,” this measure, like the House bill, would among other things establish a national franchise for video service providers that want to offer telecommunications video and Internet services in communities throughout the nation.

The League and other organizations are still analyzing the 135-page measure, and will publish an analysis soon. A copy of the measure is available on the League’s Telecom webpage at www.cacities.org/telecom.

House Bill and AB 2987 Both Likely to Move Soon

Meanwhile the House bill – now numbered as H.R. 5252 – is still headed for a vote on the House floor, probably sometime in the next two to three weeks.

The California reform measure, AB 2987 (Núñez/Levine) is in the California Assembly Appropriations Committee, but has not yet been set for hearing.

The lack of a scheduled hearing, however, does not mean any lessening of the intense lobbying around these measures. In California, telephone companies are making the rounds of local chambers of commerce and other groups, urging that they adopt positions of support for AB 2987. There have been several instances of chambers of commerce backing off a quick “support” decision when they have been contacted by League regional staff and city officials and informed of the serious concerns local businesses will face if AB 2987 passes in its current form, and telephone companies are not held to higher standards to ensure that service build out will occur without regard to income levels.

Please Help Oppose These Measures

The League opposes both of these measures for a number of reasons, including the fact that we view the lack of build-out protections as anti-competitive. We urge city officials to use this time before the bills come up for hearing, to talk to your federal and state representatives about how your residents and businesses would be impacted by these measures. To access updated talking points, a sample letter and a copy of the League’s opposition letter, please visit the League’s online telecom page at www.cacities.org/telecom. You may also write a letter online by using the League’s Advocacy Center (www.cacities.org/advocacycenter).

Remember: phone calls and personalized written letters are more likely to get your representative’s attention than an email.

Talk to Your Businesses and Community Groups

City officials are also urged to be alert to industry grassroots lobbying efforts going on in their own backyards. Businesses and community groups are being told that the market competition that AB 2987 hopes to achieve will mean they will receive better telecommunications service at lower cost. But the bill’s lack of build-out standards could mean just the opposite, producing more options for large, well-off businesses and residents, and bypassing smaller businesses and lower income areas of your city.

For assistance with these efforts, please contact your League regional representative.

For more information on this and other League issues, visit www.cacities.org.

INFRASTRUCTURE BOND DETAILS

In the early morning hours of May 5, the Legislature passed bond measures that will fund housing, transportation, levee repairs, flood control projects and school construction. It also passed trailer bills dealing with permit streamlining, and a constitutional amendment that will “fix” Proposition 42 by “locking down” the sales tax on gasoline for transportation purposes.

The following summarizes the key bills comprising this package.

Housing Bond: (AB 136 - Núñez and Perata). This measure contains \$2.85 billion in funding for affordable housing construction, infill incentives. The funds are divided into the following funding categories:

Housing Construction:

- \$1.5 billion for first-time homebuyer programs and affordable housing construction, of which:
- \$345 million for the construction of affordable multifamily housing.
- \$300 million for loans/grants for local homeownership programs.
- \$200 million for down payment assistance.
- \$195 million for supportive transitional housing.
- \$135 million for farmworker housing.
- \$125 for grants to local governments for down payment assistance programs, where local regulatory barriers have been reduced.
- \$100 million for a newly created affordable housing innovation fund.
- \$50 million for housing for homeless foster youth.
- \$50 million for emergency shelters.

Planning and Infill Incentives:

- \$850 million for regional planning, housing, and infill incentives which will be further defined by future legislation, of which no more than \$200 million may be used for park development in conjunction with infill.
- \$300 million in grants to local governments to develop infrastructure associated with high density transit-oriented development.
- \$200 million for development of parks in urban, suburban and rural areas, subject to conditions which will be further defined by future legislation.

Transportation Bond: SB 1266 (Núñez/Perata). Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006.

This measure authorizes \$19.925 billion of state general obligation bonds for high-priority transportation corridor improvements, including \$1 billion for cities and \$1 billion for counties to spend on local transportation projects. Unlike Prop. 42 funding, which is dedicated to local street and road maintenance and repair projects, local agencies may determine their own priorities for use of these transportation funds.

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Specific allocations include the following:

- \$2 billion for the Local Street and Road Improvement, Congestion Relief, and Traffic Safety Account, allocated directly to cities and counties for traffic congestion relief, traffic safety, transit, storm damage, maintenance, construction and other projects to improve the local street and road system. \$1 billion will go directly to cities (minimum \$400,000 allocation), and \$1 billion will go directly to counties.
- \$4.5 billion to Corridor Mobility Improvement Account to fund performance improvements on highly congested travel corridors. This includes major access routes to the state highway system on the local road systems that relieve congestion.
- \$1 billion for improvements to State Route 99 traversing approximately 400 miles of the Central Valley.
- \$3.1 billion for the California Ports Infrastructure, Security, and Air Quality Improvement Act. Of the \$3.1 billion, \$2 billion is to fund improvements to trade corridors, \$1 billion to State Air Resources Board for emission reductions related to goods movement, and \$100 million for the Office of Emergency Services for publicly –owned port, harbor and ferry terminal improvements.
- \$200 million for school bus retrofitting and replacement to reduce air pollution.
- \$2 billion for projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- \$4 billion for the Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account for improvements to intercity rail and other transit-related projects and improvements. Of the \$4 billion, \$400 million is dedicated to rail improvements and purchase of railcars and locomotives.
- \$1 billion for the State-Local Partnership Program Account for transportation projects nominated by a regional transportation agency. This program requires a dollar for dollar match of local funds.
- \$1 billion for the Transit System Safety, Security and Disaster Response Account for projects that increase protection against security and safety and develop disaster response for public transit systems.
- \$125 million for the Local Bridge Seismic Retrofit Account for seismic work on local bridges, ramps, and overpasses.
- \$750 million for the Highway Safety, Rehabilitation and Preservation Account (SHOPP) for safety, rehabilitation and preservation projects on state highway systems. \$250 million of the funds in this account are for technology-based improvements to improve safety, operations and effective capacity of local streets and roads.
- \$250 million for the Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account for completion of high-priority grade separation and railroad crossing safety improvements.

SCA 7 (Torlakson). The Legislature also passed a state constitutional amendment to “fix” Proposition 42, by permanently dedicating the sales tax on gasoline to transportation purposes – a key goal for the League. This measure will appear on the ballot as Proposition 1A – the same name as the historic League-sponsored measure passed overwhelmingly by the voters in 2004 that ended the state’s ability to raid local funds. Like the Prop. 1A of 2004, the measure would allow the Legislature to borrow the Prop. 42 funds, but only by meeting the following criteria:

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INFRASTRUCTURE BOND DETAILS from page 8

- The governor must declare that the state faces a severe fiscal hardship.
- The Legislature must enact statute authorizing the borrowing by 2/3 vote. At the same time, the Legislature must pass a bill specifying that they will repay the loan with interest within three years.
 - The state can borrow the funds no more than twice in 10 years, and must repay a prior loan before borrowing.
 - Any Prop. 42 transportation funds that were borrowed by the state but not repaid as of July 1, 2007, must be repaid within a 10 year period (no later than June 30, 2016) at payment of no less than one-tenth per year of the total amount owed.
 - Authorizes the Legislature to provide for the issuance of bonds by state or local agencies in accordance with the established Prop. 42 allocation methodology.

AB 140 (Núñez and Perata) Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006

This bond would provide a total of \$4.09 billion to prevent flooding by repairing levees and other flood control infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and elsewhere. The funds will be allocated as follows:

- \$3 billion to evaluate, repair, rehabilitate, reconstruct or replace levees, weirs, bypasses and facilities contained in the state flood control plan; improve or add facilities to increase levels of flood prevention; and reduce the risk of levee failure.
- \$ 500 million to cover the past and future obligations under the flood control subvention payments to local governments for qualifying projects.
- \$ 290 million for the protection, creation, and enhancement of flood protection corridors and bypasses, including fund for floodplain mapping.
- \$ 300 million for grants (with local match) to manage storm water runoff to reduce flood damage and provide benefits such as ground water recharge, water quality improvement and ecosystem.

AB 142 (Nunez and Perata) Flood Control: Levee Repair and Flood Control Systems

This measure is an urgency appropriation of \$500 million dedicated to levee repairs for those critical levee erosion sites identified under Governor's Executive Order S-01-06 in order to reduce the threat of potential flood damage.

AB 127 (Núñez/Perata). Education Facilities: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006.

This measure would provide \$10.4 billion in bonds to be deposited into the 2006 State School Facilities fund, which will be used to meet capital outlay needs of higher educational facilities, and finance grants for construction and renovation of schools, including charter schools and facilities for career technical education programs, and to relieve overcrowded schools. ***This also includes \$29 million to fund joint-use projects for construction of K-12 school facilities.***

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INFRASTRUCTURE BOND DETAILS from page 9

- \$1.9 billion for new construction of school facilities.
- \$500 million for providing school facilities to charter schools.
- \$3.3 billion for modernization of school facilities.
- \$500 million for facilities for career technical education programs.
- \$1 billion for new construction to fund severely overcrowded school sites.
- \$1.5 billion for CA Community Colleges.
- \$890 million for UC and Hastings College of Law.
- \$690 million for CSU.

Permit Streamlining - AB 1039 (Núñez/Perata)

This is a “trailer bill”, that would provide exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to streamline various transportation, levee repair and flood control projects funded by two bond measures that will appear on the November 7, 2006 statewide general election.

Exempts the following projects from CEQA contained within the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 (SB 1266) and places requirements on specific projects relating to permit streamlining:

- Structural modification of specific existing and replacement highway structure projects in Alameda, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles Counties
- Specific seismic retrofit projects on existing local bridges.

Exempts the following projects from CEQA contained within the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (AB 140):

- Exempts the repair of critical levees of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project that are within an existing levee footprint. Requires the lead agency performing the repairs to conduct community outreach, sufficiently comply with standard construction practices, and to use emulsified diesel fuel to the best extent possible with a sunset date of July 1, 2016.

WHAT ABOUT THE RAIL BOND?

Many city officials may remember that there is still a \$10 billion rail bond that was passed by the Legislature more than a year ago, and is also set for the November 2006 ballot. Concerns have been raised about whether the state's bonding capacity would be unduly stressed by retaining this measure on the ballot. There are pending bills that would remove it from the ballot. It's not clear at this time what will happen.

FIND A BILL, LEGISLATORS, LEG COMMITTEE - OR ASK LEG STAFF

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's Legislative Resources page (www.cacities.org/legresources). You'll find a roster and contact information for the League's legislative staff; the online Bill Search program, background materials on lobbying your legislators, and more.

BONDS from page 1

Final votes on the largest bond package in California history came in the early morning hours of May 5, following hours of last minute negotiations and debate.

The package includes a state constitutional amendment to “fix” Proposition 42, by permanently dedicating the sales tax on gasoline to transportation purposes – a key goal for the League. This measure will appear on the ballot as Proposition 1A – the same name as the historic League-sponsored measure passed overwhelmingly by the voters in 2004 that ended the state’s ability to raid local funds.

“This package represents leadership at its best,” said League President Alex Padilla, councilmember in the city of Los Angeles. “We understand that it was not an easy thing to reach agreement on a bond package of this magnitude.”

He added: “Everyone involved deserves kudos for their hard work and dedication: Gov. Schwarzenegger for raising the visibility of the infrastructure debate with his January proposal, and for keeping a focus on levees and other infrastructure needs; Senate Pro tem Perata and Assembly Speaker Núñez for their early proposals and determination to bring a deal together; and the two minority leaders, Sen. Dick Ackerman and Assemblymember George Plescia, for negotiating a package that could win the minority votes needed to put this over the top.”

“Funding for infrastructure is a top priority for the League of California Cities,” said League First

Vice President Maria Alegria, councilmember in the city of Pinole. “This package of bonds responds directly to the funding concerns of California cities.

“We very much appreciate the governor’s and the Legislature’s leadership for the Prop. 42 transportation ‘fix’” she added. “The League has been part of the coalition that gathered the signatures to put this kind of measure on the ballot. The coalition’s polling has consistently told us that voters support this fix. Now, with the leadership and support of the governor and the Legislature, this constitutional amendment stands an even stronger likelihood of winning voter support in November.”

“We particularly appreciate the efforts of Sen. Bob Dutton,” said League Second Vice President Jim Madaffer, councilmember in the city of San Diego. “He worked long and hard on the transportation package, and played a very important role in ensuring that cities and counties will each receive \$1 billion for work on city streets and county roads. We thank him for his tireless efforts to ensure that local infrastructure needs are included in this package.”

The bond package includes \$2.8 billion for housing, \$10.4 billion for schools, \$20 billion for transportation projects, including \$1 billion each for cities and counties to conduct maintenance and repairs on local streets and roads. Funding for levees and floods includes a \$4.09 billion bond measure, and a separate \$500 million urgency appropriation.

THE 2006 CITY HALL DIRECTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Don’t miss this opportunity to get the League’s most useful reference tool. This comprehensive California directory provides important contact information for mayors, council members and city department heads. The directory also features the League’s staff directory, League partners, affiliate organizations and a wide variety of advertisers.

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Legislative Bill Action

The following are summaries of just a few of the legislative bills that are currently being acted upon by the League of California Cities. For more information about these and other bills, please **visit** the League website to access information about legislation, policy issues and related developments. You can track information on bills (www.cacities.org/billsearch), locate legislators and legislative committees, send letters to legislators or the media through the online Advocacy Center (www.cacities.org/advocacycenter), research League policy positions, access useful related links, and much more.

TRANSPORTATION

AB 2465 (De La Torre). Pedestrian-bicyclist safety: vehicles: school zone fines. AB 2465 would allow the county of Los Angeles and cities within the county to establish a school pedestrian-bicyclist safety program and receive funds from a special account in the county treasury. Additionally, this bill would double or increase the fines for a number of violations of the vehicle code occurring in a specially posted school zone and provide that these fines shall be deposited into the special county account. In order to double or increase the fines as outlined in AB 2465, a city or county must enact an ordinance. The League supports a local government's ability to double the fine for traffic violations in school zones in an attempt to reduce the speed of drivers and protect our youth. AB 2465 utilizes a financial incentive to minimize a risky behavior and also provides the opportunity for a local government to supplement safety programs aimed at students traveling to and from school on foot or by bicycle. Staff: Liisa Lawson Stark, Status: AsmAppr; Position: Support.

PUBLIC SAFETY

AB 2836 (Karnette). Fire Protection. Residential Care Facility for the Elderly. AB 2836 would require a residential care facility for the elderly with four or more residents to install and maintain an operable automatic fire sprinkler system approved by the State Fire Marshall no later January 1, 2014. If a facility is licensed on or after January 1, 2010, a facility is automatically required to install and

maintain an automatic fire sprinkler. Residential care facilities strive to provide a supportive and safe environment for the elderly, the cognitively frail, and the non-ambulatory individual. Yet, most of these facilities are not equipped with automatic fire sprinklers. Automatic fire sprinklers will provide residents of care facilities the precious time needed to safely evacuate a building. In addition, fire sprinklers will eliminate hostile and dangerous fire conditions emergency service personnel face in fire and rescue operations. Staff: Liisa Lawson Stark; Status: AsmAppr, 5/3; Position: Support.

WANT TO SEND A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF A LEAGUE POSITION? HERE'S WHO TO CALL:

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS (18)—
Chu (Chair), Runner (Vice Chair), Bass,
Berg, Calderon, De La Torre, Emmerson,
Haynes, Karnette, Klehs, Leno, Nakanishi,
Nation, Oropeza, Ridley-Thomas, Saldaña,
Walters, and Yee. Chief Consultant: Geoff
Long. Principal Consultants: Julie Sallie-
Gray, Steve Archibald, Scott Bain, Chuck
Nicol, Kimberly Rodriguez, Stephen Shea.
Secretary: Laura Lynn Gondek. Room 2114.
Phone: 319-2081.