



City Advocate Weekly

LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

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Upcoming Events:

March

- 17 Treasurer's Office, *Federal Economic Stimulus Funding*, Treasurer and Finance Director to determine whether California's share of federal economic stimulus package will trigger two budget adjustments (www.treasurer.ca.gov). Also webcast on the Treasurer's Web site.
 18 Pooled Money Investment Board Meeting (<http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/pmia-laif/pmibdates.asp>). Visit the State Treasurer's Web site to view the agenda for this meeting. (<http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/pmia-laif/pmib-agenda/20090318.pdf>)
 19 Local Speed Limit Setting Hearing, California Department of Transportation – California Traffic Control Devices Committee <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/signtech/newtech/>
 25 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126, Local Government and Housing and Community Development Committees are holding a joint hearing on what locals are planning to do with economic stimulus funds.
 26 SB 1407 Implementation Training: Hosted by CA Public Parking Association, Sacramento
<http://www.cppaparking.org/default.aspx>

Upcoming League Events:

March

- 25-27 Public Works Officers Institute, Monterey (www.cacities.org/events)
 25-27 Planners Institute & Mini Expo, Anaheim (www.cacities.org/events)

"AB 32 & SB 375 IMPLEMENTATION – 2008, 2009 AND BEYOND" WEBCAST NOW AVAILABLE

With help from the Roseville Community TV Studio, League legislative representatives Kyra Ross and Bill Higgins have created a two-part Web presentation in an effort to help city officials understand the AB 32 and SB 375. *For more, see Page 2.*

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CALIFORNIA CITY OFFICIALS FOCUS ON FEDERAL ISSUES AT NLC 2009 CONGRESSIONAL CITY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

California city officials attending the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference next week in Washington, D.C., will join with hundreds of city officials from around the country next week in general sessions, workshops, and strategy meetings built around NLC's advocacy priorities for the first session of the 111th Congress. *For more, see Page 2.*

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ANOTHER BANNER DOLLAR YEAR FOR U.S. COMMUNITIES

The U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance recently concluded its annual board of directors meeting and reported to its national and state sponsors that 2008 was another successful year of providing a wide and expanding range of products and services at the best pricing available to cities, counties, schools and nonprofit organizations. Total purchases for the year exceeded \$1.4 billion resulting in savings of over \$200 million to participating agencies.

For more, see Page 3.

'Webcast' Continued from Page 1...

The series, "AB 32 & SB 375 Implementation – 2008, 2009 and Beyond" is now available for viewing on the "Climate Change & SB 375 Updates" section of the League Web site at <http://www.cacities.org/index.jsp?displaytype=11&story=27615>. The PowerPoint slides used for the presentation are also available at http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27730.AB%2032%20Update%20PPT%2020Feb09.pdf.

Of specific interest to cities is Landfill Methane Capture regulation, due out this month, which would require new collection systems at uncontrolled landfills. Ross and Higgins have traveled the state presenting information on the implementation of the climate change laws to various regions upon request.

Many thanks to the production studio team at the city of Roseville's Community TV Studio Channel 18 Comcast/77 SureWest. The team gave generously of their time on a Friday evening to make this production possible, and they did an excellent job. They are: Media Specialist Mark Murphy, City of Roseville, Utility Exploration Center; Patty Short, volunteer producer; Brett Van Blaricom, Comcast, manager of the studio; and Jessie Nix, Comcast. Thanks also to Roseville Government Relations Manager Ellen Powell, who put us in touch with Mr. Murphy at the city's Utility Exploration Center.

For more information about how AB 32 and SB 375 will affect your city please visit: www.arb.ca.gov, www.cacities.org and www.ca-ilg.org or contact Kyra Ross at kross@cacities.org and Bill Higgins at bhiggins@cacities.org.

'Conference' Continued from Page 1...

Sessions will cover a range of topics, including immediate steps cities can take to maintain vital services and programs in their neighborhoods while economic recovery efforts get under way; creating a "green economy;" and a discussion of new and proposed federal initiatives related to education, poverty, youth development and health reform.

California city officials will also benefit from a number of important events with members of the California Congressional Delegation and Obama Administration officials, organized by the League of California Cities.

These include:

Monday, March 16

- 1:45 – 3:15 p.m. Western Municipal Association (WMA) at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Diplomat Ballroom (located adjacent to the Marriot Wardham).
- 6 – 7:30 p.m. League Reception at Marriott Wardman Hotel in the Thurgood North Room. Members of the California Congressional Delegation have also been invited to this event.

Tuesday, March 17

- 2:30 p.m. Meeting with California Senator Barbara Boxer in 406 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Wednesday, March 18

- 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Roundtable Discussion on SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization with California Congressional Delegation Members in Room 234 of the Cannon House Office Building

WMA will also hold a session at the conference in Washington, D.C. California city officials are encouraged to participate in all WMA discussions, including a strategic planning session on how to achieve a good fit between WMA policies and the policies of state leagues on western regional issues.

'Communities' Continued from Page 1...

Program highlights for 2008 included an expanded e-commerce program enabling participants to purchase more products on-line and an expanded green program offering thousands of eco-friendly

brands and products as well as valuable information and resources to help participants make educated decisions about green procurement.

In other action, NLC Executive Director Don Borut was elected Chairman of the Board of U.S. Communities. Chris McKenzie and Dan Harrison of the League of California Cities both serve on the board of directors.

U.S. Communities is a nonprofit that assists public agencies in reducing the cost of purchased goods and services through pooling the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. This is accomplished through competitively solicited contracts for quality products through lead public agencies. There is no cost for a city to participate.

Through co-sponsorship by the League of California Cities, U.S. Communities brings cities in California the best government pricing available anywhere. Over 350 California cities use one or more U.S. Communities contracts. The most committed users are large cities; but by taking advantage of the same pricing as large cities, small cities enjoy the largest percentage savings.

For general information about U.S. Communities, visit: www.uscommunities.org. For green procurement products and resources, visit: www.gogreencommunities.org.

NLC Hosts Webcast on “Implementing the Economic Recovery Act: Funding for Highways, Roads, Bridges, and Transit”

The National League of Cities held its second economic recovery webcast on Wednesday, March 11, entitled “Implementation of the Economic Recovery Act: Funding for Highways, Roads, Bridges, and Transit.”

The webcast reviewed the \$27.5 billion in funding for federal surface transportation dollars to be distributed to the state and local government projects covered in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law February 17, 2009.

Speakers for the webcast included NLC President Kathleen M. Novak, mayor, Northglenn, Colo., NLC Federal Relations Director Carolyn Coleman, NLC Principal Legislative Counsel, Federal Relations. Leslie Wollack and Will Schroeer, state policy director for Smart Growth America.

Wollack briefed city officials on the formula grants going to local governments and how they can be used. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has created the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) team to accurately track the money as its being spent and insure that all accountability requirements are being met. Local officials are encouraged to work with their state’s DOT and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to implement the use of the federal stimulus funds.

Schroeer presented next with an overview from Smart Growth America on how the transportation money can be and should be spent. The Smart Growth Web site also provides two guides detailing this information at www.smartgrowthamerica.org. Participants were able to submit questions via e-mail during the presentation.

The NLC webcast and presentation slides are available for viewing on www.NLCTV.org. Please see the “Recent Events” section and click on the presentation titled “Implementation of the Economic Recovery Act: Funding for Highways, Roads, Bridges, and Transit.”

You may also view the webcast on the Federal Economic Stimulus section of the League’s Web site at www.cacities.org/federalstimulus.

One Year After Second Chance Act: New Funds to Stop the Prison Cycle

by Mitchel Herckis and Katie Seeger, National League of Cities

Last week, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that it is seeking applications for grant funding under the Second Chance Act Prisoner Re-entry Initiative. The grants will fund demonstration projects that provide offenders with educational and job placement services, substance abuse treatment, housing and mental and physical health care to ease their re-entry into communities. Proposals for grant funding are due April 20.

Almost one year ago, President George Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law in a formal White House ceremony that featured a bipartisan group of House and Senate members. The law, which created the demonstration grants, is aimed at helping inmates released from prison readjust to society. President Obama is also supportive of re-entry programs and included \$75 million for the Second Chance Act in his FY 2010 budget proposal.

Once a cause with few advocates, the need for transitional services for ex-offenders has become glaring with an estimated 650,000 people released from prison and another 10 to 12 million people released from local jails each year.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than 50 percent will end up back in the justice system. With the Pew Charitable Trusts estimating taxpayers are expected to pay as much as \$27.5 billion on prisons alone from 2007 to 2011 on top of current corrections spending, many states and localities are re-evaluating methods for dealing with criminal offenders.

To assist local leaders in applying for the grant, the Justice Center of the Council of State Governments released a comprehensive guide. To access this information, visit the Justice Center's website: <http://justicecenter.csg.org/>. Additional information is available on the DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, including the grant announcement and frequently asked questions. Visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/SecondChance.html> for more information.

Job Opening? Western City Magazine Can Help You Find the Best Candidate

List your job opening in Western City magazine. When you advertise your job opportunity in Western City, you also receive a Web site posting at no additional charge! Visit www.westerncity.com or call (800) 262-1801 for more information.

In a hurry to get the word out? Place your ad on our Web site today by visiting:
www.westerncity.com/postjobs.

Interim Management Needs?

MuniLink is the League of California Cities' interim management employee directory. Featuring searchable categories of interim resumes, MuniLink is still the best online tool to connect with highly trained municipal veterans eager to meet your agency's needs.

SEARCHING THE ONLINE DIRECTORY IS FREE for agencies looking for products and services, and offers individuals and companies a fast and effective way of connecting with city officials in California. MuniLink is a joint project of the League, the Institute for Local Government and Western City magazine. Proceeds from MuniLink benefit the League's research and advocacy efforts on behalf of cities.

Visit Today! www.cacities.org/munilink

Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's Legislative Resources Web 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.