

FOCUS

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

August 4, 2006
Issue #31-2006

TAKE ACTION:

OPPOSE AB 2987
(Núñez/Levine) – Cable and video service.

OPPOSE SB 1206
(Kehoe) – Redevelopment.

PROP. 42 REPAYMENTS: FIND YOUR CITY'S PAYMENT

The State Controller's Office has announced that Proposition 42 payments to cities and counties were issued on August 2.
For more, see Page 14.

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LEGISLATURE RECONVENES NEXT WEEK: WORK STILL NEEDED ON TWO KEY BILLS

The Legislature reconvenes on August 7 for the final four weeks of the 2005-06 session. As city officials know, this can be a wild and crazy time for anyone trying to follow legislative affairs. Legislators and lobbyists can get very creative in these final weeks, as they look for opportunities to push through their pet proposals. *For more, see Page 13.*

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2006 LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 'ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL'

Over 2,000 attendees from more than 400 California cities are expected to convene Wednesday, Sept. 6 through Saturday, Sept. 9, at the San Diego Convention Center, for the League of California Cities' 107th Annual Conference. This is the one educational program that brings together elected and appointed officials, city staff and all departments to serve the grassroots interests of local municipalities. *For more, see Page 12.*

WANT MORE DETAILS ON BILLS?

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

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NEED FISCAL INFORMATION ABOUT CITIES? VISIT CALIFORNIACITYFINANCE.COM

The League's fiscal consultant, Michael Coleman, maintains a very useful website (www.californiacityfinance.com) packed with information about how cities are financed. Recent updates to the site include the following:

- **Revenue Histories of Cities.** Updated with the recently released FY 2003-04 figures from the State Controller. You'll find summaries of general revenues, sales tax, property tax, property transfer tax, transit occupancy tax (TOT), business license tax (BLT), and more. For examples visit www.californiacityfinance.com.

- **Transportation Funding.** A new section with tutorials on the various sources of funding and "where your gas tax goes," explanation of the "spillover," etc. Also, estimated allocations by city for Prop. 42, Prop. 1B, etc.

- **Votes.** Local tax results from the June 2006 election and other recent elections. Also, a new summary of popular local add-on sales tax (transactions and use tax) votes that also explains what this tax is and how it differs from the basic sales tax - and a piece on countywide Transportation Sales taxes.

- **State Budget.** Updated comparisons of state & local government employment and finances, Top Myths about cities, the state budget and links to key documents.

- **Coming Soon:** Data on police staffing by city (numbers, per capita, etc.) and spending histories (police, fire, parks, streets, etc.)

Michael welcomes comments and feedback. If you would like to provide him input on the site, you can reach him at coleman@cal.net.

STATE SUPREME COURT RULES ON AGENCIES' RESPONSIBILITY TO MITIGATE CEQA IMPACTS

The California Supreme Court has held that a state agency that proposes a project that will have impacts outside that agency's jurisdiction must still identify mitigation measures to address those impacts.

This case involved the California State University, Monterey Bay, and its expansion plan adopted in anticipation of increased student enrollment. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified for this plan identified environmental impacts on surrounding public agencies. But the EIR did not impose mitigation measures to address these impacts. Instead the CSU Trustees found that (1) the improvements needed were the responsibility of other agencies, (2) the Trustees could not legally contribute to these improvements, and as such, mitigation was infeasible, and (3) the expansion had overriding benefits that outweighed any unmitigated environmental impacts.

The Supreme Court disagreed, and held that the Trustees must identify mitigation measures in the EIR for environmental impacts outside of its jurisdiction. Further, the court held that payment of a pro rata fee to the agency responsible for constructing an improvement to mitigate an identified impact may be an appropriate and feasible mitigation measure.

The case is *City of Marina et al. v. Board of Trustees of the California State University*, 2006 WL 2099943. The League would like to thank Manuela Albuquerque, City Attorney and Zach Cowan, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Berkeley for drafting the friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of the League.

ILG LAUNCHES WEBSITE 'NEWSWIRE'

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) has just launched a new website page that will make it a lot easier to keep up with new developments. To check out ILG's latest activities, please visit www.ca-ilg.org/newswire by clicking on this link or pasting the address to your browser.

PROP. 1C: CRITICAL INVESTMENT IN CALIFORNIA HOUSING

City officials should take notice - California's best opportunity to generate new funding for critically needed housing and related infrastructure is Proposition 1C, the Housing and Emergency Shelter Act. The measure was placed on the ballot by the Legislature as part of the infrastructure bond package. The League strongly supports this bond measure, along with the other bond measures: Prop. 1A (transportation funding protection) Prop. 1B (transportation and air quality), Prop. 1D (school facilities), Prop. 1E (flood protection), and Prop. 84 (water quality).

Unfortunately, a Field Poll released last week showed that while voter support exceeds opposition for the other bond measures, Prop. 1C, the \$2.85 billion housing bond – the smallest of all the infrastructure bonds — is trailing with only 33 percent support, versus 42 percent opposed and 25 percent of voters undecided.

Housing Bond Would Fund City Parks and Infill Housing Infrastructure Projects

Prop. 1C contains \$2.85 billion in funding to address a range of housing needs, including \$1.05 billion that helps cities address housing-related infrastructure issues:

- **Infill Housing Construction** - \$850 million in grants for development of public infrastructure projects that facilitate or support infill housing construction. Projects could include water, sewer and transportation improvements, traffic mitigation, brownfield clean up and up to an additional \$200 million for parks.
- **Urban, Suburban and Rural Parks** - \$200 million.

Cities also benefit from other funding contained in Prop. 1C:

- **Affordable Home Ownership Programs** - \$725 million to help over 23,600 families become or remain homeowners
- **Affordable Housing Construction Programs** - \$345 million for affordable rental

housing for more than 4,000 families

- **Housing for Farmworkers** - \$135 million to build rental and home ownership opportunities to help farm workers
- **Homeless Permanent Housing Construction** - \$245 million to build permanent housing for the homeless, those transitioning out of homelessness and foster care youth
- **Homeless Shelter Housing Construction** - \$50 million to construct and expand homeless shelters of last resort and transitional housing for the homeless
- **Transit-Oriented Development** - \$300 million to develop and construct housing and infrastructure projects within close proximity to transit stations

For the Legislative Analyst's Office summary of Prop. 1C and all the November 2006 ballot measures, visit www.lao.ca.gov and click on "**November 7, 2006 Ballot Measure Analyses for Public Display.**"

What Cities Can Do

The League urges cities to support all the infrastructure bonds. But Prop. 1C clearly needs support. Cities are urged to examine how Prop. 1C could benefit your city's efforts to address housing problems, and educate your community about those benefits.

The League is unaware of any organized opposition to Proposition 1C. Individual city officials who wish to get involved with advocating for the measure – on their personal time, and using only their personal (non-city) computer — can learn how they can help by visiting the campaign website at www.homes4ca.org. You can contribute to the campaign, as well as volunteer to speak at local events, distribute materials, raise money, host a house party or write a letter to the editor.

Note: This article was produced and distributed using non-public funds of the League of California Cities. Public officials are urged to avoid using public funds and equipment in supporting or opposing any ballot measure, including Prop. 1C.

LEAGUE, CSAC AND RCRC SUBMIT LETTER TO WATER BOARD ON NUMERIC LIMITS

Earlier this week, the League, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) submitted a joint comment to the State Water Resources Control Board on the recently released report on how to proceed with the findings of the Storm Water Panel of Experts (Panel) regarding the feasibility of establishing numeric effluent limits in storm water monitoring. The joint letter included, among other statements, the following comments:

1. *The Board should adopt a policy which directs staff and regional boards not to set numeric effluent limits for municipal best management practices (BMPs).*

We support the panel's overall finding that it is not feasible at this time to set enforceable numeric effluent criteria for municipal BMPs. We would ask that the Water Board adopt a policy directing staff and the regional boards to refrain from setting numeric effluent limits for municipal discharges until additional monitoring and research enables the Water Board to adopt additional policy on the application of numeric effluent criteria to municipal BMPs.

2. *If numeric effluent limits are implemented in future permits, the Water Board must address the enforcement role of local agencies and subsequent costs. We agree with the observations of the panel regarding the ability of municipal agencies to enforce of numeric limits. The panel's report states:*

• *"Since the storm-to-storm variation at any outfall can be high, it may be unreasonable to expect all events to be below a numeric value. In a similar circumstance, there are a number of storms each year that are sufficiently large in volume and/or intensity, to exceed the design capacity volume or flow rates of most BMPs. (Page 6) The panel acknowledged that several to more times each year, the runoff volume or flow rate from a storm will exceed the design volume or*

*rate capacity of the BMP. **Stormwater agencies should not be held accountable for pollutant removal from storms beyond the size for which a BMP is designed.**" (Page 10) [Emphasis added]*

• *"Monitoring for the enforcement of numeric effluent limits would also be challenging. While spot checks could be made at some of the many outfalls in an areas, there is wide variation in stormwater quality from place to place, facility to facility, and storm to storm." (Page 6)*

As MS4 permit holders, we are concerned that many local governments will be expected to enforce numeric effluent limits if the Water Board implements them as statewide policy. Currently, municipal permittees are responsible for monitoring, inspecting, and enforcement of industrial and construction facilities that discharge to MS4s. While it is reasonable and plausible for municipalities to enforce BMP requirements, the prospect of enforcing numeric effluent limit requirements is complex, uncertain, and even if possible, will greatly increase our program costs. Any such cost increases will constitute an unfunded mandate, and must be addressed by the Water Board before making any statewide policy decisions on the use of numeric effluent limits."

The Water Board is accepting comments until September 1. A copy of the League-CSAC-RCRC letter is posted on the League's website on

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.

ON-CAMERA MEDIA TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR CITY OFFICIALS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Do you need training to deliver your city's message more effectively during media interviews? Take advantage of this free opportunity for on-camera media training at the League's Annual Conference on September 6-9, in San Diego.

Your 45-minute training session will include a short, on-camera interview, where instructors will ask you questions about issues vital to your city, critique your "performance" and provide an opportunity for a follow-up interview. A DVD copy of your session will be available to take home for your own personal review.

The training session instructors are noted public information and media experts from cities throughout California. After this brief introductory session, you'll feel more comfortable with delivering your city's important messages in newspaper, radio and on-camera interviews.

Space is Limited! Register Today! **The League expects a very high demand for these one-on-one sessions, which are limited to just six sessions per day on Thursday and Friday, September 7 and 8, and three sessions on Saturday, September 9. The training will be held in the League Media Room at the San Diego Convention Center, which is convenient to all conference sessions.**

To take advantage of this outstanding opportunity, which can regularly cost thousands of dollars, call League staff member Adrienne Sprenger at (916) 658-8278 to reserve a training session; or fax all portions of the attached form to (916) 658-8240.

REGISTER TODAY FOR ON-CAMERA MEDIA TRAINING AT THE LEAGUE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Reservations will be accepted on a **paid** first-come, first-served basis. Please note that, while there is no charge for the training, in an attempt to address the problem of "no-shows", there is a \$20 charge, refundable as a \$20 CityBooks coupon for those who attend the training. No refunds or coupons will be issued for "no shows."

On-Camera Interview Training Session Times

Thursday, September 7 and Friday, September 8

9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
2 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
3 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, September 9

8 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

*If you get voicemail when making a reservation please:

1. Leave a message with your **two** preferred time slots.
2. Tell in some detail about an important issue facing your city so that we can prepare interview questions that are tailored to your community.
3. Leave your complete contact info including cell phone.

CAPIO VOLUNTEERS HELP STAFF MEDIA ROOM

For the 17th consecutive year, volunteers from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) will help staff the League's media room throughout the event. In addition to the popular on-camera interview training for conference attendees, volunteers will coordinate on-site media relations, produce two daily newsletters and issue "hometown" news releases to update local media outlets throughout the state about their respective representative's participation in the conference.

DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN: MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS DEPARTMENT

The League's Mayors and Council Members Department is accepting applications to fill its seat on the League board of directors. The position is a two-year term, and the person holding this position will be expected to participate at all meetings of the League board (four per year) as well as occasional board conference calls and informational sessions.

Officers are elected each year at the Department Business Meeting that is held at the League's Annual Conference. This year, the Department Business Meeting on **Thursday, September 7 from 12:45 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

Qualifications

The Nominating Committee will use the following information as a basis for selection:

- The individual's professional reputation;
- The individual's perspective on city service;
- The individual's contribution to ethnic and gender diversity of the department officers;
- Whether the individual has demonstrated a commitment to serving and strengthening the Department;
- Whether the individual is in the position to provide energetic leadership;
- The individual's depth of knowledge of and experience with city government;
- The individual's involvement in intergovernmental activities.

Role and Responsibility and Term of Office

The State League Director serves a term of two years and shall represent the Department on the board of directors of the League. The State League Director shall keep the Department membership informed of League Board activities and serve as a liaison between the Department and the League board. In addition, the individual is a part of the leadership team of the Department and is involved in supporting the goals and work program of the Department. It is common to have other duties assigned to this position that are part of the Department's work plans for the year.

The Process of Selection

All applications must be received in the League Offices by **Friday August 25**. Please Direct all applications to Robb Korinke at rkorinke@cacities.org, or by fax to Robb's attention at (916) 658-8240. If you have questions or would like to confirm receipt of your application, please contact Robb at (916) 658-8258.

Nominations for this vacancy will also be open from the floor of the Department Business Meeting.

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE BRIEFS ON PRISON REFORMS

New partnerships with local agencies on prisoner re-entry programs could be a key component of reform proposals unveiled by the Schwarzenegger administration in an August 3 briefing.

The briefing was hosted by the Governor's office to explain his objectives for the legislative special session he has called to address the urgent issues of recidivism and overcrowding in California's adult prisons and juvenile facilities. The League attended the briefing to learn more about the state's plan for our overcrowded prison system.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Acting Secretary James Tilton led the briefing and outlined the state's *Inmate Population, Rehabilitation, and Housing Management Plan*:

- Moving non-violent female offenders to secure community-based correctional facilities;
- Creating secure parole re-entry facilities;
- Building two new prisons and improving prison infrastructure; and,
- Streamlining the state's procurement process for these projects.

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PRISON REFORMS from page 6

Secretary Tilton stated that our corrections system is facing a severe crisis. Based on California's current population and projected growth, the CDCR will run out of beds for its adult male population by June 2007. Based on these projections, the state will need to increase the adult male capacity by more than 50,000 beds, with associated program space, by 2021 in order to accommodate the expected population.

Re-entry Facilities, a Role for Cities?

Of particular interest to local governments in the corrections management plan is the idea of re-entry program facilities. These facilities would provide a combined 5,000 beds for parole violators and inmates who are within 90 days of being paroled. To make this initiative a success, the state envisions new partnerships with local government, new secure re-entry facilities and enhanced services, all necessary for program success.

In particular, CDCR is interested in partnering with cities and counties to identify sites where these facilities could be built and managed by the state. Potential benefits of these facilities include:

- Improved parole and local law enforcement information on parolees, and providing parole agents new and better risk and needs assessment tools for better placement decisions.
- Creating new Police and Parole Agent Teams. Additional parole agents will team with local law enforcement. Together these teams will increase the intensity and quality of supervision of parolees. They will target serious parole offenders for revocation and prosecution. Parolees at serious risk of re-offending will be targeted for placement in these Community-Based Parole Re-entry Facilities.
- Improved delivery and quality of inmate/parolee programs. A mix of programs will be designed to meet the unique needs of inmates and parolees returning to a

particular community. These programs will be evidence-based, and tailored to the specific problems inmates/parolees must surmount.

- Secure community re-entry beds for inmates/parolees in the selected target area. To bolster re-entry success, inmates and revoked parolees will spend the last few months of their term in close proximity to their home. Housing is anticipated to be cells with double occupancy. The facility will provide 24-hour supervision, and not allow in or out privileges. The building will contain a secure perimeter, and adequate space for mandatory programming. These facilities will be operated by CDCR, and will be designed to be aesthetically complimentary to the surrounding area.

According to CDCR, the purpose of the re-entry facilities is to break California's entrenched cycle of parolee failure. The desired outcome is to reduce post-release criminal behavior of high risk offenders by returning parolees to their county of last legal residence, and to scale back the failure rate of at-risk parolees revoked with no new prison term.

Next Steps

The special session is scheduled to begin August 7, the same day the Legislature reconvenes from summer recess. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn August 31, leaving only a few weeks to act on the seven measures the Governor's office has stated will make up the prison reform package. In addition, the Governor's office hopes that the bills will be heard in a special conference committee to expedite their approval and avoid hold-ups in standing legislative committees.

To access the complete corrections reform management plan, please visit: www.cdcr.ca.gov/Communications/specialSession.

LEAGUE BOARD ACTS ON NOVEMBER 2006 BALLOT MEASURES

The November 2006 statewide ballot will include 13 measures, unless the Legislature places additional measures on the ballot before it adjourns at the end of August.

There are measures dealing with redistricting and possibly term limits are pending in the Legislature, but it is unclear at this point whether they both will move forward in time to appear on the ballot.

The following identifies actions taken by the League board of directors on November ballot measures. (See also, "Determining a League Position on a Ballot Measure.")

I. November 2006 Ballot Measures for Which the League Has Already Adopted A Position

Proposition 1A – Transportation Investment Fund. Makes it more difficult for the Legislature to suspend Proposition 42, related to sales-tax revenue funding for transportation purposes. **League Position:** Support (existing League position)

Proposition 1B – Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006. \$19.9 billion bond to pay for road repairs and expansions, repair bridges, expand public transportation and improve port security. **League Position:** Support (existing League position)

Proposition 1C – Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006. \$2.85 billion housing bond. **League Position:** Support (existing League position)

Proposition 1D – Education Facilities. Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006. \$10.4 billion bond for school and university construction. **League Position:** Support (existing League position)

Proposition 1E – Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2006. \$4.09 billion bond to repair levees and flood control

infrastructure. **League Position:** Support (existing League position)

Proposition 90 – Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property. Restricts and prohibits state and local government use of eminent domain. **League Position:** Oppose (existing League position)

II. November 2006 Ballot Measures for Which the League Does Not Yet Have A Position

Proposition 83 – Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring. **Board Action:** Refer to Public Safety Policy Committee for review and recommendation to League Board for consideration at its September meeting.

Proposition 84 – Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Initiative Statute. **League Position:** Support, based upon historic practice of the League to support resource, water and parks bond measures. Additionally, Proposition 84 includes funding for several water infrastructure programs recommended by the League's Infrastructure Task Force endorsed by the League Board.

Proposition 85 – Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. **League Position:** No position, consistent with the League's previous position on a similar measure.

Proposition 86 – Tax on Cigarettes. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. **League Position:** Support, consistent with past League positions on previous tobacco and cigarette tax measures that support health, public education programs and tobacco related programs.

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Proposition 87 – Alternative Energy. Research, Production, Incentives. Tax on California Oil. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. League Position: No position. There may be cities on both sides of Proposition 87. The League should devote its limited resources to the high priority issues on the November 2006 ballot.

Proposition 88 – Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. League Position: No position. This measure has no direct, compelling city impact.

Proposition 89 – Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contributions and Expenditure Limits. Initiative Statute. Board Action: Refer to a *subcommittee appointed by the League President to review the initiative, how it may relate to the League and to make a recommendation on a League position on Proposition 89. The recommendation will be considered by the Board at its meeting at the Annual Conference.*

III. Potential Ballot Measure on Redistricting and/or Term Limits

Summary: The Legislature is currently considering legislation to modify how California undertakes redistricting. There is also a possibility that agreement on modifications to term limits could also be reached, either as part of the redistricting proposal or as a separate measure. If agreement is reached in time, the Legislature would place one or both items on the November 2006 ballot. **Board Action: Refer** to Administrative Services Policy Committee, if an additional ballot measure to address redistricting and/or term limits does pass the Legislature in time to be

DETERMINING A LEAGUE POSITION ON A BALLOT MEASURE

When and how does the League board of directors decide to take a position on a ballot measure? Here are the criteria the League board used when it considered this question for the November 2006 ballot.

- For those measures which do not have a direct or compelling municipal interest, the League should take no position;
- For those measures for which we have existing policy, have supported, or opposed, or taken no position on similar past measures, the League should adopt a position consistent with existing policy or past positions;
- For those measures which have a municipal impact and for which the League has no existing policy, those measures should be referred to the appropriate policy committee(s) for consideration and recommendation back to the board at its Annual Conference meeting;
- Consistent with the Board policy originally adopted in 1953 and confirmed at its May meeting, the League should "...take action only on matters that are of broad municipal interest [emphasis in original]. In other words, it is preferable that the League act only on those matters that are of concern to a large number of cities, rather than to the cities of a given area or to an individual city. Similarly, it is unsound for the League to take an active position on a subject when the cities in the state are about equally divided on each side of the issue. It has been the attitude of the board to attempt to resolve these issues so that a large majority of cities are on one side or the other";
- The League should focus its attention on high priority issues which have significant impacts on cities and the League.

LEAGUE JOINS GOVERNOR'S HEAT RESPONSE TASK FORCE

Beware – it is going to get hot again – and that's the real heat, not the metaphor for what happens when the Legislature returns August 7 for its month-long sprint to adjournment. According to weather experts, another heat emergency is anticipated to hit California in ten days to two weeks.

This week the Governor formed a special task force to assist the state better respond to future heat emergencies. The League will be a member of the task force. Other governmental participants include: California State Association of Counties, County Welfare Directors Association of California, California Conference of Local Health Officers, County Health Executives Association of California, Regional Council of Rural Counties, California Association of Public Authorities, Urban Counties Caucus, American Red Cross, California State Sheriffs' Association California, Police Chiefs Association and California Fire Chiefs Association.

The task force will be co-chaired by the State Office of Emergency Services and the Health and Human Services Agency, and will include representatives from the following state agencies: Labor, Food and Ag, Resources, State and Consumer Services and the Governor's Office. The Heat Response Task Force held its first meeting Friday morning, August 4, in the Governor's conference room.

Group Prepares for Next Heat Wave.

Earlier this week, Governor's office convened a meeting of key state agency representatives and local government representatives to discuss how to best respond to the next heat emergency. Not only was the meeting a good opportunity to evaluate the response to the last emergency, but to learn from mistakes and successes so that the response the next heat emergency will be better.

While state, local and other agencies have excellent protocols in place to respond to flood, fire, earthquake and other "typical" emergencies, planning for and responding to a heat emergency

is different. While one may know that temperatures will rise above 100 degrees, it is difficult to gauge the how long the high temperatures will last, making it difficult to determine whether to contact at-risk residents or open cooling centers.

During the last month's heat emergency, California's electricity grid generally was in good shape, with sufficient power available to meet the high demand for air conditioning. However, because the system was operating at such usually high levels, some components failed, resulting in localized power outages.

The League will work closely with the Administration to ensure that exchange of information between cities and appropriate state agencies or other organizations runs smoothly. In the next few days, we will send an email request to cities to provide information on the availability of cooling centers to be added to the list of such centers maintained by the State Office of Emergency Services and county OES offices.

What Cities Can Do. Cities are encouraged to take the following steps to be prepared for the next heat emergency.

1. Be ready to implement energy conservation strategies in city facilities to reduce the strain on the state's electricity grid, if an energy alert is given.
2. Know where cooling centers are located in your city – either those operated by the city, the county, non-profit or community based organizations, or state agencies.
3. Make sure your police and fire departments and other public safety personnel have established a protocol for heat emergencies, including close coordination with the County OES system.
4. Identify one or two points of contact within your city to receive and disseminate weather and utility status information.

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GOVERNOR'S HIGH RISK SEX OFFENDER TASK FORCE SEEKS INPUT ON HOUSING AND RESIDENCY ISSUES AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

A number of public hearings have been scheduled by the Governor's High Risk Sex Offender Task Force for next week. The task force members are looking for public input on housing and residency issues relating to high risk sex offenders (HRSOs).

It is strongly encouraged that city officials attend these meetings, as the task force is particularly interested in the local perspective on housing and residency of high risk sex offenders and need the input from cities. Each public comment will be limited to a maximum of three minutes, and must also be submitted in writing.

The hearings are scheduled as follows:

North

Monday, August 7, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 437
Sacramento, CA

Central Valley

Tuesday, August 8, 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Board of Supervisors
Hall of Records
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301
Fresno, CA

South

Wednesday, August 9, 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Rancho Santiago Community College District
Board Hearing Room
2323 N. Broadway
Santa Ana, CA

The High Risk Sex Offender Task Force was formed pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order S-08-06 issued on May 15, to provide recommendations on the following four issues relating to high risk sex offenders:

- Notification to local law enforcement and officials prior to release from a state correctional institution;
- Placement planning for paroled sex offend-

ers that is compliant with state law, and consistent with public safety;

- Monitoring and supervision of high risk sex offenders; and
- Enforcement of all parole requirements and special conditions of parole.

Task force members include leadership from the California District Attorneys Association, California State Sheriffs Association, California Police Chiefs Association, California State Association of Counties, League of California Cities (represented by League President Alex Padilla), Chief Probation Officers of California, California Division of Adult Parole Operations, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and a victim's advocate group. The task force is co-chaired by Assemblymembers Rudy Bermudez and Todd Spitzer.

For further information relating to the task force, please contact Kathy Prizmich at kathy.prizmich@cdcr.ca.gov or (916) 322-1610.

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5. Make sure your city works closely with your electric utility to exchange information the status of the grid and the status of ongoing power outages, should one occur in your city.

More information about responding to a heat emergency is available on the Office of Emergency Services website at www.oes.ca.gov.

Our Mission

Restore and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

CONFERENCE from page 1.....

This year's theme, "**All Politics Is Local**," speaks to the continued need for city officials to get involved and work together toward our common goals. Each annual conference is a special combination of training, dialogue and networking events.

Speakers and Highlights

The daily General Sessions present League achievements during the past year and update attendees on important issues and legislation that will directly affect cities. The keynote address during each General Session motivates and inspires collaborative work and a strong service ethic. This year's keynote speakers bring an interesting mix of stimulating perspectives to the conference:

Kevin Carroll, author of *Rules of the Red Rubber Ball: Find and Sustain Your Life's Work*, who will present the opening day keynote on Wednesday, Sept. 6, titled, "Rediscovering Play: Bringing Fun and Passion to Your Work." With simple yet delightful storytelling, Carroll explains how he channels his childhood passion for sport and play into a universally appealing blueprint for life and work. He says, "Everybody has to find that one thing that gets you excited about a new day."

John Avlon, the keynote speaker on Thursday, Sept. 7, is a former speechwriter for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and the author of *Independent Nation: How the Vital Center is Changing American Politics*. Avlon has received rave reviews at several other state municipal league conferences and is looking forward to visiting California, his favorite state.

We hope that the closing General Session on Friday, Sept. 8, will include our state's gubernatorial candidates and other key legislative highlights.

New Formats. Select from more than 60 breakout sessions to inform, instruct and enhance your ability to perform your civic duties. New learning formats will be offered this year, including

open discussion forums to engage audience participation and sharing, as well as a new Exhibitor Speaker Theater on the Expo trade show floor, where attendees can browse new products and services provided by 250 exhibitors.

Networking Opportunities. A great selection of networking events is included. The Institute for Local Government will again offer an optional, ticketed "lunch and learn" symposium (see "How to Talk about Government," page 13). This year, San Diego will offer a Host City Crawl reception through the Gaslamp area for paid registrants on Thursday, Sept. 7, prior to a new CitiPac gala fundraiser later that evening. On Friday, Sept. 8, many divisions will offer optional breakfast meetings, in addition to special caucus and League Partner events scheduled for that evening.

Host City Reception. Join us for a memorable time in San Diego and for a special Host City Reception Gaslamp Crawl on Thursday, September 7. Our Host City Committee has worked very hard to coordinate six venues along the streets in the Gaslamp area to exclusively host our League attendees.

How to Register. The advance registration deadline closes on Friday, August 11. After that date, please register onsite at the San Diego Convention Center. Be sure to register online at www.cacities.org/events to receive a \$20 CityBooks coupon to use onsite.

Registration Costs: City Officials, Full Conference \$435 or One Day \$250

Please note: Spouse/Guest, \$100 - Badge required for all events, receptions and sessions. This registration may not be done online. Please print a separate registration form at the link above.

Please call our Registrar with any questions at (916) 658-8291. Register now!

LEGISLATURE from page 1

Back burner issues can suddenly heat up to a full boil. Others that looked like top priorities can fizzle away, as the elements of a deal sputter and die.

It is a time for city officials to stay alert: stay connected with your League regional representatives, and watch for League alerts. Your quick response may make the difference in the outcome of bills that take on great importance for cities.

AB 2987 (Núñez/Levine) and SB 1206 (Kehoe)

There are two important measures that the League still opposes. The League and city officials have been working many months to amend these bills to address local concerns. Unfortunately, we expect that when we see the amended bills in print on August 7 (and in subsequent amendments) our opposition will continue.

AB 2987 (Núñez/Levine) – Cable and video service. This bill would create a new statewide franchise for cable and video service providers, issued by the California Public Utilities Commission. It presents many concerns for communities and cities, including concerns about access to services, customer protections, preserving local public, education and government (“PEG”) channels, protecting local franchise fees, cable companies’ ability to abrogate existing franchise agreements and other issues.

Amendments taken in the June 27 hearing Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee are expected to be in print by August 7. These amendments are expected to address some, but not all of the many concerns that the League and our partners in the Technology Equality Coalition (TEC) have raised with the bill. Additional amendments are expected to the bill prior to its August 14 hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

We do not know if these amendments will incorporate recommendations from the

League or TEC concerns. A key League recommendation is that the bill establish a statewide template for cable and video franchising, but that the franchise is issued locally.

SB 1206 (Kehoe) – Redevelopment. The League and the California Redevelopment Association have been working with Sen. Kehoe for many months to identify amendments to this measure, which purports to address concerns with eminent domain raised by the last year’s U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*. The key concern raised by that decision was that homeowners could see their property transferred to another private party as part of an economic development project.

Amendments were taken in the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee that improved the bill, to which Senator Kehoe agreed. While these changes go a way toward making the provisions of the bill more workable, several provisions remain that will make it more difficult to use redevelopment to clean up blighted areas. Most specifically are provisions that deal with the finding of blight itself, which will become more difficult under the provisions of the bill.

Although there remains a mood in the Legislature to do “something” in the response to the *Kelo* decision, the League is reminding the Legislature that several other bills are moving that address the issue. These include AB 773 (Mullin), AB 782 (Mullin), AB 1893 (Salinas), AB 2922 (Jones), SB 53 (Kehoe), SB 1210 (Torlakson), SB 1650 (Kehoe), and SB 1809 (Machado).

SB 1206, however, includes provisions that would significantly undermine the use of redevelopment to improve blighted areas. It will be amended for on August 7, but new and more troublesome amendments are expected to be made to by August 10. These include amendments to the definition of “blight”, a limitation of the ability of redevelopment agencies to incur debt after 20 years, a requirement that blight findings be supported by “clear and convincing evidence,” and

Continued on Page 14

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that each cited reason for blight be worse in the proposed redevelopment area than anywhere else in the jurisdiction.

What Cities Can Do

The League urges cities to look for the amendments to both AB 2987 and SB 1206 when the bills are in print on August 7, and for the additional amendments that will appear in a few days. The League will post its new letters of opposition on both bills on their respective webpages of the League's bill tracking service (www.cacities.org/billsearch). We will also post sample letters that cities can download and send on city letterhead early next week on our online Advocacy Center (www.cacities.org/advocacycenter).

Note about online advocacy tools. The League's Advocacy Center does allow users to send their letters to legislators online – but we recommend that you download the sample letter and use your city letterhead. Fax the letter, or (time permitting) send the letter via “snail mail.” The more personal you can make your communication with a legislator, the more effective it will be.

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PROP. 42 from page 1

The payments are being provided to reimburse cities and counties for local Proposition 42 transportation funds that were borrowed by the state in FY 2003-04 and FY 2004-05. Cities and counties use these funds to pay for street and road maintenance projects.

The State Controller's Office recently finalized the repayment amounts (including interest) to cities and counties.

To find your city's final amount, please visit www.californiacityfinance.com (under the column entitled “FY 2006-07,” subheading “Repay & Interest”).

Please note that cities and counties will be receiving two separate checks: one for FY 2003-04 and the subsequent check for FY 2004-05.



Deliver Your City's Message More Effectively:

On-Camera Interview Training for City Officials

Television interviews are an unavoidable element of public office. So, by popular demand the League is proud to again offer on-camera interview training for Annual Conference attendees.

Your 45-minute training session will feature a short interview focused on an issue vital to your city, a video playback/critique, and a follow-up interview. We'll even give you a copy of your session to take back home for review.

Your trainers are noted public information and media experts from cities throughout California, and they're eager to help you refine your on-camera experience. After just this brief introductory session, you'll feel more comfortable with delivering your city's important messages on-camera. You'll also improve your newspaper and radio interviews using the valuable tips learned from your session.

We expect a very high demand for these one-on-one sessions, and we're limited to just **six sessions per day on Thursday and Friday, and three sessions on Saturday**. The training will be held in the League Media Room at the San Diego Convention Center, which is convenient to all conference sessions.

To take advantage of this outstanding opportunity, which usually costs cities thousands of dollars, **call Adrienne Sprenger at (916) 658-8278 to reserve a training session or fax the attached form to (916) 658-8240**. Open time slots are listed below.* Make sure to tell Adrienne in some detail about an important issue facing your city so that we can prepare interview questions that are tailored to your community. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis, so call today!

Appointments are
limited!

Sign up for your
preferred session
today

Call Adrienne at
(916) 658-8278

On-Camera Interview Training Session Times

Thursday, September 7 and Friday, September 8

9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.
11:00 – 11:45 a.m.
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.
3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, September 9

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.
9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

* If you reach Adrienne's voicemail please leave a message with your two preferred session times.

On-Camera Interview Training Sign-Up Form

To take advantage of this outstanding opportunity, which usually costs cities thousands of dollars, **call Adrienne Sprenger at (916) 658-8278 to reserve a training session or fax this form to (916) 658-8240.** Open time slots are listed below.* Make sure to tell Adrienne in some detail about an important issue facing your city so that we can prepare interview questions that are tailored to your community. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis, so call today!



On-Camera Interview Training Session Times

Thursday, September 7 and Friday, September 8

9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
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11:00 – 11:45 a.m.
1:00 – 1:45 p.m.
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.
3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Saturday, September 9

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.
9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Reservations will be accepted on a **paid** first-come, first-served basis. Please complete **ALL** sections of this form and **fax to Adrienne at (916) 658-8240.** There is a \$20 charge, refundable as a \$20 CityBooks coupon for those who attend the training. No refunds or coupons will be issued for “no shows”.

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

CITY: _____ ON-SITE/CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ FAX NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please provide a short description of a topic or issue in your city that you would like to discuss during your interview. _____

Session Times:

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on credit card

Authorized Signature

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Billing Address



1400 K Street • Sacramento, California 95814
Phone: 916.685.8200 Fax: 916.658.8240
www.cacities.org

Mayors and Council Members Department DIRECTOR Application

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail address: _____

May this address be published? YES _____ NO _____

To be eligible to hold a department office, an individual must be in municipal service at the time of the individual's election or appointment. See Mayors and Council Members Department Bylaws, Article IV, Section A.

Please respond to the following so that the President may evaluate your municipal experience, your League experience and your desire to participate as a League Department Officer. (Please use additional paper, if necessary.)

1. Please describe your municipal experience.
2. Please describe your League experience (e.g. Are you a member of a policy committee? Do you regularly participate in division meetings?)
3. Please describe your inter-government activities.
4. Please describe relevant experience that will enhance this position.
5. Why are you interested in this position?

Candidates should return this form with a resume no later than August 25, 2006 to:

Robb Korinke
Public Affairs Specialist, League of California Cities
rkorinke@cacities.org
FAX: 916/658-8240
PHONE: 916/658-8258