

PRIORITY FOCUS



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Nov. 16, 2007
Issue #44-2007

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Editor's Note: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Priority Focus will not publish on Friday, Nov. 23, as regularly scheduled. Publication will resume on Friday, Nov. 30.

STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS PROTEST ANTI-RENT CONTROL MEASURE

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, elected officials joined with senior citizen groups, tenant rights advocates and mobile home residents in at the Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco to protest the so-called "California Property Owner and Farmland Protection Act" (CPOFPA) – a measure that would abolish rent control. *For more, see Page 2.*

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FORECAST OF FY 2008-09 STATE BUDGET LOOKS GRIM Legislative Analyst's Office Predicts \$9.8 Billion Shortfall

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) issued a dour FY 2008-09 state budget forecast earlier this week, warning that the state must prepare for a \$9.8 billion budget deficit. The report follows a statement from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last week, calling for state agency department heads to reduce spending plans by 10 percent. *For more, see Page 3.*

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LEAGUE ISSUES INFRASTRUCTURE BOND IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Thanks to the passage of the infrastructure bonds on the Nov. 2006 ballot, various pots of money are available to local governments for projects relating to transportation, housing, environmental quality, levee repair and construction and educational facility construction.

The difficulty, however, is figuring out how much – and when – the funding is available. To that end, the League of California Cities has published an update on the status of the infrastructure bond implementation. To download a copy, see "Infrastructure Bond Implementation Update – Nov. 2007" at www.cacities.org/infrastructure.

CPOFPA, slated for the June 2008 ballot and similar to the failed Proposition 90 from the Nov. 2006 election, is supported by wealthy apartment owners, mobile park owners and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association (among others).

A large group of people, including a man in a suit speaking at a podium, holding protest signs against the Landlord's Hidden Agenda Scheme. Signs include "STOP THE LANDLORDS' HIDDEN AGENDAS SCHEME!", "LANDLORD SCHEME KICKS PEOPLE OUT OF HOMES", "STOP THE RENT CONTROL", and "SAVE SENIOR ACTION NETWORK".

Ted Gullicksen, head of the San Francisco Tenants Union, helped organize the rally. Stressing his opposition to the measure, Gullicksen stated that the measure is a sinister trick on the voters and unless it was beaten, CPOFPA would hurt seniors, single mothers and others who struggle to make ends meet

Calling CPOFPA the “Landlords’ Hidden Agenda Scheme,” Gullicksen pointed out that if CPOFPA gets on the ballot and is approved by voters, the measure would jeopardize laws that require the fair return of rental deposit, laws that require a 60-day notice before forcing renters out of housing and laws that protect seniors and the disabled from drastic rent increases.

- Lupe Arreola, St. Peter's Housing Committee
- Barbara Blong, Senior Action Network
- John Rizzo, Sierra Club
- Tim Paulson, San Francisco Labor Council

- KNTV-TV11 NBC
- KTVU-TV2 FOX
- KGO-TV7 ABC
- KPIX-TV5 CBS
- KTSF-TV26 (Independent/Asian)
- KSTS-TV48 (Telemundo)
- KBCW-TV44 CW
- KPFA-FM
- KGO-AM
- *World Journal*
- *San Francisco State Express*
- *San Francisco City Star*
- *San Francisco Examiner*
- *Ming Pao Daily*
- *Sing Tao Daily*
- *International Daily News*
- *San Francisco Bay Guardian*
- *Beyond Chron*

- *Northgate News*

The Homeowners Protection Act

In addition to protesting CPOFPA, the conference focused on support for the **Homeowners Protection Act**. The **Homeowners Protection Act** offers real eminent domain reform by prohibiting state and local governments from using eminent domain to secure a home to transfer to a private developer. The coalition supporting the **Homeowners Protection Act** includes homeowners, labor, business, environmental groups, seniors and local government.

'State Budget' Continued from Page 1...

The state budget is expected to carry over \$2 billion in debt from FY 2007-08. That amount, combined with the projected \$8 billion shortfall between spending and revenue, brings the deficit to nearly \$10 billion. Confirming the budgetary news at a press conference on Wednesday, Nov. 14, Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill also cautioned that the shortfall is anticipated for a number of years into the future.

LAO identified several factors contributing to the state's budget problem, including the lower state revenue projections due to the economy's current outlook, lower property taxes and impact on K-14 education funding. Additional factors include an expected delay in the sale of EdFund and its value, the delay in new tribal compact implementation and a court ordered payment to the state's teacher retirement system.

The Governor will issue his proposed FY 2008-09 state budget on Jan. 10, 2008. The League will continue to monitor budget issues and will provide updates through *Priority Focus* and the League's Web site at www.cacities.org.

CalGRIP Grant Proposal Deadline Extended to Dec. 10

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has announced that the proposal deadline for California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) program funding has been extended two weeks to Dec. 10.

The deadline was moved because of the impact the Southern California wildfires had on many local government operations. Every city, regardless of location, is eligible for the extension.

As originally reported in the Nov. 9 edition of *Priority Focus*, through CalGRIP grants, \$4.3 million is available to cities for gang prevention, intervention, re-entry, education, job training and skills development, family and community services, and suppression activities. Cities can request up to \$500,000 to cover up to three years of anti-gang programs in their locations.

The grant requires cities to provide a "dollar for dollar" match. This means that cities must match the amount awarded by OES through local or federal funding in the form of cash or in-kind services.

The OES grant program is a subset of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's CalGRIP initiative launched earlier this year. It involves several state agencies and existing state programs focused on reducing the problem of gang violence in California.

Application Process and Instructions

All grant proposals must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 10, for consideration.

The RFP applications are available electronically on the OES Web site at www.oes.ca.gov, under the "Grants & Funding" header. Click on the link for "Law Enforcement and Victim Services," and then "Request for Proposal (RFP) Funding Information," to locate the appropriate form.

Questions concerning grant applications should be directed to Kirby Everhart, chief, OES Crime and Gangs Branch, at kirby.everhart@oes.ca.gov. Applicants are requested to submit questions via e-mail so that a written record can be maintained of questions asked and the answers given.

Keeping Our Heads Above Water

ACWA's 'California Water Crisis' Educational Program Continues

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has released a new advertisement and fact sheet about "California's Water Crisis," its ongoing public education program. The program is designed to increase public awareness about the state's water delivery and storage system and its impact on the state economy and environment.

Fact sheets are now being distributed that examine the various threats to the water supply and delivery system. The newest fact sheet focuses on statewide water supply cutbacks resulting from a federal court-order this summer that temporarily stopped water pumping in the Delta to protect a species of fish.

The fact sheets can be downloaded at www.calwatercrisis.org by clicking on "About the Problem." The new print ad can also be downloaded at the Web site. To find the ad, click on "See Our Ads" on the right hand navigation and then scroll to the bottom of the page featuring the spots.

Cities Encouraged to Participate

Local government can get involved with ACWA's efforts and help educate residents about water issues. Cities interested in partnering in the ACWA program should contact Statewide Outreach Director Scott Adams at (818) 760-2121 or scott@calwatercrisis.org.

All of the resources produced for the program have been created so that organizations, local government and others can educate the public. ACWA has made its program logo available for partner organizations to use on their Web sites, along with the print ad, fact sheets and an informational brochure. A number of local government cable stations are also running the TV spots.

Have a Housing Success Story? Tell Us About It!

Focus on Housing, the League of California Cities' electronic monthly housing newsletter, is seeking new housing success stories to profile for its upcoming issues.

Has your city redeveloped a blighted or underused site with new affordable housing in the past two years? If so, we want to know about it. Typical housing success stories published in *Focus on Housing* range between 250-400 words, and include "before and after" photos to illustrate the property's change.

Questions and submissions should be sent to League Communications Specialist Brian Heaton at bheaton@cacities.org.

New Tool for Promoting Informed Involvement in the Land Use Process Available

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) has developed a new planning and public engagement tool for cities and counties. Nicknamed the "Land Use One-Pager Project," these "one-pagers" offer local agencies a set of descriptions of common land use decisions, with the goal of promoting informed public participation in land use decision-making.

Local agencies can attach the one-pagers to public hearing notices or have them available in hard copy form at planning counters. They are also available as links to attach to e-mailed notices or as content for Web sites. All of the one-pagers are available in either .pdf or Microsoft

Word format (if you want to customize them for your own agency's needs) at www.ca-ilg.org/onepaggers.

ILG is grateful to Citrus Heights Director of Community Development Janet Ruggiero for suggesting this project and to all the peer reviewers that took part in the process. This effort was made possible by financial support from the law firm Burke, Williams, and Sorensen, LLP.

League Legislative Briefings Coming Up

The League of California Cities is hosting two briefing sessions in November. Scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 28, in Pasadena and Thursday, Nov. 29, in San Jose, these identical briefings will focus on bills of note to city officials that passed in the previous legislative session.

Tentative session topics will include:

- Implementation of the State Infrastructure Bond Package
- The fate of ACA 8 and pending initiatives—What's next on eminent domain and regulatory takings
- Climate Change: ARB Regulations, SB 375 (Steinberg), the attorney general's lawsuits, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines: Are you ready for this kind of "green heat?"
- Growing Pains: Legislation affecting redevelopment, flood control, environmental issues, housing and land use
- Employee relations and workers compensation
- Sex offender management, gang abatement, and prison overcrowding: local implications

The cost of attendance is \$140, which includes a luncheon. Registration and further information is available at www.cacities.org/events.

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

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) 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.
