

PRIORITY FOCUS



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**October 3, 2008
Issue #38-2008**

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GOVERNOR SIGNS SB 375

Saying that it was the "sequel" to AB 32, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 375 (Steinberg) into law on Tuesday, Sept. 30. The League supported this legislation because it addresses implementation of the 2006 Global Warming Act. Most importantly, Sen. Steinberg's bill assures that the decisions about how to achieve greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks will remain in the hands of locally elected officials. *For more, see Page 2.*



GOVERNOR TAKES FINAL ACTION ON 2008 LEGISLATION

With the state budget finally in place, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger turned his attention to legislative matters, signing and vetoing bills on his desk. Tuesday, Sept. 30 was the constitutional deadline for the Governor to act on bills and he vetoed a higher percentage of bills this year than any previous governor.. He explained that the Legislature's delay in passing the FY 2008-09 state budget forced him to prioritize the bills sent to his desk. *For more, see Page 2.*



LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAPS UP

The 110th League of California Cities Annual Conference was held last week in Long Beach, with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger firing up attendees in a special session held on Thursday, Sept. 25. More than 1,800 city officials attended the conference at the Long Beach Convention Center and were briefed on key legislative issues affecting cities. *For more, see Page 7.*

'SB 375' Continued from Page 1...

In addition, SB 375 will lead to greater efficiency in government because it aligns what could have been three separate planning processes—one for transportation, one for housing, and one for reducing greenhouse gas emissions—into a single process. This will provide more certainty for General Plans and assures better coordination between state agencies.

SB 375 provides relief from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for residential projects that are consistent with the regional plan to achieve greenhouse gas reductions. The bill also amends the housing element law, extending the amount of time that the state must approve most local housing elements from five-to-eight years.

Because SB 375 is so complex, the League has prepared a technical overview of the bill to help city local officials understand its scope. This paper is available on the League's Web site ([http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27223.SB 375 Implementation Final 9-19-08\(1.1\).pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27223.SB%20375%20Implementation%20Final%209-19-08(1.1).pdf).)

'Sign and Veto' Continued from Page 1...

More than 130 pieces of legislation received a veto message stating that the bill was not among the highest priorities for California. Legislation receiving this message are indicated with an asterisk (*) below.

In total, the Governor signed 772 bills and vetoed 415 bills this year. The Governor's final action was consistent with the League's request two-thirds of the time. Out of 42 bills, 28 decisions were consistent with the League's request, and 14 were not. On four bills that were vetoed, and for which the League had requested a signature, the Governor's message indicates the delay in the budget as the reason, thus making it likely they will be reintroduced next year.

Further information on bills can be found on the League Web site at www.cacities.org/billsearch.

A list of his actions for bills the League of California Cities followed is below by legislative area.

Employee Relations

AB 2754 (Bass)

Request: Veto

Result: Signed – *Chapter 684, Statutes of 2008*

Provides a rebuttable presumption under the workers' compensation system for public safety employees who claim a methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA/staph)-related injury.

AB 2918 (Lieber)

Request: Veto

Result: Vetoed

Prohibits the use of a consumer credit report for employment purposes, with some exceptions.

AB 3063 (Committee on Labor & Employment)

Request: Veto

Result: Vetoed

Prohibits employers from requesting that an applicant disclose information or use for employment related decisions information concerning a criminal conviction that was expunged or judicially ordered sealed.

SB 1115 (Midgen)

Request: Veto

Result: Vetoed

Weakens the apportionment statute (defining the portion of injury related to the workplace, as opposed to pre-existing conditions) implemented by SB 899 (Poochigian 2004), the landmark legislation that implemented much needed workers' compensation reforms, and allow the courts to overrule apportionment even when based on findings of actual previous disability.

SB 1296 (Corbett)

Request: Veto

Result: Signed – *Chapter 712, Statutes of 2008*

Provides superior courts exclusive jurisdiction over actions involving interest arbitration where the action involves representatives of firefighters.

Environmental Quality

AB 31 (De Leon)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – *Chapter 623, Statutes of 2008*

Requires the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to establish a local assistance program to distribute grants to the most park needy communities across the state, with funding derived from the \$400 million that was designated for this purpose in Proposition 84.

AB 2270 (Laird)

Request: Sign

Result: Vetoed

Allows cities and water agencies to restrict usage of specific types of water softeners only if the State Water Resources Control Board or the regional water quality control board made a finding that control of residential salinity will contribute to the achievement of water quality objectives in the region.

AB 2347 (Ruskin)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – *Chapter 572, Statutes of 2008*

Requires a manufacturer that owns or owned a name brand of mercury-added thermostats sold in this state before January 1, 2006, to establish and maintain a collection and recycling program for out-of-service mercury-added thermostats.

AB 2939 (Hancock)

Request: Sign

Result: Vetoed

Allows those local governments who wish to enact stronger green building standards to do so without the existing restrictions of climatic, geological or topographical conditions.

SB 1016 (Wiggins)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – *Chapter 343, Statutes of 2008.*

Re-calculates the way solid waste diversion efforts are imposed upon local governments, and also revises the timelines that local jurisdictions must adhere to when reporting to the Integrated Waste Management Board.

SB 1357 (Padilla)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – *Chapter 697, Statutes of 2008*

Authorizes the Department of Conservation to expend up to \$20 million from July 1, 2009, to Jan. 1, 2012, for recycling and litter reduction grants and programs, and requires a grant recipient to submit a report to the department and would require the department to publish an evaluation of grants made pursuant to these provisions, including a summary of those reports.

SB 1548 (Florez)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – *Chapter 622, Statutes of 2008*

Creates a local city selection committee (Existing law requires five members to be appointed by cities within the territory of the district, based on region and population) within the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors.

Public Utilities: Energy

AB 2466 (Laird)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – *Chapter 540, Statutes of 2008*

Establishes the Renewable Energy Self-Generation Program to allow a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or other public agency to benefit from the excess electricity produced at the local entity's facility. The bill authorizes a local governmental entity to receive a credit on the bill of a benefiting account, equal to the amount of the electricity it exported to the electrical grid and from an eligible renewable generating facility.

SB 980 (Padilla)

Request: Veto

Result: Vetoed

Requires the California Energy Commission to evaluate the adequacy of the electric distribution system of local publicly owned electric utilities as a part of their 2009 Integrated Policy Report.

Land Use/Housing

AB 749 (Wolk)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – Chapter 477, Statutes of 2008

Requires, as of March 1, 2009, residential care facilities for the elderly to have an emergency plan that includes specified provisions and is available, upon request, to both residents onsite as well as to local emergency responders.

AB 842 (Jones)

Request: Veto

Result: Vetoed

Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to rank applicants for the award of capital improvement project grants based upon a reduction of vehicle miles traveled as a result of a qualifying infill project, as specified.

AB 2000 (Mendoza)

Request: Sign

Result: Vetoed

Provides additional flexibility to a local government in the regional housing need assessment (RHNA) process, by allowing a local government that exceeds its regional housing need during a planning period to count the excess units toward meeting its share in the next planning period.

AB 2280 (Saldana)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – Chapter 454, Statutes of 2008

Makes several technical fixes to the Density Bonus Law and addresses an absurd interpretation of the law relating to the bonus awarded to affordable senior projects within larger scale developments.

AB 2494 (Caballero)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – Chapter 641, Statutes of 2008

Establishes the Housing-Related Parks Program to govern the allocation of \$200 million under the administration of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Requires the department to use funds allocated from the account, to provide grants for the creation, development, or rehabilitation of park and recreation facilities, to cities and counties that meet certain criteria, including adoption of a HCD approved housing element, and issue housing starts for newly constructed units that are affordable to very low or low-income households.

SB 375 (Steinberg)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008

Aligns transportation, housing, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions regional planning processes, provides incentives through CEQA streamlining for infill projects, and provides additional certainty for local governments that engage in planning processes that will result in reductions in GHG emissions.

SB 992 (Wiggins)

Request: Sign

Result: Vetoed

Requires the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) to administer the licensure and regulation of adult recovery maintenance facilities, and requires the department to adopt emergency regulations, implement the fee process for initial licensure, the provisions for the extension of licensure, follow up compliance visits, and civil penalties.

Public Safety

AB 38 (Nava)

Request: Sign

Result: Signed – Chapter 372, Statutes of 2008

Consolidates the roles and responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and Office of Homeland Security into a new state agency, the California Emergency Management Agency, for a more efficient state-wide disaster preparedness and response system.

AB 759 (Karnette)**Request: Sign****Result: Vetoed**

Requires local fire enforcing agencies to inspect elderly care facilities with six or fewer residents, applying standards established by the State Fire Marshal and Department of Social Services, to ensure the fire safety of the facility. This bill also permits the fire enforcing agencies to collect reasonable fees from the facility owner to cover the expense of inspections.

AB 844 (Berryhill)**Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 731, Statutes of 2008**

Creates additional requirements on scrap metal recyclers and traders to prevent scrap metal thefts by requiring identification of those presenting scrap metal to the recycler and a three-day delay in payment to those individuals. This bill also allows local government to enact stronger ordinances to prevent scrap metal thefts if local public safety needs warrant greater regulation.

AB 1724 (Jones)**Request: Sign****Result: Vetoed***

Permits local government agencies to enact and enforce vehicle impoundment ordinances for nuisance vehicles repeatedly involved with illegal dumping activity.

AB 1751 (Fuentes)**Request: Sign****Result: Vetoed***

Permits local government agencies to enact and enforce vehicle impoundment ordinances for nuisance vehicles repeatedly involved with prostitution-related activity.

AB 1859 (Adams)**Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 659, Statutes of 2008**

Creates an additional \$3,000 penalty for stolen scrap metal sales or purchase charges that involve fire hydrant and fire department connection parts.

AB 2151 (Jones)**Request: Sign****Result: Vetoed**

Authorizes the Alcoholic Beverage Control Department to deny the transfer or issuance of a liquor retail license if it would contribute to blight, based on the findings of the local government agency. AB 2151 also authorizes a local redevelopment agency to deny the issuance or transfer of a liquor retail license within the redevelopment agency.

AB 2262 (Torrico)**Request: Sign****Result: Vetoed**

Expands the "Safe-Surrender" program to allow children seven-days old or younger to be surrendered to a safe-surrender site as designated, which may include fire departments upon approval by the local fire agency or governing body.

SB 1519 (Yee)**Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 721, Statutes of 2008**

Authorizes a local government agency to request the disconnection of telephone service provided to unlicensed taxi cab operations and permits telephone service providers to disconnect or deny the issuance of telephone service if local enforcement efforts have not prevented or stopped the unlawful taxi cab operations.

Revenue and Taxation**AB 697 (Hancock)****Request: Sign****Result: Vetoed***

Prohibits a city and/or county, including a chartered city or county, on or after Oct. 1, 2008, from entering into any form of agreement that results, directly or indirectly, in the payment, transfer, diversion or rebate of any amount of Bradley-Burns local sales and use tax proceeds to any person for any purpose when both of the following apply: (1) the agreement results in a reduction in the amount of Bradley-Burns tax proceeds received by another local agency from a retailer within the territorial jurisdiction of that other local agency; and (2) the retailer continues to maintain a physical presence within the territorial jurisdiction of that other local agency.

AB 1221 (Ma)**Request: Sign****Result: Vetoed***

Expands the toolbox of available options for financing infrastructure associated with transit village development by ensuring that these facilities may be financed through the use of existing Infrastructure Financing District Law. This bill also expands the size of a transit village development district from one-quarter to one-half mile, and requires that at least 20 percent of all tax increments under the plan be used for affordable housing development.

AB 1451 (Leno)**Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 538, Statutes of 2008**

Extends the sunset date with respect to the existing property tax exclusion from reassessment provided to the construction or addition of active solar energy systems from the 2008-09 fiscal year, to the 2015-16 fiscal year. In addition, this bill allows this exclusion to be transferred to the initial occupant of a new building, if the builder installed the solar energy system during the original construction.

SB 301 (Romero)**Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 375, Statutes of 2008**

Extends existing statute that provides additional financial assistance through the Vehicle License Fees (VLF) allocated to cities for future incorporations and annexations by cities of inhabited territory.

SB 1064 (Hollingsworth)**Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 386, Statutes of 2008**

Provides income and property tax relief to individuals, businesses, and local governments that suffered losses as a result of five separate disasters during 2007 and 2008.

Transportation/Public Works**AB 642 (Wolk)****Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 314, Statutes of 2008**

Allows cities to use design-build contracting for building construction projects as well as wastewater facilities, solid waste management facilities, or water recycling facilities for more efficient, cost-effective public works projects.

AB 983 (Ma)**Request: Veto****Result: Vetoed**

Requires cities to provide full, complete, and accurate plans, including cost estimates on all public works projects, which would reduce incentives for contractors to report errors in plans during bidding because additional expenses could be recouped through change-order claims against the public agency.

AB 2295 (Arambula)**Request: Sign****Result: Vetoed**

Includes local street and road rehabilitation projects on the list of eligible types of projects that may receive State Transportation Improvement Funds.

Miscellaneous**AB 2537 (Furutani)****Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 678, Statutes of 2008**

Helps to ensure that city public works projects can be completed with volunteers by continuing provisions that establish volunteers do not have to be paid prevailing wages for their work, as it is being done on voluntary basis.

AB 2427 (Eng)**Request: Veto****Result: Vetoed***

Prohibits a city or county from incidentally regulating a local healing arts business that is licensed or certified by the State Department of Consumer Affairs.

AB 2610 (Davis)**Request: Veto****Result: Vetoed***

Unnecessarily mandates local governments that want to address unattended collection boxes in their community and must follow a new permit program outlined in the bill.

SB 1124 (Local Government Committee)**Request: Sign****Result: Signed – Chapter 709, Statutes of 2008**

Enacts the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2008 and proposes various technical, but important, changes to the law affecting local agencies' powers and duties. Specifically, the uniform code copy requirement is amended, revising the requirement that clerks of local legislative bodies must maintain "a reasonable supply of copies" and instead stipulates that only one copy must be kept on-hand.

'Annual Conference Wrap Up' Continued from Page 1...

The opening general session, held on Wednesday, Sept. 24, featured keynote speaker Neal Petersen and remarks by League President Jim Madaffer and League Executive Director Chris McKenzie.

Madaffer presided over the opening session and discussed the League's activities over the past year.

"When we look back at 2008, I am convinced it will be seen as a year when the League prevented what could have been devastating grabs of local property tax and transportation funds and defeated a draconian, anti-local control ballot measure in Proposition 98," said Madaffer. "The key to our success will continue to be our strong grassroots involvement of our members and a League staff that keeps us focused and informed. It has been a great year for California's cities, and we will make sure next year is one as well if we remain united and focused."

McKenzie spoke about the state budget and the League's legislative efforts including work on housing, climate change and infrastructure. He also focused on the convincing defeat of Proposition 98 and passage of Prop. 99 in June. Prop. 98 was a Trojan horse which purported to offer eminent domain reform but in reality would have had a devastating impact on local land use control, renter protections, water projects, environmental protections and more. Prop. 99 on the other hand, which won by a landslide with 63 percent of the vote, provides real eminent domain reform, protecting single family home owners.

McKenzie told the assembled city officials, "The League exists to protect and restore local control, and we have had a record of phenomenal success this year in doing just that. At the same time, we advanced each of our strategic goals in the area of protecting local revenues, supporting city climate change efforts, securing additional infrastructure funding, and advancing honest eminent domain reform."

Neal Petersen, award-winning author of *Journey of a Hope Merchant: From Apartheid to the Elite World of Solo Yacht Racing*, delivered the keynote address. He captivated audiences with the story of his solo trip around the world in a homemade boat.

"No barriers, only solutions is my message...and never take no for an answer. Anything is possible," noted Petersen. "I've always believed that the biggest changes can be made at the local level."

The first general session closed with a video announcing the 2008 winners of the League's prestigious Helen Putnam Awards, which are given to cities that develop programs that significantly increase the level of service for their communities. The following cities were honored: Bakersfield, Dublin, Fontana, Livermore, Leemore, Long Beach, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Newport Beach, Palmdale, Perris, Pleasanton, Poway and Santa Clarita.

Day Two: Governor Fires Up Crowd

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger fired up approximately 1,600 city officials on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 25, addressing issues ranging from the state budget to redistricting. The crowd's

enthusiasm during his remarks was testament to their appreciation of his solid commitment to finding a balanced budget solution that did not rely on borrowing local government or transportation revenues.

"Sacramento's definition of borrowing is never paying it back," the Governor told the audience.

The Governor was introduced by League President and San Diego President Pro Tem Jim Madaffer. "California cities have no better advocate in the state capitol than Arnold Schwarzenegger," said Madaffer.

Thursday's general session featured Richard Florida's keynote address titled "Who's Your City." Florida spoke to the crowd about the way people choose the places they live and how that affects everything from their real estate investment to their families.

"Cities are the driving force of the global economy. More than half of the world's population lives in an urban area. According to our statistics, 40 mega regions account for two-thirds of the world's output and about nine in 10 of the world's innovations. What this means is that city officials really are key stewards of the global economy and economic competitiveness," said Florida.

Harriet Miller Honored with League's Past Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award

Hal Conklin, a League past president and former mayor of the City of Santa Barbara, and Pat Eklund, mayor of Novato and League past president, presented Harriet Miller, former Santa Barbara mayor, with the League of California Cities Past Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Harriet Miller epitomizes a true public servant in the very best sense of the term. That's why the League's past presidents selected her for this prestigious award. She consistently demonstrated a great capacity to lead, a genuine concern for people and the ability to make a difference. Harriet's service advanced the quality of life for Santa Barbara residents and helped the League of California Cities become a more effective advocate for all California cities," said Conklin.

Miller spoke about her long term commitment to community service. "Local government is the most meaningful to me. It's the level of government closest and most responsive to the people," remarked Miller.

Day Three: Doris Kearns Goodwin Captivates Audience with Lessons of Leadership

At the closing general session on Friday, Sept. 27, the League announced the election of new officers forming the 2008-09 executive committee of the board of directors. A full story on the new executive committee is included in today's issue of *Priority Focus*.

Keynote speaker Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D., addressed the attendees at the close of Friday's general session. A renowned presidential historian and gifted storyteller, Goodwin's timely remarks came just before the first presidential debate between Republican Party nominee Sen. John McCain and Democratic Party nominee Sen. Barack Obama.

"I am talking about lessons of leadership, drawing from great leaders of history, particularly Abraham Lincoln. Even though he was at a national level, at a time of great crisis, the qualities that he showed – his political skills and his emotional strength – are precisely the qualities that make for good leaders at any level," commented Goodwin. "These strengths are what we should be using to measure the presidential candidates rather than superficial markers."



League President and San Diego President Pro Tem Jim Madaffer introduces Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.



Former Santa Barbara Mayor Harriet Miller is honored with the Past President's Lifetime Achievement Award.



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger fired up the crowd on Thursday, Sept. 25.



Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo, elected to serve as the League's president, assumes the post held for the past year by San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Jim Madaffer.



League Executive Director Chris McKenzie and San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Jim Madaffer present Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo with the crystal gavel.

League Board Acts on November 2008 Ballot Initiatives

The League's board of directors has adopted positions on eight of the 12 measures on the November 2008 ballot. The board took positions on seven of the measures when it met last week in conjunction with the annual conference in Long Beach and adopted a position on Proposition 7 earlier this year. The ballot measures cover a variety of topics including redistricting, children's hospital grants, and public safety. The board's positions on these ballot measures are below:

Proposition 1A – Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century: Issues \$9.95 billion of general obligation bonds, \$9 billion of which will be made available in conjunction with federal and private funds for the planning and construction of a high-speed train system, and \$950 million of which will be available for capitol projects on other passenger rail lines to provide connectivity to the high-speed train system. **Position: No position**

Proposition 3 – Children's Hospital Projects: Issues \$980 million in bonds to be used for grants of approximately \$98 million each for qualifying non-profit Children's Hospitals to expand and renovate to make more room to treat children, and to purchase life-saving medical equipment for the treatment. **Position: No position**

Proposition 5 – Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2008 (NORA): Expands drug treatment diversion programs for nonviolent offenders; modifies parole supervision procedures and expands prison and parole rehabilitation programs; allows for additional early release credits for participation and performance in rehabilitation programs' changes the penalties for marijuana possession; and makes various changes to the organization of rehabilitation programs in the CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. **Position: Oppose**

Proposition 6 – Safe Neighborhoods Act (or the Safe Neighborhoods Act: Stop Gang, Gun, and Street Crime): Creates and revises numerous state and local criminal justice programs to address criminal street gang activity, firearms and narcotics, child abuse, victim protection, juvenile offender programs, parole and community re-entry, juvenile and county jail facilities, and the electronic monitoring of sex offenders. **Position: No position**

Proposition 7 – Solar and Clean Energy Act of 2008: Requires utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 20 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2010, a standard currently applicable only to private electrical corporations. It also raises requirement for utilities to 40 percent by 2020 and 50 percent by 2025. **Position: Oppose**
(The League's position on this measure was adopted earlier in the year)

Proposition 9 – Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law: Expands the legal rights of crime victims and their ability to seek restitution; creates restrictions on the early release of inmates from incarceration; and restructures the granting and revocation of parole. **Position: Support**

Proposition 10 – The California Renewable Energy and Clean Alternative Fuel Act: Issues \$5 billion in general obligation bonds to fund renewable energy generation, alternative fuels for transportation, and energy efficiency and conservation programs. **Position: No position**

Proposition 11 – Redistricting. Constitutional Amendment and Statute: Changes the way the U.S. House of Representatives, the state Legislature (Assembly and Senate), and the Board of Equalization district boundaries are determined. **Position: Support.**

** A significant factor in the League taking "no position" on several of the above measures related to concerns over impacts to the state budget.*

Board Endorses Sedalia Sanders for NLC Second Vice President

El Centro City Council Member Sedalia Sanders was endorsed by the League of California Cities board of directors for the National League of Cities (NLC) second vice president position. The board took this action at its meeting on Friday, Sept. 26, in Long Beach. Last year, the League endorsed another candidate from California, Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge.

If elected to this position in November at the NLC Congress of Cities Conference in Orlando, Fla., Sanders will assume a position on the NLC board of directors as well as the NLC executive committee. She would likely serve as president of NLC from November 2010 to November 2011. Loveridge is currently NLC second vice president and will likely become NLC president in November 2009.

Sanders, who served as president of the League of California Cities 1995–1996, was first elected to the El Centro City Council in 1985. She has been selected by her peers to serve as mayor four terms during her tenure. She served the city council 1985–1999 and then again from 2003 to present. During her city council hiatus, Sanders was elected to the El Centro Elementary School Board Trustees, serving a two year term which included one year as president.

Active in the Imperial Valley region, Sanders has been chair of the Imperial Valley Association of Governments and has served as vice chair of the Southern California Association of Governments' Hazardous Waste Management Committee. In addition, she was part of a regional body that designed and implemented a plan to distribute \$20 million from the largest rural to urban water swap in California history. Sanders' state service includes appointments to the Rural Development Council and the Agricultural District Association that represented Imperial County at the state level.

League Service:

Sanders led the League as president from 1995–1996, during a difficult economic downturn in California when the state seized local government property taxes to help balance the state budget. Her board of directors' tenure encompasses two periods: 1993–1999 and 2003–today. Sanders first became active in the League locally, serving as president of the Imperial Valley Division. She also served as president of the League's Mayors and Council Members' Department.

An important contribution Sanders has made to the League was helping develop the organization's African American and Latino Caucuses. The establishment of the caucuses was the League's first recognition of these constituency groups. Sanders also helped strengthen the League's legislative position by establishing strategic partnerships.

NLC Service

Sanders has extensive NLC service: Advisory Council (2005-current); board member (1996–1998); member, Race Relations Task Force, and Resolutions Committee; Advocacy Ambassador (1997–1998); and member of the Strategic Plan Committee (1997–1998). She is also a member of Women in Municipal Government (WIMG) and the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Official (NBC-LEO). In 1998, Sanders served as a panelist for NBC-LEO's summer regional conference and board of directors meeting.

New Board Officers Named

The League of California Cities announced the election of new officers at the closing general session of last week's annual conference. The newly elected officers form the 2008-2009 executive committee of its board of directors.

Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo was elected to serve as the League's president, assuming the post held for the past year by San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Jim Madaffer. Rolling Hills Estates Council Member Judy Mitchell was elected as first vice president, and Rancho

Cordova Council Member Ken Cooley was elected and will join the League's executive committee as second vice president.

The League's bylaws call for officers to serve one-year terms. Under the League's bylaws, Madaffer now becomes immediate past president of the League and remains a member of the League's executive committee. Fargo moves up to her current position after serving the past year as first vice president. Mitchell has served the past year as second vice president.

Heather Fargo was elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1989. In 2000, she was elected mayor and assumed the position in 2001. Mayor Fargo has been a member of the League's board of directors since 2003 and joined the executive committee in 2006.

Transit Oriented Development and Infill Incentive Grant Program Meetings Scheduled

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has announced a series of stakeholder meetings for Proposition 1C transit oriented development and infill incentive grant program funds. The meetings are scheduled during October and will be held in Los Angeles, San Diego and Sacramento. Additional information about the meetings can be found on HCD's Web site at www.hcd.ca.gov. (www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/Bond_Program_Workshops.pdf)

Meeting Schedule

The meetings are scheduled from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. with an hour break at noon for lunch. The morning session will address infrastructure funding (water, sewer, traffic, site cleanup, etc.). The afternoon session will focus on funding for housing and related infrastructure near transit stations.

Oct. 9: Los Angeles

Junipero Serra Building
320 West 4th Street,
Carmel Room

Oct. 15: San Diego

Civic Center Concourse Building
202 C Street, Silver Room

Oct. 17: Sacramento

400 R Street, River Room

Water Control Board Revises Fee Schedule

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) released emergency regulations on Wednesday, Sept. 24 to revise its core water quality regulatory fee schedule. Existing law allows for an annual increase of fees by the Water Board to conform to the revenue levels set by the State Budget Act. While this action usually takes place mid-summer, the state budget stalemate caused it to be delayed.

The fee changes under the proposed emergency regulations provide the potential for some fees to go down and other fees to rise dramatically, depending on the type of discharger. According to the Water Board, the rationale for the increase in fees is the financial condition of the Water Board's Waste Discharge Permit Fund, which currently has projected \$17.2 million deficit for FY 2008-09. The fees propose to raise \$18.4 million for FY 2008-09 to eliminate the projected deficit for the future and keep the fund solvent.

The League circulated the emergency regulations for comment late last week in order to submit comments to the Water Board by its Sept. 30 deadline. The League's letter has been posted on its Web site (http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27224.SWRCB_Fee_Increase_Letter_30Sept08.pdf.)

The Water Board will be deciding on the emergency regulations on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at its monthly board meeting in Sacramento. The upcoming meeting agenda and information about video broadcasting is available on the Water Board's Web site (www.swrcb.ca.gov/board_info?agendas/2008/oct/100708mtg.shtml.)

If you have any questions about the League's position on the fee increase, please contact Kyra Ross, legislative representative at (916) 658-8252.

Menifee Becomes California's 480th City

On Oct. 1, Menifee officially became California's 480th city.

Voters in Riverside County approved cityhood for Menifee on June 3, with 61 percent of the 8,507 votes cast in favor of incorporating the 48-square-mile areas of Menifee, Sun City, Quail Valley and parts of Romoland. The new municipality is home to about 60,000 residents.

Voters approved the name of Menifee over Menifee Valley and also chose to elect council representatives by districts rather than at-large.

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.
