

FOCUS

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

October 28, 2005
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**The Legislature is
in recess until
January 4.**

REIMBURSABLE MANDATES: AN INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

Every year, the California Legislature passes bills that may contain state-mandated local programs as outlined in article XIII B, Section 6 of the California Constitution. If the Legislature has included adequate funding in the bill for covering the costs of these programs, then they are not eligible for consideration as a reimbursable mandate. *For more, see Page 3.*

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INDIAN GAMING FORUM BRINGS LOCAL AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER

Nearly 200 attendees filled the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Conference Center in Sacramento on October 26, as the League of California Cities, CSAC, the California State Sheriffs' Association and the California Tribal Business Alliance presented "Government to Government Relationships: A Forum on Indian Gaming." *For more, see Page 2.*

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LARRY CLARK APPOINTED TO COASTAL COMMISSION

Larry Clark, mayor of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, and newly appointed member of the League of California Cities board of directors, was appointed to the California Coastal Commission by Senate President pro Tem Don Perata, chair of the Senate Rules Committee. *For more, see Page 4.*

**WANT MORE DETAILS
ON BILLS?**

Visit the League of
California Cities
website at
[www.cacities.org/
billsearch](http://www.cacities.org/billsearch).

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LEAGUE LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE TRAINING MODULE

"Performance Coaching and Leadership" is a brand new interactive training module recently unveiled by the League of California Cities' LeagueE Campus.

The theme of this interactive training module is developing others through effective performance coaching while accomplishing your city's mission and goals. You will learn about new roles and techniques to create optimal workplace environments where employees are treated as partners – with responsibility to achieve the goals and objectives of the city.

Achieving honest commitment and a sense of enthusiasm among employees does not happen by accident. But imagine an organization where employees feel valued, empowered and important. Who wins - both employees and the organization! This training module will focus on:

- Creating a work environment that supports employee retention
- Providing opportunities for employees who are not high performers to become high performers
- Making a connection for employees between the work they do everyday and the goals and mission of your city

There are seven mini series' within this training module that deal with specific performance coaching and leadership topics – *New Employee Orientation, Performance Measures, Effective Communication, Performance Goals and Action Plans, Delegation and Decision Making, Corrective Action, and New Leadership Roles*. Each series contains printable handouts and ends with a quiz to test comprehension.

When you have completed each of the seven topic series, you will be instructed to proceed to the post test where you will have the opportunity to go back and review sections pertinent to any missed questions.

For more information, contact Kanat Tibet at (916) 658-8261. Kanat can also be reached via e-mail at ktibet@cacities.org.

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The first of its kind, the forum was arranged to discuss how local and tribal governments can better work together to fulfill common goals, and featured in-depth discussions on tribal sovereignty, public safety and memorandums of understanding, and a presentation by George Skibine, acting deputy assistant secretary, Indian Affairs Policy and Economic Development, U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition, City of Indio Police Chief Brad Ramos provided an overview of public safety enforcement issues and stressed the importance of working in partnership with local tribes.

Those attending of the event consisted of officials from local and tribal governments, law enforcement, water, parks and transportation agencies, state and legislative departments, and business and labor groups. Due to the popularity of the forum, organizers are already considering holding a similar event in the future.

Event organizers and participants noted that the forum marked a new chapter in local/tribal government relations as the four sponsoring groups worked together to share experiences and overcome differences.

"We need to look into the future and find a better way to form an enduring partnership between local governments and tribal governments—that's what this forum is about," said Paula Lorenzo, chairwoman of the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians and chairwoman of the California Tribal Business Alliance, in a statement. "We look forward to working with the people of California to provide a better future for all."

Our Mission

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

MAKING AFFORDABLE HOUSING A MEDIA MATTER

"Making Affordable Housing a Media Matter," a conference hosted by the Campaign for Affordable Housing and Century Housing, is set for Tuesday, November 8, in Long Beach.

Sponsored in part by the League of California Cities, the California Association of Realtors, Ameriquest Mortgage Company, and Washington Mutual, this conference will focus on how to turn the media's eye towards affordable housing issues. The event is designed to educate attendees on how to:

- Determine appropriate free and paid media outlets given campaign goals
- Frame affordable housing issues to gain exposure
- Identify relevant resources needed to develop successful media campaigns
- Locate and leverage successful media campaigns completed by other organizations

The conference will take place at the Westin Long Beach hotel. The keynote speaker will be Parker Blackman from Fenton Communications. The fee for attending is \$125, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register, go to www.tcah.org/nov8, or call (323) 330-0540.

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MANDATES from page 1

If adequate funding to cover local costs is not included, then local governments can file a test claim – starting the process of review by the Commission on State Mandates (COSM) to determine if it should become a reimbursable mandate as allowed under law.

Last year, legislation was passed that provided only one year (formerly three years) from the effective date of new laws for locals to file test claims as part of the mandate process. It's important that you are aware of this critical change in the mandate reimbursement process.

During the League of California Cities' recent annual conference, a panel discussed state-man-

dated local programs in the wake of Proposition 1A. The materials distributed can be found on the League website at www.cacities.org/revandtax, and contain an overview of the mandate reimbursement process, a list of pending test claims, and full details on 2004-05 and 2005-06 reimbursements for currently approved mandates.

The League and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) have created a joint advisory committee on mandates. If you are interested in participating or have further questions, please contact Jean Korinke at jkorinke@cacities.org, or (916) 658-8245.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR SET FOR MONTEREY

The League of California Cities is proud to present a financial management seminar from November 30 to December 2 in Monterey.

To be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, don't miss this opportunity to network with colleagues and increase your knowledge of the profession as you enjoy the charm of Monterey.

Some featured sessions include:

- The Future of the Economy
- Managing PERS Costs
- Telecommunications and other Legal Issues
- Drawing Out the Best in People
- How Infrastructure Maintenance Can Save Your City Money
- Skyrocketing Housing Prices and the Impact to Cities
- What Does Ethics Have To Do With City Finance?
- PLUS a Exposition of Vendors during the Wednesday Reception

To register, visit the League website at www.cacities.org/events.

CLARK from page 1

Mayor Clark was selected from a list of nominees submitted by the City Selection Committees and Boards of Supervisors of Los Angeles and Orange County. Elected mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes in 2005, Clark recently finished a term as chairman of the League's Revenue and Taxation Committee, and was Vice Chair of the League's General Resolutions Committee at this year's annual conference.

On the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council, Mayor Clark dealt with numerous coastal issues. He also serves on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Capital Campaign. Clark's term on the California Coastal Commission ends in May 2009.

"Mayor Clark understands the coast's unique status and has been actively involved in coastal issues, both as a private citizen and a public official," Perata said. "I think he will be a strong addition to the commission."

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