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LEAGUE LEADERSHIP SETS 2010 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The League's board of directors met in a joint session with the leaders of the divisions, departments, policy committees and caucuses of the League on Nov. 18 through Nov. 20 to chart a strategic course for 2010. *For more, see Page 2.*



SUPPORT LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS OF POTENTIAL FEDERAL JOBS PACKAGE

There have been increased discussions in our nation's capital about the development of a potential "jobs package." This package may come together over the next several weeks as members of Congress and President Obama have expressed concerns about the high unemployment level. With this attention, the League's legislative representatives in Washington, D.C, are advising that California cities communicate with the California congressional delegation on local priority projects that would create jobs in our state. *For more, see Page 2.*



REGIONAL TARGETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AIR RESOURCES BOARD

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) met on Nov. 19 to hear the Regional Targets Advisory Committee's (RTAC) recommendations which explain the process of setting regional greenhouse gas emission targets under SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008). *For more, see Page 3.*

'Goals' Continued from Page 1...

After small group discussions and large group presentations, the combined leadership of the League endorsed three strategic goals for 2010 that will guide the League's advocacy and education efforts.

During its meeting on Friday, Nov. 20, the board formally adopted the three goals listed below.

- **Protect Local Control and Funding for Vital Local Services.** Use statewide ballot measure and legislative and legal advocacy to achieve reforms that protect local control and abolish the power of the state to borrow, divert or impose restrictions on the use of all local revenue sources, including locally imposed or levied taxes, the local shares of all transportation tax revenues (including public transit funding), the redevelopment tax increment, and any other local revenue source used to fund vital local services.
- **Support Reform of the Structure, Governance, Management and Financing of State Government.** Build on the success of the 2009 Local Government Summit on State Governance Reform by working collaboratively with other stakeholder groups to advance reforms to modernize the structure, governance, management and method of financing state government.
- **Promote Economic Stimulus, Infrastructure Investment, Business Development and Job Creation.** Promote federal, state and local investment in transportation, water, redevelopment and other critical infrastructure projects that will support the retention and creation of new private businesses and jobs in our cities and state.

'Jobs' Continued from Page 1...

The League sent a letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein earlier this week on the importance of job creation in California. The letter, which was also sent to every member of the California congressional delegation, states that less than a year ago, a League survey documented that federal job creation efforts assisted \$9.3 billion in "ready to go" infrastructure projects in California cities. While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has been helpful, the amounts available for transportation and other infrastructure fell far short of demand.

The League advocates for additional funding for:

- Transportation and other infrastructure;
- Transit and transit oriented development;
- Community Development Block Grants;
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants; and
- Expansion of several infrastructure financing mechanisms.

This letter has been posted on the League's Web site at http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28474.FeinsteinLetter.pdf.

Take Action

The League is asking for your city's support to secure additional funding. You can help in two ways.

1. Contact your congressional representative and ask them to include funding for local infrastructure investments, such as those listed above. Please give examples of the types of local projects that could be advanced and would create jobs, should funding be made available. Cities may also use the sample letter which has been posted on the League's Web site. http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28475.FederalJobsPackageSampleletterFINAL.rtf
2. Complete League surveys. These surveys were previously sent to city officials.
 - Public Works Survey: For public works officers that seek to update and document the existence of "ready to go" infrastructure projects that will create jobs. This survey will end Dec. 15. Please take the survey at http://cacities.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_cBCaU4lBdghaxwM&SVID=Prod.

- City Manager Survey: Distributed to city managers to identify issues and document the city experience with ARRA. This survey will end Dec. 8. Please take the survey at http://cacities.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_0xkUfzRDpFnlyl&SVID=Prod.

'SB 375' Continued from Page 1...

Under SB 375, ARB is required to establish greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles and light trucks for 2020 and 2035 within the state's 18 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).

ARB did not take action on the recommendations at its November meeting. This means that ARB staff will most likely continue the process. During the next quarter, ARB will collaborate significantly with MPOs to determine the level of emission reductions that would be "ambitious" and "achievable".

ARB is required to issue draft reduction targets by June 30, 2010 and will present drafts at public hearings across the state throughout the summer. Sept. 30, 2010 is the deadline for ARB to approve final targets.

Local planners who are interested in learning more about the impact of these requirements on their regions should contact their regional MPO staff.

City officials are encouraged to review the League's Summary of the RTAC Report. http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28373.RTAC12PointSummary.pdf.

More details about the process can be found in RTAC's final report on ARB's Web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/rtac/report/092909/finalreport.pdf>.

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program Guidelines Released

Public Comments due by Dec. 10

The Strategic Growth Council has issued draft guidelines (http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/funding/2009_11_18_Planning_DRAFT.doc) for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program. The agency is now seeking public comment and will consider the Proposed Final Guidelines for adoption at its Feb. 9 meeting.

Established by Proposition 84 (2006), the council created the program which was appropriated \$90 million for planning grants that reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and provide other public benefits.

Approximately \$78 million is available for cities, counties, metropolitan planning organizations, councils of governments (COGs), regional transportation planning agencies or a joint powers authority. \$12 million has already been appropriated for regional modeling improvements.

Public Comments

Local agencies are encouraged to review these guidelines and submit in-person or written comments.

Comments may be submitted in person in Burbank on Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Buena Vista Branch Library
300 North Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA

Comments can be submitted by mail, e-mail or fax to:

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program
c/o The Department of Conservation, Office of Sustainability
801 K Street, MS 24 -01
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 445-0732
E-mail: DOCSustainability@conservation.ca.gov

Guidelines for Comments

City officials interested in providing public comment on the guidelines may want to consider the following:

- What kind of projects could grant funds be used for in your city?
- Are the proposed guidelines practical? To what extent will an agency be able to cost effectively measure the suggested performance outcomes of a plan?
- How can local agencies balance the direction received from meaningful public input with the pre-defined set of goals for which the grants are to be awarded? (In other words, what happens if public comment takes the planning project in a different direction?)
- To what extent should consistency with a regional blueprint be taken into account (as opposed to or in addition to consistency with a sustainable communities' strategy).

For questions regarding these draft guidelines, please contact the council at (916) 322-3439 or DOCSustainability@conservation.ca.gov.

CalCOG's Guideline Recommendations

The California Association of Councils of Government (CalCOG) is also making two very significant recommendations for cities:

- Set aside an additional \$20 million for regional transportation planning related to SB 375 (\$10 million of the total \$90 million has been allocated to COGs already); and
- Allocate local planning funds to the COGs for distribution for local planning projects within the region.

Local agencies may also want to comment about the practicality of these suggestions.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming League Events

With the start of 2010 just around the corner, city officials should plan to attend some of the League's upcoming events, meetings and professional development conferences. There are several events scheduled in the next two months.

The League will host its 2010 New Mayors and Council Members Academy, Jan. 20 – Jan. 22, at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento. This must-attend event for newly elected officials will feature topics such as legal power and obligations; council-manager relations; ethics requirements for AB 1234; land use issue; media and effective council meeting procedures.

Register online at www.cacities.org/events. The registration and housing deadline is Monday, Jan. 4.

The League's Policy Committees will also meet, Jan. 21-22, in Sacramento. Meetings are for committee members only and will be held from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento unless otherwise noted.

- **Thursday, Jan. 21**
Administrative Services (will meet at the League Office, 1200 K Street, Sacramento)

Environmental Quality
Revenue and Taxation
Transportation, Communications & Public Works

- **Friday, Jan. 22**

Community Services (will meet at the League Office, 1200 K Street, Sacramento)
Employee Relations
Housing, Community & Economic Development
Public Safety

For the 2010 Policy Committee Meeting Schedule please visit the League's Web site at http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28372.cal2010.pdf.

The League's political action committee, CitiPAC, will host a Legislative Reception on Jan. 20 in Sacramento in conjunction with the League's first policy committee meetings of the year. This event is an opportunity to network with new mayors and council members, legislators and League Partners.

This event will be hosted by companies that support the League in its ballot measure advocacy efforts. Please RSVP to Michael Egan at egan@cacities.org.

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$280 Million for Streetcars

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced this week the availability of \$280 million for urban circulator projects such as streetcars, buses, and bus facilities to support communities, expand business opportunities and improve people's quality of life while also creating jobs.

These are the first round of funds issued through the Obama Administration's Livability Initiative—a joint venture of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The funds will promote livable communities, increase transportation options and improve the quality of life for Americans. According to DOT, these projects will also produce jobs and help improve the environment.

A maximum amount of \$25 million per project will be made available from approximately \$130 million in unallocated discretionary New Starts/Small Starts Program funds. Eligible projects include streetcars and other urban circulator systems. Priority will be given to projects that connect destinations and foster the redevelopment of communities into walkable, mixed use, high-density environments.

A second pot of money totaling \$150 million in unallocated discretionary Bus and Bus Facility funds will be available for projects that will foster the preservation and enhancement of urban and rural communities by providing new mobility options which provide access to jobs, healthcare, and education, and/or contribute to the redevelopment of neighborhoods into pedestrian-friendly vibrant environments.

Additional information about the Federal Transit Administration Discretionary Grants for Bus and Urban Circular Livability Projects is included in a fact sheet which has been posted on the League's Web site at http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28476.DOTFactSheet.pdf.

Department of Industrial Relations Schedules Public Hearing - Jan. 6, San Francisco

The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed amendments to the regulations governing Labor Compliance Programs (LCPs), required under SBX2-9. Discussions will also address the adoption of new regulations governing fees and

compliance monitoring as well as enforcement standards for the Labor Commissioner on state bond-funded and other specified public works projects.

Hearing Details

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 10 a.m.
Hiram Johnson State Building
Senate Milton Marks Conference Center - Monterey Room
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Written Comments

Written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action may be submitted in person at the hearing or by letter, fax or e-mail to:

DIR, Office of the Director—Legal Unit
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 9516
San Francisco, CA 94102
Fax: (415) 703-4277
E-mail: LCPComments@dir.ca.gov

The full Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for SBX2-9 regulations has been posted on the DIR Web site at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/LaborComplianceRegulations/LCP-SBX2-9.htm>.

Deadline Extended to Dec. 21 for Applications Municipal Energy Efficiency Program Funding Applications

Funding under the California Energy Commission's State Energy Program (SEP) is available to help implement local energy saving programs. Now set for Dec. 21, the original deadline for program applications was Nov. 30. Applications are due by 5 p.m.

Background

The funding is primarily focused on financing municipal programs for energy efficiency, such as those authorized under AB 811 (2007). This legislation allows cities and counties to create a municipal financing program in which property owners may enter into contractual assessments to finance the installation of energy efficiency or other energy improvements that are permanently fixed to residential (including multi-family) commercial, industrial or other real property.

The program includes three funding areas:

- Municipal Financing Programs (AB 811 type programs);
- Comprehensive Residential Building Retrofits; and
- Municipal and Commercial Building Targeted Measure Retrofits.

With a total funding of \$95 million available, proposals are to be between \$2 and \$20 million.

Eligible bidders include:

- Cities;
- Counties; or
- Groups of cities and counties in California that are in the process of establishing or have already established a municipal financing program for the purposes of funding energy efficiency and on-site solar electric or other on site renewable energy generation improvements.

More information on this grant program and the program opportunity notice can be found on the California Energy Commission's Web site at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/recovery.html#150-09-101>.

League's 2009 Legislative Report Now Available

The League held its annual Legislative Briefings in November. Attendees received copies of the League's 2009 Legislative Report. Now available for free, the report can be downloaded from the League's Web site at http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28417.Complete2009LegBriefing.pdf.

Hardcopies can also be purchased for \$10 for city officials or \$20 for non-city officials.

The 2009 Legislative Report features summaries of laws passed during the 2009 legislative session. Copies of the Legislative Briefing webinar presentation (http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28420.WEBINARPowerPoint.pdf) and Podcast (<http://www.lcannualconference.com/podcasts/09legPodcast.html>), and the League's Analysis of the 2009 Water Legislation (http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28419.2009%20Water%20Analysis.pdf) can also be downloaded.

To order a hardcopy of the 2009 Legislative Report, please contact Meghan McKelvey at mmckelvey@cacities.org.

Approaching Deadline for the League City Managers Department Awards

Wednesday, Dec. 16

The deadline is quickly approaching to submit a nomination for the 2010 John H. Nail Memorial Award or the 2010 Award for the Advancement of Diverse Communities. Nominate a colleague or city manager that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to contribute to their communities, or promoted the advancement of diversity within their community and workplace.

Nomination applications for the 2010 John H. Nail Memorial Award (http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28413.John%20Nail%202010.pdf) and the 2010 Award for the Advancement of Diverse Communities (http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/28407.Diversity%202010%20final.pdf) are available on the city manager's page of the League's Web site www.cacities.org/managers.

The application deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 16 by 5 p.m.

Applications should be sent to the following address:

League of California Cities
Attn: Meghan McKelvey
1400 K Street, 4th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information on the awards, contact Meghan McKelvey at (916) 658-8253 or mmckelvey@cacities.org.

NLC's Youth, Education, and Families Report Available Online

The National League of Cities' (NLC) Institute for Youth, Education and Families recently released "The State of City Leadership for Children and Families." This first-of-its-kind report outlines the significant growth of municipal involvement in the promotion of well being for children and families.

The report identifies 32 cutting-edge city innovations that have been used across the country to help children and families thrive and which city officials can use as models to implement similar programs in their regions. It also highlights the progress that cities have made and the potential for future action in nine areas:

- Early childhood;

- Education;
- Afterschool;
- Youth in transition;
- Youth violence prevention;
- Family economic success;
- Community wellness;
- Youth civic engagement; and
- Local “infrastructure” for children and families.

To download or order a copy of the report, visit www.nlc.org/iyef or contact Michael Karpman at (202) 626-3072 or karpman@nlc.org with questions.

New Resources Are Available From the Institute for Local Government

The Institute for Local Government’s (ILG) California Climate Action Network now features new resources on its Web site (www.ca-ilg.org/climatechange) for local agencies.

The first resource is a sample commercial recycling ordinance (www.ca-ilg.org/commercialrecycling) with an extensive commentary explaining various positions, which can be customized by your local agency. This can be used as a guide for local agencies that hope to increase recycling in the business sector.

The second resource, “Understanding the Basics of Climate Change Cap-and-Trade: A Local Official’s Guide” (www.ca-ilg.org/climatewhitepapers), provides an overview of cap-and-trade and how it relates to local agencies.
