

FOCUS

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

October 14, 2005
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The Legislature is
in recess until
January 4.



Harry Armstrong accepts the
2005 Rose Ann Vuich Award.

HARRY ARMSTRONG HONORED FOR ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Harry Armstrong, a 35-year veteran of the Clovis City Council, past president of the League and current member of the League board of directors, was presented with the 2005 Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award at a luncheon on Thursday, October 13, at the Robert A. Schoettler Conference Center in Fresno. *For more, see Page 3.*

LEAGUE VOTES TO SUPPORT PROPOSITION 76, APPROVES OTHER RESOLUTIONS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Delegates to the League of California Cities' 107th Annual Conference in San Francisco last week voted to support Proposition 76, the "Live Within Our Means" measure on the November ballot that is sponsored by Gov. Schwarzenegger and a number of other groups and individuals. *For more, see Page 3.*

WANT MORE DETAILS
ON BILLS?

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

THE 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS OVER – BUT COMMITTEE HEARINGS CONTINUE!

Although the legislative session for 2005 has concluded, a number of committee hearings will be held throughout October and November on a variety of critical issues. *For more, see Page 4.*

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PUBLIC ENTITY RISK INSTITUTE TO HOLD FREE ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

In recent years, fire departments have begun to employ a more holistic operational approach aimed at improving community safety while reducing firefighter injuries. The approach is known as integrated risk analysis and management.

To examine this emerging model for communities, the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) will hold a free online symposium: Fire Department Integrated Risk Analysis and Management. The symposium will be conducted during the week of November 7-11. It is the latest in a series of free, virtual programs from PERI and will be conducted online and via e-mail.

The program will bring together authors and experts from the United States and United Kingdom to discuss the integrated risk management approach. Authors that will be participating include:

- Paul Young, chief fire officer, Devon County Fire and Rescue Service, United Kingdom.
- Bob Hart, president, The Innovation Groups, Tampa, Fla.
- Greg Gammon, deputy chief operations, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, Las Vegas, Nev.
- David Cotton, divisional officer, West Midlands Fire Service, United Kingdom.
- Terrance Stewart, city manager, City of Cape Coral, Fla.
- Andrew Strawson, health and safety executive, Defence, Fire and Police Unit, London.
- William Jenaway, executive vice president, VFIS, York, Penn.
- William Pickstone, group manager, Health and Safety Support, Swinton, United Kingdom
- John Granito, fire service consultant, Penn Yan, N.Y.

Each day during the program, PERI will present specially commissioned "Issues and Ideas Papers" from these authors and which discuss aspects of the integrated risk manage-

ment approach. You can read the papers at your convenience, and also make copies to distribute to colleagues. You can also participate in an online discussion in PERI's Symposium Center, exchanging ideas, posting comments, and asking questions about the topic.

Sign Up for the Program At No Charge

The program is free. You can sign up to receive the daily Issues and Ideas Papers via e-mail by completing the online Symposium Signup form found in the Symposium Center of PERI's website at www.riskinstitute.org.

You may also go directly to the signup form at www.marketing.riskinstitute.org/symposiumsignup

The program will be valuable to all local fire officials, no matter what size jurisdiction, as well as all elected and appointed officials in a community.

A complete description of Fire Department Integrated Risk Analysis and Management can be found in the "About PERI Symposium Programs" page of PERI's website at www.riskinstitute.org.

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ARMSTRONG from page 1 RESOLUTIONS from page 1

Given to those who exemplify integrity, strength of character, and ethical behavior, Armstrong's service as a member of the Clovis City Council (including serving four times as mayor), and his commitment to public involvement in honest government led to him being selected for the prestigious award.

"This award recognizes ethical leadership, and I can't think of anyone more deserving it than Harry Armstrong," said League Executive Director Chris McKenzie, who attended the ceremony in Armstrong's honor. "As the League's former president (1983), and as a continuing member of our board of directors, Harry has proven time and again his effectiveness as a leader. He is a model for many who have followed in his footsteps."

The letters of support for Armstrong attest to his honesty and integrity. Many letter writers remembered Harry as one of two council members who stood firm against the corrupting influences during what is known locally as the "Re-zone" scandal.

"Never did [Harry] blink or stray from his standards and belief in the process of public involvement in honest government," said one writer. "He showed his strength of character by standing against these forces."

The Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award is named after former California State Senator Rose Ann Vuich, who retired in 1992 and was renowned for her ethical conduct. The award is sponsored by The Kenneth L. Maddy Institute of Public Affairs, The Fresno Business Council and *The Fresno Bee*.

For more information, contact the Maddy Institute at (559) 294-9119, or e-mail Mark Keppler at mkeppler@csufresno.edu.

**For more information on this and
other League issues, visit
www.cacities.org.**

The 135-124 vote to support Prop. 76 came during the annual business meeting at the concluding general session of the League's annual conference.

The membership's decision on Prop. 76 was the culmination of three days of intense discussion during the annual conference. Several weeks earlier, the League board of directors had voted to adopt a neutral position on the measure.

The membership vote to support Prop. 76 came as a result of a petition submitted during the League's Annual Conference by city officials who believed that the League should reconsider its neutral position on the measure. Consistent with the League bylaws, these city officials gathered sufficient signatures to place a resolution before the League conference to support Prop. 76.

"The League bylaws provide the means for city officials who disagree with a position to make their voices heard," said League Executive Director Chris McKenzie. "In this instance, they were able to bring their views to the membership, and a majority of the delegates voting agreed with those views."

At the conference, city delegates also approved seven other resolutions dealing with such diverse subjects as green buildings, sexual predators, water planning principles, U.N. Urban Environmental Accords, broadband Internet access, and publication of city council members addresses in newspapers. One resolution, related to allocation of Proposition 172 funds, was referred back to policy committees for study on a statewide basis. A formal report including the final text of the resolutions will be sent to cities within a few weeks.

Those interested in having this information sooner can find the full text of the approved resolutions, including Resolution 9, on the League's website at www.cacities.org/resolutions. A full recap on the annual conference can be read at www.cacities.org.

HEARINGS from page 1

The following is a summary on upcoming committee hearings of note:

Assembly Committee Hearings

October 19: Select Committee on Growth and Infrastructure – 10 a.m., Concord City Hall, City Council Hearing Room, 1950 Parkside Drive, Concord.

This hearing will discuss the state's challenges regarding its transportation network, education facilities, and water resources over the next 20 years.

October 26: Joint Informational Hearing - Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee and Assembly Local Government Committee, Senate Local Government Committee and Senate Transportation and Housing Committee – 1 p.m., Weingart City Heights Library, 3795 Fairmount Ave., San Diego.

This hearing will discuss the subject of redevelopment and blight.

November 1: Joint Hearing - Governmental Organization, Veterans Affairs, and Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Information Technology/Transportation – 10 a.m., CSU Dominguez Hills, 1000 E. Victoria Street, Carson.

This is an informational hearing on emergency response and preparedness.

November 2: Joint Hearing - Governmental Organization, Veterans Affairs, and Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Information Technology/Transportation – 10 a.m., Hiram Johnson State Building Auditorium, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

This is an informational hearing on emergency response and preparedness.

November 16: Joint Hearing - Governmental Organization, Veterans Affairs, and Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Information Technology/Transportation – 10 a.m., Board of Supervisors

Chambers, 105 E. Anapamu Street, Fourth Floor, Santa Barbara.

This is an informational hearing on emergency response and preparedness.

November 17: Joint Informational Hearing – Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, Assembly Judiciary Committee, Assembly Local Government Committee, Senate Local Government Committee, and Senate Transportation and Housing Committee – 9:30 a.m., John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203), Sacramento.

The hearing will discuss redevelopment reforms.

Senate Committee Hearings

October 24: Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security – 9 a.m., Governor's Office of Emergency Services Headquarters and State Operations Center, Senator William P. Campbell Emergency Services Building, 3650 Schriever Ave., Mather.

The topic of this hearing is: "Is California Prepared for the Big One: Earthquake, Tsunami, Wildfire, Flood, an Act of Terrorism?"

October 26: Joint Informational Hearing - Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee and Assembly Local Government Committee, Senate Local Government Committee and Senate Transportation and Housing Committee – 1 p.m., Weingart City Heights Library, 3795 Fairmount Ave., San Diego.

This hearing will discuss the subject of redevelopment and blight.

October 27: Energy, Utilities and Communications – 10 a.m., John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203), Sacramento.

The subject of this hearing will be liquefied natural gas.

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November 1: Joint Hearing – Subcommittee on Delta Resources, Transportation and Housing Committee and Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security – 9 a.m., Room 112, State Capitol, Sacramento.

Levees and emergency preparedness are the topics of this joint hearing, with the subject of “Thinking the Unthinkable – Are We Ready for Major Floods in the Delta?”

November 9: Transportation and Housing – 10 a.m., Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco.

This is an informational hearing on intelligent transportation systems (ITS).

November 15: Transportation and Housing Subcommittee on California Ports and Goods Movement – 9:30 a.m., Elihu M. Harris State Office Building, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland.

This informational hearing will discuss goods movement and assess California’s needs and consequences for the 21st Century.

November 17: Joint Informational Hearing – Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, Assembly Judiciary Committee, Assembly Local Government Committee, Senate Local Government Committee, and Senate Transportation and Housing Committee – 9:30 a.m., John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203), Sacramento.

The hearing will discuss redevelopment reforms.

Our Mission

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