

FOCUS

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

December 8, 2006
Issue #47-2006

2007 CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE CONVENES

The 2007 California legislative session began on December 4, mostly for swearing in ceremonies and organizational purposes. There are 46 new legislators and 26 of them come with a local government background.

For more, see Page 5.

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GAO REPORT ON USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN RELEASED

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a report on the use of eminent domain throughout the United States. The report was mandated by the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, Appropriations Act of 2006, which required GAO to conduct the nationwide study. *For more, see Page 4.*

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PROPOSITION 1C: POTENTIAL FUNDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The League of California Cities has compiled and published a comprehensive chart detailing the potential funding for local governments from Proposition 1C, Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.

The chart details the types of funding available, its purpose, and the lead agency that will handle the disbursement of the funds. To view the chart, visit www.cacities.org/hced, and click on "Proposition 1C: Potential Funds for Local Government."

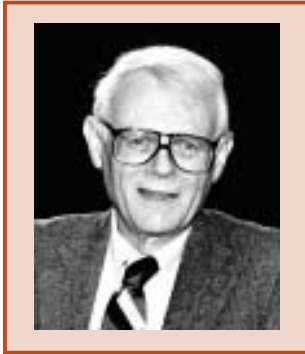
WANT MORE DETAILS ON BILLS?

Visit the League of California Cities website at www.cacities.org/billsearch.

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KEEPING UP: MURRAY BROWN (1923-2006), FORMER *WESTERN CITY* EDITOR



Murray Brown, former editor of *Western City*, the League of California Cities' monthly magazine, passed away on November 17. He was 83.

In addition to guiding *Western City* magazine in the 1970s, Brown is considered the founding father of the *California Association of Public Information Officials* (CAPIO) and served as the statewide professional public affairs organization's first executive director. CAPIO's 300 members make it one of the largest professional public affairs associations in the United States.

A memorial is scheduled for December 17 at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center located at 13164 Burbank Blvd. in Sherman Oaks. The memorial will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

The League extends its condolences to the Brown family for their loss.

CALL FOR MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS SESSION IDEAS

Here's an exciting opportunity to share your ideas, knowledge and expertise with city elected officials! The Executive Forum planners are seeking proposals for timely topics related to housing, telecommunications, redevelopment, transportation, homeland security, eminent domain, ethics, water quality and supply, infrastructure, and any other topics of interest to elected officials. All session ideas are welcome.

The 2007 Executive Forum will be held at the Monterey Conference Center in Monterey, July 25-27, 2007.

Suggested Topic Categories:

- What is new and critical for the future of cities?
- What topic will draw a wide audience?
- Will this issue stimulate action and further important discussion?
- Sessions may not include sales or product promotion of any kind.

Please use the form at the end of this edition of *Priority Focus* to submit your ideas. An electronic version is also available on the League website.

Executive Forum proposals should be e-mailed or faxed by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 15, to Paul Flint at (916) 658-8220 or pflint@cacities.org.

2006 CITY HALL DIRECTORY!

Don't miss this opportunity to get the League's most useful reference tool. This comprehensive California directory provides important contact information for mayors, council members and city department heads. The directory also features the League's staff directory, League partners, affiliate organizations and a wide variety of advertisers.

INFORMATION YOU NEED, RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Purchase this publication online at www.cacities.org/store or call (916) 658-8257 for an order form. City officials price \$30, non-city officials price \$65, plus shipping & handling.

MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS ACADEMY IN JANUARY

Have you just been elected? Would you like to get a jump start on your career as a city elected official? Or maybe you are a seasoned veteran wanting an update on the latest laws and other issues facing cities and want to hone your knowledge and skills? Then attend the Mayors and Council Members Academy Leadership Institute on January 10-12, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento.

Topics of interest include:

- The Value of Basics – 10 Rules for New Council Members
- Your Legal Powers and Obligations
- Effective Advocacy
- Land Use Planning
- How to Build and Maintain the Public's Trust (fulfills AB 1234)
- Your Financial Responsibilities
- Dealing with the Media
- How to Conduct an Effective and Respectful Council Meeting

Those successfully completing the Institute will graduate from the first level of the Mayors and Council Members Academy. Many newly elected officials have found this program essential for success in office.

The full conference registration fee is \$510. Those registering online by December 15 will receive a \$20 CityBooks coupon. To register and to view the program, visit www.cacities.org/events.

Our Mission

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

NUÑEZ APPOINTS STATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez has appointed the chairs for all Assembly committees for the 2007-2008 legislative session. The following is a list of those appointed chairs:

- **Aging and Long-Term Care** – Assemblymember Patty Berg
- **Agriculture** – Assemblymember Nicole Parra
- **Appropriations** – Assemblymember Mark Leno
- **Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media** – Assemblymember Betty Karnette
- **Banking and Finance** – Assemblymember Ted W. Lieu
- **Budget** – Assemblymember John Laird
 - **Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services** – Assemblymember Patty Berg
 - **Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance** – Assemblymember Julia Brownley
 - **Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources** – Assemblymember Ira Ruskin
 - **Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration** – Assemblymember Juan Arambula
 - **Subcommittee No. 5 on Information Technology/Transportation** – Assemblymember Mike Feuer
- **Business and Professions** – Assemblymember Mike Eng
- **Education** – Assemblymember Gene Mullin
- **Elections and Redistricting** – Assemblymember Curren Price
- **Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials** – Assemblymember Jared Huffman
- **Governmental Organization** – Assemblymember Alberto Torrico
- **Health** – Assemblymember Mervyn Dymally

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- **Higher Education** – Assemblymember Anthony Portantino
- **Housing and Community Development** – Assemblymember Lori Saldana
- **Human Services** – Assemblymember Jim Beall
- **Insurance** – Assemblymember Joe Coto
- **Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy** – Assemblymember Juan Arambula
- **Judiciary** – Assemblymember Dave Jones
- **Labor and Employment** – Assemblymember Sandré Swanson
- **Local Government** – Assemblymember Anna Caballero
- **Natural Resources** – Assemblymember Loni Hancock
- **Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security** – Assemblymember Ed Hernandez
- **Public Safety** – Assemblymember Jose Solorio
- **Revenue and Taxation** – Assemblymember Chuck Calderon
- **Rules** – Assemblymember Hector De La Torre
- **Transportation** – Assemblymember Pedro Nava
- **Utilities and Commerce** – Assemblymember Lloyd Levine
- **Veterans Affairs** – Assemblymember Mary Salas
- **Water, Parks and Wildlife** – Assemblymember Lois Wolk

GAO concluded that there is insufficient national and state data to make any assessments on the use of eminent domain and its impact on individuals and communities. In their conclusion, the analysts note that compensation and public hearings are two areas of concern that might warrant further attention.

GAO interviewed numerous national organizations and property rights groups as well as individuals and city and state organizations and agencies. Their research included reviewing blight definitions in California and 9 other states and interviewing officials at 10 state departments of transportation regarding their land acquisition processes. GAO conducted site visits in five cities: Los Angeles; Chicago, Ill.; New York City, N.Y.; Baltimore, Md.; and Denver, Colo.

Throughout the report, GAO presents the differing perspectives and experiences on this issue. However, they did find agreement on a few points: “Regardless of their stance in the debate on eminent domain, government officials and property rights groups we interviewed identified a few concerns related to the procedures on invoking eminent domain, including the adequacy of compensation amounts and the timeliness of notification about public hearings.” For example, several government officials shared a concern that the cap on “business re-establishment assistance” is too low.

It is not clear what more will be done with the report. Federal eminent domain legislation appears to be dead for the remainder of the current Congress. The new Congress will convene on January 3.

To view the report, visit www.gao.gov, and click on “Reports and Testimony.”

LEGISLATURE from page 1

The Assembly committee chairs were announced this week. Announcement of the Senate committee chairs is not expected until next week. Of note for city officials are the following Assembly committee chairs:

- Appropriations: Mark Leno (D-San Francisco)
- Budget: John Laird (D-Santa Cruz)
- Budget Subcommittee #4: Juan Arambula (D-Fresno)
- Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials: Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael)
- Housing & Community Development: Lori Saldana (D-San Diego)
- Judiciary: Dave Jones (D-Sacramento)
- Local Government: Anna Caballero (D-Salinas)

For a complete list of Assembly Committee chairs, see "Nuñez Appoints State Assembly Committee Chairs," on page 3.

Assembly members Jared Huffman and Anna Caballero are new members of the Legislature. Caballero served on the Salinas City Council and has served as Mayor since 1998. Huffman was an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council and president of the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors.

A top priority on the Legislature's 2007 agenda will be implementing legislation for the infrastructure bond package passed by the voters last month. All bond monies have to be appropriated by the Legislature, which is not a given for some of the bonds. The Legislature will be constrained by restrictions on the state's debt service (it can not exceed 6 percent of revenue) and by a two-thirds approval requirement on appropriations bills

Eminent Domain Measures Filed

On the first day of the 2007 Legislative session, Sen. Tom McClintock filed SCA 1, "The Homeowners and Private Property Protection Act," and Assemblymember Mimi Walters filed ACA 2, also relating to eminent domain. While the two

measures are different, both would eliminate the use of eminent domain for redevelopment purposes if the property acquired will be privately owned. Neither measure deals with regulatory takings.

On November 21, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association filed a voter initiative called the "California Property Owners Protection Act," with the Attorney General for title and summary. It is similar to the measure that was filed for the last election but never circulated for signatures. It contains regulatory takings features as well as eminent domain provisions.

In the meantime, the League is working with its partners from the Prop. 90 campaign to develop reasonable eminent domain reform proposals to be considered by the Legislature in 2007.

Public Service Skills, Inc. Experienced Professionals Available

Are you interested in helping out cities on a short-term basis?

Cities, counties and special districts are turning to Public Service Skills, Inc. (PSS) for assistance from retired professionals with years of service with public agencies. PSS can help agencies that need support during a recruitment process, while a department head is on leave, or on special projects.

Sponsored by the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties, PSS can be an important resource for temporary employment needs. Check out our website at www.pssinc.org or contact Debbie Kinsey at (916) 658-8255.



2007 EXECUTIVE FORUM
Call for Topic and Speaker Proposals
July 25-27, 2007 Monterey Conference Center

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday, December 15, 2006 to Fax (916) 658-8220 or pflint@cacities.org

SESSION TITLE (Maximum of 10 words) _____

SESSION DESCRIPTION (State "what will the audience learn?")

LEARNING METHODS (Creative ways to teach, learn and engage the audience)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Interactive Lecture | ☐ Demonstration |
| ☐ Debate | ☐ Other, describe _____ |
| ☐ Case Study | |

SUGGESTED SPEAKERS (Maximum of 2-3 experts in 90 minutes. Multiple speakers are optional.)

**** Attach a 1 page biographical sketch for every suggested speaker/presenter.**

1. NAME _____

TITLE _____

Email _____ Phone () _____

Mailing Address _____

2. NAME _____

TITLE _____

Email _____ Phone () _____

Mailing Address _____

3. NAME _____

TITLE _____

Email _____ Phone () _____

Mailing Address _____