

PRIORITY FOCUS



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Jan. 4, 2008
Issue #1-2008

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LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE IN SPECIAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS WITH NLC

The National League of Cities (NLC) announced in Dec. 2007 the appointment of several League of California Cities board members to leadership positions on committees during 2008. Those members selected include Dan Furtado, council member, Campbell; Tzeitel Paras-Caracci, council member, Duarte; and Pat Eklund, mayor, Novato. *For more, see Page 2.*



FREE SERIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The California Environmental Protection Agency, in collaboration with the University of California, Davis, is offering a series of free meetings to explain the different aspects of climate change. The meetings are scheduled for every other Thursday, beginning on Jan. 17. Titled "Climate Change 101," the seminar series is for non-specialists on the science, technology and policy aspects of climate change.

Presented jointly by the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, UC Davis; John Muir Institute of the Environment, UC Davis; Air Quality Research Center, UC Davis, and the UC Institute for Research on Climate Change and its Societal Impacts; the seminars will be held at the CalEPA Building, located at 1001 I Street, in Sacramento.

For a copy of the meeting schedule and more information, [visit the "Meetings and Events" section of www.climatechange.ca.gov](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov). *For more, see Page 2.*



A REMINDER ON THE UPCOMING DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

TV stations across the country will switch from analog to digital television (DTV) on Feb. 17, 2009. Before this federally mandated transition occurs, however, the public will need information about how to convert their televisions to the new format and some may turn to their city for help. The following is a quick primer on the transition to better serve city residents.
For more, see Page 2.

Furtado was appointed chair of the Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Advocacy Committee. Appointed the League's Public Safety Policy Committee in 2000, Furtado, also a three-time mayor, comes to his new NLC position with solid experience in public safety issues. late 2001, he was appointed to NLC's Special Working Group on Homeland Security. The group's work was ultimately absorbed into NLC's Public Safety Policy Committee.

Recently elected to NLC's board of directors, Paras-Caracci has been selected chair the CityFutures Panel on Democratic Governance. Paras-Caracci, the youngest person elected to Duarte's city council, has been engaged in the political process since high school. The CityFutures Panel on Democratic Governance operates as a "clearing house" for civic engagement strategies.

Eklund, a past president of the League of California Cities, will bring her leadership experience as chair to NLC's Western Municipal Conference. This special conference was created to act on act on policy and political matters from a Western perspective as well as serve as a forum for collaboration and information exchanging among western state and local officials.

What is Digital TV?

DTV provides crystal clear pictures and higher quality sound as well as the capacity for more channels. Unlike analog signal, DTV transmits the sound and picture information as "data bits" similar to a computer. Stations will be able to broadcast multiple channels simultaneously with this new technology. This technology also offers other features such as enhanced closed captioning ability.

Switching to DTV

According to the National Association of Broadcasters, approximately 1.99 million California households use a traditional antenna and will not continue to receive free television after the conversion date without taking one of three actions:

- **DTV Converter Boxes.** Consumers without cable who have a traditional analog TV will need to purchase a DTV converter box. This is an electronic device that connects to analog televisions and over-the-air antennas to convert the digital signal to analog. The cost is expected to be \$50-\$70.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will be issuing coupons for DTV converter boxes in early 2008. Each household can apply for two coupons. The coupons are valued at \$40 each and can be used towards the purchase of the DTV converter box. They must be redeemed within three months.

For more information about the coupon program please visit www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon.

- **Digital TV sets.** TVs with a built-in digital tuner will be able to receive digital signals broadcast by stations. Consumers with these TVs will still get their free programming without paying a monthly fee.
- **Paid Service.** Consumers who subscribe to a cable, satellite or telephone company service provider will continue to be able to use their existing TV to receive local broadcast stations carried by their service.

NAB has set up a Web site with information for consumers at www.dtvanswers.com.

CalTRUST Unscathed by Turmoil in Financial Markets

Given the ongoing turmoil in the financial markets and the recent disclosures of problems in a number of public agency pools the Investment Trust of California (CalTRUST) is pleased to announce that the CalTRUST Short-Term portfolio has very good credit quality, more than adequate liquidity and is built and managed to withstand the current market disruption.

This judgment recently has been validated by Standard & Poor's, which has reconfirmed its AA-rating of the portfolio's credit quality and its "S1+" rating of the portfolio's volatility ("extremely low sensitivity to changing market conditions").

Portfolio Review

The Short-Term Account has delivered solid performance since its inception – 17 basis points per year above its benchmark (LAIF) on a net basis, for the two years ending Nov. 30, 2007; and 18 basis points per year on a net basis, since inception in Feb. 2005. More importantly, however, this performance has been achieved without accepting additional risk in the portfolio.

As of Friday, Dec. 14, the CalTRUST Short-Term portfolio had a duration of 34 days, with an weighted average maturity of 221 days. The liquidity in the portfolio is very good, with more than 47 percent of the portfolio maturing in 30 days or less.

The portfolio has no current exposure to asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP) and the CalTRUST board will refrain from any ABCP acquisitions until liquidity has returned to the market. Additionally, the portfolio has no structured investment vehicles (SIVs) or collateralized debt obligations (CDOs); and never has held any of these securities.

CalTRUST Is Built For Participant Protection

The CalTRUST program is totally transparent. Participants can review all portfolio holdings at any time on the CalTRUST Web site in virtual real-time; portfolio holdings are updated at the close of business each day. Relative to many pooled programs which report their holdings on a monthly or quarterly basis, the CalTRUST program eliminates the risk of "hidden surprises" becoming apparent after most of the damage has been done.

In addition, the CalTRUST Short-Term Account is marked-to-market each day, and participants' account values are updated daily to reflect the current market value of the portfolio holdings. While mark-to-market enables participants to easily monitor the performance and quality of the portfolios holdings; it also eliminates the risk that some participants could exit the program at par, while leaving the remaining participants to realize any losses at a disproportionate level.

As a program created by local agencies to serve the investment needs of local agencies, we at CalTRUST are always open to suggestions for improving the benefits, flexibility and convenience of the program.

For questions regarding the program or suggestions for improvement, e-mail calomeli@solanocounty.com. Any questions regarding current portfolio strategy or management may be directed to CalTRUST Investment Adviser Terry Crow, chief investment officer, Wachovia Portfolio Services, at terry.crow@wgsi.com.

Priority Focus to Feature New Sustainable Cities Series

To kick off 2008, *Priority Focus* will be featuring a series of articles that highlight innovative practices California cities are using to promote sustainability. Inspiration for the new series is based on one of the League of California Cities' 2008 strategic goals to "support green and sustainable cities."

The series will profile individual cities' efforts on a variety of fronts, including green house gas emissions reduction, energy efficiency, alternative energy use, adopt sustainable land use and

building practices, improved water supply and wastewater treatment system efficiencies, expanded public transit and more.

Is Your City Making Innovations in Sustainability? Send Us Your Story!

We want to hear about the latest your city is doing to be more sustainable. Has your city recently converted its vehicle fleet, installed solar on city buildings or perhaps developed a public awareness campaign to encourage your residents to conduct an energy audit? These are the kinds of stories we want to hear.

Each story will run approximately 300 words, and when possible, will include photos to illustrate the innovation.

Questions and submissions should be sent to League Communications Director Eva Spiegel at espiegel@cacities.org.

Grant Writing Workshops Announced

Grant Writing USA has announced its California schedule of workshops for the next five months. Each two-day workshop focuses on grant writing strategies as well as resources to locate grant funders. The majority of attendees come from state and local government.

The \$425 tuition includes all class materials, access to Grant Writing USA's alumni forum and free proposal review for one year.

Registration:

Register online at www.grantwritingusa.com, or call (800) 814-8191.

Scheduled California Classes

Modesto, Jan. 10-11
Hosted by the Modesto Police Department

Palm Springs, Jan. 17-18
Hosted by Bridges of Hope Community Center

Riverside, Feb. 20-21
Hosted by Riverside County Human Relations

San Diego, March TBA
Hosted by San Diego Sheriffs Department

San Luis Obispo, April 24-25
Hosted by United Way of San Luis Obispo

Anaheim, May 15-16
Hosted by the Anaheim Police Department

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.
