

**August 15, 2013**

## **REVENUE & TAXATION / FINANCE**

### [Temecula: City Rolling Out Sponsorship Program](#)

How about the Ronald Reagan Sports Park, presented by Jelly Belly? The Verizon Wireless Old Town Temecula Community Theater? The DC Shoes Skateboard Park? Temecula is putting together a sponsorship program that would allow for those sorts of naming rights – for a price. Aaron Claverie, The Press-Enterprise.

### [City of Manteca has \\$140 Million in Investments](#)

Manteca's struggling general fund that pays for day-to-day municipal operations such as police, fire, streets, and parks has drawn the bulk of the attention since the start of the Great Recession in 2006. Declining revenues forced a reduction of the municipal workforce with those employees still working taking compensation cuts in excess of 20 percent. This fiscal year, the general fund structured deficit is expected to come close to disappearing dropping down to \$145,720. The money to bridge the shortfall in revenue to cover annual expenses will come from dipping into general fund reserves. Dennis Wyatt, Manteca Bulletin.

### [Legislature: Cities, County Won't Team Up to Win Back Revenue](#)

Two years ago, lawmakers from Orange County gave a cold shoulder to a frantic attempt by four Inland cities to piggyback on their legislative effort to reverse a June 2011 state budget action that took vehicle license-fee money away from new cities. Orange County's effort to recover the municipal funds fizzled during the final hours of that year's legislative session. But now a confluence of events has the four cities and Orange County once again trying to ease the financial sting of the budget legislation that hit them disproportionately. And the prospects of a grand Highway 91 alliance this time around? No more likely than they were two end-of-sessions ago. Jim Miller, The Press-Enterprise.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### [Santa Monica Won't Study Additional Height in Downtown Plan Environmental Review](#)

Shortly after 1 a.m. Wednesday morning, the City Council voted unanimously against studying the potential environmental impact of buildings over 84 feet in Downtown Santa Monica. Jason Islas, Santa Monica Lookout.

### [Air Board Accepting Applications to Recognize Green California Businesses](#)

The California Air Resources Board is accepting applications through Nov. 1 for its fourth CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards Program. Mark Glover, Sacramento Bee.

## **ENERGY**

### [County Re-Circulates Emissions Portion of Santa Maria Energy Oil Project](#)

Santa Barbara County planning staffers haven't changed their original recommendation for the Santa Maria Energy's proposed oil well expansion project in the Orcutt Hills, but they have released the latest changes to the project's draft documents. Camillia Lanham, Santa Maria Sun.

## **DEVELOPING ISSUES**

### [Emotional Campaign Mostly About Boosting Attorney Fees](#)

When it comes to voter initiatives, the winning side isn't always the one with the most cash, but the side that's best

able to tug on voters' heartstrings. Yet a medical-malpractice measure that may be headed for the November 2014 ballot shows that emotion-laden campaigns often hide the most cynical motives.

Steven Greenhut, UT San Diego.

## **CITY SERVICES**

### [El Cerrito Corona Area Now Serviced by Rodent Guys Gopher Control and Removal Company](#)

El Cerrito Corona gopher control and eradication is a hot topic because homes are being bombarded by relentless pocket gophers and gopher control in El Cerrito Corona. PRWeb.

### [Water Rates Could Increase](#)

The city of Calistoga is pursuing a modest increase in water rates to stabilize its water and sewer funds. In past years, rates haven't been high enough to cover operational costs, so the city has had to draw on its general fund to bail out its water and sewer funds. City officials and councilmembers have pledged to end that practice and build a 20 percent reserve within the water and sewer funds.

Jesse Duarte, The Weekly Calistogan.

### [Rick Daniels Hired as Needles City Manager](#)

Needles officials have officially hired outgoing Desert Hot Springs City Manager Rick Daniels to lead their community. The council unanimously endorsed a \$197,000 contract, with a \$10,000 pay bump each year. The three-year contract starts Sept. 16. Erica Felci, My Desert.

## **POLYSTYRENE BAN**

### [Cupertino, Sunnyvale Among Cities Considering Ordinance Banning Polystyrene](#)

Takeout food in foam containers could soon be no more in four Silicon Valley cities. Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Los Altos and Mountain View are considering ordinances that would phase out expanded polystyrene, commonly known as foam foodware. Alia Wilson and Matt Wilson, San Jose Mercury News.

## **ELECTIONS**

### [Westlake Village Council Race has 2 Incumbents, 3 Challengers](#)

The pool of candidates is set for the Westlake Village City Council election Nov. 5.

Rachel McGrath, Ventura County Star.

### [Four to Run for Three Seats on Portola Valley Town Council](#)

Two incumbents and two challengers will run for three seats on the Portola Valley Town Council in the Nov. 5 election. Bonnie Eslinger, San Jose Mercury News.

## **HOMELESS**

### [Reader Input: Do Right by our City's Homeless](#)

With a fast approaching state-mandated deadline to define locations which are appropriately zoned for a homeless shelter, it could take years before the city actually contracts with a builder and then complete the entire process.

Heather Ireland, Auburn Journal.

## **CITY DEVELOPMENT**

### [Proposal for Emeryville Macy's Dead, City Seeks New Ideas](#)

Madison Marquette has killed its proposal to build a Macy's in Emeryville as an extension of the Bay Street retail and housing district. City officials recently hired consulting firm Keyser Marston and architecture firm Field Paoli to come up with a different use for the 3-acre site Madison Marquette had eyed for a department store. Blanca Torres, San Francisco Business Times.

### [Sacramento Taking Bids for Railyard Roads, Again](#)

A bidding process to put streets into the railyard redevelopment area in Sacramento will go back to the start, after the City Council approved throwing out the previous process and the bids received. Ben van der Meer, Sacramento Business Journal.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### [Expo Line Rolling Steadily toward Santa Monica](#)

It's no secret to anyone who has driven down Colorado Avenue west of 17th Street in the last month that the Expo Light Rail line is already making an impact on Santa Monica. The 15 miles of train tracks -- more than half of which is already built and has been carrying passengers daily since April 2012 -- will connect downtown Santa Monica to downtown Los Angeles by train for the first time in half a century.

Jason Islas, Santa Monica Lookout.

## **PENSION / EMPLOYEE RELATIONS**

### [Santa Clara County's Largest Public Employee Union Votes to Authorize Strike](#)

The union that represents the majority of Santa Clara County's approximately 15,000 full-time public employees has voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike to protest the county's latest labor contract involving pay and benefits. Tracy Seipel, Inside Bay Area.

### [Editorial: No Exceptions to Pension Reform](#)

If transit workers win exemption from California's new pension reform laws, police will demand exemptions as well, then firefighters, then nurses and teachers and clerks at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The law itself will be eviscerated. Neither the state nor local governments can afford to let that happen. Modesto Bee.

### [Hayward City Workers' Strike Enters Second Day](#)

Striking municipal workers called on the mayor and City Council to talk with them face-to-face, but no elected officials showed up at a noontime rally Wednesday, the second day of the employees' walkout. Members of SEIU Local 2021 went on strike Tuesday in an effort to get the city to resume negotiations after declaring an impasse last month. Rebecca Parr, The Daily Review.

### [Garcetti Puts Former Mayoral Rival Emanuel Pleitez on Pension Board](#)

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has chosen former mayoral candidate Emanuel Pleitez to serve on the panel that oversees retirement benefits for the city's police officers and firefighters, according to public records. Garcetti filed paperwork with the city clerk last week nominating Pleitez, 30, to the nine-member Fire and Police Pensions board, a panel that has a narrow majority of its members selected by the mayor. The position is volunteer and does not come with a salary. David Zahniser, LA Times.

### [Editorial: Fixing California: Archaic Law Sandbags State's Pension Reform](#)

Ready for a story that will make you want to tear your hair out, at least if you support pension reform? UT San Diego.

### [City Proposes Deep Benefit Cuts](#)

After a year of full-time employment with the city of Costa Mesa, a worker represented by the current contract for general employees receives 92 hours of paid vacation. But the city recently proposed a two-year labor contract that would slash that benefit by more than half — to 40 hours — in order to trim costs. Bradley Zint, Daily Pilot.

## **HOUSING**

### [Sunnyvale Officials Seek Public Input on Housing Element](#)

Affordable housing is at the forefront of discussions for Bay Area cities updating their housing elements for 2014-2022. With the average price of a single-family home in Santa Clara County now at a whopping \$1 million, local cities must tackle several challenges in updating their plan--particularly maintaining and creating affordable housing--while meeting regional housing needs allocations. Alia Wilson, Sunnyvale Sun.

### [Housing Markets in Orange and Los Angeles Counties are “Overhauled”](#)

Here is a piece of news that might not surprise anybody traversing open houses in the Southland these days: Orange and Los Angeles counties are the most overvalued real estate markets in the country. That’s according to real estate website Trulia.com, which published its second-quarter “Bubble Watch” measure, which compares home prices to rents and incomes. Alejandro Lazo, LA Times.

### [City Council Approves \\$1 Billion Makeover for Jordan Downs Housing Project](#)

The City Council today approved an ambitious \$1 billion plan aimed at turning Jordan Downs, a 700-unit public housing project in Watts, into an “urban village” of affordable and market-rate homes, retail storefronts and community recreational facilities. The council’s 14-0 vote clears the way for the project’s developers to apply for \$30 million in federal funding for the redevelopment plan, which includes replacing each of the existing World War II-era housing units. Elizabeth Hsing-Huei Chou, City News Service.

## **WATER**

### [Mount Shasta Moves Forward with Water Group](#)

In pursuit of Prop. 50 and 84 funding to help fix the wastewater system, Mount Shasta moves toward creation of a regional management group – with or without the county. Skye Kinkade, Mount Shasta News.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### [Council May Take on Some Mayoral Duties](#)

City Council President Todd Gloria Wednesday suggested shifting some authority from Mayor Bob Filner to the council as a group of businesswomen announced a march Sunday to coincide with the first day of a recall drive that seeks to oust the mayor from office. Craig Gustafson and Mark Walker, UT San Diego.