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Strategic Growth Council Set to Adopt Revised Guidelines to the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program at Jan. 20 Meeting

The [Strategic Growth Council \(SGC\)](#) recently released proposed revisions to the [Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities \(AHSC\) Program Guidelines](#). The revised guidelines are expected to be adopted at SGC's next meeting scheduled on Jan. 20 at the California Department of Public Health East End Complex Auditorium in Sacramento. A copy of the [proposed final guidelines](#) and the [Jan. 20 meeting agenda](#) are available online.

For more, see Page 2.



Three Long-Time League Staff Recognized with the 2014 NLC Stutz Award

Award Honors Municipal League Staff with 25 or More Years of Service

Today during the League's New Mayor's and Council Members' Academy, three staff members, Norman Coppinger, Craig Matsumoto and Helen Marshall were honored with [the National League of Cities \(NLC\)](#) 2014 Stutz Award. The Stutz Award annually recognizes individuals who have served 25 years or more with a state municipal league. The League applauds Norman, Craig and Helen for their contributions and dedication to the League and all California cities.

For more, see Page 2.



LAO Launches State Budget 101 Video Series

Today the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) premiered its new [State Budget 101 Video Series](#). The series, available on the [LAO website](#), features a set of short videos with basic information on key California state budget topics. The initial videos in the series feature Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor and other LAO staff members discussing California's economy, state revenues and spending, infrastructure, state employees, and other topics. LAO is offering this information to help legislators, legislative staff and the public understand the state's complex public budgets.

There are some significant changes from the original draft released in September 2014.

Scoring Criteria Added: The SGC has added the scoring criteria and made it consistent with the primary objective of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction as well as reflect other priorities such as project readiness and other policy considerations. GHG emissions reduction is worth 55 percent of the total score, project readiness and feasibility 15 percent of the overall score and policy considerations such as housing related issues, co-benefits and transportation connectivity is with 30 percent.

Greenhouse Gas Quantification Methodology Chosen: [California Air Resources Board](#) (ARB) chose an interim methodology for the AHSC Program using components of the [California Emissions Estimator Model \(CalEEMod\)](#), a land use emissions calculator tool designed to quantify GHG emissions and criteria air pollutants associated with land use development projects.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Role Established: The statute requires the SGC to coordinate with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to identify projects and recommend projects within their respective jurisdictions that best reflect the goals and objectives of the program. The AHSC Program application review process proposes that concept application for the respective region will be provided to each MPO. The MPO may review concept applications and inform the SGC of their view of the project's support of the applicable Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Each MPO will also be provided copies of the full applications and may provide recommendations to the SGC for consideration for their perspective region. The MPO recommendations are advisory only.

Technical Assistance for Prospective Applicants: Recognizing the tight timeline and newness of this program, there will be a series of Notice of Funding Availability workshops and technical assistance workshops to assist applicants in navigating the process. Dates and locations of workshops will be released at the Jan. 20 SGC meeting. ARB staff will also be available to answer applicant questions and provide technical assistance in using the quantification methodology.

Other Refinements:

- Minimum project size eliminated, but reflected in GHG calculation score.
- Minimum density requirement reduced to reflect state default densities.
- Elimination of the public agency requirement on all applications, except where a public agency has an interest or stake in the proposed project.
- Award limits on localities and developers waived by state if needed to meet statutory affordable housing or disadvantaged community set-aside.
- Increased maximum costs allowed for impact fees from \$200,000 to \$300,000, not exceeding 15 percent of the total request.
- Removal of the 50 percent match requirement for transportation/transit-related infrastructure.
- No net loss of affordable housing units applies to all capital projects.
- An anti-displacement criterion applies to all projects.
- Increased maximum funds allowed for program uses from 10 percent to 30 percent of total award, up to \$500,000.

The AHSC Program will provide grants and loans for affordable housing, infill and compact transit-oriented development, and infrastructure connecting these projects to transit. Projects funded by the program will support reduction of GHG emissions through reduced vehicle miles travelled and increased accessibility of affordable housing, employment center, and key destinations through fewer or short vehicular trips or mode shift to other transportation options such as transit, bicycling or walking. Funds will be allocated based upon the merits of the applications submitted and the proposed use of funds within an identified project area. The program requirements focus on the reduction of GHG emissions, project readiness and other policy considerations and required by statute.

The following are the timeframes for the 2014-15 AHSC Program:

- January Final Draft Guidelines to Council for Approval
 - Late January Funding Solicitation and Application Released
 - Mid-February Concept Applications Released
 - Mid-April Full Applications Due
 - June Recommended Awards Announced for Council Approval
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'Stutz' Continued from Page 1...

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie and League President Stephany Aguilar gave the three staff their awards. "It is an honor to present Norman Coppinger, Helen Marshall and Craig Matsumoto with the NLC Stutz Award. Working with these individuals and the rest of our dedicated staff is one of the highlights of my job. This staff lives and breathes city government and is dedicated to helping you serve your cities."

Norman Coppinger

Norman joined the League on June 27, 1988 as a staff assistant. Norman served city officials by staffing the League's legislative hot-line the old fashion way, by telephone. In 1993, building upon his work with the League's Employee Relations Policy Committee and Personnel Department, Norman became the League's first personnel manager and currently holds the certification of Senior Professional in Human Resources.

During his 26 years with the League, he has been engaged in legislative and policy development, membership services and administrative responsibilities. In his current position as the director of administrative services, Norman oversees the League's internal functions, including finance, human resources, internet technology and facilities. Prior to joining the League, Norman developed an interest in local government while attending the University of California, Davis where he obtained degrees in both political science and economics.

Helen Marshall

Helen joined the League on Oct. 2, 1989 and has served in various roles during her career with the League. She began in the legal department where she earned her paralegal assistant's designation. In 2001, Helen transitioned to the League's education and conferences department and has worn many hats. For many years she grew and managed an extremely successful and popular bookstore during the League's Annual Conference and Expo, known as CityBooks. In 2012, Helen earned the prestigious Certified Meeting Planner designation. Helen is currently the lead meetings manager and works with hotels and convention centers to present flawless conferences for members.

Helen brings integrity, knowledge and dedication to her work in service to the League members. League staff also benefits from her considerable experience, expertise and helpful nature.

Craig Matsumoto

Craig joined the League on Jan. 25, 1988 as a membership services representative, assigned to the League's mail room. Craig's friendly and outgoing personality along with his superior work ethic have made Craig into the "go to" guy for a wide variety of staff support functions within the League. In addition to running the League's mail room, Craig manages a full service print shop and serves as building maintenance manager for the League's 36,000 square foot building. His dedication and commitment to the League's overall mission was instrumental during the 2009 building renovation and LEED Gold award achievement for environmental sustainability.

Session Preview: 2015 Planning Commissioners Academy

Attendees at this year's conference may find it difficult to choose between all of the innovative and current sessions. There are a number of relevant sessions for attendees this year so take the time to start planning which sessions will be a priority. Take a look at this preview of sessions and keep your eye out for more leading up to the conference.

This year's Planning Commissioners Academy will be held from Wednesday, March 4 to Friday, March 6 at the Fairmont Newport Beach. Register [online](#) and select Planning Commissioners Academy. Registration must be received by Tuesday, Feb. 3. After this date all registration must be completed on site.

NEW PLANNING COMMISSIONERS TRACK:

- **How Do I Get Affordable Housing Built in My City?**
In early 2015, most cities have completed their updates to the housing element. This tip-laden session provides real world application to help planning commissioners defend and approve affordable housing in the face of neighborhood opposition.

ADVANCED PLANNING STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS TRACK:

- **Can Your Findings Withstand a Legal Challenge and Can Your Conditions of Approval Be Implemented?**
Your project is approved. The opponents are considering a legal challenge and your findings may not have the supporting facts to stand up in court. Your conditions of approval are difficult to understand, let alone implement. How can you avoid this situation? Review examples and discuss ways to document your project approval with substantial evidence and develop conditions of approval that can be implemented.

JOINT – NEW PLANNING COMMISSIONERS/ADVANCED PLANNING STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS:

- **Do Planners & Commissioners Have a Role in Wildfire Planning?**
Whether you're a Planning Commissioner or Planning staff, this session describes the impacts of wildfire planning on the planning framework (departments, code, technical, design). Discuss how solutions are found in good planning that involve local and state fire agencies working proactively together with Planners.

Like the League of California Cities on [Facebook](#) and follow on twitter at [@cacitieslearn](#) to get updates and useful information about upcoming conferences.

Innovation Sessions Offered at 2015 Public Works Officers Institute

This year's Public Works Officers Institute will be held from Wednesday, March 25 to Friday, March 27 at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach. In addition to fundamental educational sessions and a jam packed mini expo, there will be a variety of breaking issue sessions.

A couple of the questions include:

- **Moraga's Successful Grassroots Campaign for Pavement Funding** — Learn about the Town of Moraga's successful grassroots campaign to pass a 20-year One-Cent General Sales Tax with a whopping 70.5 percent approval rate to fix local streets and roads. See how Moraga leveraged the sales tax revenue to secure funding for a three-year expedited road repair program and how the grassroots efforts continued through construction in an effort to raise civic pride and ownership for possible additional future funding initiatives. Results from the first year of the paving program have already yielded an increase in the Moraga's Pavement Condition Index (PCI) from 49 to 58.
- **Leading Us Into the Future: Lessons from Two Public Works Visionaries** — Join two visionary public works leaders who have proven track records identifying and developing strong public works professionals for the future. This presentation will take you through real life lessons from individuals with decades of experience in fostering leadership. You'll learn that leadership is an art, takes time, and is linked to a person's reputation, credibility and trust. You'll understand how management is different than leadership, and how having a positive attitude is a powerful tool in leading others into the uncertain, but certainly rewarding, future of public works.

Register [online](#) and select Public Works Officers Institute. Registration must be received by Friday, Feb. 27. After this date all registration must be completed on site.

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