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California City Solutions: Federal Bridge Grant Allows La Cañada Flintridge to Invest in Bridge Replacement

This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2014 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called [California City Solutions](#). The Jessen Drive Bridge project was submitted in 2014 for the Public Works, Infrastructure, and Transportation award category.

Local street and road repairs are costly for any city and when the city of La Cañada Flintridge learned that one of its essential bridges rated below standard sufficiency rating in 2010, it needed to search for funding to develop a construction plan to replace the bridge. The bridge load was restricted to a maximum of 12 tons due to the lowered sufficiency rate. This prevented heavy vehicles such as fire trucks, trash trucks and utility vehicles from using the crossroad to provide timely services to residents in that particular area. The bridge replacement was essential to order to improve services. *For more, see Page 2.*



Register Today for the League's Feb. 18 Land Use 101 Webinar

Join the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities on Feb. 18 from 10-11:30 a.m. for an informative webinar on land use. Attorney participants can receive 1.5 hours of MCLE credit. *For more, see Page 3.*



City Managers Department Announces Award Winners

Each year, the League of California Cities' City Managers' Department accepts nominations for three prestigious awards honoring distinguished members of the department: the Wes Clure Award of Distinction, the John H. Nail Memorial Award and the Award for the Advance of Diverse Communities. This year the department selected just two winners, who were proudly announced at the City Managers Department conference this week in San Francisco. *For more, see Page 3.*

The city of La Cañada Flintridge is in north Los Angeles County in the San Gabriel Mountains foothills. Located in the heart of the city is the Jessen Drive Bridge, built in 1940 and reconstructed in 1961. The original bridge was a timber "A" frame truss bridge with steel rod hangers and tension ties, a timber plank deck with an asphalt concrete overlay on timber stringers which was supported by steel pile abutments. It spanned 41 feet and was 27 feet wide with a 4 foot wide sidewalk and a 23 foot roadway, providing essential access to neighborhood homes, an elementary school and a primary thoroughfare for main city services.

The bridge was initially put on the 2000 Eligible Bridge List (EBL) of the Federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP), which is currently known as the Highway Bridge Program (HBP). In 2010, it received a sufficiency rating of 44.6, with a SR of 50 or less being eligible for replacement. The city knew that replacing the bridge would be costly and involve vast coordination with several agencies, but it was up for the challenge.

Since the project would be such a huge undertaking, it would be essential to coordinate with neighborhood residents, the nearby elementary school and the public safety. Additionally, since the bridge had been on the Caltrans deficient bridge list, there was limited time before the bridge continued to deteriorate to the point that further restrictions would have to be put in place, causing serious risk to the residents.

The Jessen Drive Bridge project would be an investment in the state and local infrastructure, support job growth and provide economic opportunities access to the other side of town would increase with the completion. Building effective partnerships between state and local officials, as well as other organizations to promote local authority to meet the community's needs, would be integral to the process. The city experienced emergency evacuations and needed fire access during the Station Fire in 2009, and the mudslides following in 2010. While the city lost no structures and the access was adequate enough to use, the city determined at that time that it would apply for funding for the new bridge.

Protecting native plants, trees and the local wildlife habitat would also be crucial because the bridge is located in an environmentally sensitive area and stretches over a significant drainage canyon. Construction of the bridge would involve planning and rerouting several city services, as the delivery of six 70-foot long precast and pre-stressed reinforced concrete girders would need to be taken through narrow and winding streets. Additionally, overhead electrical lines would have to be de-energized to facilitate the massive crane necessary to set the girders in place. Some other challenges would be maintaining traffic circulation of the adjacent elementary school, relocating existing utilities (sewer, gas, water, and power), and maintaining access for the adjacent properties.

The city secured a \$1.6 million Federal Highway Bridge Program grant and also contributed \$200,000, combined these funds were enough to complete the project. After funding was in place, the city began working with many agencies to prepare for the construction of the project including Los Angeles County, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Sheriff's Department.

Several meetings were held to coordinate construction and traffic management plans for the duration of the project. The Public Works & Traffic Commission discussed the selection of the bridge barrier and railing and a community meeting was held prior to the commencement of the project to discuss the projects impacts on traffic flow. In addition, a city council meeting was held, as well as numerous meetings joining the various utility companies, local elementary school and school district. The public was very informed and involved throughout the project and provided valuable feedback.

Construction of the new [Jessen Drive Bridge](#) began in March of 2012 and opened to traffic in November of that year. All emergency and heavy public service vehicles now use the passageway without any restrictions, which allows them to provide better public safety and services to the area. School officials and parents were also pleased with the outcome of the project and shared their positive comments.

The city completed a desperately needed bridge replacement project, going from an insufficient rating to fully sufficient, with a minimal financial contribution and did the project in an environmentally-friendly way.

The new bridge has a reinforced concrete deck on pre-stressed concrete girders on reinforced concrete abutments and footings. The new bridge is 71 feet long and 40 feet wide with a 5-foot wide sidewalk and 32-foot wide roadway. The delivery of the six 70-foot long girders was taken through winding roads safely and without incident. New technologies in strength in the steel girder bridge, replacing the old wooden bridge, were definitely utilized for structural integrity.

'Webinar' Continued from Page 1...

Webinar Details

San Luis Obispo City Christine Dietrick will give a practical overview of the constitutional, legal and planning frameworks governing the most important land use decisions through which California cities implement development and preservation of community character.

Specifically the webinar will cover a general overview of the fundamentals of city land use practice including:

- Foundations of city land use authority through the constitutional police power;
- Requirements for and relationships between general plans;
- Specific plans, zoning and subdivision regulations and development agreements;
- Basic environmental review requirements under CEQA;
- Vested rights principles;
- An overview of design, conservation, and historic preservation tools;
- General rules governing development fees, exactions and takings analyses;
- State and local affordable housing requirements; and
- The requirements for due process proceedings and administrative findings in the land use context.

A question and answer session will be included and a resource paper will be provided to all webinar virtual attendees, serving as a practical check list and land use "field guide" for the municipal attorney.

Registration

Please [register online](#) for the Feb. 18 Land Use 101 webinar by Feb. 16.

The webinar fees are \$50 for League members, \$75 for League Partners and \$175 for non-members.

'CM Awards' Continued from Page 1...

John H. Nail Memorial Award: Linda Daniels, assistant city manager, Rancho Cucamonga

The John H. Nail Memorial Award was created by the League's City Managers' Department during the 1978 Annual Spring Conference, in honor and memory of a highly regarded city manager and individual. The award is presented to an outstanding municipal assistant who has contributed significantly to his or her city government and to the advancement of the community as a whole.

Wes McClure Award of Distinction: John F. Shirey, city manager, Sacramento

The Wes McClure Award of Distinction recognizes the values and principles deemed essential to city managers' professional conduct. This award recognizes a city manager's outstanding career service, leadership, ethics, expertise and innovation in the field of city management as observed by their colleagues. The award is given to recognize those who make a difference to the profession.

California Financing Coordinating Committee Announces 2015 Infrastructure Funding Fair Dates

The California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) will be hosting six different free funding fairs throughout the state between April and September of this year. These events are designed to provide information about currently available infrastructure grant, loan and bond financing programs and options. Attendees will also have an opportunity to speak directly with program staff about specific projects and issues affecting their communities.

CFCC agencies fund primarily the following types of infrastructure projects:

- Drinking water;
- Wastewater;
- Water quality;
- Water supply;
- Water conservation;
- Water use efficiency;
- Energy efficiency; and
- Flood management.

Some participating agencies also fund other infrastructure projects including:

- Streets and highways;
- Emergency response vehicles;
- Solid waste; and
- Community facilities.

2015 Fair Schedule

At each location, the event will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- April 2: San Diego
- May 6: Tulare
- June 3: Eureka
- Aug. 5: Truckee
- Sept. 2: Watsonville
- Sept. 23: Sacramento

Registration

To register for one of the six fairs, please visit www.cfcc.ca.gov and click on Funding Fairs.

Please direct questions to (916) 447-9832, ext. 1029.

Additional information, including the schedule, CFCC member directory and more can be found on the [CFCC website](#).

The League Needs Pictures of Your City Hall

The League and *Western City* are looking for a wide range of city hall images to help showcase the diversity of California city government. City halls serve as a hub of community engagement, and these buildings are essential elements of. In many cases, a city hall's architectural style reflects the time period when the city was formed. In other cases, city halls are repurposed buildings given a second life.

The types of images we are seeking include:

- City hall exterior with city hall signage;
- Council chambers, both empty and with a meeting in progress;

- Events at city hall that feature people — for example, students visiting city hall, a cultural event at city hall or other community meeting; and
- City hall renovations that combine an original facility with a new addition.

The League and *Western City* are also interested in learning about your city hall and what makes it unique. Cities that submit photos should also include a paragraph or two describing the building and its history.

Technical Specifications

Photos must be high resolution, a minimum of 300 dpi (dots per inch) at 5 x 7 inches or larger size, and in color. Caption information must be included in a separate file or in the text of the email. Please do not embed the caption in the image.

Image Submission

Send your photos, captions and brief description of your city hall's history to *Western City* at westerncitymag@gmail.com.

Western City and the League will give credit to the photographer and/or city of origin. By submitting images, you agree that *Western City* and the League have permission to use them in a variety of formats and capacities.

Help make your city hall a star, and assist the League in building its archive.