

**March 6, 2015
Issue #21**

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City Officials Testify in Opposition of Governor's RDA Dissolution Proposal

City officials from up and down the state testified before the [Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration](#) Tuesday in opposition to Gov. Jerry Brown's FY 2015-16 [redevelopment dissolution budget proposal](#). *For more, see Page 2.*



League Releases Federal Lobbying Documents

Two California-focused Events Planned

As thousands of city officials visit Washington D.C. next week as part of NLC's Congressional City Conference (link to Monday's article), Congress will have the opportunity to hear what is important to cities across the nation. The League released several documents this week to support individual city lobbying efforts. *For more, see Page 3.*



Upcoming Legislative Hearings of Interest March 10-April 22

Legislators have begun work on the number of bills that were introduced as of the Feb. 27 deadline. The current count is 1508 in the Assembly and 796 in the Senate. League staff is reviewing the flood of bills introduced and determining which may be of interest to cities. *For more, see Page 4.*

Read about the League's position in "[League Takes Oppose Unless Amended Position on DOF Redevelopment Dissolution Budget Package](#)," *CA Cities Advocate*, Feb. 25, 2015.

During the committee hearing, a Department of Finance (DOF) representative reviewed the Governor's proposal. According to testimony, the proposal is a "starting point for discussion on the dissolution of redevelopment process" and "provides an opportunity to have a dialogue with interested parties on concerns with current proposal as well what other process changes that would need to be included."

Following the DOF, city officials voiced their opposition and testified about the adverse impacts the Governor's plan would have on their cities. They talked about how the plan seeks changes that would reverse court decisions, change laws retroactively, undo previous incentives, and limit transparency, accountability and opportunities for local agencies to protect their legal rights.

The League would like to thank the following city officials for attending and testify during this week's hearing:

Name	Title	City
Rachel Hurst	director of community development	Coronado
Joe Calabrigo	city manager	Danville
Newell Arnerich	council member	Danville
Niccolo De Luca	legislative representative	Emeryville, Walnut Creek, San Leandro and Oakland
Greg Sparks	city manager	Eureka
Marlene Murphey	executive director	Fresno Successor Agency
Debra Barletta	finance officer	Fresno Successor Agency
Jason Behrmann	city manager	Galt
Mark Crews	mayor	Galt
Gillian van Muyden	chief assistant city attorney	Glendale
Renee Bonincontri	council member	Gonzales
Rene Mendez	city manager	Gonzales
Frank Spavacek	city manager	La Quinta
Paolo Beltran	government affairs director	Lakewood
Laureen Turner	vice mayor	Livermore
Ovi Popesco	council member	Loma Linda
Luis Solache	mayor	Lynwood
Mike Murphy	council member	Merced
Jack Hadjinian	mayor	Montebello
Jeffrey Giba	council member	Moreno Valley
Joy Canfield	administrative services director	Murrieta
Pat Eklund	mayor pro tem	Novato
Michelle Mingay	senior finance analyst	Rancho Cordova
Susana Jackson	accountant	Rancho Cordova
Rina Gonzales	deputy city attorney	Riverside
Mike Gardner	council member	Riverside
Emilio Ramirez	interim director, community development	Riverside
David Jones	legislative representative	Sacramento
Brice McQueen	senior management analyst, Department of	Sunnyvale

	Finance	
Kenneth Flewellyn	assistant finance director	Torrance
Jane Chambers	city manager	Ukiah
Emily Cantu	housing services director	Vacaville
Felipe Hernandez	council member	Watsonville
Karina Cervantes	council member	Watsonville
Lowell Hurst	council member	Watsonville
Trina Coffman-Gomez	council member	Watsonville
Jimmy Dutra	council member	Watsonville
David Koch	assistant city manger	Watsonville
Jan Davison	successor agency consultant	Watsonville
John Leonard	manager, revenue management	West Hollywood

The League also extends appreciation to comments made by committee chair Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian (D-Studio City) and committee members Assembly Members Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove), Kevin Mullin (D-San Mateo) and Scott Wilk (R-Santa Clarita) during the hearing that supported League and city official opposition arguments. In addition, the League thanks Assembly Members Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova), Cheryl Brown (D-San Bernardino), Luis Alejo (D-Watsonville) and Jose Medina (D-Riverside) for attending the hearing of their own volition and testifying in opposition of the RDA dissolution proposal.

The Governor’s proposal will be heard next in the [Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government](#), April 9 at 9:30 a.m. in State Capitol room 2040. More information will become available closer to the hearing date.

‘Federal’ Continued from Page 1...

[Documents](#) include:

- 2015 League Federal Priorities
- Federal Transportation Reauthorization Priorities
- Funding for Critical Federal Programs
- Innovative Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Financing
- Protect Local Authority and Revenue

Printed materials including these documents will be available to attendees at the California reception Monday night:

League of California Cities Reception

Monday, March 9
6 to 7:30 p.m.
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
2660 Woodley Road, NW
Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday, the League will host a special briefing for U.S. House of Representatives staff on the League’s Federal Priorities with a focus on Transportation. As the House will not be in session during the conference, the League encourages all California attendees to attend the briefing and connect with the staff of their representative. While RSVPs for this event are not required, the League would like to have a general count in order to appropriately plan. Please RSVP to mdesmond@cacities.org.

League of California Cities Priorities Briefing for Congressional Staff

Tuesday, March 10

3 to 4 p.m.

1416 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C.

NLC has also prepared videos and lobbying materials on their [Federal Action Priorities](#): Close the Online Sales Tax Loophole, Invest in Local Transportation Priorities, Protect Municipal Bonds.

'Hearings of Interest' Continued from Page 1...

Upcoming Hearings

In the coming weeks the Legislature will begin to hold hearings on bills. The Legislature is also holding a number of oversight and informational hearings on a variety of policy areas of interest to cities. Here are a number of upcoming hearings of interest to cities:

March 10

- **Joint Hearing of Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Quality Committees**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112
 - Oversight Hearing: Ensuring Groundwater Protection: Is the Underground Injection Control Well Program Working?
- **Joint Hearing of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and Revenue and Taxation Committee**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 126
 - Hearing will cover the State Board of Equalization

March 11

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation**, 9:00 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and the Department of Toxic Substances Control
- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 444
 - Hearing will cover the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, including the new trends, deficiencies and the Assembly's budget priorities on this topic
- **Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee**, 9:00 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126
 - Informational Hearing: Affordable Housing Construction and Finance: Challenges and Opportunities

March 12

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 2040
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Housing and Community Development
- **Joint Hearing Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation, and Senate Environmental Quality Committees**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112
 - Part B: Hearing will cover the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

March 13

- **Senate Transportation and Housing Committee**, 1:30 p.m., Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, METRO Board Room, 3rd Floor, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles
 - Informational Hearing: Transportation Funding

March 17

- **Joint Hearing of the Senate Transportation and Housing and Environmental Quality Committees**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- Oversight Hearing: The Road to 2020 and Beyond: The Role of the Transportation Sector in Meeting California's Climate Goals

March 18

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation**, 9:00 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board
- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 437
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including Body Cameras
- **Joint Hearing Assembly Local Government Committee and Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4202
 - Information Hearing: Transient Occupancy Taxes and the Home-Sharing Phenomenon

March 19

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental, Protection, Energy and Transportation**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Water Resource, Delta Stewardship Council and State Water Resources Control Board
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 2040
 - Hearing will cover the Department of Housing and Community Development

March 24

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including Commission on State Mandates and Public Employees' Retirement System

March 25

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation**, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including Department of Transportation and the California Transportation Commission
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 437
 - Hearing will cover 2014 Drought Funding
- **Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 3191
 - Oversight Hearing: Statewide Voter Turnout
- **Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 444
 - Hearing will cover a number of items relating to hazardous waste and substances, uncollectible accounts, liability recovery actions, and response actions: cleanup ability information

March 26

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112
 - Hearing will cover a number of items including Cap-and-Trade, the Strategic Growth Council and High-Speed Rail Authority
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 113
 - Hearing will cover Realignment
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**, 9:30 a.m., Room 2040

- Hearing will cover State Finance, including Oversight on the Debt and Financial Management Overview the State Treasurer, California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, the Department of finance, Oversight on Tax Compliance Programs and more

April 8

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation**, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover a number of items related to the Air Resources Board, California Coastal Commission and the Office of Planning and Research

April 9

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**, 9:30 a.m., Room 2040
 - Hearing will cover a number of items related to Local Government and Economic Development including Redevelopment Agencies Dissolution Status and Issues, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the Commission on State Mandates
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 113
 - Hearing will cover Public Employees' Retirement System

April 14

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447
 - Hearing will cover the State Controller's Office and Secretary of State

April 16

- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112
 - Hearing will cover the LAO's Overview of the Transportation Budget, the California Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation
- **Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government**, 9:30 a.m., Room 2040
 - Hearing will cover a number of items related to the State Controller and a Financial Information System for California

April 22

- **Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.5 on Public Safety**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 437
 - Hearing will cover the Proposition 47 Workload

Upcoming Webinar: CalPERS Consideration on Removing Broad Network HMO Plans in Some Regions

Register Today for March 12 Webinar

Local officials are invited to provide feedback to the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) proposal to remove the Broad Network HMO plans for Anthem and Blue Shield in those regions in which there is an overlap of their Narrow Networks. This item action item will be taken up by CalPERS' Pension and Health Benefits Committee (PHBC) on March 17.

The action will outline an approach to remove the Broad Network HMO plans for Anthem and Blue Shield in those regions in which there is an overlap of their Narrow Networks. Prior to the meeting, at CalPERS request, local officials are invited to provide feedback on this approach prior to its PHBC meeting.

The League is hosting a free one-hour webinar for local officials to receive staff analysis on this approach, including the Regions being considered, the overlap between the Broad and Narrow

networks by health plan, and the potential member disruption. Written materials on the proposal will be available on the [CalPERS website](#) before the webinar.

Webinar Details

This webinar is free and open to League members and to members of the California Association of Counties and the California Special Districts Association. It is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 10 to 11 a.m.

The speaker will be Doug McKeever, chief, Health Policy Research Division, CalPERS.

Registration

Please register for this webinar at www.cacities.org/events no later than Wednesday, March 11 at noon.

For registration questions, please contact [Megan Dunn](#).

California City Solutions: San Mateo Develops Student Curriculum for Park Playground Renovation

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](#). San Mateo's Beresford Playground Elementary School Program was submitted in 2014 for the Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government award category.

In September 2012, eight people came to San Mateo's Beresford Community Center to discuss the planned renovation of the Beresford Park children's playground. Typically eight residents would provide adequate feedback for the park planning staff to move forward on an initial design, however, city staff believed that this large community park warranted larger community participation. Staff decided to develop an outreach plan to connect with students and increase community involvement for its renovation.

The park planning staff restarted the public outreach effort by specifically engaging local students and their parents. They created an online community forum for parents to comment and discuss the renovation, while the Recreation Youth Services staff drafted a classroom curriculum to educate and involve students in the design planning process.

Staff worked to involve students in the process of the playground renovation and gain feedback from the park's target audience. The outlined curriculum included five weeks of interactive sessions with students in their classroom for 45 minutes weekly. Youth Services staff would coordinate the activities and lesson plans for those segments.

The Youth Services team took their draft curriculum to the two closest elementary schools: Beresford Park, Meadow Heights and Beresford Elementary. One of the two schools, Beresford Elementary, liked and accepted the proposal, with the fifth grade teachers agreeing that it would be a good fit for their classes.

With the help of the two classroom teachers, the Youth Services staff refined the curriculum.

- **Week 1:** Classes met at the Beresford playground. Youth Services staff reviewed the playground renovation proposal and explained how the department gathers ideas and develops a design for a new facility. In three groups, students took measurements of the playground, reviewed the current architectural playground drawings and made lists of their favorite and least favorite parts of the existing playground.
- **Week 2:** Students met in the classroom and focused on playground amenities and associated costs. Students also prioritized the pieces they wanted to see in the park within a defined budget.

- **Week 3:** Students learned how to gather community feedback by designing a short survey which they sampled on their classmates. They were then tasked with giving the survey to five of their friends or family members. In total the students gathered about 190 completed surveys with valid data for the project.
- **Week 4:** Students learned how to analyze the survey results, tallied by Youth Services staff, and developed graphs of the data, discussed how the results should be used and compared the different results to their own surveys.
- **Week 5:** Students received a blank site plan for the project area and were given the opportunity to draw their own ideal playground plan for Beresford Park. They shared their drawing with the classroom and Youth Services staff posted the most innovative designs on the online community forum for other involved community members to view.

The Beresford playground renovation has expanded community involvement, involving students, parents, teachers and a principal who all had an impact on the two draft playground designs. The information collected by the students helped design the playground so that it would appeal to all ages and determined an overall theme. Examples of this include a limited use of sand as this is mostly for younger park visitors, and the inclusion of tall slides and high swings, to meet the needs of the older youth and keep them positively engaged in the park experience.

Following the last day of the classroom curriculum, the department moved forward with developing the designs for the playground. The city presented two different designs to the community in October 2013.

The city also wanted to give the students from the classroom project an opportunity to review the draft designs. Since the students had all graduated to sixth grade, they were no longer at Beresford Elementary. The Youth Services staff decided to email the students' parents and invite them to a pizza party.

The pizza party provided an opportunity for students to comment on the designs and reconnect with their old classmates, many of which had not seen each other since graduating from their elementary school. Out of 48 students, 25 attended. Participating staff and parents remarked that the event reinforced the sense of community that the students and parents had for their elementary school, their neighborhood playground and the Beresford Park project.

The program provides a good template for the Parks and Recreation Department moving forward. The curriculum is fairly standard and can be applied easily to other playground projects or park design studies. Youth Services staff reorganized their existing schedules to accommodate for the development of the curriculum, the classroom materials and the classroom time. The department hopes to replicate the project model for the future renovation of the playground in its signature Downtown Park. Although finding a school to partner with will continue to be a challenge, the department believes the process is valuable and provides a great opportunity to involve students directly in a community activity.

The Parks and Recreation Department expects to go out to bid on construction for the new Beresford playground area early this year. The new playground area is currently scheduled to be open in spring of 2016.

ARB Announces Third Public Workshop on FY 2015-16 Plan for Air Quality Improvement Program

The Air Resources Board (ARB) invites officials to participate in the third public workshop to discuss the development of the FY 2015-16 Funding Plan for the Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) and Low Carbon Transportation Investments. ARB staff will seek input on draft funding allocations, project categories, and project criteria for these programs as well as recently signed legislation affecting program implementation.

Workshop Details

Thursday, March 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cal/EPA Headquarters Building

Coastal Hearing Room, 2nd Floor
1001 I Street
Sacramento

This workshop will also be webcast for participants unable to attend in person.

ARB has posted more [information about the workshop and a copy of the workshop notice](#).

ARB has also posted additional more [information about the AQIP and ARB's Low Carbon Transportation Investments](#).

If you have questions regarding the workshop, please contact [Andrew Panson](#) at [\(916\) 323-2809](#).

Background

AQIP is a voluntary mobile source incentive program administered by ARB. ARB focuses AQIP investments on technology advancing projects that support California's long-term air quality and climate change goals in addition to providing immediate emission benefits. Each year, ARB approves the AQIP Funding Plan, which serves as the blueprint for expending AQIP funds. Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed FY 2015-16 Budget includes a \$23 million allocation for AQIP projects.

Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds provide an additional funding source for ARB's advanced technology clean transportation incentive programs, expanding the types of projects ARB has funded through AQIP. The FY 2014-15 budget appropriated \$200 million to ARB for Low Carbon Transportation projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with an emphasis on low carbon freight and passenger transportation investments that benefit disadvantaged communities. These investments are being implemented through the administrative framework established by AQIP. The Governor's proposed FY 2015-16 budget includes a \$200 million allocation for ARB for Low Carbon Transportation to continue ARB's investments from the FY 2014-15 funding cycle.

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](#).
