

March 26, 2015
Issue #28

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**Three Counties, One City Honored with Outstanding
Local Streets and Roads Project Awards**
Los Angeles County Receives Top Honors

The County Engineers Association of California and the League of California Cities Public Works Officers' Institute today announced the winners of the 2015 Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards at their annual spring meeting in Newport Beach. The four winners, three counties and one city, were recognized for making extraordinary efforts to preserve and improve the overall quality of the local streets and roads system. The county of Los Angeles is the overall winner with the counties of Alameda and Santa Barbara, and the city of Coronado also winning in different categories. Full descriptions of the winning projects and finalists can be found at www.cacities.org/2015LSRAwards. *For more, see Page 2.*



**Governor's Budget Proposal Contains League-Supported Funding for First
Responders to Hazardous Materials-Related Accidents**

The League of California Cities has been carefully monitoring the transport of oil and other hazardous materials by rail since summer 2014. This issue is of importance because many cities are often first on the scene at an accident in what may require a coordinated effort between local, regional and state emergency responders in a major event. *For more, see Page 3.*



Deadline Approaching for 2015 Helen Putnam Call for Entries
Submit entries by April 9

The deadline to submit an innovative project or creative city solution for the League of California Cities 2015 Helen Putnam Awards for Excellence is just two weeks away. The League Partner-sponsored awards honor member cities for their outstanding programs and activities in 12 different categories. *For more, see Page 3.*

Sponsored by the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and County Engineers Association of California, (CEAC) the Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards Program recognizes projects that serve as best practices and can be replicated by other jurisdictions. The award is also an acknowledgement of the cities and counties that promote sustainability in the local transportation system.

Los Angeles County won the overall award for the Willowbrook Community Road Improvement Project, which re-used material from deteriorating roadways and old tires to repave the streets.

The results are impressive:

- 68 percent reduction in energy consumption;
- 57 percent reduction in GHG emissions;
- Reduced landfill deposits by 32,000 cubic yards;
- Diverted 18,300 scrap tires from landfills; and
- Cost savings of \$2,200,000.

"This year's award winners show how local governments can design and deliver innovative, cost effective projects while still being good environmental stewards and meeting the transportation needs of our communities," said Mike Penrose, president of CEAC and Sacramento County director of transportation. Penrose says recognizing innovation is especially important given the projected shortfall in funding for local roads and bridges in California. "The total funding need over the next 10 years is \$108 billion, but the current funding mechanisms from state and federal sources still leave a shortfall of \$78.3 billion in that time frame."

Bonnie Teaford, public works director for the city of Burbank and president of the League of California Cities' Public Works Department, commended the extraordinary work exemplified by these projects. "The award winning projects and finalists showcase what can be accomplished with best practices. These counties and cities have implemented a wide range of innovations in our local transportation system that serve as the backbone for strong communities and a strong statewide economy. We celebrate them." She also cautioned that California's local road system is in dire need of investment. "California's local streets and roads however are on the brink. The current funding supporting the roadways that make up 80 percent of the state's transportation system is insufficient. Without new funding, the roads will literally crumble beneath our feet and wheels, putting our people, visitors and the economy at risk."

Forward-thinking cities and counties have made extraordinary efforts to protect and improve the existing local transportation system through a variety of projects and programs. Through these exemplary efforts, cities and counties are reducing drive times and congestion; improving driver, bicycle, and pedestrian safety; and ultimately reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Green technologies are less resource intensive, emit fewer harmful air pollutants, and produce less water pollution. Ultimately, a safe, well-maintained, and environmentally friendly local transportation system significantly saves cities and counties, and taxpayers, money in the long-term.

Projects and programs included:

- Progressive preservation programs;
- Employment of emerging technologies and materials;
- Critical safety projects;
- Accommodating all users through complete streets and active transportation projects;
- Partnerships with agencies, organizations, and/or the media to achieve a desired outcome; and
- Innovation in project delivery.

For more information visit www.SaveCaliforniaStreets.org.

'Emergency Response Funding' Continued from Page 1...

This week the League issued a [letter](#) supporting the establishment of a hazardous materials fee in Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed budget to fund regional emergency hazardous materials response teams throughout California. A budget trailer bill has been drafted to establish this crucial funding stream that is consistent with the state's larger goal of developing a more robust emergency response capability.

The proposed fee would fund a variety of expenses related to the response to incidents involving hazardous materials, including:

- Local agencies' acquisition of specialized materials and equipment;
- Enhanced training and exercises; and
- Covering costs associated with backfilling staff that is engaged in training.

This funding source is necessary in light of the dramatic increase in the transport of crude oil-by-rail into California in the past two years, in addition to the considerable routine transport by rail of other hazardous materials such as ethanol. The July 2014 report of the [Interagency Rail Safety Working Group](#) highlighted the fact that there are currently significant deficiencies in local emergency preparedness and response capabilities in the context of rail accidents. Establishing a hazardous materials fee for regional response teams will be an important step in addressing those deficiencies.

In the same letter, the League also announced its support for a separate one-time \$10 million allocation to cover similar first responder expenditures.

'Helen Putnam Deadline' Continued from Page 1...

The successes of California cities are recognized as demonstrated by beneficial innovations, resourceful efficiencies, improved public service, and overall enhanced public trust and support. It is also an opportunity to thank employees and collaborators, gain the appreciation of residents and have a community celebration of the good work contributing to the quality of life in your city.

Does your city have an outstanding program that delivers efficiency, quality service and innovation? Enter your program at www.helenputnam.org.

Award categories include:

- CCS Partnership Intergovernmental Collaboration Award
- Community Services and Economic Development
- Economic Development through the Arts
- Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement
- Health and Wellness Programs
- Housing Programs and Innovations
- Internal Administration
- League Partners Award for Excellence in City-Business Relations
- Planning and Environmental Quality
- Public Safety
- Public Works, Infrastructure, Transportation
- Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government

Additionally, your city can receive the President's Advocacy Award. This prestigious award honors a distinguished program or individual that best advocates for the League's annual strategic priorities. One outstanding winner may be chosen from the 12 categories.

To qualify, simply demonstrate that your city offered a program or service that has proven measurable and successful within a minimum of one year of actual implementation. Particular attention and credit is given to applications specifically advancing the [League's strategic priorities](#), which are determined each year by the board of directors.

Your city must be a League member to apply. Submit your entry [online](#) by April 9.

Please contact [Melissa Lienau](#) with any questions at (916) 658-8216.

ILG Launches Survey on Local Government Collaboration

Deadline to Respond is April 15

City officials have a unique and important role in the development, resilience and success of their communities. Through collaboration and partnerships, local elected officials and staff can focus on comprehensive approaches that work across jurisdictional boundaries to increase community health, safety and well-being.

This Institute for Local Government's (ILG) short survey focuses on healthy eating/active living, safety and violence prevention and to what degree local agencies approach these issues through collaborations or partnerships. Survey responses will help ILG better understand perceptions, needs and motivations for resolving key community health issues. The survey will be open until April 15. [Take the survey now!](#)

This survey is produced through the sponsorship of Kaiser Permanente and is part of a larger effort to produce webinars and resources on best practices for local officials.

High-Level Officials to Gather April 9 in Sacramento for Special Drought Briefing

As California continues to draw international attention for its fourth year of devastating drought, high-level state, local and federal officials will gather in Sacramento April 9 for a special 2015 drought briefing organized by the Association of California Water Agencies in partnership with other organizations.

The briefing is titled "2015 Drought — Four Years and Counting: Impacts and Actions." The half-day event will feature California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird, State Water Resources Control Board Chair Felicia Marcus, Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham and others. Officials will discuss drought response actions, impacts and steps underway to stretch California's depleted water reserves.

The drought briefing is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., Sacramento. The briefing is free and also will be webcast, but pre-registration is required.

Registration and Additional Information

Please [register online](#).

Preliminary Agenda

Among the topics to be covered:

- Overview of California's Extended Drought Conditions
- State and Federal Response Efforts
- Impacts on Farms and Fish
- Managing on the Ground: Local Response Efforts
- Save Our Water – 2015

Background

The briefing is presented by ACWA in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the League of California Cities, the California Farm Water Coalition, the California Farm Bureau Federation, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the California Office of Emergency Services and Cal Fire.

For more information contact Paula Currie at (916) 441 4545.

National Travel & Tourism Week Offers Economic Development Opportunities and Inspiration

With California's tourism industry on the cusp of unprecedented growth this year, there's no better time to celebrate National Travel & Tourism Week, which this year is May 2-10. The event provides an opportunity to educate and inspire local businesses to take local destination tourism development and marketing to the next level.

The week's marquee event is [Travel Rally Day](#), slated for May 5, which will raise awareness about the benefits of travel and provide a platform to amplify how traveler spending supports communities and local businesses. Use U.S. Travel resources – including a helpful [Tool Kit](#) – to develop opportunities and invite media to attend local rallies.

Visit California, the nation's first public-private partnership established to promote state tourism, is leading the effort to promote the Golden State as a premier travel destination and will host several events throughout the state during National Travel & Tourism Week, which will feature new tourism data and more information on partnership opportunities.

More information about the local impact of tourism in California is available [online](#).

Watch for a feature article about tourism and economic development in the May 2015 issue of [Western City](#) magazine.
