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Governor Issues California's First Mandatory Water Restrictions

Gov. Jerry Brown is not only calling on Californians to save water, he [took action](#) today to require the State Water Resources Control Board to implement restrictions that mandate a 25 percent reduction statewide based on 2013 consumption. The new restrictions will take into consideration the relative per-capita water usage in each community. According to the Governor's news release, this equals approximately 1.5 million acre-feet of water over the next nine months. California has the lowest snowpack on record and is in its fourth year of drought. *For more, see Page 2.*



Key to Solving Homelessness is Housing, Not Special Exemptions for Homeless *League Opposes SB 608 While Encouraging Support for the Assembly's Housing Funding Package*

The League this week announced its opposition to [SB 608 \(Liu\)](#), the Right to Rest Act. While the League shares Sen. Carol Liu's (D-La Canada Flintridge) interest in addressing homelessness in our communities, this bill undermines local enforcement authority and offers no solutions to help the homeless get back on their feet. *For more, see Page 2.*



League Supports Key Elements of Assembly Speaker's Affordable Housing Funding Package *Cities Encouraged to Support AB 35 and AB 1335*

The League has joined a coalition in support of an effort led by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) to dramatically expand state resources for affordable housing. Other coalition members include the California Building Industry Association, the California Housing Consortium and the Western Center on Law and Poverty. *For more, see Page 2.*

'Water' Continued from Page 1...

The [Executive Order](#) also contains a number of provisions to meet the reduction. The Governor wants 50 million square feet of lawn replaced with drought tolerant landscaping in partnership with local governments. Local governments are prohibited from using potable water to irrigate street medians. It also requires managers of large landscapes, such as golf courses and cemeteries, to reduce water usage and establishes a prohibition for new homes and development to irrigate with potable water unless done through a water-efficient drip system. The order increases enforcement and asks water agencies to implement conservation pricing.

'SB 608' Continued from Page 1...

SB 608 would create a special set of exemptions, privileges and rights for the homeless to occupy public and private property without complying with laws that apply to all others in society. Such an approach would result in social disorder and undermine the ability of all others to access clean and non-threatening public spaces, while jeopardizing property rights and the economic viability of local businesses.

The League believes the state's efforts to help the homeless should be led by offering the funding to build affordable housing and augment services to treat related underlying issues. Instead of offering resources, SB 608 focuses on limiting local enforcement authority on public and private property.

Among its provisions, SB 608 would exempt a homeless person from being guilty of a misdemeanor if they lodge in any building, structure, vehicle or space without permission from the owner or the person responsible for that place. The bill also expands the definition of public space in such a way that a homeless person would be allowed to assert that they can live in a public building, on a beach, on the sidewalk in front of a business, in a shopping mall or on a bus for any length of time.

More solution-oriented measures that would actually help construct affordable housing, including housing for homeless individuals, are pending in the Assembly as part of a package of legislation led by the efforts of Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego). The Assembly's proposal includes [AB 35 \(Chiu and Atkins\)](#), which would increase affordable housing tax credits by \$300 million and [AB 1335 \(Atkins\)](#), which would provide a permanent source for affordable housing. Other pending measures promote "housing first" approaches to the homeless issue.

Take Action

The [Senate Transportation and Housing Committee](#) will be hearing SB 608 on Tuesday, April 7 at 1:30 p.m. Additional information on SB 608, as well as the League's oppose letter, can be found on the [League's website](#). City officials can also use the League's [Take Action Center](#) to send in an oppose letter on SB 608. The League encourages cities to send the committee a letter communicating opposition to this bill.

Cities are also encouraged to send support letters on AB 35 and AB 1335 to the authors. AB 35 is set for hearing in the [Assembly Housing and Community Development](#) Committee on April 15 at 9 a.m. AB 1335 has also been referred to the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, and is planned to be heard on April 29. Additional information on AB 35, along with the League's support letter and a sample support letter are available [online](#). Additional information on AB 1335, along with the League's support letter and a sample support letter are available [online](#).

'Housing' Continued from Page 1...

With the loss of redevelopment and the exhaustion of past state affordable housing bond funds, California has virtually no resources to construct affordable housing. AB 35 and AB 1335 propose to fill that void with up to \$1 billion per year in affordable housing funds. AB 35 (Chiu and Atkins) would increase available affordable housing tax credits by \$300 million and AB 1335 (Atkins)

would provide a permanent source of funding for affordable housing generating up to \$700 million per year.

[AB 35 \(Chiu/Atkins\)](#), proposes to increase the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit from \$70 to \$370 million annually, providing a \$300 million boost to this popular program that is always heavily oversubscribed.

[AB 1335 \(Atkins\)](#), the Building Homes and Jobs Act, would establish a permanent source of funding for affordable housing by placing a \$75 fee on real estate transaction documents, excluding home sales. This proposal is similar to SB 391 (DeSaulnier) of the 2013-14 Legislative Session, which the League also supported, and is projected to generate up to \$700 million annually while leveraging billions more in federal, local, and bank investments.

The Building Homes and Jobs Act makes legislative findings about the need for permanent, ongoing funding for affordable housing. Total fees on any transaction are capped at \$225. Revenues from this fee, less county administrative costs, would be sent quarterly to the Department of Housing and Community Development for deposit in the new Building Homes and Jobs Fund and spent for affordable housing, home ownership opportunities, and other housing-related programs. The bill imposes additional auditing and reporting requirements.

The fact sheets below provide additional details on the bills.

- [AB 35 Fact Sheet](#)
- [AB 1335 Fact Sheet](#)

Next Steps

AB 35 is set to be heard in the [Assembly Housing and Community Development](#) Committee on April 15 at 9 a.m.

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Cities are encouraged to send the authors support letters on AB 35 and AB 1335.

Additional information on AB 35, along with the League's support letter and a sample support letter are available [online](#).

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The League's 2015 Legislative Action Day is Wednesday, April 29

Register Today for the Condensed One-Day Program

If your city has not registered for the League's Annual Legislative Action Day, be sure to sign up today because this important event is fast approaching. Scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, the one-day event is free for League members and League Partners.

The day will start at 10 a.m. with a general briefing on current budget issues and a legislative and policy update on a wide range of topics including:

- Efforts to improve and expand economic development tools;
- Transportation and other infrastructure funding;
- Water bond implementation;
- Medical marijuana regulation and other public safety issues;
- Land use issues such as CEQA reform, affordable housing, vacation rental, ADA lawsuit abuse and massage);
- Pension reform implementation;
- Other legislation of critical importance; and
- Updates from legislators.

Following the briefing, which ends at 11:30 a.m., city officials will have time to meet with the legislators in the Capitol. The League's Latino Caucus is co-sponsoring a legislative panel on local economic development and infrastructure funding options from 3:30– 4:30 p.m.

For city officials who are able to extend their day, the League will be hosting a legislative reception from 5:30–6:30 p.m. The [full brochure](#) has additional information.

Registration

March 27 is the deadline to register for Legislative Action Day. Register online at www.cacities.org/events.

Please direct questions to [Megan Dunn](#), the League's registrar.

BOE Releases Guide to Local Sales Tax Measures

A local add-on sales tax is legally a “transactions and use tax” (TrUT) and must be adopted in conformance with state law. The state Board of Equalization (BOE) is responsible for administering these taxes, which the BOE also calls “district taxes.” The BOE offers an invaluable publication, [Tax Information for City and County Officials: Local Sales and Use Tax, Transactions \(Sales\) and Use Tax. \(Publication 28\)](#).

The booklet is an invaluable resource for local agencies considering putting a TrUT increase on the ballot, as well as for cities wanting to understand and ensure proper allocation of all sales tax revenues. The publication covers the unique differences between sales and use taxes and TrUT and provides essential resources and contacts to ensure your taxes are adopted legally.

HCD Requests Comments from Small Cities on Five Year Consolidated Plan Outlining New Federal Funding

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is opening a public review period and requesting comments on its [Draft State of California 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan](#). The consolidated plan comprises a housing needs assessment, market analysis, strategic plan and annual action plan. Additionally, the plan allows the HCD to administer approximately \$75 million in new federal funds for FY 2015-16 under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Solutions Grant, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS and Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program.

Cities with populations under 50,000 and counties with populations under 200,000 in unincorporated areas that do not participate in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG entitlement program are eligible to compete for funding under the consolidated plan.

The public review period for this consolidated plan is open for 30 days from April 1-30. Comments must be submitted to HCD no later than 5 p.m. on April 30.

Written comments can be emailed to caper@hcd.ca.gov, faxed to (916) 263-3394, or mailed to the following address:

Attention: Christina DiFrancesco
Department of Housing and Community Development,
Division of Financial Assistance
P.O. Box 952054
Sacramento, California 94252-2054

Trial Court Revenue Distribution Trainings Offered in May

For the third consecutive year, the Judicial Council and State Controller's Office (SCO) will partner to provide in-person training on trial court revenue distribution.

The Judicial Council's Court-Ordered Debt Task Force established this ongoing training in 2013 for court, county, city, and parking entities that perform revenue collection and distribution activities.

In 2015, there will be two in-person trainings:

- Friday, May 8, in San Diego
- Tuesday, May 12, in Sacramento

Specific training and registration information will be provided in April.

Judicial Council and SCO staff are currently developing the curriculum for the May training and are interested in collections and revenue distribution related suggestions you may have regarding topics, issues, or specific subject areas that should be covered.

Past training sessions have addressed:

- Overview of Appendix C Changes;
- Review of the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule;
- Revenue Distribution FAQ Updates;
- Audit and Distribution Issues;
- Court-Ordered Debt Task Force Pilot Program; and
- Revenue Distribution Worksheets.

Expect to see updates regarding these topics as part of 2015 training. Conference planners are interested in suggestions for other topics.

Please submit suggested training topics and all other questions to RevenueDistribution@jud.ca.gov.

Additional resources are online.

- Judicial Council
- [Revenue Distribution](#)
- [Collections](#)
- State Controller's Office
- [Revenue Distribution](#)

2015 National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation Launches Today

Water shortages may be one of the most dramatic headlines in the news, but cities everywhere are facing mounting challenges to the tune of [nearly \\$1 trillion to address aging water systems](#), eliminate water waste, and secure a legacy of sustainable water use for our communities.

The National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation gives local governments a consumer-friendly way to rev up residential interest in addressing those issues, from promoting water and energy efficiency to waste reduction and ecosystem health. Held annually from April 1-30, the nonprofit challenge encourages cities nationwide to see who can be the most "water-wise."

M Mayors are urging residents to participate by pledging to conserve more water and other natural resources at mywaterpledge.com. Cities with the highest participation not only discover ways they can reduce the strain on water systems, they qualify to win over \$100,000 in prizes, including efficient irrigation products, water-saving appliances, and even a Grand Prize Toyota Prius Plug-in. The campaign gets national promotion all month long in USA Today, and winning

cities are recognized in a special segment on the Weather Channel with Al Roker. There's even a [classroom edition](#) for schools.

The National League of Cities is one of the campaign's supporters along with the U.S. EPA and Toro Company. The program is presented by the Wyland Foundation and Toyota.

During the most recent campaign, mayors, city leaders and local water utilities led an effort among residents across 3,600 cities in all 50 states to take 277,742 specific actions over the following year to change the way they use water in their homes, yards and communities.

Translated, those online pledges meant potential reductions in water waste by 1.4 billion gallons. As residents conserve, it also means less money spent on transporting and generating the electricity that brings water to homes, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and less impact on the nation's already overburdened water infrastructure.

Cities can participate in the 2015 National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation by signing an [online letter of support](#), which includes complete details about the program, or by calling (949) 643-7070 to request participation information.
