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Senate Budget Subcommittee Voices Concern about DOF Redevelopment Dissolution Budget Proposal

Dozens of City Officials Testify in Opposition

In a hearing lasting more than two hours on Thursday, dozens of cities testified before the [Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government](#). They traveled to Sacramento to convey their strong opposition to the Department of Finance's (DOF) [proposal](#) to enact a comprehensive set of changes to redevelopment dissolution laws. During the hearing, committee members repeatedly expressed serious concern over DOF's proposal and ultimately held the item. The committee's action yesterday is similar to that of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration, which heard this proposal on [March 3](#). That committee also left the item open. *For more, see Page 2.*



Bills in Committee: April 13-17

With the Legislature's policy committees now in full swing, the League will begin regularly updating members on upcoming hearings on bills of interest to cities. [A full listing](#) of Senate and Assembly hearings is available online. Hearing times are subject to change. *For more, see Page 2.*



Efforts Continue With AB 2 (Alejo & Garcia) to Re-Establish the RDA Tool

Will the Third Time be the Charm? Hearing Scheduled for Tuesday, April 14

The League continues to work with Assembly Member Luis Alejo (D-Salinas) and a coalition of other stakeholders to restore a redevelopment tool that can be used to assist California's most disadvantaged and poorest areas. AB 2 is the third bill introduced in this effort. It is a reintroduction of Assembly Member Alejo's AB 2280 from 2014; an earlier version of the measure was AB 1080 (Alejo) of 2013. The measure will be heard on Tuesday, April 14 in the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development. *For more, see Page 2.*

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Dan Carrigg, the League's legislative director, provided initial opposition testimony. He was followed by a panel of three city representatives: Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey, Watsonville Mayor Pro Tempore Felipe Hernandez and Glendale Chief Assistant City Attorney Gillian van Muyden. The three, along with other city officials and representatives from cities throughout California, focused on the numerous provisions in this proposal that seek to reverse recent appellate court decisions favoring agencies retroactively, reverse incentives and conditions affecting loan repayment, undercut opportunities for local agencies to protect their rights and limit the transparency of the DOF decision making process. This testimony reflected the opposition of the numerous cities that also submitted formal letters of opposition on the proposal to the Senate committee. The League delivered [copies of these letters](#) to the committee prior to Thursday's hearing.

Committee members pressed the DOF representatives on the retroactive provisions of the proposal and asked for clarification on the DOF's intent through the proposal. Committee members expressed concerns with the proposal's effects on court rulings.

Next Steps

The item is still open in both the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4. The League anticipates that DOF will propose revised language in conjunction with the release of the Governor's revised FY 2015-16 budget in early May. Both subcommittees would then review the revised proposal.

'Bills in Committee' Continued from Page 1...

Additional information about the important bills the League is tracking is available in [the 2015 Hot and Priority Bill List](#). This list, first released on April 8, will be continually updated as bills are amended and change. Bill language and any available position letters on legislation can be found through the bill search function on the [League's website](#).

Tuesday, April 14

Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- [HOT AB 2 \(Alejo\) Community revitalization authority](#). *League position: Support.*
- [HOT AB 35 \(Chiu\) Income taxes: credits: low-income housing: allocation increases](#). *League position: Support.*

Wednesday, April 15

Assembly Committee on Local Government, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- [HOT AB 1220 \(Harper\) Transit occupancy taxes: residential short-term rentals units](#). *League Position: Oppose.*

Senate Committee on Governance and Finance, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112

- [HOT SB 321 \(Beall\) Motor vehicle fuel taxes: rates adjustments](#). *League position: Support.*

'AB 2' Continued from Page 1...

AB 2 authorizes the creation of a Community Revitalization Investment Authority (CRIA) at the local level. This agency would be empowered to invest the property tax increment of consenting local agencies (other than schools) and use other available funding to improve conditions leading to increased employment opportunities, including reducing high crime rates, repairing deteriorated and inadequate infrastructure, and developing affordable housing. Its powers and responsibilities would mirror those of former redevelopment agencies, but have been tightened in several ways

including adding rigorous accountability criteria and increasing the traditional affordable housing set-aside to 25 percent.

While last year's effort was vetoed, a significant opening occurred when the author was informed by Gov. Jerry Brown's office that the Governor would consider signing the measure if it was not drafted within the context of former redevelopment statutes. Therefore, the League worked with Assembly Member Alejo's office to redraft the bill in another area of law to reflect the Governor's request. Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella) is also now joint-author for the measure.

AB 2 would provide communities with additional options. While recently-enacted infrastructure finance districts can be helpful in some areas, they are still unproven and not as focused on the challenges of urban renewal. Urban development is tough. In downtowns and older neighborhoods there is old infrastructure, odd-shaped lots, and environmental conditions that must be remediated. Private developers will avoid the additional risks and costs associated with such parcels. Absent new tools and resources, these areas will deteriorate further.

AB 2 fills a void by offering a tool that can be used in the state's rural, disadvantaged poorer areas and neighborhoods, which was the original focus of redevelopment. Thus, this tool can be offered to communities, not to the exclusion of other ideas, but to expand the choices available to fit unique local circumstances.

Supporters for the bill include the California Chamber of Commerce, Housing California and the California Business Properties Association.

Next Steps:

Cities are encouraged to send support letters for this measure. Copies of the League's letter, a sample city letter and the most recent coalition support letter can be found on the League's [website](#).

Cities Urged to Support New Market Tax Credit Legislation

AB 185 Set for Hearing on April 21

The League supports AB 185, authored by Assembly Members Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella) and Jose Medina (D-Riverside), proposing to create the California New Markets Tax Credit program. Cities are urged to support the bill. The program offers a new economic development tool that would help stimulate private sector investments into lower income communities by providing a tax incentive to qualified entities.

This program would complement investments made through the federal New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program, and authorize up to \$40 million in state tax credits to be allocated annually through the program, up to a cumulative total of no more than \$200 million. Versions of this proposal have been advanced before. Last year when Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a similar bill, AB 1399 (Medina), however, the door was left open to possibly revisiting this proposal in the context of the budget.

Under the federal NMTC program, there is no geographic, population or other criteria that directs how the federal tax credits are distributed to projects among the various states. As a result, those states and entities that have aggressively pursued these funds stand a better chance of receiving them. Fourteen states have established similar state-based NMTC programs, which reportedly have leveraged an average of \$13 in combined federal-private investments for every dollar of state revenue.

California cities currently have few tools for job creation, especially in low-income communities. The creation of a NMTC in California would provide major incentives for additional private investment in our communities. The program should be seen as an important component of a package of economic development options that California desperately needs.

Next Steps

The bill will have its first policy committee hearing on April 21 in the Assembly Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy Committee meets. Cities are urged to send in letters of support of this important legislation. The League's support letter, a sample support letter and bill language are available on the [League's website](#).

WEBINAR: Legislative Action Days Preview Briefing on Priority Bills

Join the League's Legislative team on Thursday, April 23 from 1:30-3 p.m. for a legislative briefing to review the top priority bills that will impact local governments. League lobbyists will be sharing information on legislation affecting RDA follow-up, transportation funding, employee relations, public safety and local control.

The League's Legislative Action Day is scheduled for April 29 where you will have the opportunity to lobby your legislators. This webinar will provide you with the information on priority bills that you will need to successfully advocate on behalf of your city.

Please register for this free webinar at www.cacities.org/events by noon on Wednesday, April 22. Webinar log-in information will be sent the afternoon of Wednesday, April 22.

For most League webinars, we allow only one connection per city. However, due to the capacity for this webinar, we are allowing two connections per city to provide easier access for our members.

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

This webinar is free to League Member Cities and League Partners.

Non-Member Cities will be charged \$100 per login.

California City Solutions: Burbank Police Department Teams Up to Address Mental Health Incidents

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](#). Burbank's Mental Health Evaluation Team model was submitted in 2014 for the Public Safety award category.

During the last few years, the Burbank Police Department witnessed a considerable increase in calls involving people in mental health crisis. Addressing these incidents during the budget reductions of the Great Recession led the Burbank Police Department to collaborate with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH). Together the two agencies created the Burbank Mental Health Evaluation Team (MET). This is a co-response model where a licensed clinical social workers provide sworn police officers with guidance in responding to crisis-related incidents on a 24/7 on-call basis.

The Burbank Police Department conducted a study of the number of 5150 WIC (involuntary psychiatric commitments under the California Welfare and Institutions Code) and mental health incidents in Burbank between 2008 and 2012. Results found that officer interactions with residents suffering from mental illness increased from 298 interventions in 2008 to 567 in 2012, a 193 percent increase.

When the Public Safety Realignment Act (AB 109) passed in April 2011, police services were again impacted as approximately 30,000 inmates in the California State Prison System were scheduled to be released on parole. More than half of this group had a Los Angeles County address and the probation department estimated approximately 20 percent of those being released would require further care from LACDMH.

Additional research by the Burbank Police Department showed that frequently in incidents with mentally ill residents, police officers had to provide medical care or set up solutions for better care for someone requiring mental health treatment, which could not be administered onsite at the location of the original incident. The officers often had to place the client on a 5150 hold and transport them to a local medical center for further evaluation. This process takes nearly four hours to complete and requires the services of at least two police officers and a licensed mental health clinician.

The Burbank Police Department began searching for an effective program to help those in need. Officers attended trainings and traveled to other law enforcement agencies hoping to learn what other ideas were being explored in the police community and private sector. After this exploring, the police chief and staff determined a unique co-response model would meet the organization's needs. With the support of the community, the Burbank City Council and Police Department were determined to implement this co-response model while keeping costs low and maximizing existing resources.

In May 2012, the Burbank Police Department and LACDMH formally launched the Burbank Mental Health Evaluation Team (MET). The cooperative effort includes a licensed clinical social worker, provided by the LACDMH and sworn police officers, provided by the Burbank Police Department. The partnership created a cooperative team that combines the expertise and resources of both agencies to provide services that were previously unavailable to the Burbank community.

MET allowed police officers to return to their regular duties more often and had a positive impact on those requiring mental health services. In 2013, Burbank Police Department received 591 calls with mental health implications, of which MET managed 186. Further analysis indicated that MET managed 31.6 percent of the interventions while working only 21 percent of the total hours, proving the model to be effective and efficient. By providing a team to manage these interventions, the department was able to adjust resources toward other needs, saving 882 hours of patrol time, resulting in a monetary savings of more than \$35,000.

MET partnered with the Burbank city attorney to find solutions to habitual offenders and target problem areas within Burbank. Many police agencies often triage a mental health crisis but are not equipped to provide continued care. In order to meet this need, MET expanded its services and followed up with 458 clients who had contacted the department regarding mental health issues or are suffering from homelessness due to mental illness. The team provided counseling, referral services and other expertise to clients and their families, while using private hospital facilities and transportation services, providing relief to the overburdened county mental health system. These resources reduced the department's impact on county services by 30 percent.

MET now also coordinates with the police department to train officers on how to better understand and manage incidents regarding mental health, as well as the Burbank School District, several local non-profit organizations and senior citizen organizations to elevate the level of service they provide.

One of the immeasurable benefits of MET is having a clinician in the field during the first contact with a client, ensuring that they receive the best possible consultation and care and improving long term success, resulting in fewer overall cases requiring interventions. The clinician is able to evaluate and determine if the subject requires immediate transportation to a mental health facility or if more appropriate care could be provided from other resources. The achievements of the Burbank Mental Health Evaluation Team have greatly exceeded what the city of Burbank and the Burbank Police Department had envisioned.

Upcoming Federal TIGER Grant Webinars

Applications due June 5

U.S. Transportation Secretary Foxx has announced \$500 million in the seventh round of [TIGER](#) (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants. Pre-applications are due May 4 with final applications due June 5.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is hosting a [virtual TIGER summit](#) on Thursday, April 16 from 9:00 a.m. (EDT) to 3:30 p.m. (EDT). This event is a seminar for current and prospective TIGER grantees.

In addition, DOT will be hosting the following series of informational webinars for eligible applicants:

- April 14: How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants
- April 23: Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis
- April 28: How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants

For more information and to register, please visit www.dot.gov/TIGER.

Background

Over the past six rounds, TIGER grants have helped launch more than 340 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Like its preceding rounds, this seventh round of TIGER will fund projects that create jobs, foster regional partnerships, advance new technologies, spur economic and community development, and strengthen transportation infrastructure across the country.
