

**July 02, 2015
Issue #65**

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Bills in Committee: July 6-10

Policy committees are in full swing with just two more weeks before the Legislature adjourns on July 17. Both houses return on Aug. 17 for the final weeks of the 2015 legislative session that ends on Sept. 11. The League will be engaged on several bills during the week of July 6-10, many of them Hot. Cities are encouraged to weigh in on these bills. *For more, see Page 2.*



California City Solutions: Eureka Offers Free Summer Camp for Low-Income Families

*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](#). Eureka's Camp Cooper was submitted in 2014 for the Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement award category. *For more, see Page 3.**



Water Conservation Reaches Almost 29 Percent throughout California for the Month of May

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on Wednesday [announced](#) that compared with May 2013, urban water usage is down 28.9 percent. This encouraging news reflects efforts being made by Californians to save water with the state in its fourth year of drought. *For more, see Page 4.*

To access any bill on this list, the League's position letter and sample letters, please go to www.cacities.org/billsearch and plug in the bill number into the search box.

The League's full [2015 Hot and Priority Bill list](#) is available online.

[A full listing](#) of Senate and Assembly hearings is available online. Hearing times are subject to change. Bill language and any available position letters on legislation can be found through the bill search function on the [League's website](#).

Monday, July 6

Senate Appropriations, 10 a.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **AB 702 (Maienschein) CalWORKs: temporary shelter assistance.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1228 (Gipson) Public postsecondary education: campus housing: priority for homeless youth.** *League position: Support.*

Tuesday, July 7

Assembly Business and Professions, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- **HOT SB 643 (McGuire) Medical marijuana.** *League position: Support if Amended.*

Senate Privacy and Consumer Protection, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- **HOT SB 175 (Huff) Peace officers: body-worn cameras.** *League position: Support.*

Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 3191

- **HOT AB 278 (Hernández) District-based municipal elections.** *League position: Oppose.*

Senate Transportation and Housing, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **AB 388 (Chang) Housing: veterans: supportive and transitional housing: reports.** *League position: Support.*
- **HOT AB 744 (Chau) Planning and zoning: density bonuses.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1222 (Bloom) Tow trucks.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1236 (Chiu) Local ordinances: electric vehicle charging stations.** *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*

Wednesday, July 8

Assembly Labor and Employment, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- **SB 3 (Leno) Minimum wage: adjustment.** *League position: Oppose.*

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

- **AB 88 (Gomez) Sales and use taxes: exemption: energy or water efficient home appliances.** *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*
- **AB 313 (Atkins) Enhanced infrastructure financing districts.** *League position: Support.*
- **HOT AB 718 (Chu) Local government: powers.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1157 (Nazarian) Property taxation: certified aircraft assessment.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1217 (Daly) Orange County Fire Authority.** *League position: Oppose.*

Senate Health, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **HOT AB 266 (Bonta) Medical cannabis.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1223 (O'Donnell) Emergency medical services: ambulance transportation.** *League position: Support.*

The city of Eureka almost two decades ago created a summer camp program to keep local students learning and active when school is out. According to the 2012 U.S. Census, 22.1 percent of Eureka's population lives below the poverty line. Eureka's low-income families often have to scramble to find affordable childcare during the summer. Camp Cooper is a free summer camp program for youth ages 5 to 12. The camp also provides a Leaders-in-Training (L.I.T.) Program for youth ages 13 to 17 that are mentored by recreation leaders who teach valuable leadership skills.

According to the National Summer Learning Association, most students lose approximately two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills during the summer without exposure to educational learning activities. Low-income students also lose over two months in reading achievement, while students from higher income level families make slight gains.

More than half of the gap between lower- and higher-income youth achievement is due to access to summer learning opportunities. This can contribute to the fact that low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college. Additionally, the city learned that many children — particularly who are at high risk of obesity — gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school during summer break. I.

The city of Eureka started its free Summer Recreation Program almost two decades ago with a focus on personal and academic development as well as healthy lifestyle. Camp Cooper annually accommodates up to 50 youth per day offering a full-day of programs that feature character building strategies. The camp is held at a public park, rotating every few years.

The developed strategic priorities for the summer camp program include:

- **Provides New Options for Infrastructure Investment and Economic Development.** Camp Cooper's no-cost program and daytime hours provide a valuable free childcare option for working families to take advantage of, enabling them to maintain stable work and contribute to the local economy, while not having to impact any local government financial aid.
- **Expands Reform of Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Policies to Better Contain Long-Term Costs.** Camp Cooper's Summer Camp Program staff, including its coordinating staff, is classified as temporary employees. This enables the city to offer quality programming to low-income families and have no or very little fiscal impact on OPEB.
- **Build Effective Partnerships to Help Respond to Growing Community Needs.** Camp Cooper has a standing partnership with Food-for-People, which provides free sack lunches to low income children whose families cannot afford the additional cost of the extra meals once school is out. This partnership enables the city to provide lunch at no-cost to the 50 youth who participate in camp each day.

Camp recreation leaders are carefully recruited and screened by their level of motivation to give back to the community and have a positive impact on youth. Once selected, staff members go through a very specific training; one which not only focuses on policy and procedure, but also empowers staff to create environments where youth feel safe, are celebrated for their individuality, and are where they want to be.

Camp Cooper offers an opportunity for personal growth. The camp's L.I.T. program gives youth students who have aged out of camp the opportunity to learn and implement many of the same skills and responsibilities of a recreation leader. These young residents have learned the value of receiving the free summer services and then given the opportunity to provide those same services to the next generation.

Camp Cooper's schedule includes both physical and educational activities that promote continuous learning and a healthy active lifestyle during the summer.

Several former campers were so influenced by their experience that they returned as city employees after college. Former Campers and L.I.T's include the current recreation coordinator, who oversees the city's Adorni Recreation Center; the current recreation activities coordinator, who coordinates the city's G.U.L.C.H. Teen Program; and the summer camp coordinator who returns to Eureka each summer to serve the program.

Despite budget cuts, Eureka has continued to invest in quality recreation programs that will improve educational outcomes and assist in developing the full potential of youth in the community. Camp Cooper empowers families to maintain jobs, and spend the quality time with their children when they are not working.

Participating students learn the value of making positive connections and building character and self-esteem because they are the direct beneficiaries as campers. Long time campers transfer their experiences into valuable and tangible skills in the L.I.T. program. These experiences in camp have an overall impact in our community as it sends the campers and L.I.T's out into the world as young adults who pose a set of skills and mindset to positively contribute to the community.

'Water' Continued from Page 1...

Gov. Jerry Brown issued an [Executive Order](#) on April 1 requiring SWRCB to implement restrictions that mandate a 25 percent reduction in water usage statewide based on 2013 consumption. This amounts to 1.5 million acre-feet of water over a nine month period. These standards, which went into effect on June 1, leave it up to local agencies to determine where and how to save. Because outdoor irrigation accounts for up to 80 percent of residential water use, local agencies are encouraged to focus on savings in this area.

Enforcement and compliance statistics reported for the month of May also indicate that water suppliers are following up on water waste complaints and issuing formal warnings and penalties against alleged violators. Complaints are a very important tool for identifying leaks and overwatering that could go undetected for weeks resulting in millions of gallons of wasted water. This latest information comes ahead of the June reporting period, the first month that the new statewide conservation standards were in effect and measured.

SWRCB also released a [fact sheet](#) detailing the May conservation progress. Additional information is available on the [SWRCB website](#).

League Resources

The League has created a [Water Issues Listserv](#) to facilitate solution-oriented communication by city staff about local policy, community outreach efforts and technical issues related to water conservation, stormwater and other water issues.

A wide range of resources are available on the League's [Water Hot Issues webpage](#).

Save Our Water

Launched in 2009, [Save Our Water](#) is a statewide program to help Californians reduce water usage. This program is a collaborative effort between the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Department of Water Resources. The web portal features water saving tips, fact sheets and other related information.

SCG Awards \$122 Million in Affordable, Transit-Friendly Housing Grants and Loans

First Round of Shovel Ready, Transformative Investment Projects to Combat Climate Change

The [California Strategic Growth Council](#) (SCG) on Tuesday approved \$121.9 million in competitive grants and loans to [28 housing and transit-friendly infrastructure projects](#) that reduce greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.

The grants are part of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, which is being implemented by the Department of Housing and Community Development in coordination with SCG and California Air Resources Board. California Climate Investments are programs funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund using proceeds from California's Cap-and-Trade auctions.

These grants and loans help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting more compact, infill development patterns, encouraging active transportation and transit usage, and protecting agricultural land from sprawl development. This year's 28 recommended projects leverage nearly six to one in matching funds and will reduce an estimated 723,286 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions — the equivalent to taking 140,483 cars off the road for one year.

Of the recommended projects, 52 percent include transit-oriented developments. This includes both housing and transportation capital improvements and at least one transit station or stop served by high-quality transit. More than \$31 million in funding, or approximately 25 percent, supports bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, transit station area improvements, transit service and other connectivity between housing and communities.

The selected projects represent dozens of diverse communities from all over California. In addition, 77 percent of this year's recommended grants benefit disadvantaged communities. By law, at least 50 percent of funding must be dedicated to affordable housing and benefit disadvantaged communities. In addition, these recommended projects will support the development of more than 2,000 affordable housing units to support a range of incomes and populations across the state.

The full [news release](#) is available online.

CTC Awards \$224 Million in Transit and Intercity Rail Grants

First Round of Public Transportation Investments to Combat Climate Change

The [California State Transportation Agency](#) (CTC) on Tuesday announced the [2015 recipients](#) of \$224 million in competitive grants that support high-quality public transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions causing worldwide climate change. These climate investments are funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund using proceeds from the state's Cap-and-Trade auctions.

The grant funding is part of the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, implemented by CTC in coordination with the California Department of Transportation and California Air Resources Board. The grants help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by expanding public transportation ridership and capacity.

This year's 14 grants help support approximately \$720 million in public transportation investments and reduce an estimated 860,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent to taking 180,000 cars off the road. The transit entities benefitting from these grants currently support approximately 360 million transit trips per year. In addition, 93 percent of the projects benefit disadvantaged communities.

Benefits from this year's grants include:

- Constructing station and service improvements for Los Angeles basin light rail and improving and increasing service on Southern California commuter rail services across five counties;
- Offering San Diego improved and increased trolley service and 11 miles of new bus rapid transit;
- Expanding Bay Area light rail service and capacity;
- Refurbishing Sacramento rail cars for future express service;
- Adding capacity to Sonoma County rail service;
- Building two new bus rapid transit corridors and reducing locomotive emissions in the San Joaquin region;
- Improving Monterey and Salinas bus service;
- Reducing Capitol Corridor, Altamont Corridor Express and Amtrak San Joaquin corridor travel times;
- Launching a new Orange County rapid bus route;
- Improving local transit transfers to and from the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner; and
- Commencing new, more frequent electric bus service between the Antelope Valley and Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley and new, more frequent electric bus rapid transit in the Antelope Valley.

These improvements include funds for 16 new and seven refurbished light rail vehicles, three rail cars, nine locomotives, 20 compressed natural gas buses, 12 hybrid buses and 30 zero emission electric buses.

A complete list of the grant recipients can be found [online](#).

Mayors and Council Members Department Accepting Applications for Second Vice President

Apply by Aug. 7

The Mayors and Council Members Department of the League of California Cities® is seeking enthusiastic, committed elected officials interested in becoming the department's second vice president. This is a one-year term and the vacancy will be filled at the Annual Conference in San Jose in September.

The department's Executive Committee comprises a president, first vice president, second vice president, immediate past president (all one-year terms) and state League director (two-year term). The second vice president position rotates annually between Northern and Southern California. This year, the department is seeking applicants from Northern California.

Qualifications

The Nominating Committee will use the following information as a basis for selection:

- The individual's professional reputation;
- The individual's perspective on city service;
- Whether the individual has demonstrated a commitment to serving and strengthening the department;
- The individual's depth of knowledge of and experience with city government; and
- The individual's involvement in intergovernmental activities.

Office Responsibilities

The second vice president's responsibilities include acting in the president's or first vice president's absence or inability to act. The second vice president also oversees the Mayors and Council Members' Academy (MCA) and performs other duties assigned by the president.

Application and Selection Process

[Applications](#) will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee (appointed by the current Executive Committee). The proposed 2015-16 Executive Committee slate will be presented for vote at Annual Conference. Nominations for the vacancy will also be open from the floor at the Department Business Meeting during the annual conference.

All applications must be received by Aug. 7. Please direct applications by email to [Sara Rounds](#) fax to (916) 658-8240. Please call Sara at (916) 658-8243 with questions or to confirm receipt of your application.

Reminder: 2016 Planning Commissioners Academy Session Proposals Due by July 15

Do you want to help build the 2016 Planning Commissioners Academy program? Do you have an idea for a new session that will inspire and motivate our attendees? Maybe you know of a colleague that would be an excellent speaker?

The League of California Cities[®] is continuing the search for speakers and session topics for the 2016 Planning Commissioners Academy to be held March 2-4 in San Ramon.

Submissions from any individual, group, business or organization on any topic are welcome. The Program Planning Advisory Committee will consider the educational value of each proposal and the extent to which it presents new and/or significant information.

Submit fully completed ideas, non-commercial in nature through the [online](#) proposal form by Wednesday, July 15 for the committee's consideration.

Help Shape the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute, Session Proposals Due by July 23

Do you want to help build the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute program? Do you have an idea for a new session that will inspire and motivate our attendees? Do you know a colleague who is an excellent speaker?

The League of California Cities[®] is continuing the search for speakers and session topics for the 2016 conference to be held March 9-11 in Sacramento.

Submit fully completed ideas, non-commercial in nature through the [online](#) proposal form by Thursday, July 23 for the committee's consideration.

GO-Biz Launches New California Business Portal: A One-Stop-Shop Website for Business Owners

BusinessPortal.ca.gov Consolidates Information on Starting a Business, State Permits and Regulations, Incentives and More

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development ([GO-Biz](#)) this week launched its [California Business Portal](#), a one-stop-shop website for business owners looking for information and assistance. The new portal is designed to meet the needs of the business community with better online tools and contains information to business owners on starting a new business, permits and licenses, incentives, local resources and more.

The portal is available on the business owner's schedule and has a number of key features, including:

- **Quick Start Guides**, which contain the essential information for starting and growing specific types of businesses in the State of California.
- **California Business Navigator**, which provides custom information for your business including permits, licenses and incentives.

- **Service Desk**, answering commonly asked questions with the California Business Portal Service Desk. If the information for your situation is not here yet, submit your question and GO-Biz will provide a customized answer.
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