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Congress Acts on Short-Term Extension of Transportation Reauthorization
Longer-Term Fix Still in the Works

There has recently been a flurry of activity in Congress to adopt a long-term transportation authorization before the current MAP-21 authorization expires today. In the end, they were only able to agree to a short-term, three-month extension. But negotiations continue on the larger package. *For more, see Page 2.*



Apply Now for an Intensive Training Opportunity on Managing and Reusing Distressed and Vacant Properties

Letters of interest are now being accepted for the [2016 Community Progress Leadership Institute](#). This intensive, four-day leadership workshop helps local and state leaders focus on strategies for managing and reusing distressed and vacant properties. *For more, see Page 2.*



Cities Encouraged to Comment on Prop. 1 Economically Distressed Area Instructions and Mapping Tool Draft
Workshop Scheduled Aug. 26, Comments due Aug. 28

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has opened its public comment period for the recently released draft version of its Proposition 1 Economically Distressed Area (EDA) Instructions and Mapping Tool. *For more, see Page 2.*

'DRIVE' Continued from Page 1...

While California has been focused on putting together a transportation funding package that will address the backlog of projects, Congress has continued to negotiate the federal transportation authorization.

At the end of June, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously voted to send a six-year bill to the Senate Floor dubbed the Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy (DRIVE) Act. However, the Senate finance committees were able to identify only enough funding for three years. After several weeks of negotiations, the Senate adopted HR 22, a six-year authorization with about three years' worth of offsets to address the dwindling balance in the Highway Trust Fund.

Unfortunately, the Senate failed to pass its version in time for the House to consider it before their summer break. Instead, both houses agreed to the short-term, three-month extension of the current authorization bill, MAP-21. The authorization is now set to expire on October 29.

Congress will face another daunting task in October. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew sent a letter to Congress this week indicating that the extraordinary measures the U.S. Government is taking to avoid a default on federal debt will suffice only through October or mid-November.

The House returns from its summer recess on Sept. 8. Once the House passes its version of a long-term authorization, the bills will go to conference committee so that differences can be hammered out.

'Institute' Continued from Page 1...

The workshop is directed by the highly-respected national think tank and technical assistance provider focusing on vacant property revitalization, the Center for Community Progress. This year's institute is tentatively scheduled for March 2016. Organizers hope to select three to four communities from about three states total.

To download the request for letters of interest, visit the Community Progress [website](#) and submit your contact information. The initial letter of interest must be three pages long plus a cover letter. It is due Aug. 6.

For further information, contact [Suzanne Hague](#), AICP, senior advisor for Community Development and Planning, California Strategic Growth Council.

'EPA Mapping Tool' Continued from Page 1...

The [draft EPA Mapping Tool](#) is an interactive map application that allows users to overlay numerous Geographic Information Systems (GIS) layers onto a map of California, in order to assist with evaluating EDA status. Other GIS layers relevant to the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program are also shown on the map. All GIS layers can be toggled on and off while varying each layer's transparency. Each map layer includes a brief description and a location or source where the user can find additional information regarding that layer.

Cities can find EDA instructions for requesting and submitting information about an economically distressed area with your respective state grant or loan program [online](#).

The public comment period for the instructions and mapping tool will close Aug. 28. All comments or questions should be directed to DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov or (916) 651-9613.

A workshop will also be held to demonstrate the EDA Mapping Tool and receive public comment.

Workshop Details

Aug. 26 at 1 p.m.
Bonderson Building

Hearing Room
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Interested cities can also take part via webcast. To do so, call (916) 574-1224 and login to the web-ex [webcast](#).

Register Today for the League's Legislative Briefing Webinar on Aug. 11

Registration Deadline Aug. 7

Join the League's Legislative team for a briefing on major bills that cities need to advocate for and against when the Legislature returns from its summer recess. The Summer Break/End of Session webinar is scheduled from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

This webinar is free for League Members and League Partners. Non-member cities will be charged \$100. Please register for this webinar at www.cacities.org/events by Friday, Aug. 7 at 5 p.m.

Two connections will be available per city. The log-in information will be sent by end of business on Monday, Aug. 10.

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

For all other questions, please contact [Meg Desmond](#).
