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The League and Cities Gear up for Legislature's Return on Aug. 17
*Cities Encouraged to Remain Vigilant for Gut-and-Amends,
Contact Legislators, Engage on Top Bills*

When legislators are back in the Capitol on Monday, they will have just four weeks — until Sept. 11 — to complete their work for the first year of the two-year 2015-16 legislative session. The League this week has been preparing for the end of session with the [Fix Our Roads](#) Coalition press briefing on transportation funding on Monday followed by Tuesday's two-hour [webinar](#) with member cities on priority bills. Cities will be called upon in these final weeks to help the League advocate on a range of issues including transportation, medical marijuana, drones, redevelopment, economic development, Cap-and-Trade revenues, affordable housing funding, waste disposal, water and elections. *For more, see Page 2.*



Major Bills Still in Play as Legislature's Deadline Looms

The Legislature reconvenes on Monday with 26 days left to act on proposed legislation. Bills it does not act upon by Sept. 11 will become two-year bills and can be revisited next year. The following is a list of bills on which the League continues to advocate. Cities should continue submitting letters regarding bills in which they have an interest. *For more, see Page 4.*



**California City Solutions: Innovative Community
Involvement Plans Future of Mill Valley**

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](#). The Mill Valley 2040 General Plan Update was submitted in 2014 for the Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement award category. For more, see Page 10.

Be Engaged, Take Action

The last weeks of the session are typically extremely busy and chaotic in the Capitol. The League's legislative staff will be lobbying on dozens of priority bills as well as any gut-and-amended bills that emerge. Cities should expect frequent updates from the League on legislative developments. The League's grassroots regional public affairs managers will be in constant contact with city staff and *CA Cities Advocate* will publish multiple times a week to keep cities apprised of breaking developments from Sacramento.

Action alerts will be sent via the League's grassroots public affairs managers as well as on the League's new advocacy app. This new mobile tool enables city officials to rapidly respond to action alerts from their mobile device. This app will be especially important on the final days of session when the Legislature works late into the night. To learn more about this new tool and sign up for the app, contact your [grassroots regional public affairs manager](#).

Once the session wraps up on Sept. 11, the League will issue sign/veto requests on legislation that makes it to the Governor's desk. He has until Oct. 11 to take action on bills.

League staff has prepared a list of major legislation that the organization is advocating on in these weeks. Cities are encouraged to review this list of bills and contact their legislators immediately. This list is available on the [League's website](#).

To access bill text, League position letters and sample letters, please go to www.cacities.org/billsearch and plug the bill number into the search function.

Below are a few of the biggest issues the League is working on for the end of session. Information on other important bills is contained in both the [major bill list](#) as well as the slides from the [End of Session Webinar](#) on Aug. 11.

Transportation Funding

With transportation infrastructure funding being one of two special sessions called by Gov. Jerry Brown, a [broad coalition launched](#) on Monday with a press briefing to talk with reporters about priorities for transportation funding. To date, 22 bills and one constitutional amendment have been introduced in the special on transportation funding session. Nine bills, including [SBX1.1 \(Beall\)](#), are scheduled to be heard in the Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Development Committee on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 9:30 a.m.

The Fix Our Roads Coalition believes seven priorities are crucial to fund and maintain California's state and local transportation system. As part of this coalition, the League is advocating for a \$6 billion annual funding package, split 50-50 between the state and locals. The full principles and additional information are available at www.FixCARoads.com.

The League is urging city officials to call their legislators in support of this proposal and email Assistant Legislative Director [Jennifer Whiting](#) lists of shovel-ready projects. Cities are also encouraged to pass a resolution in support of the coalition proposal. A sample proposal is available on the [League's website](#).

Medical Marijuana

The League is conditioning its continued support of [AB 266](#) (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey), a bill to regulate medical marijuana businesses, on removing a provision challenging local control. Despite many other provisions protecting local control, the critical issue now is whether a provision remains in the bill that in effect states that Prop. 215 trumps local ordinances. The League is now heavily involved in negotiating its removal.

AB 266 requires dual licensing, under which marijuana businesses must have both a state-issued license, and a local license or permit, in order to comply with the law. Cities are encouraged to contact their legislators to ask that they ensure that the League is satisfied with the bill's local

control provisions, *before supporting AB 266*. Locals must stress how crucial it is that the local control provisions remain strong in the bill during end-of-session negotiations.

Redevelopment Dissolution

[AB 113 \(Committee on Budget\)](#), the budget trailer bill that would reverse current redevelopment dissolution statute, remains pending in the Senate. This League-opposed bill attempts to reverse court decisions and existing incentives offered to cities in AB 1484 of 2012 as encouragement to expeditiously resolve issues and obtain a Department of Finance “finding of completion.” Now that many agencies have made the concessions necessary to obtain these findings, it is simply wrong to move the goalposts and change the rules.

A six-member Assembly Democrat Working Group has been established to take a more deliberate look at the measure. Nearly 100 cities and the League oppose AB 113 and the League encourages city officials to keep urging legislators to reject this Department of Finance proposal and let them know that cities have been harmed enough through the dissolution process.

Bills in Appropriations Committee

At this point during the session, the appropriations committee in each house is busy reviewing legislation. Aug. 28 is the deadline for the fiscal committees to complete their work before the final two weeks of the session when the Legislature can only hold floor sessions.

[The Senate Appropriations Committee](#) has a full agenda on Monday, Aug. 17 when it convenes at 10 a.m. The League will be advocating on the following bills:

- **HOT AB 2 (Alejo) Community revitalization authority.** *League Position: Support.*
- **AB 22 (Rodriguez) Office of Emergency Services: oil-by-rail spills: firefighters.** *League position: Support.*
- **HOT AB 35 (Chiu) Income taxes: credits: low-income housing: allocation increase.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 88 (Gomez) Sales and use taxes: exemption: energy or water efficient home appliances.** *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*
- **AB 254 (Hernandez) Election dates.** *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*
- **AB 259 (Dababneh) Personal information: privacy.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **HOT AB 266 (Bonta) Medical cannabis.** *League position: Support.*
- **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 1157 (Nazarian) Property taxation: certified aircraft assessment.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1222 (Bloom) Tow trucks.** *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1236 (Chiu) Local ordinances: electric vehicle charging stations.** *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*
- **AB 1301 (Jones-Sawyer) Voting rights: preclearance.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1347 (Chiu) Public contracts: claims.** *League position: Oppose.*

The [Assembly Appropriations Committee](#) is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 8 a.m. The League will be advocating on the following bills:

- **HOT ACA 4 (Frazier) Local government transportation projects: special taxes: voter approval.** *League position: Support.*
- **SB 3 (Leno) Minimum wage: adjustment.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **HOT SB 25 (Roth) Local government finance: property tax revenue allocation: vehicle license fee.** *League position: Support.*
- **HOT SB 239 (Hertzberg) Local services: contracts: fire protection services.** *League position: Oppose.*
- **SB 272 (Hertzberg) The California Public Records Act: local agencies: inventory.** *League position: Oppose Unless Amended.*

- **SB 331 (Mendoza) Public contracts: local agencies: negotiations.** *League position: Oppose.*
 - **SB 533 (Pan) Cities and counties: sales and use tax agreements.** *League position: Support.*
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'Major Bills' Continued from Page 1...

Support

HOT [AB 2 \(Alejo\): Community revitalization authority.](#)

This bill authorizes the creation of a new entity at the local level called a Community Revitalization Investment Authority that would provide a redevelopment option for the most disadvantaged and poorest areas of our state.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 22 \(Rodriguez\): Office of Emergency Services: oil-by-rail spills: firefighters.](#)

This measure will direct the state Office of Emergency Services to establish a program to reimburse local fire departments for costs incurred in sending firefighters to training courses identified by the Curriculum Development Advisory Committee and OES, using funds received from grants or the OES General Fund.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

HOT [AB 35 \(Chiu\): Income taxes: credits: low-income housing: allocation increase.](#)

This bill would increase the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit by \$300 million to build and rehabilitate affordable housing.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 74 \(Calderon\): Care facilities: regulatory visits.](#)

This bill would make community care facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, child day care centers and family day care centers subject to an annual unannounced visit by the Department of Social Services. The department would be required to visit no less than 30 percent of facilities by July 1, 2016, 40 percent by July 1, 2017 and all facilities annually after July 1, 2018.

Location: Senate Appropriations suspense file.

[AB 90 \(Chau\): Federal Housing Trust Fund.](#)

This bill would designate the state Department of Housing and Community Development as the entity responsible for administering funds received through the Federal Housing Trust Fund. The bill requires the department to collaborate with the California Housing Finance Agency in developing an allocation process meeting geographic distribution and other criteria and establishes a stakeholder process to inform these discussions.

Location: Senate Appropriations suspense file.

[AB 169 \(Maienschein\): Local government: public records: Internet.](#)

Under this bill, a local agency, except a school district, which maintains an Internet resources including websites, web pages or web portals described or titled "open data" would be required to post public records in a format that can be retrieved, downloaded, indexed and searched by commonly used Internet search applications.

Location: Senate third reading.

[AB 216 \(Garcia, Cristina\) Product sales to minors: vapor products.](#)

This bill would prohibit the sale of any device intended to deliver a nonnicotine product in a vapor state, to be directly inhaled by the user, to a person under 18 years of age, or to a person under 21 years of age if SB 151 of the 2015-16 Regular Session is enacted and takes effect. The bill would exempt from its prohibition the sale of a drug or medical device that has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

Location: Senate third reading.

[AB 313 \(Atkins\): Enhanced infrastructure financing districts.](#)

This measure contains some clarifications to last year's SB 628 (Beall) requested by city attorneys to facilitate its implementation. These clarifications include requiring the public financing authority, rather than the legislative body as the entity required to prepare the plan, and that any private dwelling units proposed to be removed or destroyed within a district that receives district financing shall be subject to the law's housing replacement requirements.

Location: Senate consent calendar.

[AB 388 \(Chang\): Housing: veterans: supportive and transitional housing: reports.](#)

This bill would require the state Department of Housing and Community Development to report specified performance data as part of an annual evaluation performed by the department, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, on the expenditure of \$600 million in bonds, authorized by Proposition 41, for a variety of housing options including assisting homeless veterans.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 428 \(Nazarian\): Income taxes: credit: seismic retrofits.](#)

AB 428 would authorize up to a 30 percent state income tax credit for the seismic rehabilitation of existing properties.

Location: Senate Appropriations suspense file.

[AB 448 \(Brown\): Local government finance: property tax revenue allocations: vehicle license fee adjustments.](#)

Restores funding stability to cities that annex inhabited territory, and re-establishes a foundation that supports sustainable and compact growth policies.

Location: Senate Appropriations suspense file.

[AB 702 \(Maienschein\): CalWORKS: temporary shelter assistance.](#)

This bill removes the requirement that all 16 days of eligibility for homeless assistance under CalWORKS must be used consecutively, thereby enabling an individual to obtain such assistance when needed.

Location: Senate Appropriations suspense file.

[AB 870 \(Cooley\): Homelessness: rapid rehousing.](#)

This bill would provide \$1 million to establish a pilot program within the Department of Housing and Community Development to award grants to four counties that operate rapid rehousing programs

Location: Senate Appropriations suspense file.

[AB 988 \(Stone, Mark\): Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grants Program.](#)

AB 988 would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to establish an Outdoor Environmental Education and Recreation Grants Program. This would increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor recreation and educational experiences by awarding grants to public or nonprofit organizations.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1056 \(Atkins\): Second Chance Program.](#)

This bill would require the Board of State and Community Corrections to administer a grant program aimed at reducing recidivism. It focuses on assisting ex-offenders secure housing and mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment.

Location: Senate Appropriations suspense file.

[AB 1146 \(Jones\): Skateboard parks.](#)

AB 1146 would expand existing liability protections at public skateboard parks to include the use of all wheeled recreational devices.

Location: Governor's desk.

[AB 1157 \(Nazarian\): Property taxation: certificated aircraft assessment.](#)

This bill would extend the sunset date on the current program used by county assessors for assessing property tax on certificated aircraft.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1222 \(Bloom\): Tow trucks.](#)

AB 1222 would add additional requirements on tow truck operators with the intention of addressing unscrupulous tow truck businesses.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1223 \(O'Donnell\): Emergency medical services: ambulance transportation.](#)

AB 1223 would require the California Emergency Medical Services Authority to develop a methodology for determining an acceptable amount of time for EMS crews to offload their patients at emergency departments. It would also require local EMS authorities to adopt this methodology and begin keeping track of wait times. It would also give EMS crews the ability to deliver their patients to alternative treatment locations when emergency departments cannot receive them.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1228 \(Gipson\): Public postsecondary education: campus housing: priority for homeless youth.](#)

This bill would request that community college and state universities provide assistance to students who are homeless youth.

Location: Senate third reading.

[AB 1262 \(Wood\): Telecommunications: universal service: California Advanced Services Fund.](#)

This bill would transfer \$5 million to the Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account.

Location: Senate third reading.

HOT [AB 1335 \(Atkins\): Building Homes and Jobs Act.](#)

AB 1335 would generate up to \$700 million per year for affordable rental or ownership housing, supportive housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing and other housing needs via a \$75 recordation fee on real estate transactions. This fee would not apply to home sales.

Location: Assembly third reading.

HOT [ACA 4 \(Frazier\): Local government transportation projects: special taxes: voter approval.](#)

This bill would lower the voter threshold requirements for special taxes by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for transportation projects from 2/3rds approval to 55 percent approval.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

HOT [SB 25 \(Roth\): Local government finance: property tax revenue allocation: vehicle license fee adjustments.](#)

This bill would restore funding stability to four recently incorporated cities, Eastvale, Wildomar, Menifee and Jurupa Valley, which have experienced severe financial hardships since 2011, when the state swept all remaining shares of city vehicle license fee revenues. SB 25 resolves this problem with a statutory formula that provides cities that incorporated between 2004 and 2013 with shares of property tax to offset the amount of vehicle license fee revenue they would have received. In future years, the amount would be adjusted according to the same rules applied to other cities.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[SB 140 \(Leno\): Electronic cigarettes.](#)

This bill defines "smoking" and broadens the definition of "tobacco product" to include electronic cigarettes. It would extend current restrictions and prohibitions against the use of tobacco products to electronic cigarettes

Location: This measure is now a part of the special session as SBX2 5 (Leno) / ABX2 6 (Cooper). SBX2 5 is in the special session's Public Health and Developmental Services Committee.

SB 168 (Gaines) Unmanned aircraft systems: first responder immunity.

SB 168 would provide local agency first responders, excluding sheriffs' departments, with immunity for any damage to an unmanned aircraft system, if that system was interfering with emergency ambulance services, firefighting operations, or search and rescue operations.

Location: This bill is not yet in print as amendments are pending.

[HOT SB 175 \(Huff\): Peace officers: body-worn cameras.](#)

SB 175 will require each police agency, if it elects to require its officers to wear body cameras, to develop a policy relating to the use of the cameras, and to distribute a copy of that policy to the officers required to wear them.

Location: Assembly third reading.

[HOT SB 321 \(Beall\): Motor vehicle fuel taxes: rates: adjustments.](#)

This bill would infuse more stability into the variable gas tax rate set by the Board of Equalization by taking into account fuel prices of the previous four years in addition to the estimated fuel price of the current year.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[SB 485 \(Hernandez\): County of Los Angeles: sanitation districts.](#)

SB 485 would authorize the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to manage stormwater and dry weather urban runoff. This legislation would help reduce compliance costs by allowing the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County to use its civil engineering and water quality expertise to assist cities in Los Angeles County in an efficient and effective manner with the Los Angeles Region municipal separate storm sewer systems permit.

Location: Assembly second reading.

[SB 493 \(Cannella\): Elections in cities: by or from districts.](#)

This bill would allow a city to switch to a by-district election system using the ordinance process.

Location: Assembly second reading.

[SB 533 \(Pan\): Cities and counties: sales and use tax agreements.](#)

SB 533 would amend existing law to remove several exceptions which enable sales tax rebate agreements that result in shifts of local Bradley-Burns sales taxes. The bill would require notification of affected agencies prior to enacting future agreements that would result in reduced sales tax allocations to the affected agencies.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[SB 658 \(Hill\): Automated external defibrillators.](#)

This bill would expand immunity provisions pertaining to automated external defibrillators by amending existing law to make it conform to technological advances in the use of these devices.

Location: Assembly third reading.

[HOT SBX1 1 \(Beall\): Transportation funding.](#) (previously [SB 16](#))

SBX1 1 would create a funding program with a focus on the preservation and maintenance of the existing local streets and roads system and state highway system. The bill would raise an estimated \$4.3 billion to \$4.6 billion annually. Allocations would include 12 cents of diesel tax increase to go to trade corridors, 5% off the top to incentivize local measures in counties that do not currently have a local measure and the remainder split evenly between the SHOPP (highway maintenance) and local streets and roads. Revenues would be raised from the following sources: 12 cent increase in excise tax on fuel, 22 cent increase in excise tax of diesel, \$35 VRF increase for all vehicles, \$100 VRF increase for electric vehicles, payback of outstanding loans over a three-year period and \$35 road access fee.

Location: Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Development Committee.

[SBX1 11 \(Berryhill\)](#)

SBX1 11 would exempt roadway improvements within the existing rights of way from CEQA if certain conditions are met.

Location: Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Development Committee.

[SBX1 14 \(Cannella\)](#)

This bill would remove the sunset date on existing law that allows CalTrans and regional transportation agencies to use public-private partnerships. The authorization is currently set to expire January 1, 2017.

Location: Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Development Committee.

Support If Amended

[AB 464 \(Mullin\): Transactions and use taxes: maximum combined rate.](#)

This measure would increase the authorized cap on the local transaction and use tax from 2% to 3% percent.

Location: Governor's desk.

HOT [SB 643 \(McGuire\): Medical marijuana.](#)

This bill would establish a system for licensing and regulation of medical marijuana dispensing facilities, cultivation sites, transporters and manufacturers, including requiring a background check of license applicants.

Location: Assembly second reading.

Oppose

HOT [AB 36 \(Campos\): Local government: federal surplus property.](#)

This bill would prohibit a local agency from receiving surplus military equipment without a vote at a public meeting and declares this a matter of statewide concern. The League of Cities opposes this measure as an unjustified incursion upon municipal sovereignty. Under current law, local agencies are fully within their constitutional police power in deciding whether to acquire military equipment from the Department of Defense and under what circumstances.

Location: Senate third reading.

[AB 56 \(Quirk\): Unmanned aircraft systems.](#)

This bill specifies requirements for the use of drones by law enforcement agencies, including adoption of local policies governing that use. It would: prohibit surveillance of activities covered by the First Amendment, and surveillance of private property without a warrant or the owner's consent, with narrow exceptions; codify cause of action against local agencies for violations; impose rules regarding surveillance that contradict the Plain View Doctrine governing observation by helicopters; and impose requirements on destruction of data with narrow exceptions for training purposes and academic research.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

HOT [AB 57 \(Quirk\): Telecommunications: wireless telecommunication facilities.](#)

This bill would deem approved any application for colocation or siting of new wireless facilities if a jurisdiction does not approve or disapprove the application within the timelines required by the Federal Communications Commission.

Location: Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

[AB 259 \(Dababneh\): Personal information: privacy.](#)

AB 259 would require a public agency that is the source of a data breach to provide at least 12 months of appropriate identity theft protection and mitigation services at no cost to the consumer if the breach exposed, or may have exposed a person's name in combination with a social security number or driver's license number.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 272 \(Lackey\): California Fair Employment and Housing Act: reserve peace officers.](#)

This bill would make a person deputized or appointed as a reserve deputy sheriff or a reserve city police officer an employee of the appointing authority under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act.

Location: Senate third reading.

[AB 305 \(Gonzalez\): Workers' compensation: permanent disability apportionment.](#)

This bill would prohibit apportionment of permanent disability from being based on pregnancy, menopause, or osteoporosis causally related to menopause if the condition is contemporaneous with the claimed physical injury. AB 305 would also require that the impairment ratings for breast cancer be no less than those for prostate cancer.

Location: Senate Appropriations suspense file.

[AB 718 \(Chu\): Local government: powers.](#)

This bill would prohibit local agencies from enforcing laws and ordinances, or otherwise subject to civil or criminal penalties, the act of people sleeping or resting in a lawfully parked motor vehicle.
Location: Senate third reading.

HOT [AB 744 \(Chau\): Planning and zoning: density bonuses.](#)

As drafted, this measure would reduce local parking requirements that can be imposed on senior housing, special needs housing and housing within one-half mile of a major transit stop. The bill does not appropriately recognize local parking realities or community preferences.
Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[AB 1301 \(Jones-Sawyer\): Voting rights: preclearance.](#)

AB 1301 creates a statewide pre-clearance system requiring that all changes to an election system within a qualifying jurisdiction obtain approval by the Secretary of State before implementation. The bill is nearly identical to 2014's AB 280, which many local governments and agencies opposed. It makes slight changes to address incidents within 30 days of an election, but it remains a sweeping and costly mandate that does little to identify areas with a legitimate problem.
Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[SB 3 \(Leno\): Minimum wage: adjustment.](#)

This bill would increase the minimum wage, on and after January 1, 2016, to not less than \$11 per hour, and on and after July 1, 2017, to not less than \$13 per hour. The bill would require, commencing January 1, 2019, an annual automatic adjustment calculated using the California Consumer Price Index.
Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

HOT [SB 239 \(Hertzberg\): Local services: contracts: fire protection services.](#)

SB 239 places agreements between public agencies to provide fire protection services under the purview of local agency formation commissions (LAFCOs). This bill requires the contracting local agency to receive written permission from the recognized employee organization to extend fire services outside its service area. Flexibility for local agencies to contract for services is necessary to ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness and maximize resources to meet the needs of the public. LAFCOs are not, and should not be, tasked with making the day-to-day financial decisions for local agencies. It is also unclear if, under the bill, local agencies would have recourse to protest the employee organization's disapproval of a contract.
Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[SB 331 \(Mendoza\): Public contracts: local agencies: negotiations.](#)

This bill would specify procedures for the negotiation and approval of certain contracts valued at \$250,000 or more for goods or services by cities, counties, cities and counties, or special districts that have adopted a civic openness in negotiations ordinance, or COIN ordinance. It would local governments to disclose information relating to the contract and contract negotiations on its website. The bill would also: prohibit a final determination by the governing body regarding approval of any contract until the matter has been heard at a minimum of two public meetings.
Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[SB 379 \(Jackson\): Land use: general plan: safety element.](#)

This bill would require that cities address climate-resiliency strategies in the safety element of their General Plans, when next they revisit their housing elements on or after January 1, 2017. Under SB 379, the update would need to include goals, policies, and objectives based upon an assessment of the risks that climate change poses to the jurisdiction.
Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Oppose Unless Amended

[AB 88 \(Gomez\): Sales and use taxes: exemption: energy or water efficient home appliances.](#)

This bill would exempt from sales and use taxes until 2021 the gross receipts from energy or water efficient refrigerators and washing machines purchased by a public utility for low-income participants in energy or water efficiency programs.
Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[**HOT AB 113 \(Committee on Budget\): Local government.**](#)

This bill contains the Governor's Budget Proposal Affecting Redevelopment Dissolution, which would reverse and constrict previous incentives and due process offered to cities. These include efforts to narrow the definition of "loans" to be repaid and reduce interest rates. Other provisions further insulate Department of Finance decisions from review via an exemption from the Administrative Procedures Act and limiting local agencies' ability to pay for attorneys in court.
Location: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.

[**AB 254 \(Hernandez, Roger\): Election dates.**](#)

This bill would eliminate established election dates in March and April.
Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[**AB 1236 \(Chiu, Low\): Local ordinances: electric vehicle charging stations.**](#)

This bill requires cities and counties to streamline and expedite the permitting and inspection process for electric vehicle charging stations.
Location: Senate Appropriations Committee.

[**SB 272 \(Hertzberg\): The California Public Records Act: inventory.**](#)

SB 272 would require local agencies to create a publicly available catalog of enterprise systems on the agency's website. The bill would also require the disclosure of a system's vendor, a statement of its purpose and a general description of categories, modules or layers of data.
Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee.

'CCS: Mill Valley' Continued from Page 1...

For the first time in more than two decades, the city of Mill Valley adopted a new comprehensive General Plan in October 2013, providing a vision and blueprint of ideas and goals. Establishing public trust was a critical part of the MV2040 General Plan update to ensure that the city's decision makers to feel comfortable with newly updated goals, policies and programs. Community participation was also essential to the ultimate success of MV2040.

The city's last comprehensive General Plan update was in 1989, with the Housing Element adopted in 2003. Because of the time gap, the city had residents lacking knowledge of the purpose of a General Plan or how it could be used to develop a collective vision for the community to guide future planning. Mill Valley leaders committed to creating a process that was available to a wider variety of residents and decided to implement a process that took into account the fact that a significant percentage of city residents are comfortable accessing information digitally and perhaps less interested in the traditional method of community meetings. The city wanted to include the adoption and certification of the Housing Element as part of the MV2040 General Plan process.

Transparency in the General Plan update process was a key goal and important when including the community for determining goals and policy decisions related to land use, transportation and housing.

A General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and three General Plan Working Groups (Community Vitality, Natural Environment, and Land Use and Mobility) were established to take part in an 18-month, multi-phase community-based effort to update the General Plan. The phases were:

- **Phase I: Community Values.** The working groups were first tasked with updating community values and identifying common themes through the course of initial discussions related to existing conditions, trends and thinking about the future of Mill Valley.
- **Phase II: Goals, Policies and Programs.** The working groups then transitioned to developing goals, policies and programs for GPAC's review.
- **Phase III: Draft General Plan.** GPAC reviewed the existing conditions and working group goals, policies and programs that were then folded into a Draft General Plan document.

Comprised of more than 40 residents, the committees held over 50 community meetings between April 2012 and May 2013. The city used its website capabilities to distribute meeting materials and allow the review of documents. Meetings and hearings were webcast live and the video shown on the local government access channel.

A virtual meeting space was established and attracted participants who may not have otherwise attended a traditional meeting. More than 235 residents registered and 160 comments were posted on the site.

From its inception, the goal of the General Plan Update was to keep the process manageable with a two-year timeframe, a budget of \$450,000 and use existing staff resources, and to keep the final document simple and community-inspired.

The update process was conducted in-house with planning staff as the primary facilitators. The city's goal was to build community trust in the effectiveness of the planning process and in planning staff's ability to process local interests by listening and reflecting community thoughts into General Plan goals, policies and programs.

A Speaker Series of speakers including John King (*San Francisco Chronicle*), Peter Calthorpe (urban planner) and Ed Everett (civic engagement) kicked off the project to talk about big picture ideas. A short two-part workbook was also developed to deliver facts and trends to watch related to land use and economy, mobility, and health and safety.

The city conducted an old-fashioned walking tour to raise community awareness about housing density. Seeing well-designed multi-family developments that had been in Mill Valley for years, built at 20 to 30 units to the acre, helped show residents that the city could provide the housing needed and still keep the small town character.

The Housing Element also took a different approach in addressing regional housing need allocation numbers. Instead of selecting sites, a capacity analysis was conducted for the city. Through Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software, the city was able to identify all parcels that met specific criteria, rather than pin pointing or highlighting specific large or vacant parcels in the city. This approach helped communicate and illustrate that potential change and development could occur throughout the community within the existing, allowable land use, zoning and development guidelines.

The [MV2040 General Plan](#) was completed in 22 months, from city council authorization to adoption. Its creation relied on in-house staff with specialized consultant assistance, came in under budget, and brought together a variety of individual interests and stakeholder. It establishes a broad-based community vision to grow and nurture the arts and culture, civic engagement, a local serving economy and the natural environment. It is also a call to action for complete streets, health and welfare, sustainability, emergency preparedness and resilience, and housing opportunities for the local workforce, aging population and influx of young families with children.

MV2040 creates annual and five-year General Plan reviews to be tied to the Mill Valley City Council's annual goal-setting and budget process. Most of the MV2040 General Plan maps are GIS-based and will also be available online to allow community members to identify items such as trails and paths, natural environment and hazards at a parcel-specific or city-wide perspective.

Learn How to Build Financial Strength and Sustainability with Sessions at League's Annual Conference

Attending the League of California Cities® Annual Conference & Expo can be one of the wisest investments your city makes. What you learn will directly benefit your constituents. Take a peek at a few of the sessions we are offering this year:

- **Economic Development Project Funding in 2015 — “Sustainability” Replaces Redevelopment** — Hear how cities can install new financing mechanisms and provide financial assistance for projects in a post-RDA world. With an improving economy and

recent legislative changes in California, cities have new tools, mandates, and funding sources to promote sustainable economic development and infrastructure projects. Identify new tools, their ability to use/attract private investment, expedite project approvals, create sustainable public-private partnerships and projects transforming communities, and install needed local/regional infrastructure

- **Summer at City Hall: Winning Formula for Students and Staff** — Learn how the city of Sacramento, in partnership with its four school districts and various community agencies, has taken a proactive role in developing tomorrow's engaged citizens and future public sector workforce. Through its 7-week Summer at City Hall program including class time, field trips and city department internships, 100 high school students gain civic knowledge, local government interest, and develop an advocacy platform to improve their neighborhoods. Learn how to replicate this program which not only engages students, but positively impacts the city and the employees working with the students.
- **Cap-and-Trade: What Cities Need to Know** — The 2014-15 State Budget included the first real appropriations of Cap-and-Trade Auction Revenues. Hear from some of the state agencies and departments on how your city can access this expanding funding source.

Also, in case you missed it, two sessions relating to municipal finance were recently added to the program:

- **How Cities are Building Financial Strength with the Municipal Financial Health Diagnostic** — How can you keep your city from financial disaster? Grappling effectively with financial distress before it becomes a crisis first requires a shared understanding of the financial condition of your city. Most financial crises can be managed without court or outside agency intervention if leaders, staff and key interests have the courage, competence, and collaboration to recognize and agree upon the city's financial condition and implement the necessary changes. The first step is properly evaluating financial condition. The League's California Municipal Financial Health Diagnostic can be an invaluable tool to identifying strengths and uncovering areas that need improvement. Come hear the stories of cities that are on a path toward better financial health through the Municipal Financial Health Diagnostic.
- **A Quick Understanding of Your City Financial Statements for Non-Finance People** —The session will cover how a non-finance person can quickly grasp the key parts of their audited financial statements. Your 150 page audited document doesn't have to be a mystery. Items in the session include understanding the key buckets of cash in various city funds, key features of the balance sheet, key parts of the revenue/expense recaps, cash flow statements and significant note disclosures. So bring a highlighter pen and a copy of your financial statements and end up with a usable understanding of your city's money.

[Register](#) now to attend these sessions and more.

Revising Sign Ordinances after Reed v. Town of Gilbert Webinar on Aug. 19

In [Reed v. Town of Gilbert](#) the Supreme Court ruled that Gilbert's sign code violates the First Amendment.

Many, if not most, communities must now revise their sign codes. Most sign codes apply different rules to different categories of signs based on content, which the Supreme Court now generally prohibits. Discuss the practical implications of this case for local governments with [John M. Baker](#), [Greene Espel](#) in a free 75 minute webinar on Aug. 19 from 10-11:15 a.m.

Continuing Legal Education is not offered for this webinar.

[Register online](#). You will receive a confirmation email containing details on how to join the webinar once you complete registration.

For questions about this webinar, contact [Lisa Soronen](#), executive director, State and Local Legal Center, at (202) 434-4845.

NLC to Host Regional Resilience Leadership Workshop in Southern California

The Sustainable Cities Institute at the National League of Cities (NLC), in partnership with Esri, is hosting a [Resilience Leadership Workshop](#) on Sept. 21-22 in Redlands for municipalities in Southern California. This workshop will focus on the connection between resilient infrastructure, civic data, and effective community engagement. The primary goal is to help bring the latest tools and planning practices into the mainstream to the benefit of communities of any size. Going beyond climate-related disasters, the workshop will demonstrate how local leaders can use these tools to improve the environmental, economic, and social vitality of their communities.

Sessions will alternate between presentations of innovative new tools and break-out time to connect directly with expert speakers and discuss how to replicate best practices in their own communities. NLC will contact attendees as they register, and the final agenda will be responsive to the specific goals and challenges they identify. Just by signing up, you're already taking the first step to making this a valuable event for your community.

The Resilience Leadership Workshop will be attended by 'City Teams.' Instead of catering to individuals, each participating municipality will be required to have at least two attendees who are either elected officials or full-time city staff. In addition to these two representatives, City Teams may also include other city departments, utilities, civic groups, military installations, and other non-municipal organizations that are critical partners in local resilience. This City Team format is a deliberate effort to engage multidisciplinary stakeholders and help communities make stronger connections.

Workshop Details

Location: Esri Headquarters, Building Q, 380 New York St, Redlands, CA 92373

The workshop is being provided for City Teams free of charge. To confirm your attendance, a credit card must be provided for a \$250 holding deposit. The deposit will be fully refunded as long as two members of the City Team attend and participate. All attendees will be provided with breakfast and lunch during the dates of the convening, and are invited to a welcome reception evening of Monday, Sept. 21.

Apply and register [online](#) by Aug. 31.

For questions regarding the workshop, please contact [Cooper Martin](#) at (202) 626-3127.
