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Bills Impacting Cities Reach Governor's Desk

Scores of bills — including many of interest to cities — reached the desk of Gov. Jerry Brown before the Legislature's Sept. 11 deadline. The Governor now has until Oct. 11 to sign or veto bills. *For more, see Page 2.*



League Joins News Conference Urging Governor to Sign Medical Marijuana Regulatory Package

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie on Thursday, Sept. 17, joined three of the authors of AB 266 (Bonta), the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act, to urge the Governor to sign it, as well as AB 243, (Wood) and SB 643(McQuire), the other two parts of the medical marijuana regulation trio of bills enacted in the session that adjourned last Friday. *For more, see Page 5.*



League First Vice President and Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael Speaks at White House as First Lady Michelle Obama Celebrates Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties

League First Vice President and Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael joined First Lady Michelle Obama and representatives from the National League of Cities (NLC) as well as several federal agencies at the White House on Wednesday to honor achievements made by local elected officials participating in the [Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties \(LMCTC\)](#) initiative. *For more, see Page 6.*

The following is a list of bills on which the League is urging the governor to sign or veto. Cities should submit letters regarding bills in which they have an interest. For more information on legislative language, the League's position letters and sample position letters for cities, please enter bill number in the League's [bill search](#). Sign or veto letters may also be submitted through the League's online [action center](#).

Request for Signature

HOT AB 2 (Alejo): Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities

This bill would authorize 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.

HOT AB 35 (Chiu, Atkins): Housing Tax Credit

AB 35 would increase the state's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit from \$70 to \$170 million annually for five years, providing an additional \$500 million to a program that is always heavily oversubscribed.

AB 90 (Chau): Federal Housing Trust Fund

This bill would prepare for the future allocations by designating the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as the entity responsible for administering funds received through the Federal Housing Trust Fund. It would require HCD 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.

AB 169 (Maienschein): Local Government: Public Records: Internet

This bill would require that agencies that maintain an Internet Resource which is titled or described as "open-data" meet specified formatting requirements.

AB 216 (Garcia): Vapor Products

This bill would prohibit the sale of any device intended to deliver a non-nicotine product in a vapor state, to be directly inhaled by the user, to a person under 18 years of age.

HOT AB 243 (Wood): Medical Marijuana

AB 243 would require: licensing and regulation of marijuana cultivation under the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA); the Department of Pesticide Regulation to develop related standards for pesticides and other foreign object residue, including maximum tolerances; and the Department of Public Health to develop standards for production and labelling of marijuana edibles. This bill would also assign joint responsibility to DFA, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to prevent illegal water diversion associated with marijuana cultivation from adversely affecting California fish population. The bill would also direct a multi-agency task force (DFW-SWRCB) to expand existing enforcement efforts to a statewide level to reduce adverse environmental impacts such as illegal discharge into waterways and poisoning of marine life and habitats.

HOT AB 266 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Wood): Medical Marijuana

AB 266 would protect local control as it establishes statewide regulatory scheme. Under the bill, state regulation would be headed by the Bureau of Marijuana Regulation within Department of Consumer Affairs. The bill would provide for dual licensing: the state would issue licenses, while local governments would issue permits or licenses to operate marijuana businesses, according to local ordinances. This legislation would also require establishment of uniform health and safety standards, testing standards, and security requirements at dispensaries and during transport of the product.

AB 313 (Atkins): Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District: Cleanup

This bill would make various improvements to the Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District tool to facilitate implementation.

AB 388 (Chang): Homeless Veteran's Housing Funding Reports

AB 388 would require the HCD to report specified performance data to the Legislature 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 Prop. 41, for a variety of housing options including assisting homeless veterans.

AB 428 (Nazarian): Seismic Rehabilitation Tax Credits

This bill would offer a 30 percent tax credit for seismic rehabilitation of endangered properties, capped at a total of \$12 million per-year over a four-year program.

AB 851 (Mayes): LAFCO: Disincorporation

AB 851 would update existing disincorporation laws, including requiring plan for providing services to the area following disincorporation.

AB 1157 (Nazarian): Aircraft Property Tax Assessment

This bill would continue the existing aircraft property tax assessment program based on local county assessors for one year.

AB 1222 (Bloom): Tow Trucks

This bill would address the problem of tow truck scams by requiring better documentation and providing tools for better enforcement.

HOT AB 1223 (O'Donnell): Emergency Medical Services: Ambulance Transportation

AB 1223 would alleviate wait time for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel delivering patients by requiring 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 rooms. The bill would require local EMS authorities to adopt this methodology and begin tracking wait times, and it would give EMS crews the ability to deliver their patients to alternative treatment locations when emergency departments cannot receive them.

AB 1228 (Gibson): Housing for Homeless and Foster Youth

This bill would encourage additional flexibility in student housing facilities at state community college and university campuses for the challenges faced by students who are formerly homeless and foster youth.

HOT SB 25 (Roth): Incorporations

This bill would assist, through a property tax adjustment, four recently incorporated cities harmed by prior vehicle license fee takeaway.

SB 168 (Gaines, Jackson): Unmanned Aircraft Systems

This bill would provide first-responder immunity for damage to drones interfering with firefighting, airborne or ground ambulances and search-and-rescue operations. It increases fines for violation of existing laws prohibiting operations in flight-restricted airspace during emergencies.

HOT SB 485 (Hernandez): County of L.A.: Sanitation Districts

SB 485 would authorize sanitation districts in Los Angeles County to acquire, construct, operate, maintain and furnish facilities for the diversion, management, and treatment of stormwater and dry weather runoff.

HOT SB 493 (Cannella): Elections in Cities: By or From Districts

SB 493 would authorize a city council of a city with a population less than 100,000 to adopt an ordinance to switch the election system from at-large to by-district.

SB 533 (Pan): Sales Tax Rebate Agreements

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

HOT SB 643 (McGuire): Medical Marijuana

This bill would impose fines of up to \$5,000 against physicians for violating the prohibition against having a financial interest in a marijuana business. Recommendations for cannabis without a prior examination would constitute unprofessional conduct. This bill would also: impose restrictions on advertising for physician recommendations; place Department of Food and Agriculture in charge of cultivation regulations and licensing, and require a track-and-trace program; itemize disqualifying felonies for state licensure; place the Department of Pesticide Regulation in charge of pesticide regulation and Department of Public Health in charge of production and labelling of edibles; uphold local power to levy fees and taxes.

Request for Veto

HOT AB 36 (Campos): Local Government: Federal Surplus Property

This bill would prohibit local agencies from receiving surplus military equipment under the federal 1033 program unless the legislative body of the local agency has first voted to approve the acquisition at a public meeting that is compliant with the Brown Act. Amendments allowing for closed-session votes and limited disclosure about approved equipment under specified circumstances were deleted from bill.

HOT AB 57 (Quirk): Wireless Telecom Facilities

This bill would deem approved any application for colocation or siting of a new wireless telecommunications facility if a city or county fails to approve or disapprove the application within time periods that the Federal Communications Commission established.

AB 88 (Gomez): Sales Tax Exemption: Utility Appliance Purchases

This bill seeks to expand the scope of utility programs that provide free appliances to low income individuals, by exempting the utility from sales tax (both state and local shares) associated with the equipment purchases. While the policy objective may have merit, the bill gives away local shares of sales tax which are needed to fund basic services. The state should be free decide when to offer its own shares of sales tax as an incentive, but not local shares which should remain a local decision.

HOT AB 305 (Gonzalez): Workers' Compensation: Permanent Disability Apportionment

AB 305 would prohibit apportionment of a permanent disability claim in the case of a physical injury from being based on: pregnancy (or menopause if the condition is contemporaneous with the claimed physical injury) or psychiatric injury occurring on or from being based on psychiatric disability or impairment caused by sexual harassment.

HOT AB 744 (Chau): Density Bonus-Parking

AB 744 would undermine local control by establishing unrealistically low parking standards for various affordable housing projects.

AB 1236 (Chiu): EV Charging Stations

This bill would require cities and counties to streamline and expedite the permitting and inspection process for electric vehicle charging stations.

AB 1301 (Jones-Sawyer): Voting Rights: Preclearance

AB 1301 would establish a statewide preclearance system, requiring that voting-related laws, regulations and policies be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

HOT SB 239 (Hertzberg): Fire Service Contracting/LAFCO: Request for Veto

This bill would impose significant barriers to new or extensions of contracts for firefighting services outside of jurisdictional boundaries, without the approval of affected labor groups.

HOT SB 331 (Mendoza): Public Contracts: Local Agencies: Negotiations

SB 331 would require that cities, counties or special districts that have a COIN ordinance for labor negotiations to apply the same standards to other contracts valued at \$250,000 or more for goods or services.

SB 379 (Jackson): Land Use: Safety Element

This bill would require the safety element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to that city or county.

SB 406 (Jackson): Employment: Leave

This bill would change what family members are covered under existing law. It would also permit parents who work for the same employer to each take 12 weeks of leave.

No Position**SB 107 (Budget): RDA Dissolution**

This legislation would make numerous changes to redevelopment dissolution laws; this 104 page bill came into print and was approved on Sept. 11th, the last day of the session. Since the bill is sponsored by the Administration, there is little doubt the Governor will not sign it. The League raised concerns with provisions related to the repayment of city loans. While the loan-related language has improved from previous versions contained in AB 113, and a letter to the Journal was submitted to clarify aspects, the impacts on cities affected by this issue will depend on future Department of Finance interpretation and implementation. There are also other provisions in the measure of direct benefit to cities and other agencies. In anticipation of a signature, the League is working on a detailed explanation for its members to be distributed in the coming days.

'Medical Marijuana' Continued from Page 1...

Held in Oakland at the Elihu Harris State Building, the news conference featured presentations by Assembly Members Rob Bonta (D-Alameda), Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) and Mike Lackey (R-Palmdale). In addition to McKenzie, other speakers included: Nate Bradley, executive director, California Cannabis Industry Association; Rome Aloise, vice-president-at large, Teamsters Union; Don Duncan, California director, Americans for Safe Access; and San Leandro Council Member Lee Thomas.

Speaking following the three legislative authors, McKenzie noted that "... the League and the California Police Chiefs Association have worked tirelessly for the last four years to ensure the development of a state medical marijuana regulatory framework that contains strong provisions that protect the public, local control and patient safety and access." He also stated, "AB 266 and its companion bills achieve these goals completely, and we strongly urge the Governor to sign the trio of bills."

McKenzie explained that the legislative package is significant to cities because it:

- Protects local control by ensuring that local jurisdictions have control of regulating local medical marijuana facilities in partnership with the state;
- Protects public safety by providing uniformed security requirements;
- Protects public health with uniform health and safety standards; and
- Ensures patient safety with quality assurance protocols requiring random sample testing by certified laboratories for all medical marijuana sold in California.

McKenzie closed by congratulating the three legislators present as well as those unable to attend the news conference on their outstanding collaborative effort to enact enduring medical marijuana regulatory legislation for the benefit of the people of California.

"We are proud to have been a part of this historic accomplishment, and also proud of the partnership it represents among these legislators who showed exemplary leadership and collaboration over many months of work and negotiations. It also represents a significant accomplishment for the state-local partnership that is essential to the successful implementation of so many important public policies in our state," said McKenzie.

A [summary](#) of the medical marijuana package is available on the League's website.

Rancho Cucamonga is part of a growing national movement to build healthier communities and ensure that the health and well-being of young people today and that of future generations is a priority. Mayor Michael was invited to speak at the White House event, highlighting how the city has used LMCTC to engage the community in its health improvement efforts. Healthy RC, the Rancho Cucamonga's award-winning health initiative, has been recognized nationally for its strategies and commitment to improving access to healthy, affordable food and increasing opportunities for physical activity.

The First Lady and NLC honored the city in July as the "Most Innovative City" for its work on improving the health of the community. Rancho Cucamonga has earned gold medals in all [five goal](#) areas. At Wednesday's event, the First Lady recognized the 52 communities, including Rancho Cucamonga, that have achieved gold medals in each of the five goal areas.

"The city of Rancho Cucamonga is encouraging healthy lifestyles and a healthy community by addressing the environmental influences that contribute to childhood obesity," said Mayor Michael. "Meaningful engagement is the heart and soul of Healthy RC, and without the thousands of hours of hard work, creative ideas, valuable expertise, and thoughtful guidance contributed by our partners, Healthy RC would not have the impact that it has today. Rancho Cucamonga is grateful for the support of the National League of Cities and I am honored to serve as a resource to improve health conditions locally and nationally. We are pleased to join the First Lady Michelle Obama today to share about Rancho Cucamonga and Healthy RC and to celebrate the accomplishments of the *Let's Move! Cities, Towns, and Counties* initiative."

NLC works in partnership with *Let's Move!* and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with support from U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Association of Counties and other nonprofit organizations, to provide assistance to local elected officials as they implement policy and program changes to improve access to healthy, affordable food and provide opportunities for physical activity for all children. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides generous support to NLC to provide technical assistance to local elected officials working to create healthier communities and prevent childhood obesity, including those participating in LMCTC.

Healthy RC has been a successful city-community partnership since 2008, receiving national recognition for their work to improve community health. The program is known for its leadership, innovation, and best practices. Healthy RC has taken a comprehensive approach to creating healthy minds, bodies, and a clean sustainable earth. From policies that make the healthy choice the easy choice, to programs that provide knowledge and skills for a healthy lifestyle, Healthy RC is empowering our community to be the healthiest it can be.

For more information about the city of Rancho Cucamonga visit www.CityofRC.us, Healthy RC www.HealthyRC.com, and to see the achievements by LMCTC communities visit www.healthycommunitieshealthyfuture.org/spotlights.

California City Solutions: Ventura Educates Children on Fire Safety and Prevention through Two-Day Educational Curriculum

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](#). Ventura's Fourth Grade Safety Days was submitted in 2014 for the Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government award category.

Fire season is a year-round reality in the city of Ventura, a community that is set along the Los Padres National Forest with many hillside neighborhoods backing up to the Wildland Urban Interface. With extended drought conditions, it is increasingly critical for the city to keep residents educated about fire prevention, creating a defensible space and keeping families prepared with a wildfire action plan.

For the past three years the Ventura City Fire Department has partnered with the Ventura Unified School District to educate, inform and engage students through a dynamic and interactive program called Fourth Grade Fire Safety Days. Following the two-day event, which is held in October to coincide with National Fire Prevention Month, an essay-writing contest encourages students to share what they have learned. The winning student essay receives the coveted Fire Hydrant Award for their school. The fall timing allows teachers to introduce the topic of fire prevention, and prepare students for the event.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, fires set by children are responsible for more than 100 fire deaths nationwide, nearly 1,000 painful burn injuries, and hundreds of millions of dollars in property loss. Children are often the victims in these fires. While curiosity about fire is natural, fires set by children are dangerous and deadly. The National Fire Protection Association reports that children playing with fire accounted for an average of 56,300 fires per year between 2005 and 2009. Younger children are more likely to set fires in homes, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside.

Ventura's Fourth Grade Fire Safety Days program brings together firefighters and teachers in educating children (and their families) not just about fire prevention but also about fire and emergency preparedness, and how their local fire department operates. Students learn about fire behavior, home escape plans and get to know people who work in their community.

Every opportunity to encourage city residents — including youth — to stay involved and informed allows the Ventura City Fire Department to fulfill its mission of serving the community by protecting life, property and the environment through prevention, education and emergency response services.

The fire department's services extend far beyond firefighting and prevention. Each fire unit has a minimum of one licensed paramedic on board including an advanced medical supply cache — as well as water and technical rescue responsibilities and hazardous materials or hazmat emergency response.

The partnership between the Ventura City Fire Department and Ventura Unified School District is important to the success of this program. City management, the school district superintendent, and administrators from each participating elementary school collaborate to make the Fourth Grade Fire Safety Days a well-orchestrated program that connects education with community involvement.

An age-appropriate curriculum was created to correlate with national health education standards, geared towards demonstrating the ability to practice healthy behaviors including avoiding/reducing risks and the ability to advocate for personal, family and community health. Children experience the excitement of getting to know local firefighters and interacting with their trucks and equipment, while learning valuable safety information.

The school district facilitates bus schedules and makes arrangements allowing 17 elementary schools to participate, transporting 1,400 students and teachers to the Fire Training Grounds over a two-day period. By including as many school children as possible, the program is able to reach across the community's diverse population and share the learning experience citywide.

During the event, students, parents and school staff witness live demonstrations of Ventura firefighters performing multiple tasks associated with a career in firefighting and paramedicine. Students travel in groups around the training site and learn about engine company operations, fire safety education, ladder and power tool demonstrations, and a grand finale involving the fire department's hook and ladder truck.

Additionally, the program requires staffing coordination because city firefighters serve as instructors in each of the event's learning stations. Students, parent chaperones, and school faculty get to meet their local firefighters and gain knowledge about public safety workers in the community.

Firefighters demonstrate the tasks they are responsible for performing during emergencies, while emphasizing the importance of education and its relevance to their job. Students learn how

firefighters operate fire engines, pumps, and hoses that require on-the-spot mathematical calculations using equations they have learned in school. Fire instructors explain how an education in chemistry is an essential element of becoming a member of the Hazardous Materials Team. Children learn about the severities of the Urban Search & Rescue Team, requiring knowledge in construction, geometry and physics. One of the most essential lessons they learn during the event is the importance of exit drills in the home as well as how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

Following the event, schools participate in an essay-writing contest among the attendees, with the winning school receiving the Fire Hydrant Award. Teachers submit the top essays from each of their fourth grade classes, a fire department review committee narrows submissions down to 20 and the fire chief selects the winner. The winning school's name is inscribed on a perpetual plaque on the front of the trophy, which then lives at the winning school until the following year's winner is chosen.

The winning school hosts an assembly, where the Ventura fire chief announces the student essay and presents the trophy, which is then read by the student to the entire assembly of classmates, parents, teachers, administrators, firefighters and media.
