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Calling All Outstanding City Street Projects

Nominations for the 2016 Local Streets and Roads Awards due Jan. 13

The [Save California Streets](#) Coalition has opened the nomination period for its annual Local Streets and Roads Awards. Submissions should highlight a street infrastructure project or program that has demonstrated a significant improvement in your community's street system. The coalition comprises a number of organizations including the League of California Cities® and the California State Association of Counties. *For more, see Page 2.*



2015 Legislative Briefing Webinar to be Held Nov. 17

Register by Nov. 16

Please join League lobbyists for the annual Legislative Briefing webinar, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 10-11:30 a.m. *For more, see Page 2.*



Mayors and Council Members Should Register Now for this January Event

Deadline to Register, Jan. 6

Registration is now open for the League of California Cities® New Mayors and Council Members Academy scheduled for Jan. 20-22 at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento. Did your city fill either of these positions in this month's elections? This training conference will help your mayors and council members acquire all the skills they need to hit the ground running. *For more, see Page 2.*

'LSR Awards' Continued from Page 1...

Nominations for this prestigious award are due by Wednesday, Jan. 13. Winners will be announced in February and awards will be presented during the Public Works Officers Institute and County Engineers Association of Counties conference March 9-11 in Sacramento. They will also be featured later in 2016 in *Western City*, the League's monthly magazine.

Projects nominated should address one of three categories that promote a comprehensive improvement of local streets:

- Efficient and Sustainable Road and Bridge Preservation, Maintenance and Construction and Reconstruction Projects;
- Complete Streets and Multi-Modal Mobility Projects; or
- Safety or Intelligent Transportation System Projects.

Applications must be [submitted online](#).

Please contact [Meghan McKelvey](#) with any questions on the award program and application process.

'Leg Briefing Webinar' Continued from Page 1...

During this year's Legislative Briefing, League lobbyists will discuss developments from the first year of the 2015-16 Legislative Session. Participants will hear the latest on medical marijuana regulation, transportation, economic development, land use, water, employee relations bills, and several other important legislative developments affecting the state and local governments.

The registration cost for League members and partners is \$25. For non-members, the cost is \$125 per city. Register [online](#) by noon on Monday, Nov. 16. Two connections per city will be allowed.

For questions on how to register for the webinar, please contact [Megan Dunn](#). For all other questions, please contact [Meg Desmond](#).

'New Mayors' Continued from Page 1...

This conference is a must attend for newly elected officials, and for veterans who would like a refresher course on the basic legal and practical framework in which city officials operate. Delve into critical training on important, fundamental topics for local government taught by subject matter experts and seasoned elected officials. View the 2016 New Mayors and Council Members Academy announcement and schedule [online](#).

Conference registration includes admission for the following:

- Two and a half days of important educational sessions, with pertinent information for newly elected city officials, including AB 1234 Ethics Training;
- Wednesday lunch and reception, Thursday breakfast and lunch, and Friday breakfast; and
- Electronic access to all program materials.

For more information and to register, please visit the League's [website](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Caitlin Cole](#) at (916) 658-8248.

Like the League of California Cities on [Facebook](#) and follow on twitter at [@cacitieslearn](#) to get updates and useful information about upcoming conferences.

California City Solutions: Glendora Prepares Foothill Community for Post-Wildfire Effects during Seasonal Weather

This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2015 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called [California City Solutions](#). Glendora's Colby Fire Recovery communication plan was submitted in 2015 for the Public Safety award category.

The Colby Fire started on Jan. 16, 2014 in the foothills above Glendora, eventually burning 1,962 acres. Fanned by the strong Santa Ana winds, the fire destroyed five homes, injured one person, and forced the evacuation of 3,600 people. A post-fire assessment of the burn area shows that a portion of the city is susceptible to debris and mud flows during rain storms for the next three to five years. This prompted Glendora to develop a color-coded alert system and multi-faceted outreach plan to prepare the community for future emergencies.

Although there were many favorable factors at play during the Colby Fire — lighter traffic during the start of the fire, availability of water-dropping airplanes, and no conflicting fires to detour resources from the area — the city's preplanning was invaluable. Still, Glendora's leaders saw opportunities to fine tune the city's emergency outreach.

The city grappled with how to communicate the progress of emergency services with the community and media during potential mudslide events in an efficient, timely and wide-reaching manner.

A color-coded alert system, consisting of green, yellow, orange, and red, was developed to explain parking restrictions, evacuation protocols, and re-entry protocols, as well as an educational component for those unable to evacuate.

Automated alert status changes are made by using the rules wizard in Microsoft Outlook, allowing select personnel to change the color status instantly by sending an email message with a specified keyword. Using an application called If This, Then That (IFTTT) allowed to the city to automate status alert changes through social media outlets, including images and text.

A [webpage](#) specific to the fire and mud slide-affected areas serves as an information portal for citizens. It features the color-coded alert status, frequently asked questions, an impact area emergency alert signup form, temporary railing information, a media center, restoration and preparedness information, and post-storm assessment reports. Resource links connect residents to our varied preparedness partners, including the United States Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Los Angeles County Public Works and Fire.

The city created a Colby Fire Impact Area, which comprises nearly 1,000 homes that could potentially be affected by dangerous debris and mud flow, and sends messages through Nixle, a service for local police departments, county emergency management offices, and municipal governments to connect with local residents by sending important text, website, and email notifications. Glendora surveyed residents to obtain data for the notifications, including names and all available contact information for everyone in each household, as well as a section for any family members that required assistance in evacuating.

During the morning of the Colby Fire, two dispatchers answered 397 calls between 5 and 9 a.m., which is nearly a 700 percent increase from normal activity. Since then, a social media team was created to inform the public, media and public safety partners of current events, status updates on critical incidents, and current alert level.

The city developed a mobile application to share photos taken in the field which are tagged with a location, date and time. Pictures are emailed to a designated address and processed by another Outlook rule. The end result is a live feed of pictures in the city's Emergency Operations Center to track storm progression.

Press releases are posted to city's website, which are automatically distributed by RSS feed and e-Notification, and the city's Facebook and Twitter pages. Press conferences are covered by city

staff, with key points distributed through real time tweets, as well as video recorded to post on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and the city's website media center.

Before the Colby Fire, the city's social media reached between 200 to 2,000 people weekly. During the week of the first storms following the fire (Feb. 24 through March 2, 2014) the city's reach jumped to 43,000. Social media updates helped lower the volume of calls received at the dispatch center. During the peak of the storm between 5 and 9 a.m., only 92 calls were received, a 76 percent decrease compared with the same time frame during the fire.

The Colby Fire Information webpage has been a key resource for impact area updates. It tracks 2,000 to 5,000 unique page views per month and has seen over 11,000 page views since its creation.

The combination of emergency response alerts allows residents multiple choices on how they wish to receive their information.

2016 Annual Conference Session Proposals due Jan. 8

Some of the best conference sessions each year come straight from the source – California city officials. The League of California Cities® is accepting session proposals for the 2016 Annual Conference through Jan. 8 for the Oct. 5-7 conference in Long Beach.

The League's Annual Conference is organization's conference that brings together elected and appointed officials and staff and stakeholders for three days of educational sessions, workshops and networking.

Proposal Session Submission Instructions

Submissions, non-commercial in nature, from any individual, group, business or organization, on any topic are welcome. The Annual Conference Program Planning Committee will consider the educational value of each proposal and the extent to which it presents new and/or significant information. Sessions should not be product or vender commercialization oriented.

Proposals may be submitted [online](#) only.

League-Sponsored Bond Agency Finances for Stockton-Based Charter School and Childcare Program for Underserved Children

The California State Wide Development Authority (CSCDA) on Thursday, Nov. 12 announced that it issued \$8 million in tax-exempt bonds and \$279 in taxable bonds for TEAM Charter School and Creative Child Care Inc. (CCCI), both in Stockton.

About Team Charter School and CCCI

Founded in 2011, TEAM Charter serves 552 children in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade. Team Charter provides free quality education to serve students from various backgrounds, including a large number of at-risk students in San Joaquin County. In the school year 2015-16, 92.35 percent of students enrolled in Team Charter are from low-income families, English language learners or foster care kids.



Since 1992, CCCI, a nonprofit organization, has been committed to providing exemplary child development programs through a comprehensive network of community support

and collaboration. CCCI provides free and subsidized child care for income eligible families with a demonstrated need for child care services, such as employment, training, or attending school. CCCI currently serves more than 1900 children and employs more than 340 people in more than 36 locations throughout San Joaquin County.

About the Financing

CSCDA partnered with Westhoff, Cone & Holmstedt to provide the \$8.27 million in tax-exempt and taxable bonds for TEAM Charter and CCCI. The bonds will be used to acquire and improve a charter school and early education facilities

Background

CSCDA is a joint powers authority created in 1988 and is sponsored by the League of California Cities[®] and the California State Association of Counties. It was created by cities and counties for cities and counties. More than 500 cities, counties and special districts are program participants in CSCDA, which serves as their conduit issuer and provides access to efficiently finance locally-approved projects. CSCDA has issued more than \$50 billion in tax exempt bonds for projects that provide a public benefit by creating jobs, affordable housing, healthcare, infrastructure, schools and other fundamental services. Visit <http://cscda.org> for additional information on the ways in which CSCDA can help your city.

Save the Date: Municipal Law Symposium, Feb. 5

Additional Information and Registration Details Coming Soon

The 2016 Municipal Law Symposium will focus on the challenging issues public agency attorneys face in the areas of water and public works. Panels will focus on: water rights, drought, and enforcement; water issues related to CEQA and land use; alternative water supplies, including stormwater, groundwater, and recycled water; water and public works finance issues including those related to Proposition 218; and conflicts of interest, including an update on the new FPPC regulations and conflict of interest issues relevant to public works projects.

Titled “Ensuring Integrity in 21st Century California: Water & Public Works in Our Arid State,” the symposium will be held on Feb. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The League will share registration details and additional information when it is available.

This annual event is co-sponsored by the Municipal Law Institute of the League of California Cities[®], McGeorge School of Law, the County Counsels’ Association and the State Bar of California Public Law Section.

State and Local Legal Center Advocates to the Supreme Court for Local Governments

By: Lisa Soronen, executive director, State & Local Legal Center

Since 1983 the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) has filed *amicus curiae* briefs to the United States Supreme Court on behalf of the “Big Seven” national organizations representing the interests of state and local government. The Big Seven groups include: the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, the National League of Cities (NLC), the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and the International City/County Management Association. The International Municipal Lawyers Association and the Government Finance Officers Association also belong to SLLC.

State leagues participate in SLLC through NLC. Many state leagues contribute financially on an annual basis to support SLLC.

In 2014 the Arkansas Municipal League defended a high speed police chase case before the Supreme Court. SLLC filed an *amicus* brief supporting the league.

SLLC files an *amicus* brief in a Supreme Court case where three of the seven members of SLLC want a brief written and two organizations do not veto participation. Each SLLC member decides whether to sign onto an SLLC brief after reviewing its contents.

To date, SLLC has filed over 300 Supreme Court briefs. SLLC generally files briefs in cases involving federalism and preemption and in other cases where the interests of state and local government are at stake.

It is not unusual for the Court to cite or quote an SLLC brief in an opinion or discuss a SLLC brief at oral argument.

Lisa Soronen is the executive director of SLLC. She is a resource to the Big Seven on the Supreme Court. SLLC also offers moot courts to attorneys arguing state and local government cases before the Supreme Court. Each year SLLC offers Supreme Court Review, Preview, and Mid-Term webinars and articles focusing on cases from the term affecting state and local government. Soronen also writes about Supreme Court cases affecting cities on the NLC blog, the *Weekly*, and the *Federal Advocacy Update*.

To learn more about SLLC and to read the briefs SLLC has recently filed, visit [SLLC's website](#). Follow SLLC on [Twitter](#) for up-to-date information on Supreme Court grants and decisions affecting state government.