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## **Local Governments with Tax Revenue from Aircraft Fuel May Need to Submit Spending Plan to FAA by Dec. 8**

A recently adopted amendment to a federal regulation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) clarifies the rule that the proceeds of state and local taxes on aviation fuel at an airport must be used for airport-related purposes, including capital and operations, state aviation programs and airport noise mitigation. The FAA is allowing a three-year period through Dec. 8, 2017, during which FAA will withhold enforcement actions and state and local agencies must develop compliance plans. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **Enrollment Open for Covered California Insurance**

*Deadline to enroll is Jan. 31*

Covered California wants to make sure that every California resident is aware that now is the time to sign up for health insurance. Open enrollment began Sunday, Nov. 1 and ends Jan. 31. Covered California is the marketplace where consumers can get financial help to purchase health insurance. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **Grant Application Period Open for Sustainable Groundwater Planning**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the final versions of the Sustainable Groundwater Planning grant program [guidelines](#) and proposal solicitation package for counties with stressed basins. *For more, see Page 2.*

**'FAA' Continued from Page 1...**

In California, motor vehicle fuel — other than jet fuel — is exempt from sales and use tax. However, proceeds of some taxes on aircraft jet fuel are affected by the FAA rule. The rule does not apply to taxes in effect on Dec. 31, 1987 including the local Bradley Burns 1.25 percent rate or the 4.75 percent state general fund rate in effect at the time. However, several other state rates may be affected, as well as most local transactions and use tax rates.

Local governments with tax revenue from aircraft (jet) fuel may need to provide a spending plan to the FAA by Dec. 8.

[Additional information](#) is available from CaliforniaCityFinance.com.

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**'Covered CA' Continued from Page 1...**

This is the third open enrollment period and the group is excited about its successes to date. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California's uninsured rate has dropped from 17 percent in 2013 to 8.6 percent today. These newly insured are Californians who now receive free annual wellness exams and preventive services, make doctor's appointments instead of going to the emergency room, effectively manage their chronic conditions and now have the peace of mind of knowing that they are covered.

Covered California is the only place where residents can access both quality health insurance and the federal financial assistance to help pay for it. Many Californians receive health insurance from their employers or qualify for other programs like Medi-Cal or Medicare. However, Covered California has become a safety net for everyone else who needs private health insurance but could not afford it in the past. Currently, 90 percent of the enrollees receive premium financial assistance which is determined on a sliding scale — the less the consumer makes the more assistance it receives to pay for that coverage.

Individuals can determine what level of financial assistance they qualify for or whether they are eligible for Medi-Cal by using the "Shop and Compare" tool on the Covered California website. By simply entering household income, zip code, age and the number of people that want to purchase insurance, consumers can get a close estimate of the financial assistance they will receive and the cost of each plan.

Open enrollment is the only time when Californians can enroll or change their insurance plan through Covered California, unless they have a qualifying life event. There are many ways to access Covered California's insurance options. Consumers can enroll on their own at [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com), or speak with a Service Center Representative by calling 1 (800) 300-1506. They can also receive free, confidential, in-person assistance from a Certified Enrollment Counselor or Certified Insurance Agent.

As Covered California works to spread the word about the availability of affordable, quality health insurance, it hopes that local voices speak louder and reach more of California's underserved populations. Sample materials and messages are available for local jurisdictions to use to write an op-ed for your local newspaper or share through any social media platform.

If you are interested in authoring a piece or want to learn more about how to spread the word, please contact [externalaffairs@covered.ca.gov](mailto:externalaffairs@covered.ca.gov).

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**'Groundwater' Continued from Page 1...**

DWR has \$10 million in Proposition 1 funds immediately available to update or develop local ordinances and groundwater plans to facilitate basin-wide sustainable groundwater management. Eligibility is restricted to stressed, unadjudicated basins. A basin is stressed when it is in critical overdraft, or it exhibits a reduction in groundwater storage, sea water intrusion, degradation of groundwater quality, land subsidence or surface water depletion.

Applications for this grant opportunity are due by 5 p.m. on Dec. 8 and awards will be made in February 2016.

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## **California City Solutions: Cerritos Library Carves out High-Tech Space for Teen Students**

*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](#). The city of Cerritos' Library Teen Studio was submitted in 2015 for the Community Services and Economic Development award category.*

Due to a strong demand for library services, the city of Cerritos faced the challenge of how to provide teenage students with access to computers and study areas in the Cerritos Library. The solution was to remodel an area within the library into a Teen Studio where teens can access high-tech equipment and participate in activities that encourage educational, creative and personal development. Completed in 2013, local teens contributed design suggestions and the project was made possible through the support of the business community, Friends of the Cerritos Library and teen volunteers. The Teen Studio provides teens with access to computers and study areas.

The Cerritos Library opened in October 1973. The original library was an 18,000-square-foot building with a collection of 45,000 books. The facility also provided the latest technology, including 16-mm films and projectors, record players with headphones and coin-operated electric typewriters.

As the city's population of families with school-age children grew, library use increased significantly. To meet the community's growing demand for library materials, space and resources, the city expanded the Cerritos Library in 1987. The remodeled library featured two microcomputer rooms which were devoted to the computer literacy concept at the time.

With the library open seven days a week and serving students from throughout the seven-city ABC Unified School District, the demand for library services continued to grow. City leaders recognized a need to further expand. The third phase of the Cerritos Library was completed in March 2002. The larger 88,000 square foot space houses 300,000 books, museum-quality exhibits and artwork, and 200 computers for the public's use.

At that time, the computers were located in the Children's Library in an area themed 21st Century, and offered high-speed Internet access, the Microsoft Office suite of programs, and online subscription research databases. Rooms were also available for students to work on group projects.

As more students used the library's services, the computer stations and study areas became increasingly crowded. City leaders decided that the library needed to create a special niche for teens with access to the latest technology, individual and group study areas and college preparation programs.

Library staff cleared a 2,500-square-foot space. The Cerritos City Council asked staff to invite local teens to participate in meetings to help design and develop the new space. The teens provided valuable insights on preferred furnishings, the floorplan, study areas and technological equipment. The Cerritos Library Teen Studio opened in September 2013.

The Teen Studio is a multi-purpose space with seating for up to 66 people, where teens can participate in activities that encourage their educational, creative and personal development. It offers access to state-of-the-art technology, group and individual study areas and the library's young adult collection of approximately 7,000 items. A staff member is always available.

High-tech equipment includes 18 Apple computers, one 40-inch computer surface table, three 65-inch interactive wall-mounted smart displays, two 32-inch e-posters, Wi-Fi access and a multi-function printing device. Internet connectivity is also available for personal laptop and notebook connections through data ports offered at tables throughout the Teen Studio. The computer

surface table makes it possible for teens to share and collaborate together using a large, thin display that recognizes fingers, hands and other objects placed on the screen. The innovative displays combine the touch capabilities of an interactive whiteboard with the crisp visuals of flat-panel display technology to elevate collaborative computing and learning. The e-posters feature artwork created by teens and highlight information about upcoming programs.

By using existing space within the library, the city was able to successfully complete the project while carefully covering its costs. The city's total investment in the construction of the studio was \$290,141. Funding for the majority of the construction cost was allocated from a reimbursement of maintenance and servicing funds the city received from Los Angeles County as part of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996.

The Teen Studio's dedication event was a collaborative effort between the city and Cerritos Library teen volunteers, known as Volunteens. The Volunteens distributed information and dedication buttons and helped visitors use the new high-tech equipment. They also participated in the Teen Studio ribbon cutting and plaque unveiling event with the Cerritos City Council.

Within one year of the dedication, an estimated 25,882 teens had visited the new teen space on a drop-in basis. The Teen Studio successfully met the challenges of providing teens with adequate access to computers to complete their homework and the necessary space to study individually or in groups.

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### **Save the Date: 2016 CAPIO Annual Conference**

*Scheduled for April 11-14 in Squaw Valley*

Get ready to go for the gold at the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) Annual Conference! CAPIO 2016 is headed for PIO-Olympics in the gorgeous Squaw Valley. The conference will undoubtedly train you well enough to be the best PIO-Olympian for your agency.

CAPIO is a membership organization serving more than 400 professionals throughout the public sector who engage communities through honest and transparent communication. CAPIO provides California-focused education and networking that helps its members and their agencies develop and advance, because good government requires good communicators.

But CAPIO is not just for city public information officials. In addition to a core group of municipal and state communications professionals, CAPIO members include the staff of school districts, counties, special districts, water and air pollution control districts, parks and open space districts, private public relations firms, municipal television channels, police and fire departments, and more.

For more information about CAPIO and its annual conference, visit [www.CAPIO.org](http://www.CAPIO.org).

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