

Dec. 04, 2015
Issue #102

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 4: Save the Date: Municipal Law Symposium, Feb. 5
HCD Issues Notice of Funding Availability for \$30 Million in Housing-Related Parks Program Funds

Congress Approves Five-Year Transportation Bill

The U.S. House and Senate announced an agreement this week on a five-year, \$305 billion transportation authorization. Both the House and Senate overwhelmingly voted on Thursday to approve the deal. *For more, see Page 2.*



League Launches Updated Medical Marijuana Webpage

City officials are encouraged to visit the League's new medical marijuana webpage (www.cacities.org/medicalmarijuana) for information and resources related to the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act. *For more, see Page 2.*



California City Solutions: Fontana Creates Re-Entry Program to Reduce Crimes Rates

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 Fontana Re-entry Support Team (FRST) helps submitted in 2015 for the Public Safety award category.

Realignment has impacted communities throughout California by transferring the burden of care for prison releases from the state to local municipalities. The city of Fontana has documented an increase in its violent crime rate after the implementation of AB 109 in October 2011. The city created Fontana's Re-entry Support Team (FRST) to help early release prisoners and individuals with a criminal record obtain services and training to help them integrate better into society. The team works with community organizations with an emphasis on finding employment for these individuals. *For more, see Page 2.*

'Transportation' Continued from Page 1...

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act will increase highway spending by 15 percent and transit spending by 18 percent. The 1,300 page bill includes several provisions California cities have been watching:

- Provides about \$200 million for positive train control;
- Requires Class I Railroads to provide crude oil movement information to emergency responders;
- Restructures funding for freight programs by establishing two new programs — one formula and one competitive grant;
- Continues the set-aside for off-system bridges, and expands funding for on-system bridges.
- Converts the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to a block grant program and increases the local share from 50 percent to 55 percent;
- Rolls the Transportation Alternatives Program into the STP;
- Expands eligibility requirements for the Transportation Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (TIFIA), and allows STP, National Highway Performance Programs, and Nationally Significant Freight and Highways Projects funds to be used for the subsidy and administrative cost requirements of the program;
- Expands NEPA delegation authority to five states; and
- Includes additional transparency requirements for the Department of Transportation.

While the bill provides additional funding, it does not solve the ongoing problem of how to fix the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. The federal gas tax has traditionally funded transportation. However, similar to the problems California is facing as a state, the federal gas tax can no longer meet the needs of the system. Instead, the FAST Act will be funded by a variety of other revenue-raising provisions such as reducing the amount the Federal Reserve pays large banks in dividends.

Congress has struggled to find a compromise that will end the constant need for temporary extensions and threats of shutting down transportation programs. The last major bill, MAP-21, was approved in 2012 and was set to expire in September 2014. The bill has received multiple short-term extensions over the past year to keep transportation programs running.

The bill language, summary and Joint Explanatory Statement of the Committee of the Conference are available from the [House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee](#).

'Medical Marijuana' Continued from Page 1...

Gov. Jerry Brown on Oct. 9 signed into law the three bills that comprise the package of legislation creating the regulatory structure for medical marijuana industry: AB 266 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey), AB 243 (Wood), and SB 643 (McGuire).

The enactment of this comprehensive package of laws will likely affect many aspects of your city's operation: city councils, police departments, planning departments, the city manager's office, the finance office, and your city attorney. The League's medical marijuana webpage contains resources related to the legislation including fact sheets, PowerPoint presentations, and audio recordings of previously held webinars on this topic.

The League is also collecting adopted city ordinances on this issue that will be hosted on this webpage. Cities that have passed an ordinance should submit them to their [grass roots regional public affairs manager](#).

'CCS-Fontana' Continued from Page 1...

The violent crime rate for the city of Fontana grew 3 percent during the first year following the implementation of AB 109 and property crimes rose 22 percent for the same time period. Comparatively for the same time period, the state of California and the city of Fontana reported

the following recidivism rates: violent crime 70 percent, sex crimes 90 percent and non-violent crimes 35 percent.

FRST is staffed by two sworn, full-time police officers, one part-time probation officer, one community policing technician (CPT), and one police sergeant. The team focuses on identifying re-entry individuals (clients) that are able to benefit from the program, as well as probationers and/or parolees that have tendencies to turn to crime if they do not receive some sort of assistance (pre-offenders). The partnership between the police and probation departments is a new approach to identifying potential clients and providing the various resource services available.

The program was developed to engage community and agency partnerships. The San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department (WDD), in conjunction with the California State Employment Development Department (EDD), provides re-entry individuals with a Reentry Workshop in addition to the monthly client meetings. An instrumental part of the re-entry process are the workshops that address employment barriers, including talking about a felony conviction during an interview, resume writing, appropriate interview attire, and where to seek employment.

Through FRST, participants gain confidence and learn to use the EDD center computers to complete on-line applications and training courses structured to assist in job placement. FRST officers also utilize agencies such as the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to get identification cards or licenses re-issued, Child Support Services, to arrange support payments in order to keep clients licenses valid and Social Security to assist with benefits.

Community partnerships are vital to the success of the program. The Water of Life Church in Fontana offers a clothing closet to the clients with appropriate interview attire, and shelter and food to clients that need it. The United Way's 211 program is utilized to provide quick and easy access to numerous programs. Many other businesses and programs are also utilized to provide assistance and job training to clients.

The program's structure encourages attendance and completion of specific training courses. FRST officers conduct monthly presentations at the local county jail to inform future clients of the program. The probation officer directs clients to FRST and local judges have begun to refer defendants sentenced to probation to the program. Once involved in the program, clients are tracked and continuously offered support and assistance as needed. Additional services such as free eye glasses from a local doctor to advanced welding courses so a client could obtain a better job have been utilized.

Since FRST's inception in September 2012, over 408 individuals have completed the employment workshop attaining more than 170 jobs. The program constantly updates clients with employment opportunities and to-date has sent out over 1,409 job referrals. In addition, the program has referred over 723 people to recovery classes for substance abuse and domestic violence and over 360 people to government agencies (DMV, Social Security, and Child Support). Through partnerships with other supportive services, more than 387 people have received assistance from social services for food stamps and welfare to help during the transition phase of learning job skills and acquiring employment.

Other departments have started or are looking to launch their own re-entry programs modeled after FRST. The Rialto Police Department started their re-entry program in 2014 with the assistance of Fontana FRST officers. FRST has presented the program to the Pomona Police Department and the San Bernardino Police and Sheriff's departments among others and all have expressed interest in starting their own programs.

The FRST program has also gained state recognition. Former Assembly Member Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco) presented FRST to a judicial committee as an example of a different approach to probationers and parolees, an approach that provides a positive impact on the community. After the first full year FRST was in operation, the city saw an 8 percent decrease in part one crimes. The second year resulted in another 8 percent reduction in part one crimes. The impact of FRST has provided tremendous improvements to the community and the program continues to grow. With continued extensive outreach to clients and support from service providers partnering

with FRST, the future of the program will continue to benefit the community, reduce crime, and help the rehabilitative process for early prison releases and probationers.

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 storm water, 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 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 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 Counselors’ Association and the State Bar of California Public Law Section.

HCD Issues Notice of Funding Availability for \$30 Million in Housing-Related Parks Program Funds

Applications due Feb. 4

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) announces a [Notice of Funding Availability](#) (NOFA) of approximately \$30 million for the Housing-Related Parks (HRP) Program, 2015 Designated Program Year (DPY). Feb. 4 is the deadline to apply.

For the 2015 DPY, HCD will award funds for the issuance of building permits for units affordable to lower-income households as well as units substantially rehabilitated, converted and/or preserved between Jan. 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2015. The revised [HRP Program Guidelines](#) include additional information on eligibility and documentation requirements. The DPY 2015 application and instructions will be released and posted on the department’s HRP program [webpage](#).

The deadline for meeting program threshold requirements as set forth in Section 102 of the Program Guidelines includes the following:

- Housing element compliance as of Dec. 31, 2015, which means a housing element that has been adopted by the jurisdiction’s governing body and determined to be in substantial compliance with state housing element law pursuant to Government Code Section 65585; and
- Submittal of required Annual Progress Reports that must be submitted to the Department by no later than the application due date of Feb. 4, 2016.

HCD program representatives can answer questions. Contact information is below.

- Northern California: [Fidel Herrera](#), (916) 263-7441, (916) 263-7426
 - Sacramento/Central Valley/Central Coast/Eastern Sierra: [James Johnson](#)
 - Southern California: [Hilda Sousa](#), (916) 263-1784
 - Program manager: [Jennifer Seeger](#), (916) 263-7421
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