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League Members Advocate for City Priorities during 2016 NLC City Congressional Conference

Sen. Boxer Receives League Congressional Leader of the Year Award

More than 2,000 city officials from across the nation met in Washington, D.C. this week for the 2016 National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. During the conference, attendees heard from a variety of Cabinet-level appointees on issues of importance to cities.

For more, see Page 2.



Cities, Counties Awarded for Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Projects

*Los Angeles County Wins Top Prize, Cities of Cupertino,
Santa Cruz, and Placer County also Honored*

The County Engineers Association of California and the Public Works Officers' Institute on Thursday, March 10, today announced the winners of the 2016 Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards at their annual spring meeting in Sacramento. Local governments being recognized include the cities of Cupertino and Santa Cruz and the counties of Placer and Los Angeles. *For more, see Page 2.*



League Submits Comments on California Massage Therapy Council Sunset Review Legislation

The Assembly Business and Professions Committee and the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development committees on Monday, March 14 will hold a [sunset review hearing](#) for the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC). The hearing will cover [AB 2195 \(Bonilla\)](#), legislation that would extend its sunset under the [Massage Therapy Act \(AB 1147 of 2014\)](#) from Jan. 1, 2017 to Jan. 1, 2019. *For more, see Page 3.*

'NLC' Continued from Page 1...

In addition to conference activities, League representatives spent time in the Capitol advocating on city and League priorities. The League's executive officers met with Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) to talk about water infrastructure, affordable housing and homelessness, drones, the use of fuel taxes collected at airports, and flight paths.

The [federal advocacy materials](#) are available for use by cities throughout the year.

League President L. Dennis Michael, League First Vice President JoAnne Mounce and League Second Vice President Jim Goodhart presented Sen. Boxer with the League's Congressional Leader of the Year Award. This award was given in recognition of her many years in Congress fighting on behalf of California. In particular, the League appreciates the senator's leadership on the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) enacted last December.

The League took advantage of a break in the House calendar to brief the staff of California House Representatives on critical water infrastructure needs in California's cities. League staff focused much of the discussion on the many challenges California cities face with securing the necessary funds to meet ever stringent state and federal clean waters laws while also providing clean, affordable drinking water to all residents. The briefing also covered California's historic drought and its impact on water infrastructure. The League thanks the office of California U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-19) for hosting the successful briefing.

'LSR' Continued from Page 1...

Sponsored by the League of California Cities®, California State Association of Counties® (CSAC) and County Engineers Association of California (CEAC), the Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards Program honors best practices in road projects that can be replicated by other jurisdictions. The awards also acknowledge cities and counties that promote fiscal and environmental sustainability in the local transportation system.

"Transportation funding is a major issue statewide right now," said Matt Machado, Stanislaus County director of Public Works and president of the County Engineers Association. "So we're recognizing these cities and counties for completing great projects that enhance safety, traffic flow, and the environment at a time when funding is extremely tight."

"It is encouraging to see the Legislature debating how to create a stable statewide transportation funding plan. In this process there has been a focus on transparency and accountability and that is exactly what these award-winning local projects exemplify," said Culver City Public Works Director Charles Herbertson, chair of the Local Streets and Roads Awards Committee. "The winning counties and cities and finalists are examples of how local governments are wisely investing tax payer dollars in projects that improve the transportation system and better our communities."

Los Angeles County is the Overall Winner for the Angeles Forest Highway Project: A joint effort between Los Angeles County and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Angeles Forest Highway Project showcases the benefits of properly applying a sustainable approach to road rehabilitation. A scenic mountain route with access to hiking and equestrian trails, the Angeles Forest Highway is the main connection between the Antelope Valley and the Los Angeles Basin. Sixteen and a half miles of roadway in poor condition with areas of severe structural deficiency needed to be brought to current standards. Cold-in-place recycling (CIR) was used to rehabilitate the roadway. Recycling the existing asphalt in-place eliminated the need to remove existing pavement from the project location and import a conventional hot mix asphalt to replace it. The CIR process resulted in reduced environmental impacts and road closures, shortened construction time, and protected our natural resources by mitigating the need to quarry tons of virgin aggregate materials.

The City of Cupertino is being awarded the Efficient and Sustainable Road and Bridge Preservation, Maintenance and Construction and Reconstruction Project prize: Cupertino's 139 centerline miles of street network includes 103 miles of residential streets, 21 miles of collector streets and 15 miles of arterial streets. The city managed its roads by proactively and routinely

conducting asphalt maintenance projects to ensure preservation of the \$340 million network. A sustainable strategy, based upon consistent use of sustainable products and close project coordination, has helped Cupertino save time, money and natural resources, while also reduce inconveniences to residents and businesses. This effort also enabled the city to focus on enhancing active transportation. From FY 2013-14 through FY 2015-16, 4.8 miles of bike buffers and 5.6 lane miles were narrowed to accommodate bike buffers, provide additional on-street parking, and improve safety for all road users. The city projects that its street network Pavement Condition Index will increase to 80 by 2019.

Placer County won the award in the Complete Streets and Multi-Modal Mobility Project category for the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project: Located along the north shore of Lake Tahoe in Placer County, the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project was a major public infrastructure investment that sought to revitalize the Kings Beach lake shore community. The project includes intermodal and roadway safety enhancements coupled with complete street infrastructure and streetscape improvements. It was designed to help trigger private redevelopment projects and provide multi-modal benefits that will increase and enhance transportation options within the community and beyond by creating enhanced public transit connectivity for the North Lake Tahoe region. The project also helps the community's disadvantaged groups with improved and more affordable transportation options, local services and employment opportunities.

The City of Santa Cruz won the award in the Safety or Intelligent Transportation Systems Projects Category for the Santa Cruz Beach Area Roundabouts: Pacific Avenue serves as a crucial link between downtown Santa Cruz and the beach area, including the Boardwalk and the Municipal Wharf. The city's plan recommended the construction of two roundabouts on Pacific Avenue at Center Street and Beach Street. The intersection modifications improve traffic flow, bike and pedestrian access and safety, and support the city's climate action goals to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gases. The roundabouts create a very attractive gateway to Monterey Bay, while addressing multi-modal safety and efficiency well into the future. Both roundabouts feature the area's common marine life in art work. The Pacific-Center roundabout incorporates the main entrance to Depot Park, while the Pacific-Beach roundabout has a railroad through the northern side, a cycle-track on the southern side, and the entrance-exit gates to the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf.

For more information visit www.SaveCaliforniaStreets.org.

'Message' Continued from Page 1...

It is of great importance to California's cities that massage therapists within their borders be properly regulated and work in legitimate massage businesses in accordance with state and local laws. As a hybrid public/nonprofit entity established and strictly governed by statute, CAMTC has faced a number of governance and transparency challenges in the last year that, if not corrected, could threaten its future success. The League, prior to this joint hearing, submitted preliminary comments and amendments to AB 2195 that will bring CAMTC improved transparency and governance.

Since Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 1147 in 2014, the League worked in conjunction with its representative on the CAMTC board and has made numerous suggestions about how the transparency and functioning of the board's operations can be improved. Any state-sanctioned certification program cannot function effectively without a high degree of public confidence in the quality of those certified and the League is currently conducting a member survey to assess how they have interacted with CAMTC and their impressions on how the current model is working.

The League's [comments/amendments](#) address:

- Eligibility for CAMTC board;
- Removal of CAMTC board members;
- Filing board vacancies;
- Prohibition of removal of board members for disloyalty;
- Making CAMTC subject to the Public Records Act; and

- Require annual educational briefings to CAMTC board on both open meetings and Public Records Act.

Measures Include Authority to Regulate Electronic Cigarettes in Same Manner as Tobacco

Just one week after the Assembly took action on March 4, the Senate on March 10 approved all six tobacco control bills, including measures that would regulate electronic cigarettes as tobacco products, increase the legal smoking age to 21 from 18, and authorize counties to impose local tobacco taxes.

The League of California Cities[®] has long supported the effort to regulate electronic cigarettes in the same manner as traditional tobacco products. Until now, there has been an absence of meaningful regulation at the state or federal level. Over 140 cities and counties in California have filled this void with local ordinances that subject electronic cigarettes to the same regulations as tobacco products.

Lawmakers expressed strong feelings about imposing new restrictions on the sale and use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes.

Senate President pro Tempore Kevin De León (D-Los Angeles) praised the bill pack as, “the most expansive tobacco control legislative package in over a decade.”

Sen. John Moorlach (R-Costa Mesa) said, “Everybody has the right and the freedom to smoke.”

Sen. Jeff Stone (R-Murietta), expressed concern that electronic cigarettes serve as a “gateway” to the use of traditional cigarettes. “For the first time, more teenagers use e-cigarettes than cigarettes.”

The six bill package is now headed to Gov. Jerry Brown for his signature.

Speaker Rendon Announces New Committee Chairs, Floor Leadership Team

The busy week in the Capitol wrapped up on Thursday when Anthony Rendon, the newly sworn in Speaker, released changes to several of the [Assembly's policy committees](#) as well as his [floor leadership team](#). The changes are effective immediately for the 2015-16 Regular Session.

These legislators will play a significant role in shaping legislation this session. An explanation of the legislative leadership roles and responsibilities is available on the [Legislature's website](#).

Speaker Rendon made changes to nearly all of the Assembly's policy committees. Committee appointments of significance to legislation affecting California cities are listed below:

Accountability and Administrative Review

- Assembly Member Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens), chair

Appropriations

- Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), chair

Budget

- Assembly Member Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), chair
- Assembly Member Jay Obernolte (R-Big Bear Lake), vice chair

Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety

- Assembly Member Nora Campos (D-San Jose)

Business and Professions

- Assembly Member Rudy Salas (D-Bakersfield), chair

- Assembly Member Bill Brough (R-Dana Point), vice chair

Governmental Organization

- Assembly Member Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals), vice chair

Labor and Employment

- Assembly Member Jim Patterson (R-Fresno), vice chair

Local Government

- Assembly Member Susan Eggman (D-Stockton), chair
- Assembly Member Marie Waldron (R-Escondido), vice chair

Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security

- Assembly Member Rob Bonta (D-Alameda), chair

Public Safety

- Assembly Member Reginald Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), chair

Revenue and Taxation

- Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles), chair

Transportation

- Assembly Member Eric Linder (R-Corona), vice chair

Assembly Democratic leaders are:

- Assembly Member Kevin Mullin (D-South San Francisco), speaker pro tempore
- Assembly Member Autumn R. Burke (D-Inglewood), assistant speaker pro tempore
- Assembly Member Ian C. Calderon (D-Whittier), majority floor leader
- Assembly Member Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove), assistant majority floor leader
- Assembly Member Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles), majority whip
- Assembly Member Nora Campos (D-San Jose), Democratic whip
- Assembly Member Evan Low (D-Campbell), assistant majority whip
- Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson (D-Carson), Democratic Caucus chair

Public Works Officers Learn about Benefits of U.S. Communities Joint Purchasing Program

City and county public works officers and staff this week had an opportunity to learn more about how the League of California Cities[®] sponsored [U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance](#) program can help their local agencies save taxpayer dollars through the power of using the government purchasing cooperative.

Speaking on behalf of the co-founding organizations, the League and the California State Association of Counties, Matt Cate, CSAC executive director, provided an overview on Thursday morning on how U.S. Communities provides world class procurement resources and solutions to cities and counties. The cooperative program lowers costs on the goods and services local agencies utilize by aggregating the purchasing power of over 90,000 public agencies nationwide.

Cate stressed to the public works professionals that not only do public agencies experience an average cost savings of 10 percent, the program saves staff time and resources because the products, services and solutions available through U.S. Communities competitively bid contracts can eliminate the need for a city or county to go through a separate RFP process.

U.S. Communities offers:

- **Over 35 U.S. Communities suppliers** offering a range of products, services and solutions.
- **Quality Brands:** Thousands of the best brands in a wide variety of categories, services and solutions.

- **10 percent average saving** available to all agencies regardless of an agency's size or spend.
- **Meets Local Needs:** Green solutions, a rebate program through The Home Depot and local purchasing options through women and minority owned business.
- **Lead Agency Conduct RFP Solicitation Process:** RFPs are conducted by a U.S. Communities lead agency advisory board member. Members of the advisory board assist the lead agency in reviewing and evaluating the RFPs. The advisory board is comprised of 27 public agencies from throughout the United States, including four from California.
- **Transparent:** U.S. Communities' process RFP process, contracting award and pricing is transparent and protects participating public agency's ethical, legal and financial interest.
- **Oversight by Public Purchasing Professionals:** Third party audits on contracts ensure that program pricing commitments are met, with benchmark analyses against other suppliers and retailers to guarantee participants the best overall value.
- **Dedicated staff** with regional program managers who are knowledgeable about public agency needs and the products, services and solutions available through U.S. Communities to meet those needs.

March 16 Deadline Approaching for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities NOFA

NEW FAQ Released for Current Fiscal Year Funding Cycle

Cities that are interested in applying for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grants must submit their concept proposals by March 16. The Strategic Growth Council earlier this week released [new responses to FAQ](#) for the FY 2015-16 funding round.

The current Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), application and program guidelines are available through the Department of Housing and Community Development [AHSC webpage](#). Updated AHSC [income, rent and loan limits](#) are also now available.

The AHSC program receives a 20 percent ongoing allocation of the proceeds from the state's greenhouse gas reduction effort, commonly known as Cap-and-Trade. The program's purpose is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through projects that implement land-use, housing, transportation and agricultural land preservation practices to support infill and compact development.

It also seeks to support a number of related public policy objectives, including: reducing air pollution, preserving and developing affordable housing, improving conditions in disadvantaged communities, and increasing mobility options and transit ridership.

Local governments, transportation and transit agencies, and both for- and nonprofit developers are eligible applicants for competitive grants.

The program includes three project prototypes, all of which must demonstrate a reduction in vehicle miles traveled:

- **Transit-Oriented Development Project Areas (TODs)**, which are designed to improve access to public transit, biking or walking infrastructure and affordable housing or mixed-use areas, with a focus on connecting residents to key destinations, like schools and neighborhood retail. Similar projects that impact a larger geographic area, such as regional transit hubs, and projects focused on improving transportation operations along transit corridors would also qualify.
- **Integrated Connectivity Project Areas (ICPs)**, which are designed to reduce the number or length of automobile trips through mode shift to transit use, bicycling or walking within areas lacking high quality transit, with an emphasis on providing disadvantaged community benefits.
- **Rural Innovation Project Areas (RIPA)**, which are similar to ICPs but instead target rural areas.

Examples of RIPAs and ICPs may include bike/pedestrian connections from employment centers to transit, transit station improvements or a vanpool fleet paired with at least one additional capital

or program use, like transit station improvements, an affordable housing development or a transit ridership program.

AHSC funds are to be awarded based on “the merits of the proposal to support sustainable development that expands and improves transit, walking and bicycling infrastructure and provides opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled by supporting connectivity between housing and key destinations to bring about reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”

For more information about this and other Cap-and-Trade programs, please see the League’s [Cap-and-Trade Hot Issues page](#), which includes a recently updated, downloadable Cap-and-Trade Guide to the major funding programs affecting cities.

The League’s 2016 Legislative Action Day is Wednesday, April 27 *Register Today for the Condensed One-Day Program*

It is not too early to register for the League’s Annual Legislative Action Day. Scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, the one-day event is free for League members and League Partners.

The day will start at 10:00 a.m. with a general briefing on current budget issues and a legislative and policy update on a wide range of topics including:

- Budget, Legislative and Policy Update:
 - Transportation, water and other infrastructure funding;
 - Efforts to improve and expand economic development tools;
 - Medical marijuana regulation, drone regulation, and 9-1-1 emergency calls;
 - Affordable housing and homelessness;
 - Massage board sunset review;
 - CEQA updates and modernization;
 - Climate change legislation and Cap-and-Trade Allocations;
 - Drought conditions and urban water usage; and
 - Other legislation of critical importance.
- Updates from Legislators

Following the briefing, which ends at 11:30 a.m., city officials will have time to meet with the legislators in the Capitol. The League’s Latino Caucus is co-sponsoring a legislative panel on transportation funding proposals from 3:30– 4:30 p.m.

For city officials who are able to extend their day, the League will be hosting a legislative reception from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Registration

April 5 is the deadline to register for Legislative Action Day. Register online at www.cacities.org/events.

Please direct questions to [Megan Dunn](#), the League’s registrar.

Register Today for March 16 Webinar to Provide Help for Cities Addressing Homelessness

Registration closes March 15 for the League’s March 16 webinar intended to provide cities with information on fundamental tools for addressing homelessness. This 90-minute webinar will begin at 2 p.m.

Amy Sawyer, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness regional coordinator, Cindy Cavanaugh, assistant deputy director, homeless and housing policy, for the California Department of Housing and Community Development, and Emily Halcon, city of Sacramento

homeless services coordinator, will walk participants through data, trends, core solutions, funding opportunities and local, state and federal roles in creating an effective response to homelessness.

The webinar is free for member cities. The deadline to register is noon on March 15. To sign up, [please click here](#). One connection will be available per city.

Addressing chronic homelessness is one of the League's [strategic priorities](#) for 2016.

On Feb. 18, the League board of directors [voted to approve](#) a series of policy principles on homelessness.

Examples include advocating for:

- Affordable housing;
- Mental health;
- Drug treatment and first-responder training;
- Funding that is flexible and incentivizes regional cooperation;
- Making housing placement a priority of programs that discharge people from care or incarceration; and
- Policies or legislation that enhance the use of housing vouchers.

The principles were drafted based on teleconference discussions with an informal homelessness working group, composed of city staff and elected officials from 19 communities around the state, and unanimously recommended to the board by the Housing, Community and Economic Development Policy and Community Services Policy Committee.

March 15 at noon is the deadline to [register for this webinar](#). This webinar is free for League members; \$100 for non-members. One connection will be available per city. For registration questions, please contact [Megan Dunn](#).

California City Solutions: Millbrae Tackles Illegal Dumping Activity with Clean Team

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 Millbrae's Clean Team was submitted in 2015 for the Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement in city Government award category.

Illegal dumping plagues many areas of San Mateo County, but perhaps none worse than the unincorporated area of North Fair Oaks. Within that neighborhood of some 15,000 residents there are many deserted areas where people dump mattresses, sofas and household junk. The area's sharp increase in illegal dumping activity can be attributed to overcrowded conditions, evictions, disregard for the law and lack of awareness about available options and dumping policies. Dumping garbage on public property is illegal in California. Perpetrators who are caught face fines of up to \$3,000.

In March 2014, Millbrae started working with the Sheriffs Activities League (SAL) Clean Team and Green Team youth programs using a combination of cleanup, prevention, enforcement, and education and community outreach strategies to address the issue.

Local officials in San Mateo County have been working with various Sheriff's Office patrol units to increase monitoring of problematic areas. Manual Ramirez of the North Fair Oaks Community Council (NFOCC) said garbage clean-up was his number one priority, and that the Public Works Department should increase communication with the Sheriff's deputies whenever an incident occurs.

NFOCC, San Mateo County and the Sheriff's Activities League (SAL) Clean/Green Team analyzed strategies to reduce illegal dumping that met the needs of both North Fair Oaks and San Mateo County. To resolve the problem, the group needed to understand why illegal dumping happens. Through community interactions they found that difficulty in recycling large items, lack of knowledge about resources, socioeconomic factors such as multifamily housing, overcrowding,

evictions and high rent burden, lack of enforcement (fines and citations), and need for incentives for permitted haulers all contributed to the problem. NFOCC established a working subcommittee to tackle this problem.

By building partnerships within the community and with resource agencies, they developed strategies to address this unsightly, unhealthy and illegal practice. They collaborated with community partners to evaluate which options would best work in North Fair Oaks given the resources available to create and sustain the program.

The majority of successful programs around illegal dumping use a combination of prevention, enforcement, prosecution, education, cleanup, and community outreach strategies. To achieve an effective outreach program SAL engaged the Clean/Green Team. The Clean/Green Team was developed by SAL's Director of Community Services, Barbara Bonilla in March of 2014. The project was funded through a partnership between San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks and San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum. The vision was to create a program that offered the youth of North Fair Oaks not only a job, but a job in their community making it a better place to live.

The Clean /Green Team is a year-round program. During the school year, the team works two Saturdays a month, but over the summer it works two days per week cleaning different areas in the whole North Fair Oaks area as well as schools in Redwood City/North Fair Oaks. Leaders from SAL's Clean Team are given the opportunity to make a difference in their community by planning and executing weekly clean-up plans and regular community clean-up events.

The program begins by removing trash and debris from a one mile stretch of road. The team members then reach out to businesses and community members nearby and explain the program and the benefits of their clean-up activities. Along with the outreach, team members invite community members to join them in the clean-up efforts, log and report all illegal dumping and graffiti to the appropriate agencies and follows up to make sure the reported issues were being taken care of by the responsible agencies.

Since its inception, the Clean/Green Team collected a total of 87 bags from cleanup events on and around Middlefield Road and adjacent neighborhoods. The group also passed out 2,500 educational flyers to the community and reported 20 areas which had multiple cases of graffiti and illegal dumping. They prevented more than 5,394 gallons of litter that included cigarette butts, plastic bags and other plastic materials from going into storm sewers, local creeks, the San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. Illegal dumping that included automotive fluids, furniture, and other items have been reported to the proper agency for removal. Toxic substances such as motor oil and other contaminants can enter local waterways, which are be harmful to wildlife and increased health risks to the community.

The Clean Team/Green Team members also engaged in educational activities, such as field trips to Shoreway Environmental Center and SIMS Metal Management. They heard speakers from Recology (the local scavenger company), the County of San Mateo Recycle Works Program and watched documentary films such as "Plastic Paradise". The program participants learned about the importance of the 4 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot [Compost]) and the harmful consequences of unrecycled plastic and toxins in our oceans and waterways.

The Clean Team/Green team program not only focuses on cleaning the environment, but also places great importance toward encouraging youth to make a difference. This program has increased citizen awareness, responsibility, ownership, and pride in their residences, businesses and their community. It has provided tools to educate residents and business owners on how to report illegal dumping and graffiti while also teaching them how to legally dump large items. Additionally, it has helped address problems of chronic litter, illegal dumping, graffiti, and other quality of life issues and has provided the framework for ongoing cleanup and beautification.

The program engages youth in the decision making process and taught them to take responsibility for their own neighborhoods and empowering them to be an active part of the solution.

