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Issue #26**

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### **Three League-Supported Housing Funding Bills Advance in Assembly**

Three League-supported bills advanced in the Legislature on March 30 that would help fund and create much-needed affordable housing: AB 2734 (Atkins), AB 2817 (Chiu) and SB 873 (Beall). All of the measures are consistent with the League's long-standing policy of supporting additional state funding for affordable housing, and reflect efforts to fill the void created by the loss of redevelopment which previously provided approximately \$1 billion annually for affordable housing. *For more, see Page 2.*



### **League Hosts Three Legislative Candidate Forums in Late March**

With the deadline to file for candidacy passing a few weeks ago, the League's regional divisions are in the processing of holding legislative candidate forums for some of the most watched Senate and Assembly races. In the past week, the League held forums in Davis, Walnut Creek and Modesto. The forums served as a great opportunity for city officials to engage with candidates on issues that are important to cities. *For more, see Page 2.*



### **Registration Deadline for League's Legislative Action Day Extended to April 8**

The League of California Cities® [2016 Legislative Action Day](#) is just a few weeks away. This one-day event gives city officials the opportunity to engage with state lawmakers, learn about priority issues and network with colleagues. Scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, the event is free for League members and League Partners. *For more, see Page 4.*

## 'Housing Bills' Continued from Page 1...

League Legislative Representative Kendra Harris testified Wednesday morning in the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development, where she voiced strong support for Assembly Member Toni Atkins' (D-San Diego) [AB 2734](#) and Assembly Member David Chiu's (D-San Francisco) [AB 2817](#). Dan Carrigg, the League's senior director for Legislative Affairs, also testified on Wednesday morning in the Senate Committee on Governance and Finance in support of Assembly Member Jim Beall's (D-San Jose) [SB 873](#).

In presenting AB 2734, which would dedicate a portion of state savings resulting from the elimination of redevelopment agencies to address local affordable housing needs, Assembly Member Atkins stressed that California has the lowest rate of homeownership nationally and six of the nation's 11 most expensive rental housing markets. She remarked that California's affordable housing crisis affects the economy. AB 2734 would dedicate \$1 billion or 50 percent, whichever amount is greater, of any state savings from redevelopment elimination for these purposes.

The committee passed the bill, which now heads to the Assembly Committee on Local Government.

Assembly Member Chiu, chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing and Economic Development, drafted AB 2817 to increase the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit by \$300 million. These funds would build and rehabilitate affordable housing and increase the amount of funding for farmworker housing. The committee chair's remarks focused on the need to fix California's affordable housing crisis. AB 2817 is similar to AB 35 of 2015, which Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed even though it had widespread legislative support.

Harris testified that the League supports AB 2817 because increasing available state tax credits for low-income housing is an important step to reassemble the state's affordable housing streams. Through these credits, additional federal tax credits and tax exempt bond authority would be leveraged to help build additional housing units.

The committee passed the bill, which now heads to the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

SB 873 would help expand the effectiveness of existing housing tax credits by broadening the pool of eligible purchasers that would make them more marketable and generate additional funds for affordable housing projects.

The committee passed the bill, which now heads to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

California's affordable housing crisis has reached epic proportions with the nation's lowest percentage of homeowners and highest percentage of homeless residents. In fact, [Beacon economist Christopher Thornberg](#) reports that California needs upwards of 1 million more residential units to reach national norms for housing stock for its population. California cities are on the front lines of this crisis and the issue has grown to such a level that the League this year made affordable housing and addressing homelessness one of the organization's [top three policy priorities](#).

### Next Steps

Cities are encouraged to support these helpful measures. Sample letters are available on the League website at [www.cacities.org/billsearch](http://www.cacities.org/billsearch). Plug in the bill number to access the sample letter as well as the League's letter.

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## 'Candidate Forums' Continued from Page 1...

The League in mid-March also sent a questionnaire to the over 250 candidates running for the Legislature this fall. The questions focus on four top local government priorities: city-state relationship; transportation funding; affordable housing; water conservation. The League does not endorse candidates, however, League members do and these responses help them in making

endorsement decisions. A database of responses is available on the League's website at [www.cacities.org/candidateviewpoints](http://www.cacities.org/candidateviewpoints). New entries are added daily as they are returned to the League.

## **Davis**

The Davis forum was held on Friday, March 25 in conjunction with the Davis Chamber of Commerce.

Participating candidates running for Assembly District 4 included:

- Cecilia Aguilar-Curry (D)
- Don Saylor (D)
- Charles Schaupp (R)
- Dan Wolk (D)

Participating candidates running for Senate District 3 included:

- Greg Coppes (R)
- Bill Dodd (D)
- Gabe Griess (D)
- Mariko Yamada (D)

## **Walnut Creek**

The Walnut Creek forum was also held on Friday, March 25. The League of Women Voters co-hosted the event.

Participating candidates running for Senate District 9 included:

- Rich Kinney (R)
- Nancy Skinner (D)
- Sandre Swanson (D)
- Katherine Welch (D)

Participating candidates for Assembly District 14 included:

- Debora Allen (R)
- Tim Grayson (D)
- Dr. Harmesh Kumar (D)
- Mae Cendana Torlakson (D)

Participating candidates running for Senate District 3 included:

- Bill Dodd (D)
- Mariko Yamada (D)

## **Modesto**

The Modesto forum was held on Wednesday, March 30 and was held in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County and the Latino Community Roundtable. [The Modesto Bee reported on the event.](#)

Participating candidates from Assembly District 12 included:

Heath Flora (R)

- Harinder Grewal (D)
  - Virginia Madueño (D)
  - Cindy Marks (R)
  - Ken Vogel (R)
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Registration includes:

- Admission to educational sessions starting at Embassy Suites Sacramento;
- Admission to the Legislative Reception;
- Shuttle service from the morning briefing at Embassy Suites Sacramento to both the Capitol and the evening reception at Tequila Museo Mayahuel; and
- Electronic access to all program materials.

The rate for non-member cities is \$250 per attendee. Visit the League's website for more [information and to register](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [Brian Sanders](#).

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## **State Water Resources Control Board Announces Two Trainings in May**

In conjunction with PG Environmental, LLC, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff will be conducting two training classes in May. Classes will be offered in Northern and Southern California and there will be no charge to attend.

### **Notice of Intent/Non-Exposure Certification Training**

*May 10, Diamond Bar and May 24, Rancho Cordova*

This training is for representatives of Phase I permittees and Phase II Small MS4 General Permit enrollees. It will cover the fundamentals of determining the type of facilities subject to Notice of Intent (NOI) application requirements or No Exposure Certification (NEC) permit coverage under SWRCB's Industrial Storm Water General Permit (IGP). Many little known or commonly misunderstood definitions, circumstances, and interpretations regarding NOI/NEC coverage will be explained.

Most cities and counties are regulated under an area-wide municipal storm water permit adopted by their local Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) or are regulated under SWRCB's Small MS4 General Permit. Municipal permits require the regulated municipalities to conduct surveys within their jurisdictions to identify facilities that are subject to the IGP but have not obtained regulatory coverage or NEC permit coverage. This training is primarily aimed at municipality staff that conducts such surveys.

### **Small MS4 General Permit Training**

*May 11-12, Diamond Bar and May 25-26, Rancho Cordova*

This training is for representatives of Small MS4 General Permit enrollees. It will cover the six minimum measures required in the SWRCB's Small MS4 General Permit. The class is aimed at staff of traditional and non-traditional Small MS4 General Permit enrollee, and Regional Water Board staff within the Municipal Storm Water Programs that regulate storm water discharges under the Small MS4 General Permit. In addition, it will address how to plan and implement each minimum measure in accordance with the timeframes provided in the Small MS4 General Permit, as well as a description of the deliverables, desired outcomes, and self-inspection/evaluation process. Permittees attending the class should gain an understanding of how to comply with the Small MS4 General Permit and the compliance expectations of the SWRCB staff.

There will be two presentations on the second afternoon. One presentation will address the 2015 SWRCB's Trash Amendments and how they will affect Small MS4 General Permit enrollee next year. The other will provide information on how to obtain state bond fund funds to pay for multi-purpose projects that help with compliance with the Small MS4 General Permit and Trash Amendments.

## **Registration Information**

Each Phase I MS4 permittee and Phase II Small MS4 General Permit enrollee is invited to register two representatives. Each representative must individually register and obtain a ticket.

The classes will also be webcast and recorded. Webcast information will be provided once the agendas are available.

To register more than two, please contact [Leo Cosentini](#) at (916) 341-5524.

Register:

- [May 10: Industrial Stormwater General Permit-NOI/NEC Training: Diamondbar](#)
- [May 11-12: Small MS4 Stormwater General Permit and Inspection Training: Diamondbar](#)
- [May 24: Industrial Stormwater General Permit-NOI/NEC Training: Rancho Cordova](#)
- [May 25-26: Small MS4 Stormwater General Permit and Inspection Training: Rancho Cordova](#)

## Questions

All questions related to the training classes should be directed to [Leo Cosentini](#) with SWRCB's Municipal Stormwater Unit at (916) 341-5524.

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## California City Solutions: Glendora's Water Planning Prepares the Community in Advance of Conservation Efforts

*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 Glendora's Water Conservation was submitted in 2015 for the Planning and Environmental Quality award category.*

The city of Glendora receives its water from three sources — groundwater produced through its existing wells, imported water purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the Covina Irrigation Company. In prior years, the city was able to meet 80 to 100 percent of the community's water needs through its own wells. However, over the last decade the water basins dried to historic lows with well water supply hovering around 70 percent of demand. To achieve greater environmental preservation, city leaders wanted to balance the community's immediate need for water with effective long-term use of dwindling natural resources. Purchased water from third parties has become significantly more expensive. The city partnered with the Glendora Water Commission to create and adopt a multi-phased water conservation ordinance and program.

Although Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency in January 2014, the city of Glendora Water Commission already had a decade of water conservation experience. The commission, which comprises local residents, is dedicated to advising the city council on division finances, conservation efforts, water system effectiveness, fees and funding, and policies. As far back as 2008, Glendora recognized drought as a long-term trend. In response, the water commission and city partnered to create and adopt a multi-phased water conservation ordinance and program. The ordinance outlines multi-step restrictions to reduce nonessential water usage, while ensuring an adequate water supply for household needs and fire protection purposes.

Glendora's online plans and codes, water commission documents, and water conservation web pages provide a wealth of information about the city's successes with conservation, economic stimulus, community involvement, and education.

By 2009, under the grip of the Great Recession local businesses were struggling. Glendora's partners in water stewardship, already considering a conservation program that encouraged actual changes to customer behavior, realized the program could also be an economic development tool. While helping ease water consumption, they could also create local jobs, bolster general fund revenue, and widen the customer base for local businesses.

Since inception, the program has evolved to do just that — customers are able to purchase water-efficient devices for their homes or to transform their water-consuming lawns into drought tolerant landscapes. And they receive rebates for using local vendors. The Glendora partnership tactically aligned the process regionally so that customers are able to request additional rebates

through district wholesalers, nearly doubling the value of the incentives. In many cases, this strategic leverage means that water-efficient devices can be purchased at little to no cost to the residents. Water saving is promoted at special events with items such as hose nozzles, moisture meters, and shower heads that are given away to residents.

The ending of the recession has brought an abundance of new development, and the accompanying new water demand. This time the city of Glendora joined forces with the citizen advisors on its planning commission. As a result, the city of Glendora is the only city in Los Angeles County that requires all new residential developments to pay either an impact fee or transfer existing water rights to the city to offset their new demand for water.

A robust educational element was added to the economic efforts that include traditional school and service-club presentation circuits, as well as trained field personnel to talk directly with customers. Dedicated conservation staff members are able to walk residents in person through their individual environments and show them how to adjust their devices to use less water.

As a whole, by 2014, the city had collectively achieved a nearly 12 percent reduction in water use since the inception of the conservation program in 2008. The city's shop local rebate has increased water savings by almost 4 percent more city wide — a single strategy that accounts for nearly 1.5 million gallons annually. Today Glendora conserves an impressive 16 percent compared with its consumption in 2008. In FY 2013-14 alone, 396 applications resulted in over \$56,000 in water-saving rebates.

With local introduction of the Turf Removal Program, water-wise landscapes have begun to pop up all over Glendora. An estimated 290,000 square feet of traditional turf have been replaced, with over 130 drought tolerant residential sites now transforming Glendora's urban garden. Besides providing millions of gallons of water savings each year, these properties display plants that reduce Glendora's exposed and wind-threatened soil, helping keep surrounding areas and our local atmosphere clear.

It's not just existing properties that are part of Glendora's growing water-consciousness. To improve baseline conservation, Glendora's own unique development fees and water-rights requirements have already been put into practice.

The city's conservation staff has visited Glendora's fifth grade classrooms for several years to inspire conservation in the city's youth. The curriculum has expanded to lower grade level classrooms as well as the high school environmental science classrooms. The city noticed that when youth are provided with realistic avenues for conservation in their own homes and lives, a true multigenerational effort takes root.

Water Conservation staff are adopting technologies to empower customers who will in turn have a greater benefit on the whole community. Conservation staff is working with some of the top consumers in the city by scheduling meetings or conducting water audits to discuss possible water saving solutions. By focusing their attention on higher-volume users, larger reductions can be achieved in a shorter amount of time.

At one school site alone, the city supplied new sprinkler automation controls and other devices that reduced the property's water bill by 17 percent. A technology-friendly culture also allowed a group of 100 water users tested the use of smart meters. These devices provide immediate leak detection services and allow customers to use web-based technology for real-time water usage and billing information, giving them greater power over their own water consumption.

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## **Local Coastal Program Grant Application Period Now Open**

The California Coastal Commission is pleased to announce a third round of grant funding to support local governments in completing or updating Local Coastal Programs (LCP) consistent with the California Coastal Act, with special emphasis on planning for sea level rise and climate change.

Local governments responsible for developing and amending LCPs under the California Coastal

Act are eligible to apply for a total of \$3 million available. Applications for grant funds to support LCP planning are due by May 20.

- [View the announcement and application instructions](#)
- [Download the application](#)

For assistance or more information on the grant program, please contact [Daniel Nathan](#), LCP Grant Assistant at (415) 904-5251.

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## **Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service is Less Than Two Weeks Away**

Mayors from across the United States are invited to participate in the third annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, scheduled for April 7.

The event is led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the National League of Cities, and Cities of Service.

This year's event will highlight the impact of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. Participating in the event is a way for mayors to hold public events and use traditional and social media to highlight the value and impact of national service to the nation's cities. Last year, 1,760 mayors representing more than 110 million citizens participated in the second-annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service.

[Register online](#) to participate.

CNCS has put together a comprehensive toolkit for the event that includes FAQs, key messages, sample news release, sample proclamation and more.

For questions, please contact [Laurie Cannady](#) of the CNCS CA State Office at (310) 235-7421.

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