



**June 3, 2016  
Issue #45**

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## **Registration for the League of California Cities® Annual Conference and Expo is Now Open**

It's time to register for the League of California Cities® [2016 Annual Conference & Expo](#). The event will be held Oct. 5-7 at the Long Beach Convention Center. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **U.S. Communities Holding Summit on June 8 in Dublin to Educate Local Government Agency Officials on Program's Cost-Saving Benefits**

*Additional Summits to be held in Carlsbad and Bakersfield*

U.S. Communities, the League of California Cities® and the California State Association of Counties sponsored government purchasing alliance, is hosting on June 8 at the Shannon Community Center Ambrose Hall in Dublin a free regional event to learn how to save time and money through U.S. Communities program. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **California City Solutions: Bakersfield Offers Low Cost Swim Lessons through Health and Wellness Partnership**

*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](#). City of Bakersfield's Make a Splash and Operation Splash program was submitted in 2015 for the Health and Wellness Programs award category. For more, see Page 3.*

**'Annual Conference' Continued from Page 1...**

View this year's conference [schedule](#) to read the great line-up of sessions and networking opportunities available for attendees. For more information, check out the annual conference [announcement with session information](#).

Register by Aug. 10 to receive \$50 off conference registration. The full conference registration includes access to educational sessions, Wednesday host-city reception, networking events, Thursday lunch with exhibitors, and the Friday closing luncheon. Full conference registrations start at \$525 for member cities before Aug. 10 and \$575 Aug. 10.

**Lodging Information**

There are several fantastic properties for lodging this year around the Long Beach Convention Center. Reduced hotel room rates are available for registered attendees and can only be reserved online using the links provided in your conference registration confirmation email. Phone reservations will not be available.

**Conference Information**

League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> Annual Conference & Expo 2016  
Oct. 5-7  
Long Beach Convention Center  
300 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802

Register early, as space is limited. If you have any questions, please contact [Dayna Casper](#).

**'Summit' Continued from Page 1...**

During this three hour event, you will be able to network, ask questions and share feedback:

- Learn when to use cooperative contracts
- Connect with other local agencies currently using cooperative purchasing and find out what is working for their organization;
- Learn about the online e-commerce marketplace;
- Meet your local U.S. Communities program manager; and
- Connect with 10 of U.S. Communities' 40 suppliers to learn about and receive their lowest overall government pricing for these products and services:
  - Facilities
  - Office and school solutions
  - Technology
  - Safety and security
  - Specialty

This educational event will be of special interest to:

- Assistant city managers
- Public safety officials
- Parks and recreation officials
- Public works directors
- Facilities managers
- Fleet managers
- Procurement officers

**Event Details**

Wednesday, June 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meeting will be held at the Shannon Community Center Ambrose Hall at 11600 Shannon Ave in Dublin.

[Register online](#). Lunch will be provided.

### **Future Summits Scheduled**

U.S. Communities will be holding summits in Southern and Central California:

- July 14: Carlsbad city facilities — 1635 Faraday Ave. [Registration opens soon](#).
- Late July: Bakersfield. Information coming soon.

### **About U.S. Communities**

The U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, a strategic partner of the League of California Cities, is a government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. U.S. Communities provides world class procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education, and nonprofits. State and local governments have access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with best in class national suppliers.

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#### **'Bakersfield' Continued from Page 1...**

The city of Bakersfield's Recreation and Parks Department partnered with Kaiser Permanente, First 5 Kern and USA Swimming to offer swim lessons, water safety programs and information on healthy choices. The department searched for grants and partnerships to teach water safety and healthy choices in order to improve community health. After creating the Make a Splash and Operation Splash programs, the city was able to offer \$5 swim lessons and successfully taught more than 450 kids how to swim.

According to the Kern County Network for Children 2014 Report Card, the city of Bakersfield has the third largest child population among California counties. The same report indicated that 28 percent of families in Kern County raise their children with incomes below the poverty level and 69 percent of the county's children were eligible to receive free or reduced price meals as compared to 58 percent statewide.

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children under age four and the second leading cause of death for adolescents under age 14. In Kern County alone, from 2000-2012, 47 children drowned. The cost of swim lessons in city pools is \$50 per person, but due to the low income of many Bakersfield families this cost was prohibitive, especially for families with more than one child. The city's recreation and parks staff pursued grants and partnerships to be able to offer swim lessons for \$5 in order to encourage more children to learn to swim.

With high rates of diabetes and heart disease, and 60 percent of its population considered obese, Kern County residents are considered some of the unhealthiest in the state. Over 24 percent of the residents report no physical activity and many of the children are not able to meet the minimum fitness standards when testing for the California Physical Fitness Test.

Swimming is a physical skill that can be used throughout a lifetime as fitness. The activity can increase confidence and also make people safer when participating in other activities in the water. According to USA Swimming statistics, participation in formal swim lessons reduces the risk of childhood drowning by 88 percent. Nationally, 70 percent of African American children cannot swim, and 60 percent of Latino children cannot swim. Children from non-swimming families are eight times more likely to be at-risk of drowning than those from families that have learned to swim. Kern County's population mix is 49 percent Latino, 6 percent African American and 37 percent Caucasian. Offering low cost swimming lessons became a priority in Bakersfield due to its proximity to the Kern River, canals, lakes and ponds combined with the county's demographics. Non-swimmers could also learn about water safety tips, what to avoid and even how to assist their children in and around water.

Additionally, the recreation and parks staff wanted to expand on healthy living, healthy choices and begin educating the public on the high sugar contents of many of the drinks that their families consume regularly. According to the California Center for Public Health Advocacy, over 63

percent of children in Kern County consume one or more sodas per day. For children, each extra can or glass of sugary beverage consumed per day increases their chance of being obese by 60 percent, according to the Obesity and Sugary Beverage Fact Sheet, Project Lean.

In order to offer affordable swim lessons and inform the public about water safety and healthy choices, the recreation and parks department created two programs, Make a Splash and Operation Splash. In 2014, the city received three grants totaling \$88,618.

Donations, grants and sponsorships for water safety education and ReThink Your Drink campaign in 2014 totaled \$97,812.58. The recreation and parks department exceeded expectations in offering swim lessons, water safety programs and healthy choice information. Through the First 5 Kern Make a Splash and Kaiser Permanente Operation Splash and USA Swimming Foundation grants, 901 participants used the discounted swim lessons in 2014.

In 2014, the swim lesson participants totaled (regular price swim lessons included) 2,071 children, 72 day camp participants and 47 adults. This was a 17.4 percent increase from the previous year. Offering more swim lessons to a greater number of people with diverse backgrounds increased the number of learning opportunities for safe water activities year round.

Participation in The World's Largest Swim Lesson, where simultaneous lessons were being held around the world helped spread the message that swimming lessons save lives. Locally, 78 participants helped break the Guinness World Record of simultaneous swim lessons.

Staff presented American Red Cross Water Safety Education to 3,701 pre-school aged children through the First 5 Kern Make a Splash program grant, exceeding the program goal of 3,340.

Additionally, 766 participants signed the pledge to "Rethink your Drink" for their families to consume fewer drinks loaded with sugar.

Overall attendance in all four city pools in 2014 was 180,927; a 9 percent increase over the previous year, and a record high attendance in Bakersfield's public pools. These programs have been well-received by the public and are making a difference in educating the public about healthy choices, water safety and learning about taking personal responsibility for individual health.

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## **There is Still Time to Submit Proposals for the 2017 City Managers Department Meeting**

*Deadline is June 6*

The deadline to submit a session or speaker proposal for the League of California Cities® 2017 City Managers Department meeting is just days away. Scheduled for Feb. 8-10 at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey, the call for proposals offers a chance to share best practices, innovative approaches, as well as research and information with managers at their largest annual gathering in California.

This conference is geared toward California city managers and others in the profession and focuses on current issues and timely topics to assist officials in their daily roles and operations within their city.

Submissions, non-commercial in nature, from any individual, group, business or organization on any topic are welcome. The Program Planning Advisory Committee will consider the educational value of each proposal and the extent to which it presents new and/or significant information.

Sessions may not include sales, commercialism or product promotion of any kind. Ideas need to be fully completed and [submitted through the online proposal form](#) by Monday, June 6 to be considered by the committee.

There is a limit to the amount of words allowed within the title and description of each proposal. The League recommends that proposals are first written in a word-processing program and then pasted into the online form.

A list of "Topic Suggestions" has been added to the proposal guidelines, which are areas of current interest to this group, however all topics are open to being reviewed by the planning committee.

Visit [www.cacities.org/citymanagersproposal](http://www.cacities.org/citymanagersproposal) for additional information and to submit ideas.

If you have any questions please contact [Dayna Casper](#) at (916) 658-8227.

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### **Register Today for Webinar on Planning a Healthier Future: Partnerships with Purpose**

Collaborations involving local officials, staff, community groups and health and planning professionals play a vital role in the wellness and health of children and families. Join the Institute for Local Government (ILG) on Tuesday, June 14 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. for a video webinar featuring Sacramento County's sustainability director and public health officer for a discussion about partnerships leading to healthier outcomes in the form of an updated general plan that supports healthy eating/active living goals. Each panelist will share their perspective on the collaborative, the role of elected and staff leadership and their perspective on achieving outcomes through partnerships.

[Register online.](#)

For questions, please contact [Melissa Kuehne](#) at (916) 658-8202.

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### **\$1 Million PG&E Community Grants Available for Climate Change Resilience Planning Over Next Five Years**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) this week launched the Better Together Resilient Communities grant program to help local governments meet the challenge of climate change. The shareholder-funded initiative will invest \$1 million over five years — or \$200,000 per year — to support local planning efforts to help better prepare for, withstand, and recover from extreme events and other risks related to climate change, such as sea level rise, flooding, land subsidence, heat waves, drought and wildfires.

Beginning in 2017, PG&E will award two grants of \$100,000 through a competitive process. A panel of community and sustainability leaders, including members of PG&E's Sustainability Advisory Council, will select the winning applications from across Northern and Central California.

Strategies and solutions resulting from the grants will be made publicly available to help all communities, and encourage local and regional partnerships.

"Extreme weather and a changing climate are not just felt in places like Antarctica or Alaska. Instead, people across California — in cities big and small — experience it every day. Drought. Floods. Wildfire. Extreme heat. These are real life occurrences and they disrupt real lives — particularly the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. The League of California Cities welcomes the launch of the Resilient Communities grant program and looks forward to working with PG&E to help engage local governments throughout Northern and Central California," said League Executive Director Chris McKenzie.

#### **Grant Criteria and Eligibility**

Grant proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **Replicability:** the extent to which others can learn from and adopt the strategies and solutions.

- **Partnerships:** the extent to which the grant proposal reflects a multi-organizational and collaborative effort.
- **Disadvantaged communities:** the extent to which the grant proposal and partnership focuses on disadvantaged communities and identified needs.

To be eligible, applicants must be a governmental organization, educational institution or 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All applicants must have a local government within PG&E's service area as a partner.

## **Federal Officials Warn City Officials to be Aware of Zika Threat**

U.S. Centers for Disease and Prevention and Homeland Security representatives say that the Zika virus is not cause for panic — but that it must be taken seriously by state and local officials.

As of June 1, 591 people in the United States and another 939 in its territories had tested positive for Zika virus disease, according to the CDC. Of those, 310 are pregnant women, 168 of whom are in the continental United States.

None of those cases were acquired within the 50 states. The CDC and Homeland Security are monitoring Southern states, like Florida and Texas, and states like California with high numbers of overseas travelers.

No vaccine yet exists for Zika, which is spread to people most often through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito, but may also be spread sexually by an infected man. Four out of five people who are infected suffer no symptoms or mild symptoms, like fever, rash, joint pain or red eyes, for up to a week.

Based on reports from Brazil, in about 29 percent of cases involving pregnant women, there appears to be a link between Zika and miscarriages or serious birth defects. These include microcephaly, in which a baby is born with a smaller head and results in children never being able to walk, talk or feed themselves. According to the CDC models, 1-13 percent of Zika infections in women during their first trimester of pregnancy result in microcephaly.

Federal officials said in a White House call with local officials on Tuesday that their primary concern was about pregnant women, their partners and developing fetuses. Much remains unknown about Zika, officials said, including other risk factors and the long-term impact on babies infected in utero.

Two types of tests are being used: the first a blood or urine test to confirm the presence of the virus, the second an antibody test to confirm symptoms.

Limiting mosquito populations will be crucial to combatting the virus. The invasive *Aedes* mosquito, which can transmit Zika after biting an infected person, is a particularly problematic foe because it is resistant to a number of pesticides and bites during the daytime. The eggs that the mosquitoes lay in the water in buckets and other containers can survive through months of dry weather.

*Aedes* mosquitos have been detected in [12 California counties](#): Alameda, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo and Tulare.

Cities are urged to remain in regular contact with their county health officials and mosquito and vector control districts to learn how they can convey mosquito and virus information to residents.

Local officials can learn more about the virus [with information available from the CDC](#). The State Department of Public Health's Zika [information online as well](#). It includes an outreach toolkit.

The state of California's [Vector-Borne Disease Section webpage](#) includes a regularly updated map of *Aedes* mosquito infestations throughout California.

The Obama administration has requested \$1.9 billion for Zika response, in part to bolster state and local efforts. So far, Congress has not acted upon that request.

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**Cities Eligible for Grants to Upgrade Technology; Learn More with June 8 Webinar**  
*Deadline to Apply is July 15*

Cities can apply for funds to support tech projects or equipment purchase through the [CRT Settlement Fund](#).

As a result of a computer industry lawsuit settled by the California Attorney General, about \$2.27 million in one-time funds will be awarded to both public and nonprofit agencies, with grants ranging from around \$30,000 to \$86,000, and one to two years in duration. The grant process will be administered by Harry M. Snyder, consumer attorney, Cy Pres Funds, with final grant approvals by the California Department of Justice.

Projects that increase access to computer or visual technology will be considered. Examples include funding to train displaced or unemployed workers in new tech occupations; new software, technology or hi-tech equipment for local water, sewage treatment, or mosquito abatement district improved services; or funding for computer or visual technology services that will improve tech access, skills and knowledge for California populations.

**CRT Settlement Fund Timeline:**

- June 1: CRT Settlement Funds Request for Applications (RFA) released.
- June 8: CRT Settlement Funds Applicant Webinar (recording and FAQs will be posted online).
- July 15, 5 p.m.: Grants are due electronically to [www.cypresfunds.net](http://www.cypresfunds.net).
- October: Grants awarded and Grant Agreements Executed by Cy Pres Fund Administrator.

Read the summary of information about funding for each of four types of grants [online](#). If you would like to be added to the email list for the CRT Settlement Funds RFA and other updates, please send a request to [hmscypresfunds@gmail.com](mailto:hmscypresfunds@gmail.com).

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