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## **Featured Keynotes Speaking at the League of California Cities® 2016 Annual Conference & Expo**

The League of California Cities® announces two featured keynote speakers for its 2016 Annual Conference & Expo. Registration is now open for the event which is scheduled for Oct. 5–7 in Long Beach. 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](#). *For more, see Page 2.*



## **California City Solutions: Lake Forest's Comprehensive Study Brings Housing, Sports Park and Civic Center to the Community**

*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 Lake Forest's Opportunities Study was submitted in 2015 for the Planning and Environmental Quality award category. For more, see Page 2.*



## **Free SB 272 System Catalog Compliance Webinar Scheduled for June 29 July 1 is Deadline to Comply with New Provisions of Public Records Act**

With SB 272 going into effect on July 1, many cities are busy cataloging their enterprise systems to post online. Cities are invited to participate in a [free one-hour webinar](#) to learn about this law and a compliance tool developed by Digital Deployment for local agencies to use at no cost. *For more, see Page 4.*

Join fellow city colleagues for these entertaining and informative sessions:

- **Jason Roberts, Founder of the Better Block Project**  
**“Build a Better Block: How to Make Real Change in Your Community, Today”**  
How can we drive change in our communities and move past unproductive committees and outdated regulation? How do we become the “bike part of town” and revitalize stagnant blocks? In this funny, smart, energetic, and breathless talk, arts activist Jason Roberts of the Better Block Project encourages us to stop waiting around. Even if that means painting in our own crosswalks, bringing in our own trees, and blackmailing ourselves into action
- **Christopher Thornberg, Founding Partner of Beacon Economics**  
**“Fact and Fiction: What is really going on in the California Economy?”**  
There seem to be many worries about the ability for the current expansion to maintain momentum — China, oil, the Middle East, tech bubbles, and other issues have all caused brief periods of market panic. How sustainable is the economy in its current form? How does ‘business unfriendly’ stack up? What are the future flash points that cities need to focus their attention on?

### 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.

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

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### 'CCS: Lake Forest' Continued from Page 1...

Located in Orange County's scenic Saddleback Valley and surrounded by rolling foothills, the city of Lake Forest is known as a safe and family-friendly community. After incorporating in 1991, the city underwent a comprehensive planning process to rezone five large properties of land to allow for residential uses and community recreation facilities, transforming it into the community that residents enjoy today.

The [Opportunities Study Area](#) (OSA) is a comprehensive planning process that Lake Forest undertook to rezone over 800 acres of land formerly zoned for business and industrial use. The zoning changes allow for a new plan with residential uses and facilities including a sports park, community center and civic center. The OSA has enabled various public private partnerships with land owners that have resulted in over \$200 million in public benefit to the city.

The city's challenge began with the proposed El Toro International Airport. A couple of decades ago, hundreds of aircraft from the neighboring El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, the largest Marine air station on the west coast, flew directly over Lake Forest. In the shadow of the flight path and exposed to safety hazards and noise, more than 800 acres of city land were limited to industrial development.

In 1993, the federal government announced the closure of the base, and Orange County immediately began planning for an international airport on the property, igniting a political firestorm. Local cities banded together and launched a grassroots effort to stop the airport. After nearly a decade, voters in 2002 defeated the airport proposal. It was at that time that landowners approached the city to discuss new development ideas, including building housing. No longer confined by a flight path, the city now had an opportunity to develop the area and incorporate it into the balance of the community. After the initial defeat of the airport, the city's challenge became balancing the desires of the private development community with the needs of the community's residents.

In 2003, the Lake Forest City Council ordered a comprehensive study, known as The Opportunities Study, to consider potential community impacts as well as benefits of changing land use designations for the area. This project would become the most extensive and fruitful public-private partnership in the city's history.

The city council and staff wanted to gather feedback from residents and landowners on their shared vision for the area. After years of comprehensive study and public engagement, the community identified a new sports park, community center and civic center as the top public projects.

The city estimated at the time that the cost to design and build these projects would likely exceed \$100 million. Given the cost of acquiring land, designing, and ultimately constructing such large projects, the city realized the importance of developing a strong public-private relationship to enhance both the community and opportunities for the landowners.

The city and its development partners began working diligently toward a goal that would enable development of the land into master planned residential neighborhoods and provide funding to build the community's vision for the future of Lake Forest. The following objectives and guiding principles were identified:

- 1) Ensure that new development would not have a greater impact to existing infrastructure;
- 2) Reduce traffic impacts to previously approved land uses;
- 3) Maintain fiscal balance;
- 4) Deliver quality master planned communities;
- 5) Expand trails and open space linkages;
- 6) Provide a diverse mix of housing; and
- 7) Mitigate impact to schools; and
- 8) Deliver a sports park and community center to serve the current and future residents of Lake Forest.

Through the use of sophisticated financial modeling, development projections, and close collaboration, the city and the OSA landowners developed a clear and consistent vision for the future of the community. The process resulted in the creation of multiple development agreements in which the landowners provided revenue to the city in exchange for new land use entitlements. More than 26 community workshops, meetings, and public hearings were held to engage the public in the OSA planning process and keep people informed of its progress.

These agreements provide direct public benefit dollars to the city based on both the total number and size of units being developed. Each landowner is paying a share of the cost to build neighborhood parks, provide affordable housing, fund the development of new major roads, improve existing infrastructure, improve schools, and fund the design and development of the new community facilities desired by the residents of Lake Forest. The agreements and cooperative partnership that enabled them are the fundamental basis for the success of this program.

The city secured funding for the construction of the Lake Forest Sports Park and Recreation Center as well as a Civic Center through the contributions of landowners. Additionally, funding was received for important roadway improvements such as the extension of Alton Parkway and Rancho Parkway as major arterial roadways that are currently improving traffic circulation throughout Lake Forest and the surrounding region.

In November 2014, the city opened the Lake Forest Sports Park and Recreation Center. The 86-acre facility contains four baseball fields, one softball field, three multi-use fields, two synthetic fields, a large area known as The Commons for special events, a 27,000 square foot community center, various picnic shelters and gazebos, and trail connections to the nearby Aliso Creek Trail. The Sports Park is one of the premier recreation facilities in Orange County and was made possible by the public-private partnership approach developed through the OSA process.

The OSA is the most successful public-private partnership in the history of Lake Forest. The outcome created through this process struck a balance between private property rights and public

benefit by enabling residential and commercial development while providing dollars to finance public improvements.

The project will result in over 4,000 new homes, various neighborhood parks, millions of dollars for capital projects to build new roads or enhance existing intersections; the Lake Forest Sports Park and Recreation Center; and the Lake Forest Civic Center to be comprised of a community center, senior center, police center, community theatre, and administrative offices. These projects are provided without the need to assess special taxes on the residents of the community. The model developed by Lake Forest became the foundation upon which partnerships with landowners were built.

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'SB 272' Continued from Page 1...

The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29 from 10-11 a.m. Experts will review the bill text, talk about the intention of the law, and give tips on how to quickly determine what systems need to be included in your Enterprise System Catalog. Representatives from Digital Deployment will demonstrate the free compliance tool (which is available to any agency that has to comply with this new unfunded mandate, at no charge) and answer questions.

[Register online.](#)

For more information about SB 272, please see ["SB 272 Compliance Deadline Fast Approaching," CA Cities Advocate](#), May 6, 2016. The article details requirements under the legislation, as well as what is exempt.

Please contact [Sloane Dell'Orto](#) with Digital Deployment with questions.

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## **U.S. Communities Holding Summit on July 14 in Carlsbad to Educate Local Government Agency Officials on Program's Cost-Saving Benefits**

*Additional Summits to be held in Bakersfield and Long Beach*

U.S. Communities, the League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> and the California State Association of Counties sponsored government purchasing alliance, is hosting on July 14 at the Faraday Center in Carlsbad a free regional event to learn how to save time and money through the U.S. Communities program.

During this four 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 U.S. Communities suppliers to learn about and receive their lowest overall government pricing for these products and services:
  - Facilities
  - Office and school solutions
  - Technology
  - Parks and recreation
  - 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

Thursday, July 14, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Meeting will be held at the Faraday Center at 1635 Faraday Ave, Room 173 A&B in Carlsbad.

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

## Future Summits Scheduled

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

- Aug. 4: Bakersfield. [Registration opens soon](#).
- Late September: Long Beach. [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.

Learn more about U.S. Communities at [www.uscommunities.org/lcc](http://www.uscommunities.org/lcc).

For more information about the summits, please contact [Rob Fiorilli](#) from U.S. Communities at (925) 588-5054 or [Norman Coppinger](#) from the League of California Cities at (916) 658-8277.

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## Funding Opportunity: NLC's CHAMPS Grant Helps Cities Fund After School and Summer Lunch Programs

*July 15 Application Deadline*

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) and the League of California Cities® are working with National League of Cities (NLC) to provide support to cities interested in strengthening efforts to ensure youth stay healthy, engaged and on a positive developmental path. NLC's Cities Combating Hunger through After School and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS) is a grant opportunity for cities to ensure low-income youth continue to have access to healthy food when school is out.

City agencies in California are eligible to apply for \$5,000-\$40,000 grants and technical assistance to enhance their efforts to combat childhood hunger when school is out through [USDA summer and after school meal programs](#). These grant funds can be used to support activities (through December 2017) such as: youth employment, promotional activities, operational needs and other supports that increase access to out-of-school-time meal programs.

[Apply online](#). The deadline is July 15.

If you have questions contact NLC's [Jamie Nash](#) or ILG's [Patrice Chamberlain](#).

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