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Issue #7

League Submits Comprehensive Comments on HCD’s Draft 2025 Statewide Housing Assessment

Public Workshops Planned; Comments on Report due by March 4

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) recently released its [Draft 2025 Housing Assessment: “California’s Housing Future: Challenges and Opportunities.”](#) The agency is asking stakeholders, including cities, to provide comments on the report that outlines what HCD has identified as the challenges to addressing housing affordability as well possible options to help increase housing supply and reduce overall housing costs. The League has submitted [comprehensive comments](#) that examine the report and identify areas where HCD’s evaluation does not fully account for how market forces, other state policies and lack of affordable housing resources affect housing development. Cities should also review the report and provide feedback to HCD. *For more, see Page 2.*



Governor Brown Delivers State of the State Focused on California’s Leadership on Challenging Issues

California’s Legislature and state constitutional officers gathered today in joint session to hear Gov. Jerry Brown deliver his 2017 [State of the State](#). The first order of business was administering the oath of office to former U.S. Rep. Xavier Bacerra as California’s new attorney general. Shortly after, Governor Brown took the podium for his second to last State of the State, which once again served as a reiteration of how he views California’s leadership on a wide range of priorities. The Governor’s command of language, poetry and history became the backdrop of his address, which lasted approximately 20 minutes. *For more, see Page 3.*



U.S. Communities Announces New Staffing Contract to Provide Savings and Solutions

U.S. Communities, the League of California Cities® and the California State Association of Counties sponsored government purchasing alliance, is excited to announce a dual award for the new staffing services and solutions contract. *For more, see Page 3.*

Useful Information on Size and Scope of Problem:

HCD's draft report contains information that helps describe the significant housing needs of California's diverse regions and residents, which includes:

- The assessment of the serious need for more affordable housing;
- The analysis of the economic impact of where housing is located;
- The understanding of the full range of housing needs in terms of rental and homeownership supply; and
- Using the lens of housing types, affordability and costs to project California's housing needs through 2025.

Disproportionate Focus on Role of Local Government and Incomplete Analysis of Market Forces and Lack of Affordable Housing Resources

The League's comments highlight some areas of concern, which include the following:

- The draft report disproportionately focuses on local government's role in the planning, zoning, and permitting process, but fails to examine or acknowledge the fundamental private market forces that contribute greatly to housing production or lack thereof.
- While some discussion of affordable housing resources is provided, surprisingly, the report makes no mention of how the elimination of redevelopment agencies in 2011 contributed to the loss of over \$1 billion annually in affordable housing resources. Moreover, despite the scope of the described affordable housing crisis, the report conveys the Administration's opposition to any expenditure of additional state General Fund dollars on affordable housing.
- Concerns are also raised with several apparent conclusions presented in the report on the role of local government in the development of housing which lack sufficient supporting research and evidence.
- Inconsistent messaging. Some areas of the report state that a one-size-fits-all approach to housing does not work in California because of the state's diverse needs and markets. In other areas, however, the report advocates for top-down land use policies and changes that could affect all California cities.

The League's detailed comments are available on the League's [website](#) for cities to review.

HCD Requests Public Comments by March 4

Cities are encouraged to carefully review the full report and provide written comments to HCD by Saturday, March 4. Comments and questions can be submitted via email to sha@hcd.ca.gov.

As part of the public process, HCD has scheduled several statewide housing assessment public workshops.

The workshops are scheduled as follows:

- Fresno: Jan. 30 from 1-4:30 p.m.
- Los Angeles: Feb. 3 1-4:30 p.m.
- Sacramento: Feb. 6 1-4:30 p.m.
- Redding: Feb. 24 1-4:30 p.m.
- Bay Area: TBD

Next Steps

All cities should review HCD's report and consider providing written comments by March 4.

The League will continue to provide updates, host webinars, and solicit input throughout the year. Cities' involvement is critical to maintaining local land use authority, public engagement, and transparency.

'State of the State' Cont. from Page 1...

Pointing out the fact that the ship that brought his great grandfather to California from Hamburg, Germany was aptly named "Perseverance," Governor Brown remarked that perseverance and courage built California.

He said that in preparing today's speech he reviewed his most recent six State of the State addresses and reflected on what California has accomplished in recent years, celebrating the important policy achievements that define California today. These include:

- Increasing funding to public schools and universities;
- Providing health care insurance to 5 million Californians;
- Increasing the minimum wage;
- Reducing the prison population and sentencing reform;
- Leading on strategies to address climate change;
- Passing a water bond;
- Building the state's Rainy Day fund; and
- Eliminating the \$27 billion deficit California had when the Governor took office for his third term in 2011.

Many of these, and other achievements, occurred through bipartisan leadership and support. The Governor, in today's address, stressed the importance of bipartisan policies even in a Legislature controlled by a two-thirds Democrat majority. Reaching across the aisle, even when it is not necessary to pass the majority party's priorities, earns the trust of the people.

Changes at the federal level underlined much of Governor Brown's State of the State today and he noted several proposals that could have significant impact on California's budget.

While Governor Brown expressed concern over uncertainty about what President Donald Trump's policies will mean for California, he did commend President Donald Trump for his inaugural address pledge to invest in America's infrastructure. The Governor stated that California and Washington, D.C. can work together on this effort, an investment that will create good-paying jobs throughout the United States.

The Fix Our Roads Coalition, of which the League is a founding member, issued a [short statement](#) after the Governor's address thanking him for including transportation. "We applaud Governor Brown who again put transportation on the front burner for discussion in Sacramento."

'U.S. Communities' Cont. from Page 1...

This contract was awarded to Acro Service Corporation and Knowledge Services through a competitive solicitation process conducted by the lead public agency, Maricopa County, Ariz. The contract term is for three years with the option to extend the contract for six additional periods of one year each. This contract provides solutions for agencies to save on staffing services, but also on managed service provider solutions and services such as recruitment, payroll and temp-to-hire services. To learn more about each contract and the solutions available, register for a [complimentary 30-minute webinar](#).

[Acro Service Corporation](#) provides temporary staffing services across a wide range of job categories at predetermined prices, and then streamlines managing multiple temporary staffing providers in a single point of contact through its Managed Service Provider (MSP) program. MSP services are typically only possible for large organizations, but Acro is offering this service for all U.S. Communities participants, no matter how small. Acro is also a diversity supplier and fills positions with talent in the local community.

[Knowledge Services](#) takes on the primary responsibilities for managing an agency's workforce and temporary staffing process, vendors, and contractors. Knowledge Services provides a vendor-neutral solution which ensures all staffing partners receive the same requisitions simultaneously. The U.S.-based Knowledge Services MSP/VMS services allow public entities access to high-quality talent at the most competitive pricing in the industry. Knowledge Services

understands the needs of public sector clients, embraces small/minority business initiatives and provides funding source reporting, among many other benefits.

To learn more, register for a [complimentary 30-minute webinar](#) or [contact U.S. Communities](#) for additional information.

Webinars

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 8 a.m.

[Register online](#)

Thursday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m.

[Register online](#)

For additional information on Acro Service Corporation, Knowledge Services or the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance visit www.uscommunities.org or contact [Amanda Cadelago](#) with the League at (916) 658-8226.

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.
