

**Feb. 10, 2017  
Issue #11**

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**League, Cities, Transportation Advocates Gearing up for SB 1 Hearing on Feb. 14**  
*Cities Urged to Send Support Letters to Senate Transportation and Housing Committee  
Prior to Hearing*

Less than a week after Gov. Jerry Brown, Senate President pro Tem Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) announced an April 6 deadline to pass a transportation funding package, the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee on Tuesday, Feb. 14 will hold the first policy committee hearing on League-supported SB 1.  
*For more, see Page 2.*



**League-Sponsored Bond Agency Issues \$37.48 Million in Tax-Exempt Bonds for  
Affordable Housing in Los Angeles**

Some of the most significant benefits of League membership for cities since 1988 have flowed from the League's co-sponsorship of the [California Statewide Communities Development Authority](#) (CSCDA). *For more, see Page 2.*



**Call for 2017 Helen Putnam Entries**  
*Submit Entries by April 13*

Each year the League of California Cities® honors outstanding work in member cities across the state through the League Partner-sponsored Helen Putnam Awards for Excellence.  
*For more, see Page 2.*

Members of the [Fix Our Roads Coalition](#), of which the League is a founding member, will be testifying in support of Sen. Jim Beall's (D-San Jose) bill that generates an additional \$6 billion annually for California's local and state transportation network. Californians cannot afford to wait any longer for the passage of a meaningful transportation funding package. The system that California residents, businesses and visitors rely on is crumbling. It comes down to pave now or pay more later.

State and local roads have a maintenance backlog of \$130 billion and California motorists are spending more than \$700 annually on car repairs due to pothole-filled roads. This backlog is divided between \$59 billion for state highways and \$73 billion for local streets, roads, and bridges. Without additional funding, this shortfall is projected to grow by \$20 billion in the next decade.

The Special Session on Transportation Funding ended on Nov. 30, 2016 without an approved package, however, the Governor, Senate President pro Tem and Assembly Speaker committed to getting work done on transportation early in the session. On Feb. 8 they announced an April 6 deadline to get this done.

The coalition had a [press conference](#) in mid-January with hundreds of city officials who were in Sacramento for the League's New Mayors and Council Members Academy. Sen. Beall also recently held an [informational hearing on roadway funding needs and the Fix Our Roads Coalition held a briefing](#) for legislators and staff in the Capitol. Next Tuesday's hearing though is the first debate this year on legislation. Assembly Member Jim Frazier's (D-Oakley) AB 1, which is similar to SB 1, has not been set for hearing yet.

[City-by-city estimates](#) show what each California city receives under [SB 1](#) and [AB 1](#). In brief, AB 1 and SB 1 raises revenue through a variety of sources:

- A 12 cent increase to the gas tax (SB 1 would phase this increase in over three years);
- Ending the Board of Equalization's "true up" process on the unreliable price based excise tax on gas;
- A \$38 increase to the vehicle registration fee;
- A \$100 vehicle registration fee on zero emission vehicles;
- A 20 cent increase to the diesel excise tax;
- \$300 million from existing Cap-and-Trade funds; and
- \$500 million in vehicle weight fees phased in over five years.

### **Take Action to Support SB 1**

Many cities have formally supported SB 1 and AB 1, but legislators need to hear from more cities about the importance of passing a sustainable transportation funding package.

The League has prepared a sample letter cities can use and tailor with examples from their own. Letters should be sent to Sen. Beall, chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee along with each city's senator and Assembly member.

The sample letter, along with the League's letter and bill language can be found at [www.cacities.org/BillSearch](http://www.cacities.org/BillSearch) by plugging SB 1 into the search function.

This program provides a variety of public agencies and developers access to low-cost, tax-exempt financing and economic development tools. CSCDA recently issued a total of \$37,480,000 in tax-exempt multi-family affordable housing bonds for the Watts Arms I Apartments and Columbia Apartments in Los Angeles.

### **About Watts Arms I Apartments**

Watts Arms I Apartments (Watts Arms) is an acquisition and rehabilitation of 104 multi-family affordable housing apartments by Watts Arms I Renewal, LP. The project sponsor is the National Foundation for Affordable Housing Solutions (the Foundation). Watts Arms will continue to be 100 percent affordable and provide apartments to low-income residents in Los Angeles.

CSCDA and the Foundation partnered with Stifel to underwrite the \$19.48 million in tax-exempt multi-family affordable housing bonds for Watts Arms. The project will undergo an extensive interior and exterior renovation ensuring that residents have an updated, safe, and affordable community to call home for years to come. The financing of Watts Arms will maintain the affordability of units for low-income tenants for 55 years.

### **About Columbia Apartments**

Columbia Apartments is an acquisition and rehabilitation of 122 multi-family affordable housing apartments by Columbia Associates II, LP. The project sponsor is Intercontinental Affordable Housing (IAHI). Columbia Apartments will continue to be 100 percent affordable and provide apartments to low-income residents in Los Angeles.

CSCDA and IAHI partnered with Jones, Lang LaSalle Multifamily to provide tax-exempt multi-family affordable housing bonds for Columbia Apartments. The project will undergo an extensive interior and exterior renovation ensuring that residents have an updated, safe, and affordable community to call home for years to come. The financing of Columbia Apartments will maintain the affordability of units for low-income tenants for 55 years.

### **Background**

CSCDA is a joint powers authority created in 1988 and is sponsored by the League of California Cities® and the California State Association of Counties. It was created by cities and counties for cities and counties. More than 500 cities, counties and special districts are program participants in CSCDA, which serves as their conduit issuer and provides access to efficiently finance locally-approved projects. CSCDA has issued more than \$50 billion in tax exempt bonds for projects that provide a public benefit by creating jobs, affordable housing, healthcare, infrastructure, schools and other fundamental services. Visit [CSCDA's website](#) for additional information on the ways in which CSCDA can help your city.

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### **'Helen Putnam' Continued from Page 1...**

If your city has done remarkable, innovative work in any of the 12 categories listed below now is the time to get your deserved recognition. It is an opportunity to thank your employees and collaborators, gain the appreciation of your residents and feel proud of outstanding contributions made to better your city.

The award recognizes the successes of California cities as demonstrated by beneficial innovations, resourceful efficiencies, improved public service, and overall enhanced public trust and support. The award also provides a great opportunity to have a community celebration of the good work you are doing.

Does your city have an outstanding program that delivers efficiency, quality service and innovation? Enter your program at [www.helenputnam.org](http://www.helenputnam.org) to compete for the recognition it deserves.

Award categories include:

- CCS Partnership Intergovernmental Collaboration Award
- Community Services and Economic Development
- Economic Development through the Arts
- Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement
- Health and Wellness Programs
- Housing Programs and Innovations
- Internal Administration
- League Partners Award for Excellence in City-Business Relations

- Planning and Environmental Quality
- Public Safety
- Public Works, Infrastructure, Transportation
- Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government

Additionally, your city can receive the President's Advocacy Award. This prestigious award honors a distinguished program or individual that best advocates for the League's annual strategic priorities. One outstanding winner may be chosen from the 12 categories.

Your city must be a member of the League of California Cities to apply. To qualify, simply demonstrate that your city offered a program or service that has proven measurable and successful within a minimum of one year of actual implementation. Particular attention and credit is given to applications specifically advancing the League's strategic priorities at [www.cacities.org/priorities](http://www.cacities.org/priorities), which are determined each year by the board of directors.

Online entry deadline is Thursday, April 13. Submit your application online at [www.helenputnam.org](http://www.helenputnam.org).

Please contact [Melissa Lienau](mailto:Melissa.Lienau@leaguelocalgov.org) with any questions at (916) 658-8216.

## Upcoming Legislative Hearings of Interest to Cities Feb. 14-28

The Legislature continues to hold a number of oversight and informational hearings on a variety of policy areas of interest to cities. With just a week until the Feb. 17 bill introduction deadline, expect the number of legislative hearings to ramp up by early March.

Some hearings, if not all, will be televised. The [Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) publish weekly television schedules, but audio is always available online. In addition, many hearings are also webcast via the [California Channel](#).

Here are a number of upcoming hearings of interest to cities:

### Feb. 14

**Senate Transportation and Housing Committee**, 1:30 p.m. State Capitol, Room 4203

- **SB 1 (Beall)** Transportation funding. *League position: Support.*

**Senate Governance and Finance Committee**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 2040

- Oversight Hearing: Cannabis Tax Collection

**Senate Natural Resources and Water**, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 113

- Informational Hearing: California Water Fix: Status of the Project

### Feb. 15

**Senate Environmental Quality Committee**, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 3191

- Oversight Hearing: Overview of California's Beverage Container Recycling Program

### Feb. 16

**Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Hearing**, 10 a.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- Oversight Hearing: Marijuana in California: Revenue, Budget, and Community Impact

### Feb. 22

**Assembly Local Government Committee**, 2 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- Informational Hearing: "How Local Governments are Implementing Proposition 64 — the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA)"

**Feb. 28**

**Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration**, 1:30 p.m. State Capitol, Room 447

- Informational Hearing: What are the Financial Barriers to Housing Production in California?

**Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee**, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112

- Informational Hearing: California Water Fix: Perspectives on the Plan

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## **Join ILG for a Public Engagement Strategy Workshop in Sacramento on March 8**

Looking for assistance with organizing and sustaining productive public engagement? Struggling to decide how to use online engagement tools? This workshop will provide you with the tools and resources you need to authentically engage stakeholders in thoughtful, democratic processes. The Institute for Local Government's Public Engagement Program is partnering with Public Agenda to bring this workshop to Sacramento on March 8.

The one-day event will cover a variety of issues including:

- Strengths and limitations of public engagement;
- Practical skills for planning stronger engagement infrastructure; and
- How to assess the strengths and weaknesses of public engagement in your community.

[Register online.](#)

Please contact [Sarah Rubin](#) with questions.

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## **Grant Money for Community Based Transitional Housing Webinar Scheduled for March 2**

The League of Cities and Department of Finance will host a webinar to inform cities of a grant opportunity for siting Community Based Transitional Housing. Registration is now open for this free, one-hour webinar scheduled for Thursday, March 2.

Cities and counties are eligible for grants under the new Community-Based Transitional-Housing Program. Established by [SB 837](#) in June 2016, the program provides \$25 million in grants for cities or counties that agree to site transitional housing connected with support services for recently released offenders. Individual grants can be up to \$2 million, depending on the size of the facility, and priorities will be provided for applications with local matching contributions.

To ensure that cities are fully aware of this program and have a chance to consider taking advantage of it, we are hosting a webinar to enable the Department of Finance (DOF) to explain the program in greater detail, and be available to answer your questions.

DOF's [FAQ's for the Community Based Transitional Housing grant program](#) has additional information.

Applications will be accepted on a first come basis over a two-year period that begins Oct. 1, 2016. DOF will stop accepting applications when the \$25 million appropriation is fully awarded even if that occurs prior to Oct. 1, 2018. The [application](#) is available on DOF's website.

### **Webinar Details**

Thursday, March 2, 1–2 p.m.

[Register online](#) by Monday, Feb. 27, 5 p.m. Webinar log-in information will be sent that day.

Typically, League webinars only allow one connection per city but due to capacity, each member city can have two connections to make it easier to participate. The webinar is free for members and League partners. Non-member cities will be charged \$100.

Please direct registration questions to [Megan Dunn](#). Please direct other questions to [Sarah Nowshiravan](#).

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