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League Member Briefing Scheduled for April 3 on Road Repair and Accountability Act

Now that Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leadership have [reached an agreement](#) on the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1), the League will be holding a member briefing via webinar on April 3 from 12–1 p.m. The webinar will be an opportunity for cities to learn about the details of the \$52.4 billion transportation funding investment, which includes important accountability measures to ensure that the funds are spent the way they are intended. Cities will also hear about how they can get engaged to help the bills pass both houses of the Legislature. *For more, see Page 2.*



Bills in Committee April 3 – 19

The legislative policy committee schedule is in full gear and the League is tracking numerous bills affecting cities. The League is working on its legislative bills of interest to cities, which will be published once available. *For more, see Page 2.*



CDCR Enacts Emergency Regulations to Lower State’s Prison Population *Regulations will be in Effect for up to 180 Days*

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) issued [emergency regulations](#) aiming to reduce California’s prison population to comply with Proposition 57, which voters approved in November 2016. These emergency regulations go into effect Friday, March 31 and will remain for up to 180 days. CDCR will start the formal rulemaking process during this period, including the public comment period, to make the new regulations permanent. The League board of directors voted in October 2016 to oppose Prop. 57 because of public safety concerns stemming from reducing sentences for specific crimes that — despite debates over legal definitions — are clearly violent. *For more, see Page 4.*

'Briefing' Continued from Page 1...

Topics to be covered include:

- New revenues and allocations;
- Restoration and stabilization of Proposition 42 replacement revenues (Gas Tax Swap);
- Reforms and accountability provisions;
- Expected schedule of legislative hearing and votes; and
- What you can do to help!

Registration and Login

Please register for this webinar at www.cacities.org/events by Monday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m. Due to the expected interest in this call, only one connection will be allowed per city. This is a League member only briefing.

Log-in information will be sent after between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 3. For questions about how to register for the webinar, please contact [Megan Dunn](#). For all other questions, please contact [Sarah Nowshiravan](#).

'Bills in Cmte' Continued from Page 1...

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](#).

Bill language and the League's position letters and sample letters can be found at www.cacities.org/billsearch by plugging the bill number into the search function.

Here are a number of key bills of interest to cities:

April 3

Senate Appropriations Committee, 10 a.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **HOT SB 1 (Beall)** Transportation funding. *League position: Support.*
- **HOT SB 2 (Atkins)** Building Homes and Jobs Act. *League position: Support.*
- **HOT SB 3 (Beall)** Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018. *League position: Support.*
- **SB 37 (Roth)** Local government finance: property tax revenues allocations: vehicle license fee adjustments. *League position: Support.*

Assembly Natural Resources Committee, 2:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- **AB 663 (Bloom)** Coastal resources: housing. *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1180 (Holden)** California tire fee: Stormwater Permit Compliance Fund. *League position: Support.*

Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, 2:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- **AB 561 (Voepel)** Sales and use taxes: exclusion: public safety first responder vehicle and equipment: local public employee retirement: employer contributions. *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1322 (Bocanegra)** Property taxation: intercounty base year value transfers. *League position: Oppose.*

Assembly Transportation Committee, 2:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4202

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

April 4

Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 3191

- **SB 618 (Bradford)** Load-serving entities: integrated resource plans. *League position: Oppose.*

- **HOT SB 649 (Hueso)** Wireless telecommunications facilities. *League position: Oppose.*

Senate Public Safety Committee, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **HOT SB 75 (Bates)** Violent felonies: *League position: Support.*

Senate Judiciary Committee, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 112

- **SB 63 (Jackson)** Unlawful employment practice: parental leave. *League position: Oppose.*

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

- **SB 167 (Skinner)** Housing and Accountability Act. *League position: Concerns.*
- **SB 347 (Jackson)** State Remote Piloted Aircraft Act. *League position: Support.*
- **HOT SB 540 (Roth)** Workforce Housing Opportunity Zone. *League position: Sponsor.*

April 5

Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 444

- **HOT AB 890 (Medina)** Local land use initiatives: environmental review. *League position: Oppose.*

Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- **AB 45 (Thurmond)** California School Employee Housing Assistance Grant Program. *League position: Support.*
- **AB 53 (Steinorth)** Personal income taxes: deduction: homeownership savings accounts. *League position: Support.*
- **AB 346 (Daly)** Redevelopment: housing successor: Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Fund. *League position: Support.*

Senate Governance and Finance Committee, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112

- **SB 139 (Wilk)** Harmful substances: local regulations. *League position: Support.*
- **HOT SB 540 (Roth)** Workforce Housing Opportunity Zone. *League position: Sponsor.*

Assembly Local Government Committee, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 447

- **AB 852 (Grayson)** Planning and zoning: general plan: report. *League position: Sponsor.*
- **AB 1505 (Bloom)** Local land use: zoning regulations. *League position: Support.*

April 18

Assembly Public Safety Committee, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- **HOT AB 1326 (Cooper)** Theft: Aggregate valuation. *League position: Support.*

Senate Judiciary Committee, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 112

- **SB 378 (Portantino)** Alcoholic beverages: licenses: emergency orders. *League position: Support.*

April 19

Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 126

- **AB 678 (Bocanegra)** Housing Accountability Act. *League position: Concerns.*
- **AB 879 (Grayson)** Planning and zoning housing element. *League position: Sponsor.*
- **AB 1585 (Bloom)** Planning and zoning: affordable housing: single application. *League position: Oppose.*

Senate Education Committee, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 4203

- **SB 78 (Leyva)** After school programs: grant amounts. *League position: Support.*

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

- **SB 589 (Hernandez)** Municipal separate storm sewer systems: financial capability analysis. *League position: Support.*

Senate Governance and Finance Committee, 9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 112

- **HOT SB 711 (Hill)** Infrastructure finance: Local-State Sustainable Investment Incentive Program. *League position: Support.*

'CDCR' Continued from Page 1...

Prop. 57 gave the state parole board the authority to grant early release to prisoners whose primary sentences are not considered “violent” crimes. Many offenders are eligible under Prop. 57 to seek parole after serving the full term of their primary offense without factoring in any sentencing enhancements they received in addition to the base term. The definition of “violent” crimes has led to controversy in the legislature where multiple bills have been introduced to expand the definition of what is considered a “violent” crime.

CDCR’s emergency regulations are targeted to incentivize inmates to take rehabilitation opportunities more seriously by linking credit-earning opportunities to participation in CDCR’s rehabilitation programs, including vocational training and educational programs. The programs on which these credits are based are expected to better prepare inmates for eventual release, and reduce their risk of recidivism. The credits themselves can advance the date of an inmate’s release.

Under the emergency regulations, the Board of Parole Hearings retains its current discretion to weigh for itself an inmate’s progress toward meaningful rehabilitation, and deny parole to any offender. In addition, a number of disqualifying events listed in the regulations will block inmates from early parole eligibility. Such incidents include fighting/acts of violence, the inmate being sentenced to a term in a Secured Housing Unit within a prison at any time over the past five years, or caught with contraband such as a controlled substance or makeshift weapon.

While the possibility of early release of “non-violent” offenders has fueled concerns among city officials and the law enforcement community alike, Parole Board discretion, along with the number of potentially disqualifying events for early parole, may reduce to some degree the volume of releases. CDCR Secretary Scott Kernan stated that as a result of the regulations, roughly half of the inmates potentially eligible for parole will be released in FY 2016–17 — approximately 600 inmates.

CDCR is expected to make these emergency regulations permanent, after a period of public comment, by adopting these regulations through the normal rulemaking process over the next three months. The regular rulemaking process includes a public notice and comment period, and making available documents and information on which the rulemaking action is based.

For questions regarding these regulations, please contact Vicki Waters at CDCR at (916) 324-8092.

President Trump Releases “Skinny” Budget, Proposes Cuts to Major Local Programs

President Donald Trump recently released his Administration’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 “Skinny Budget” blueprint. This initial proposal provides top-level concepts. The blueprint does not address tax policy or mandatory spending nor does it include revenue projections or larger policy statements. The proposal only includes dollar-for-dollar offsets. It is important to note that this budget is merely an initial proposal. Congress must ratify these proposals and have expressed bipartisan concerns for the major cuts proposed by the Administration.

Days before the budget was released, League Executive Director Carolyn Coleman and the League’s officers took part in the National League of Cities’ congressional advocacy conference where they met with top congressional leaders and Trump Administration officials in the nation’s

capital. The League's concerns regarding the importance of these programs were not lost on the Administration. During a meeting with White House Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy Director Billy Kirkland, he acknowledged the real world positive impacts these programs have on cities large and small and was open to working with the League and cities across the country on solutions. Moving forward, League leaders will partner with cities across the country as well as other state municipal leagues to ensure the proposed funding cuts do not become law.

"Having a strong and unified voice in Washington D.C. will continue to be of vital importance moving forward," said Coleman. "We will work with the Administration, our congressional delegation, and our federal and state counterparts to ensure that our most important priorities are top of mind and preserved."

Many programs were not explicitly mentioned in this proposal, but those which have a direct impact on cities are detailed below. Again it is important to note that these are proposed cuts.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Requests \$40.7 billion in funding for HUD, a \$6.2 billion or 13.2 percent decrease from the FY 2017 continuing resolution (CR) level.
- Eliminates funding for the Community Development Block Grant program (\$3 billion in savings from the FY 2017 CR level).
- Eliminates funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Choice Neighborhoods, and the Self-help Homeownership Opportunity Program (totaling \$1.1 billion in savings).
- Eliminates funding for Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing (\$35 million in savings).

Note: According to the administration, these programs are better suited for state and local budgets and implementation.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Includes \$2.3 billion for the State Revolving Funds, a \$4 million increase over the 2017 annualized CR level, and \$20 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, equal to FY 2017 CR levels.
- Reduces Categorical Grants (states receive funds to implement water, air, waste, pesticides, and toxic substances programs) to \$597 million, a decrease of \$482 million in funding.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- Requests \$16.2 billion for DOT, a \$2.4 billion (13 percent) decrease from 2017.
- Limits funding for the New Starts program to only projects with existing full funding grant agreements.
- Eliminates \$499 million in funding for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grants.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

- Requests \$47.7 billion, a \$1.1 billion (3.8 percent) decrease from 2017.
- Requests a \$175 million increase to support law enforcement targeting criminal organizations and drug traffickers.
- Asks for \$171 million above the 2017 level for additional short-term detention space for federal detainee but proposes funding cuts to reimburse state and local governments for costs of incarcerating undocumented immigrants.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- Requests \$44.1 billion, a \$2.8 billion (6.8 percent) increase from 2017.
- Requests \$1.5 billion for enhancing cybersecurity programs that protect federal networks and critical infrastructure.
- Eliminates \$667 million from state and local agencies grant funding, including FEMA grant programs.

Proposition 64 — Regulation Under the Adult Use of Marijuana Act Webinar Scheduled for April 6

The League of California Cities® is hosting a webinar on April 6 from 10–11:30 a.m. to educate its members on various aspects of Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA).

The webinar will cover:

- Summary of Prop. 64;
- Key Differences: AUMA vs. MMRSA;
- Prop. 64 and Regulation;
- Personal Use and Personal Cultivation;
- Regulatory Response to Indoor Cultivation;
- State Licensing of Commercial Operations;
- Local Regulation of Commercial Operations;
- Prop. 64 and Taxation;
- Allocation of Revenues;
- Local Taxes and Fees;
- State and Local Sales Tax Exemptions; and
- Local Policy Issues.

This webinar is free for League members and League Partners. Non-member cities may register for \$100.

Please register [online](#) for this webinar by Tuesday, April 4 at 5 p.m. Due to the capacity for this webinar, two connections per city will be permitted to provide easier access for League members.

Webinar log-in information will be sent on April 5. For questions about how to register for the webinar, please contact [Megan Dunn](#). For all other questions, please contact [Sarah Nowshiravan](#).

Transactions and Use Taxes: Updated Report

On April 1, more than 50 new local sales taxes, which were approved by voters in November 2016, will go into effect in California. These “Transactions and Use Taxes” added on to the 7.25 percent statewide base sales and use tax rate, are now in effect in 32 counties and 176 cities and generate over \$6 billion annually, mostly for countywide transportation purposes but increasingly for city general services including police fire, parks and libraries.

The full update of the status and history of local add-on sales taxes in California is available through [CaliforniaCityFinance.com](#).

There’s Still Time to Submit Session Ideas for the 2017 Municipal Finance Institute *Submissions due by April 12*

The League of California Cities® is now accepting session ideas for the 2017 Municipal Finance Institute, which will be held Dec. 13–14 in Newport Beach. This two-day premiere event is geared towards finance officers, city treasurers, city managers and all city staff who assist these professionals in their stewardship of public resources and focuses on current issues and timely topics that will assist officials in their daily roles and operations within their city.

Submission Guidelines

- Submissions, non-commercial in nature, from any individual, group, business or organization, on any topic are welcome.
- The Program Planning 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.
- Proposals must be submitted [online](#).

For more information or to request a copy of last year's program, please contact [Katie Sacco](#).

San Leandro Director of Engineering and Transportation Keith Cooke Recognized with Public Works Lifetime Achievement Award

The League of California Cities® Public Works Officers Department honored San Leandro Director of Engineering and Transportation Keith Cooke with the prestigious James L. Martin Award on March 24 for his significant contributions towards the public works profession. The award was presented to Cooke during the League's Public Works Officers Institute held March 22–24 in San Diego, which is the largest gathering of municipal public works professionals in California.

The James L. Martin Award has been presented annually since 2003 to individuals who demonstrate outstanding contributions to the public works field, including fostering professional development, mentoring of others and actively participating in League activities such as department leadership and policy committee representation.

"It is an honor to acknowledge Keith Cooke's dedication to the advancement of the public works profession, both for local public works agencies and in leadership roles in the League of California Cities and elsewhere," said Jay Spurgin, public works director with the city of Thousand Oaks and president of the League's Public Works Department. "His more than 35 years of involvement in numerous professional organizations demonstrates a passion for public works few could match."

Cooke's career spans more than three decades, as he first began practicing civil engineering in 1984. He has been with the city of San Leandro since 1994 and became director of the city's Engineering and Transportation Department in 2015. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering from the University of California, Davis and a master's degree in structural engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He also holds licensure as a Professional Engineer. He is a member of the American Public Works Association and represented San Leandro on the Alameda County Technical Advisory Committee of the Alameda County Transportation Commission from 2003 to 2015.

"I am humbled that my colleagues in the Public Works Officers Department of the League of California Cities have honored me as the 2017 James L. Martin Award recipient and I hope my service inspires others to volunteer their time and efforts to this worthy cause as we all work to make our cities a better place for all."

Cooke's contributions to the League of California Cities are extensive. He served as president of the League's Public Works Officer Department from 2013 to 2014 and as a member of the League's Transportation, Communication and Public Works Policy Committee since 2015. Previously from 2007 to 2015, he was a member of the League's Public Safety Policy Committee. Since 2008, he has been part of the joint League of California Cities and County Engineers' Local Streets and Roads Oversight Committee from 2008 to the present.

James L. Martin dedicated his career to the advancement of public works, serving as the League's Public Works Department president in 1970-71, and national president of the American Public Works Association in 1983-84. Over his 35-year career he served the communities of Richmond, Berkeley, San Leandro and Fresno as Public Works Director. He passed away in 2008.
