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**Legislative Action Day Brings Hundreds of City
Officials to Sacramento to Lobby on City Priorities**

*Governor Brown, Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry
and Assembly Member Frazier Brief City Officials Prior to Capitol Meetings*

Hundreds of city officials descended on Sacramento earlier this week to lobby their legislators and staff on the pressing policy issues facing California cities this legislative session. The visits coincided with the League's annual Legislative Action Day, which was once again a powerful demonstration of the effectiveness of city officials when they come together. *For more, see Page 2.*



League-Sponsored Housing Streamlining Bill Clears Key Hurdle

Cities Urged to Support SB 540

On a day full of activity surrounding the League of California Cities[®] Legislative Action Day, several city officials testified with the League in support of [SB 540 \(Roth\)](#) in the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality. *For more, see Page 3.*



Bills in Committee and Legislative Hearings of Interest April 24 – May 3

The legislative policy committee schedule is ramping up and the League is tracking numerous bills affecting cities. 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](#). *For more, see Page 3.*

The day began Wednesday morning with a legislative briefing for city officials that featured League President and Lodi Council Member JoAnne Mounce and Gov. Jerry Brown. Highlighting the collective strength of the League, Mounce remarked, "This organization remains a powerful force because of the dedication of city officials throughout California. Thank you for your advocacy to improve the quality of life in your city and all of the cities of California." she said.

President Mounce welcomed Gov. Brown to the podium and thanked him for his leadership on SB 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, the \$52 billion transportation funding package the Assembly and Senate passed on April 6 and his focus on repaying debt, prudently building reserves and making progress on the growing costs of pensions and unfunded liabilities.

In thanking legislators for their support of the transportation funding package, Mounce acknowledged the challenge it presented. "We know that passing SB 1 was not an easy vote for legislators and not everyone agreed with the result. However, for the League, the effort to fix our roads has always been practical; not partisan," she said.

Governor Brown, a former mayor of Oakland, reminisced about his own experiences in local government that he said began when he helped Mother Teresa and the Sisters of Charity open a center in San Francisco to help those affected with AIDs. He commented on what often separates local governments from the state and federal governments. "Local government is where you actually have democracy working," He continued, "You (city officials) are the custodians of democracy in America."

In reference to the passage of SB 1, the Governor thanked the League and city officials for their advocacy. "You were crucial in getting the bill passed. The League plays a big role," said Governor Brown.

Following a briefing by the League's advocacy team on the [League's strategic goals](#), city officials heard from two members of the Assembly both former mayors and city council members.

Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, the former mayor of Winters, shared how her experience as a member of a League policy committee, as well as the League board of directors, was instrumental in preparing her for serving in the Assembly and as chair of the Assembly Local Government Committee.

Assembly Member Jim Frazier, the former mayor of Oakley, worked closely with Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) on the transportation funding package and is the lead sponsor on ACA 5, SB 1's accompanying accountability measure. In his remarks he recounted the efforts it took to pass the legislation and the positive impact the funding will have on the state and local transportation system.

Legislative Panel Discussion on California's Housing Challenges

City officials returned to the Sacramento Convention Center after their meetings with legislators in the Capitol for a panel discussion on California's housing challenges. Moderated by San Diego City Council Member David Alvarez, the event was sponsored by the League's five diversity caucuses: the African-American Caucus; Asian-Pacific Islander Caucus; Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Local Officials Caucus; Latino Caucus; and Women's Caucus.

The panelists who shared their perspectives on California's housing challenges included:

- Assembly Member Anna Caballero (D-Salinas), chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee;
- Assembly Member David Chiu (D-San Francisco), chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee;
- Assembly Member Marc Steinorth (R-Rancho Cucamonga); vice chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee;
- Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose), chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee; and

- League Legislative Representative Jason Rhine.

“It was a productive day, and the League appreciates the time the many city officials took out of their busy schedules to make the voice of cities heard in the Capitol,” said League Executive Director Carolyn Coleman.

A slideshow of images from the League’s 2017 Legislative Action Day is available to view on the League’s [YouTube Channel](#).

‘SB 540’ Continued from Page 1...

Oakland Council Member Dan Kalb and Menlo Park Mayor Kirstin Keith, both League board members, provided key testimony along with several other city officials from around the state. After many thoughtful questions and extensive vetting, SB 540 passed out of the committee on a 6-0 vote.

“Access to housing is a basic human need, and ensuring Californians have access to an affordable place to live is critical to every Californian’s quality of life. That’s why I am proud to have authored Senate Bill 540, which will incentivize and streamline housing construction to meet our state’s dire housing shortage. I thank the Committee for recognizing the critical need for this measure, and look forward to sending this measure to the Governor for his signature,” [said Senator Roth](#).

Next Steps

SB 540 now heads to the Senate Committee on Appropriations where it will examine the state’s ability to fund the new revolving loan program, established in SB 540, to assist cities with up-front planning and environmental review efforts. The measure must be acted on by the May 26 fiscal committee deadline.

For more information about SB 540, please see [“Blueprint for Moure Housing Legislation Heads to Senate Environmental Quality Committee for Final Policy Hearing.”](#) *CA Cities Advocate*, April 14, 2017.

Cities are strongly encouraged to join the League and support SB 540. The League’s support letters and a sample letter that cities can use are available on the League’s website at www.cacities.org/billsearch by typing “SB 540” into the bill search function.

‘Bills in Cmte’ Continued from Page 1...

Additional information about the important bills the League is tracking is available in the [2017 Bills of Interest and Hot Bills List](#). Published on April 12, this list will continually be updated throughout the remainder of the Legislative Session. 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 upcoming hearings of interest to cities:

April 24

Assembly Natural Resources, Upon Adjournment of Session, State Capitol, Room 447

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

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

- **HOT AB 252 (Ridley-Thomas)** Local government: taxation: prohibition: video streaming services. *League position: Oppose.*

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

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

April 25

Senate Public Safety Committee, 8:30 a.m., State Capitol, Room 3191

- **SB 347 (Jackson)** State Remote Piloted Aircraft Act. *League position: Support.*

Assembly Business and Professions, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 4202

- **AB 729 (Gray)** Nonmedical marijuana: license regulations. *League position: Support.*

Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 444

- **AB 1180 (Holden)** California tire fee: Stormwater Permit Compliance Fund. *League position: Support.*

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

- **SB 167 (Skinner)** Housing Accountability Act. *League position: Concerns.*
- **SB 378 (Portantino)** Alcoholic beverages: licenses: emergency orders. *League position: Support.*

Assembly Judiciary Committee, 9 a.m., State Capitol, Room 437

- **HOT AB 1479 (Bonta)** Public records: supervisor of records: fines. *League position: Oppose.*

April 26

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

- **AB 663 (Bloom)** Coastal resources: housing. *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 678 (Bocanegra)** Housing Accountability Act. *League position: Concerns.*
- **HOT AB 1505 (Bloom)** Land use: zoning regulations. *League position: Support.*

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

- **SB 252 (Dodd)** Water wells. *League position: Concerns.*

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

- **AB 879 (Grayson)** Planning and zoning: housing element. *League position: Support.*
- **AB 1223 (Caballero)** Construction contract payments: Internet Web site posting. *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1397 (Low)** Local planning: housing element: inventory of land for residential development. *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 1585 (Bloom)** Planning and zooming: affordable housing: single application. *League position: Oppose.*

May 3

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

- **SB 182 (Bradford)** Transportation network company: participating drivers: single business license. *League position: Pending.*

Updated Local Streets and Roads Estimates FAQ Available

FAQ Includes HUTA and RMRA Allocations

The League's fiscal consultant, Michael Coleman, has updated and retitled a briefing sheet on local Highway Users Tax Account (Gas Tax) Funds to include details about the new Road Maintenance and Repair Account (RMRA) funds that will begin flowing to city and county gas tax funds next year, assuming Gov. Jerry Brown signs SB 1.

The new FAQ sheet, titled "[Local Streets and Roads Estimates: 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 including Highway Users Tax Account \(HUTA\) and Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account \(RMRA\)](#)" provides descriptions of revenues, allocations and rules that locals need to know about these state transportation tax revenues that are allocated for local streets and roads needs. The RMRA imposes new reporting and minimum funding requirements of cities and counties in order to be eligible for RMRA funding.

This document will be updated as new information becomes available, including new revenue estimates. The FAQ contains attachments with the latest city-by-city and county-by-county revenue estimates for HUTA and the RMRA.
