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Bills in Committee Aug. 28 – Sept. 1

Legislators have been back since Aug. 21, which means just three weeks remain before the Legislature adjourns on Sept. 15. Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders are continuing to work on a housing package while the Legislature wraps up bills in Senate and Assembly Appropriations committees for another week. The Legislature will also take up funding for parks and water projects. *For more, see Page 2.*



End of Session Signature/Veto Requests Webinar Scheduled for Sept. 21

Following the conclusion of the 2017-18 legislative session, the League's legislative team will host a webinar on Sept. 21 to review top priority bills that cities will need to advocate Gov. Jerry Brown on as he reviews legislation. The legislative session ends on Sept. 15, so this will be the final opportunity for city officials to voice their support or opposition to the Governor on key bills. *For more, see Page 3.*



League-Sponsored Bond Agency Issues \$12.25 Million in Tax-Exempt Bonds for Affordable Housing in Vacaville

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 3.*

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](#).

The League has issued an [update priority bill list](#) for the end of 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 the upcoming appropriations hearings:

Aug. 28

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

- **AB 503 (Lackey)** Vehicles: parking violations: registration or driver's license renewal. *League position: Oppose unless amended.*
- **AB 890 (Medina)** Land use: planning and zoning: initiatives. *League position: Seeking Amendments.*
- **Priority AB 1069 (Low)** Local government: taxicab transportation services. *League position: Oppose unless amended.*
- **AB 1158 (Chu)** Carpet recycling. *League position: Support.*

Sept. 1

Assembly Appropriations, Upon Adjournment of Session, State Capitol, Room 4202

- **SB 17 (Hernandez)** Health care: prescription drug costs. *League position: Support.*
- **HOT SB 21 (Hill)** Law enforcement agencies: surveillance: policies. *League position: Oppose unless amended.*
- **SB 63 (Jackson)** Unlawful employment practice: parental leave. *League position: Oppose.*
- **SB 162 (Allen)** Cannabis: marketing. *League position: Support.*
- **SB 188 (Jackson)** State lands: leasing: oil and gas. *League position: Support.*
- **SB 199 (Hernandez)** The California Health Care Cost, Quality, and Equity Atlas. *League position: Support.*
- **SB 378 (Portantino)** Alcoholic beverages: licenses: emergency orders. *League position: Support.*
- **SB 421 (Weiner)** Sex offenders: registration: criminal offender record information systems. *League position: Support.*
- **SB 541 (Allen)** Water: school facility water capture practices. *League position: Support.*
- **HOT SB 649 (Hueso)** Wireless telecommunications facilities. *League position: Oppose.*

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

- **AB 45 (Thurmond)** California School Employee Housing Assistance Grant Program. *League position: Support.*
- **HOT AB 64 (Bonta)** Cannabis: license and regulation. *League position: Oppose unless amended.*
- **AB 74 (Chiu)** Housing. *League position: Support.*
- **AB 76 (Chau)** Adult-use marijuana: marketing. *League position: Support.*
- **AB 175 (Chau)** Cannabis marketing: packaging and labeling. *League position: Support.*
- **AB 420 (Wood)** Personal income tax: deduction: commercial cannabis activity. *League position: Support.*
- **AB 570 (Gonzalez-Fletcher)** Workers' compensation: permanent disability apportionment. *League position: Oppose.*
- **AB 735 (Maienschein)** Swimming pools: public safety. *League position: Support.*
- **AB 943 (Santiago)** Land use regulations: local initiatives: voter approval. *League position: Oppose unless amended.*

- **AB 1002 (Cooley)** Center for Cannabis Research. *League position: Support.*
 - **AB 1120 (Cooper)** Controlled substances: butane. *League position: Support.*
 - **AB 1127 (Calderon)** Baby diaper changing stations. *League position: Oppose.*
 - **HOT AB 1408 (Calderon)** Crimes: supervised release. *League position: Support.*
 - **SCA 9 (Glazer)** Property tax: new construction exclusion: rain water capture system. *League position: Support.*
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'Webinar' Continued from Page 1...

Registration

The webinar is scheduled for Sept. 21 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. There is no cost to register for League members and League partners. Non-member cities will be charged \$100.

Please register by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at www.cacities.org/events.

For most League webinars, only one connection is offered. Due to the capacity for this webinar, the League is allowing two connections per city to provide easier access for members.

Webinar log-in information will be sent the morning of Sept. 21.

For questions about how to register for the webinar, please contact [Megan Dunn](#). For all other questions, please contact [Meg Desmond](#).

'CSCDA: Vacaville' Continued from Page 1...

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 \$12,250,000 in tax-exempt multi-family affordable housing bonds for Meadows Court/Holly Lane Apartments in Vacaville.

About Meadows Court/Holly Lane Apartments

Meadows Court/Holly Lane Apartments is the acquisition and rehabilitation of 82 multi-family affordable housing apartments by Meadows Holly Partners, L.P. Community Development Partners (CDP) is the project sponsor. The project will continue to be 100 percent affordable and provide apartments to low-income residents in Vacaville.

CSCDA and CDP partnered with Citibank and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP to provide the \$12,250,000 in tax-exempt multi-family affordable housing bonds for the project. It 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 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.

Understanding “Bowenwork” When Regulating Massage

Over the past several years, significant changes have occurred in massage regulation and local officials have faced challenges keeping up with the laws and understanding the various massage-related disciplines. [BowenUSA](#), a small bodywork association representing Bowenwork practitioners, recently approached the League of California Cities® to provide background information for local officials on “Bowenwork” and explain why they believe that their businesses should be regulated differently than massage practitioners by cities and counties.

Certification Process for Bowenwork Practitioners

Practitioners of Bowenwork maintain that their bodywork modality is fundamentally different from massage and, therefore, should not be regulated by cities and counties in the same manner.

The [American Bowen Academy](#) (ABA) certifies Bowenwork practitioners, who must complete 340 hours of training in order to become certified, including 212 hours in the theory and practice of Bowenwork, 100 hours of anatomy and physiology, 24 hours of business and ethics and 4 hours CPR certification. Once certified, Bowenwork practitioners are required to complete 32 hours of continuing education units every two years to maintain professional registration with ABA.

Bowenwork can be defined as a gentle, relaxation technique that uses minimal touch over specific and targeted parts of the body in order to reset the autonomic nervous system and promote the body’s innate healing systems. In Bowenwork, the movements are minimal and the practitioner’s contact on the client’s body lasts a few seconds, followed by several hands-off rest periods ranging from two to four minutes, or longer. The work is performed on fully clothed clients and no heat, oils or lotions are applied to the body. Bowenwork sessions can be, and have been done in public.

The Oregon and New Hampshire legislatures have exempted Bowenwork practitioners from state massage licensing requirements. In Colorado, Arizona and Texas, non-massage therapists may practice their bodywork technique if trained by a recognized training organization that monitors and manages any complaints about a practitioner’s professional conduct.

Representatives of ABA, maintain that, to date, the Academy has never had any complaints nor cases of practitioners involved in human-trafficking, prostitution, or otherwise causing public harm.

Most Bowenwork Practitioners do not have CAMTC Certificates

Since Bowenwork practitioners have their own certification process, most do not also pursue a separate voluntary certification from California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC), because they prefer to practice Bowenwork rather than massage.

Local Regulation of Bowenwork

Challenges have occurred for Bowenwork practitioners when some local agencies require them to present CAMTC certification. Representatives of ABA maintain that CAMTC does not recognize Bowenwork training (as described above) as “massage” training. This has led to some Bowenwork certified practitioners needing to spend thousands of additional dollars enrolling in CAMTC-approved massage schools in order to become CAMTC certified, despite the fact that they do not intend to practice massage.

BowenUSA representatives share that Bowenwork practitioners are willing to obtain a local business license as well as present Bowenwork certification from ABA. They have no issues with regulatory oversight from municipalities that might extend beyond what is permissible to impose on massage therapists licensed by CAMTC. This could include provisional business licenses, enhanced background checks, site visits, etc. BowenUSA practitioners are willing to comply with this level of regulation if it means they are able to practice this modality unhindered.

BowenUSA representatives encourage cities to learn more about Bowenwork from the [American Bowen Academy](#) and other resources on this modality, and consider licensing Bowenwork practitioners separately from CAMTC-certified and other massage therapists.

Guest Piece: Vetting the Public Finance Team, Has Your Municipal Advisor Passed the Test?

When managing their personal finances, many people turn to financial advisors to help them make informed decisions about complex financial products and investment options. For state and local government officials responsible for managing the public's finances, specialized financial advisors called municipal advisors may be hired to provide advice regarding the issuance of municipal bonds or use of municipal financial products.

If a municipal advisor is part of your public finance team, you should know that the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) — the national regulator responsible for protecting the public interest by promoting a fair and efficient municipal securities market — has established baseline standards of professional qualification for municipal advisors. Municipal advisors must pass the MSRB's Municipal Advisor Representative Qualification Examination, or Series 50 exam, no later than Sept. 12 to continue engaging in municipal advisor activities.

If you are currently working with a municipal advisor or planning to start a new engagement, it would be prudent to confirm that the municipal advisor has passed the Series 50 exam or is planning to do so by the Sept. 12 deadline. Municipal advisors were granted a grace period of one full year from the launch of the exam on Sept. 12, 2016 to prepare for and pass the exam. Yet with less than one month remaining until the deadline, more than 100 municipal advisor firms registered with MSRB did not have at least one person qualified with the Series 50 exam or enrolled to take the exam.

[Find the names of individuals who have passed the Series 50 exam on the MSRB's website.](#) It is in your constituents' best interest to make sure that all members of your public finance team are duly qualified in accordance with federal regulations. Doing this due diligence can help avoid a disruption in the municipal advisory services you receive, including preventing a negative impact to the bond issuance process.

MSRB creates and maintains rules for municipal advisors and municipal securities dealers that underwrite and trade municipal bonds. The Series 50 exam is one element of a comprehensive regulatory framework for municipal advisors that includes rules addressing core duties to clients, disclosures and conflicts of interest. [Access more information about what to expect from your municipal advisor and how to research the background of your municipal finance professionals on the MSRB's website.](#)

About the MSRB

MSRB protects investors, state and local governments and other municipal entities, and the public interest by promoting a fair and efficient municipal securities market. MSRB fulfills this mission by regulating the municipal securities firms, banks and municipal advisors that engage in municipal securities and advisory activities. To further protect market participants, MSRB provides market transparency through its [Electronic Municipal Market Access \(EMMA®\) website](#), the official repository for information on virtually all municipal bonds. MSRB also serves as an objective resource on the municipal market, conducts extensive education and outreach to market stakeholders, and provides market leadership on key issues. MSRB is a Congressionally chartered, self-regulatory organization governed by a 21-member board of directors that has a majority of public members, in addition to representatives of regulated entities, and is subject to oversight by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Erik Dolan is the director, Professional Qualifications, at the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, where he manages the development and maintenance of testing standards and educational programs for MSRB-regulated municipal advisors and municipal securities dealers.
