

Aug. 30, 2017
Issue #64

Local Elected Leaders, Business Leaders and Community Groups Unite in Long Beach to Stop the Big Telecom Power Grab

Leaders from Long Beach, Cities in Los Angeles County and Others Urge Lawmakers to Reject SB 649

Long Beach Council Member Al Austin and representatives from the Downtown Long Beach Alliance, the Belmont Heights Community Association and the American Public Works Association of Southern California today urged the Legislature to reject SB 649 (Hueso). Opposed by more than 215 cities and dozens of counties, this legislation would virtually eliminate cities and counties' authority to negotiate with telecommunications companies on the siting of wireless equipment in the public right of way and on public infrastructure. SB 649 would also cap the lease rates far below market rate, on public infrastructure. The group held a press conference this morning in Long Beach at Pierpoint Landing. *For more, see Page 2.*



Expo Highlights at the 2017 Annual Conference

This year, the League of California Cities® Annual Conference Expo will draw in over 255 cost-saving services and state-of-the-art products, including 80 first-time exhibitors. Attendees may want to begin planning their conference schedule now to make sure they can participate in all the sessions and additional opportunities. The League's [Annual Conference webpage](#) has information on speakers, sessions and more. *For more, see Page 2.*



League Board Will Consider Endorsements for NLC Board and NLC Second Vice President Positions

Each year the League of California Cities® board of directors invites membership interested in running for National League of Cities (NLC) board of directors or for second vice president of the NLC board of directors, to apply for endorsement from our League board of directors. Only city officials in direct member cities of NLC may apply for its board or board officer position (second vice president). The League board will endorse all membership interested in applying for NLC board, but only one member interested in applying for NLC second vice president. *For more, see Page 2.*

Cities support advances in technology, unique and diverse neighborhoods, businesses and closing the digital divide. Cities also have the authority to work with telecommunication companies to advance modern technology through an established discretionary permitting process, and many are doing so. Cities are responsible for updating local zoning codes to reflect land use changes, based on the evolution of local neighborhoods and residents' needs. Discretionary control of local land use decisions is critical to preserving and supporting the unique identities of California's diverse communities. The bill has widespread opposition because it erodes local land use control, and subsidizes the telecommunications industry at the expense of local neighborhoods.

SB 649 would give the wireless giants virtually limitless ability to install antennas, wireless boosters, and other equipment. The bill would shortchange taxpayers by capping lease rates of public infrastructure statewide. Meanwhile, Californians would still pay the same high prices for their wireless services.

Each of the speakers urged the Legislature to listen to the opposition and reject SB 649.

Long Beach Council Member Al Austin: "SB 649 would nearly eliminate Long Beach's, and every other local government's ability to manage the way in which telecommunications equipment is deployed in neighborhoods and around businesses, just so the telecommunications industry can have their equipment permitted more rapidly throughout California," said Council Member Al Austin. "Our unequivocal opposition to SB 649 is 100 percent consistent with our support for diverse communities, well designed urban spaces, and modern technologies."

Austin Metoyer, a policy and research manager with the Downtown Long Beach Alliance raised concerns on the legislation's impact: "The Downtown Long Beach community has spent over two decades working with the city to redevelop the area into the vibrant destination it has become. Our community is includes tourist attractions, such as hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues and a wide range of businesses and industry. We have worked hard to transform this area and our efforts have created a unique asset to Long Beach. SB 649 would leave communities like ours, and the elected officials who represent us, without any ability to determine how wireless technology equipment is integrated into our public infrastructure.

"We support new technology, increased bandwidth and connectivity — these are key building blocks of successful businesses. However, we must also recognize local land use decisions, such as design standards of infrastructure in the public right-of-way, on street lights, or hanging off of, or rather not hanging off of telephone wires, is equally key to the success of businesses."

Sydney Simon, Belmont Height Community Association board member, says that this bill is a "giveaway" to the telecommunications industry at the expense of Long Beach residents. "If this bill passes, we could potentially see cell antennas and associated equipment of up to 21 cubic feet on our utility poles."

James Biery, legislative chair of the American Public Works Association of Southern California, spoke about the impact this equipment would have on municipal infrastructure.

The speakers were joined at the podium by elected city officials from throughout Los Angeles County including:

- Artesia Mayor Ali Taj;
- Bellflower Council Member Juan Garza;
- Artesia Council Member Victor Manalo;
- La Habra Heights Council Member Kyle Miller;
- Pico Rivera Council Member Gustavo Camacho;
- Lakewood Council Member Diane DuBois;
- Montebello Council Member Vivian Romero, President, Independent Cities Association;
- Signal Hill Council Member Larry Forester;
- Signal Hill Council Member Lori Woods;
- Bell Council Member Ana Maria Quintana, Member, League Board of Directors;

- Culver City Council Member Jim Clarke;
 - Palos Verdes Estates Council Member Jennifer King;
 - Palos Verdes Estates City Planner Elizabeth Corpuz;
 - Alhambra Deputy Director of Public Works Melissa Ramos; and
 - Dr. Jonathan L. Kramer, Local Government Attorney and Wireless Engineer, Telecom Law Firm, P.C.
-

'Annual' Continued from Page 1...

Grand Opening Expo Hall and Host City Reception

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, join other conference attendees and meet exhibitors inside the League's 40th Annual Expo. The city of Sacramento welcomes the delegates with an opening night host reception and a selection of hors d'oeuvres. The reception will take place at the Sacramento Convention Center. A registration badge is required to access the event.

U.S. Communities Zones and Grand Prize Giveaway

U.S. Communities, the League-sponsored cooperative government purchasing program, returns this year and has expanded to two zones on the expo floor. Discover products and solutions for your city in the general U.S. Communities Zone on 7th street aisle. Also be sure to visit the U.S. Communities Emergency Preparedness zone on 2nd street aisle which will feature suppliers with resources to help your city quickly respond to all types of emergencies.

One lucky city will win the Grand Prize Giveaway this year — a \$3,000 voucher giveaway that may be used for products or services from any one of the exhibiting U.S. Communities suppliers. Entry details can be found inside the two U.S. Communities zones.

The 2017 drawing will be held Friday, Sept. 15, during the Closing General Assembly. A city representative must be present to win.

Speaker Theater Series

The speaker theater sessions can also be found on the expo floor — highlight successful examples of public/private partnerships. Learn about case studies of innovative projects and programs that have worked in California cities. Hear from elected officials, city staff and industry experts that have found creative solutions to some of the challenging problems that cities face.

Some of the topics this year include:

- Hot Topics in Municipal Revenues, Budgeting and Finance;
- New Methods in Online Civic Engagement;
- Strategic Facility Management; and
- Protecting Your Professional Reputation Online.

On-Site Registration Is Available

While online registration has officially closed, there is plenty of opportunity to register for the Annual Conference on-site at the Sacramento Convention Center.

'NLC' Continued from Page 1...

Please note that this is not an application to NLC board, nor is it an application for NLC second vice president. This is only an *endorsement* from the League of California Cities board.

Endorsement Application Process

Submitted endorsement applications will be distributed to members of the League's 2017 Board Nominating Committee. If more than one person is interested in seeking endorsement for NLC

second vice president, the committee will interview all candidates to select one prior to the League's Annual Conference, which is scheduled for Sept. 13-15.

The recommendations will then be submitted to the League board for approval when it meets on Thursday, Sept. 14, during Annual Conference.

Endorsement applications are due to the League of California Cities by 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 1.

Application Forms

- [Board of Directors Endorsement Application for NLC Board](#)
- [Second Vice President Endorsement Application for NLC Board](#)

Please submit endorsement applications via [email](#), fax (916) 658-8240 or mail to:

Attn: Mimi Sharpe
1400 K Street, 4th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Individuals who are elected to the NLC board of directors automatically obtain a seat on the League board of directors for the period of the NLC board term.

NLC Board Application Deadlines

Applications for the NLC board and second vice president will be available in late August or early September and will be due sometime in October. Please contact [Carla Smith](#), NLC senior coordinator to obtain an application for NLC board of directors or NLC 2nd Vice President and obtain pertinent deadlines.
