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League of California Cities® Brings Over 1,800 City Officials to Sacramento for Education, Recognition, Resources and Advocacy

California's capital city was extremely busy last week as city officials from throughout the state traveled to Sacramento for the League's 119th Annual Conference & Expo. The event featured 52 educational sessions, 259 exhibitors, dynamic keynote speakers, recognition of work by cities, legislative awards, the adoption of two resolutions and the swearing in of the 2017–18 officers and board of directors. Held Sept. 13–15, the conference coincided with the last three days of the 2017 legislative session and during breaks between sessions, city officials met with their legislators to advocate on bills affecting cities. *For more, see Page 2.*



Cities, the League Urge Governor to Veto SB 649

More than 250 city officials gathered on the North Steps of the Capitol on Sept. 15 to call on Gov. Jerry Brown to veto SB 649 (Hueso). The 10 a.m. press conference brought together cities, counties, labor and AARP and attracted the attention of newspapers and television stations statewide. Previous press conferences were held in Long Beach and Fresno in the weeks prior to the Legislature's adjournment. *For more, see Page 4.*



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) NOFA Application Workshops

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has announced 2017 CDBG NOFA Application Workshops. The four workshops will help eligible CDBG non-entitlement jurisdictions and/or consultants in the preparation of applications. *For more, see Page 5.*

'Annual Conference' Continued from Page 1...

League President and Lodi Council Member JoAnne Mounce welcomed attendees during the opening general session.

"The League's Annual Conference is our largest gathering of city officials each year. This year, we are over 1,800 strong! We come together as one League of California Cities to learn from experts and each other, to connect with our colleagues from cities throughout California, and to grow as city leaders. Our Annual Conference is also a celebration. We take time to recognize the excellence in cities and city officials and acknowledge innovation at the local level."

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg also welcomed League members to the city during this session.

Carolyn Coleman addressed conference attendees during the opening general session and delivered her first annual report as executive director of the League of California Cities. In her remarks, she focused on the League's 2017 legislative accomplishments on a variety of issues such as transportation funding, housing, public safety and contracting. She also encouraged city officials to talk with their legislators during the conference about several pending bills including SB 649 (Hueso), which would virtually eliminate cities' authority to negotiate with telecommunications companies on the siting of wireless equipment in the public right of way and on public equipment and caps the lease rate.

Conference keynote speakers were Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour and Eric Liu who inspired attendees with their messages of empowerment.

National League of Cities Executive Director Clarence Anthony addressed city officials during the closing general session and gave an update on NLC and federal issues.

The city of Benicia won the Grand Prize Drawing on Friday, taking home a \$3,000 U.S. Communities voucher to use at any of the U.S. Communities suppliers that exhibited at the conference.

During a Friday morning press conference, more than 250 city officials stood on the North Steps of the Capitol to urge Gov. Jerry Brown to veto SB 649 (Hueso).

Throughout the three-day annual conference, attendees and League staff shared highlights on social media. Search #CaCitiesAnnual on Twitter and Facebook to find posts. Photos of the conference are posted on the League's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/leagueofcacities.

Helen Putnam Award for Excellence

During the opening general session, the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence program recognized cities for their outstanding efforts to deliver services and engage residents.

This year's winners are:

- CCS Partnership Intergovernmental Collaboration Award: South San Francisco for its Big Lift Collaborative.
- Community Services and Economic Development: San Leandro for its Homelessness Compact.
- Economic Development through the Arts: Temecula for its Cultural Arts District's First Fridays.
- Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics & Community Involvement: Rancho Cucamonga for its Los Amigos Park.
- Health & Wellness Program: Long Beach for its Junior Runners.
- Housing Programs and Innovations: Citrus Heights for its Navigator Program.
- Internal Administration: Santa Clarita for Employee Development.
- League Partners Award for Excellence in City-Business Relations: Mill Valley for its Adaptive Needs Program.

- Planning & Environmental Quality: Farmersville for its Cameron Creek Colony Emergency Water Supply Project.
- Public Safety: Rialto for its Summer Bridge to Success Program.
- Public Safety: Santa Clarita for its Heroin Kills: The High is a Lie — The Shocking Truth about Heroin in Santa Clarita.
- Public Works, Infrastructure & Transportation: Farmersville for its Highway 198 Gateway Project.
- Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government: Tracy for its D.A.R.E. to Pay it Forward.

Conference attendees enjoyed this [short video](#) that highlighted the winning cities.

Past Presidents' Council Lifetime Achievement Award

League Immediate Past President and Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Dennis Michael presented two former League executive directors with the Lifetime Achievement Award: Don Benninghoven (1973–1997) and Chris McKenzie (1998–2016). The award is given to an individual(s) whose lifetime of public service has had a significant impact on California cities and the state as a whole.

Distinguished Legislative Leadership Award

The League honored Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) and Assembly Member Jim Frazier (D-Discovery Bay) for their collective work and leadership in the approval of new transportation resources to fix California's local streets and roads with its Distinguished Legislative Leadership Award. This historic transportation investment package addresses concerns raised by cities and counties for a decade over deteriorating streets and roads, due to a \$73 billion shortfall in road maintenance and repair funding.

SB 1 (Beall) and ACA 5 (Frazier), combines dedicated funding with strong accountability measures to ensure that this investment is prioritized for maintenance and repairs and can only be spent on transportation. SB 1 provides an additional \$5 billion annually for the state and local transportation system. For cities, it doubles the amount of road maintenance funds they will receive to begin to fix their streets.

League President and Lodi City Council Member JoAnne Mounce thanked the legislators and commended them for the years of work that went into the passage of this legislation in April. "As cities, no one had to tell us there was a transportation maintenance problem," said Mounce. "But year after year, the political agreement necessary to get something done just wasn't there, so the roads got worse. Now, thanks to the Senator and Assembly Member's leadership, our cities, counties and state can finally get to work fixing our roads. The projects these revenues support will improve the quality of life for all Californians."

Institute for Local Government Beacon Award

The Institute for Local Government recognized eight cities with the 2017 Beacon Award. This award honors local governments that lead the way on climate, energy and sustainability through voluntary action.

This year's winning cities are:

- Palo Alto: Platinum Level
- Claremont: Gold Level
- Hayward: Gold Level
- San Carlos: Gold Level
- Sacramento: Silver Level
- Scotts Valley: Silver Level
- Foster City: Silver Level
- Fremont: Silver Level

Each winning city is highlighted in this [short video](#).

New League Officers and Board of Directors

The board elected South San Francisco Council Member Rich Garbarino to serve as its president, San Diego City Council Member Mark Kersey to serve as first vice president and Grass Valley Council Member Jan Arbuckle as second vice president. Lodi Council Member JoAnne Mounce, who served as the 2016–17 president, became immediate past president. The board also elected six new at-large board members.

The 2017–2018 officers and board of directors are listed in a [press release announcing the new board](#).

Resolution

The General Assembly approved two resolutions: Implement Strategies to Reduce Negative Impacts of Recent Changes to Criminal Laws and Local Control for Emergency Medical Response. More information on these resolutions is available on the League's website at www.cacities.org/resolutions.

2018 Annual Conference

Planning for the 2018 Annual Conference & Expo, scheduled for Sept. 12–14 in Long Beach, is already underway. The [call for session proposals](#) is open, and the League invites city officials, partners and other stakeholders to submit their ideas between now and Jan. 8.

'SB 649' Continued from Page 1...

League President JoAnne Mounce spoke on behalf of the cities that have opposed SB 649. "Since taking office in 2011, Governor Brown has talked a lot about local control and giving local residents more discretion to make decisions that serve their community. This bill does the opposite, muzzling local voices and handing control over to wireless companies who are only accountable to their shareholders. This bill deserves to be vetoed," said Mounce.

Cities Urged to Ask Governor to Veto SB 649

The Governor has until Oct. 15 to make decisions on legislation sent to him this legislative session. The veto request on SB 649 is one of the League's top priorities coming out of the 2017 legislative session.

The League has issued its veto request and cities are encouraged to submit a veto request letter to the Governor as soon as possible.

The League's letter, along with a sample letter cities can use are available at www.cacities.org/billsearch by plugging SB 649 into the search function.

Cities Don't Oppose Technology, but Policies Proposed in Bill

The League remained opposed to SB 649 throughout the entire session because amendments taken to the measure failed to address local governments' concerns. The bill at its core seeks to eliminate public input, eliminate reasonable local environmental and design review, mandate the forced leasing of publicly owned infrastructure, and eliminate the ability for local governments to negotiate fair leases or any public benefit for the installation of "small cell" wireless equipment on taxpayer-funded property. The industry repeatedly claims that this equipment is necessary to implement 5G technology, however that technology is years away from deployment, while the term "5G" is never mentioned in the bill.

By removing local discretion and mandating a ministerial process, SB 649 would effectively eliminate local residents and businesses from having fair input over the character of their own communities. Most troubling is that it would shift authority from the community and its elected officials to for-profit corporations for wireless equipment installations that can have significant

health, safety, and aesthetic impacts when those companies have little, if any, interests to respect these concerns that potentially conflict with their profit margins.

Local elected officials play a critical role in balancing the important needs of their community and respect for its character with the need to close the existing/widening digital divide and ensure that the many benefits from state-of-the-art wireless technology are available to all. Local residents and businesses expect their local governments to be equipped to respond when they have legitimate concerns, especially as they relate to the location and design of these installations near or adjacent to their property.

Under SB 649, the wireless industry would gain the ability to install equipment, about the size of a twin bed, on city streetlights, traffic signals and stop signs as well as on municipal buildings. The industry would also have authority to put equipment about the size of a commercial refrigerator on the ground for each provider on every pole. The bill contains exclusions for at least eight "ancillary" pieces of equipment that have no size or quantity limitations. SB 649 gives the industry the ability to install equipment that is far larger than the claimed "pizza box" size "small cell" site.

SB 649 would force local governments to give telecom companies access to taxpayer-funded public property to install their equipment to sell their private services. By eliminating fair market rate leases for use of taxpayer funded property (including city halls, parks, county libraries, and "vertical infrastructure"), this bill would in essence give the wireless industry discounted access to these facilities with no requirement to pass their cost-savings onto their customers. The bill caps the amount local agencies would receive for the use of their infrastructure at \$250 per year per site, which is far below fair market value.

Newspapers throughout California editorialized in opposition to SB 649 including:

- *Los Angeles Times*, [An audacious 5G power \(pole\) grab](#), July 5, 2017
- *Sacramento Bee*, [Democratic legislators take bold stands, except when they don't](#), July 9, 2017
- *San Francisco Chronicle*, [California lawmakers must reject telecoms' cell phone power grab](#), June 27, 2017
- *San Jose Mercury News*, [California should butt out of cities' dealings with telecom companies using public facilities](#), July 11, 2017

'CDBG' Continued from Page 1...

The workshop presentations will cover "What's new in this year's NOFA," application timelines, activity funding levels, eligible activities and requirements, with question and answer sessions.

[Register online.](#)

Workshop Locations

Rancho Mirage: Sept. 27

City Council Chambers
69-825 Highway 111
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Sacramento: Oct. 5

HCD Headquarters
Conference Room 402A/B
2020 W. El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

Mendocino County: Oct. 11

County Administration Building
Conference Room C
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Kings County: Oct. 17
Admin Multi-Purpose Room
Building 1
1400 W. Lacy Blvd
Hanford, CA 93230

Additional Information and Questions

[HCD's NOFA webpage](#) under Current NOFA's-Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has additional information.

Please contact [Jim Miwa](#), CDBG NOFA Award Unit, with any questions regarding registration.

League-Sponsored Bond Agency Issues \$23 Million in Tax-Exempt Bonds for Affordable Housing in Oakland

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).

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 \$23,127,500 in tax-exempt multi-family affordable housing bonds for Lake Merritt Apartments in Oakland.

About Lake Merritt Apartments

Lake Merritt Apartments is the acquisition and rehabilitation of 55 multi-family affordable housing apartments by Lake Merritt II Preservation Limited Partnership. The project sponsor is Preservation Partners Development (PPD). Lake Merritt Apartments will continue to be 100 percent affordable and provide apartments to low-income residents in Oakland.

CSCDA and PPD partnered with Citibank and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP to provide the \$23,127,500 in tax-exempt multi-family affordable housing bonds for Lake Merritt 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 Lake Merritt 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.
