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This Month in *Western City Magazine*

REAL PEOPLE-REAL STORIES: NEW VIDEO CAMPAIGN TO HIGHLIGHT LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT BENEFITS IN YOUR COMMUNITIES

The www.ProtectOurLocalEconomy.com campaign launched a new video campaign this week highlighting some of the millions of Californians who have benefitted from redevelopment and who will be devastated if this critical local tool is abolished. *For more, see Page 2.*



LIBRARY BILL, AB 438, MOVES TO ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN MAY

Bill Handcuffs City Council Authority

AB 438, authored by Assembly Member Das Williams (D-Santa Barbara), passed out of the Assembly Local Government Committee on Wednesday and will next be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in May. Opposed by the League, this bill undermines the administrative fiscal authority of city councils by requiring voters to approve a council's decision to provide library services through a private contractor. *For more, see Page 2.*



LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES' MAJOR BILL LIST

Below is a list of bills for which the League has taken a position and flagged as a "Hot" bill. Legislation can be considered "Hot" for a variety of reasons, including having major impacts on cities statewide, setting an important precedent for future legislation, or being particularly controversial in a committee. Cities are encouraged to send letters in support or opposition to their legislators immediately. *For more, see Page 2.*

'Telling Your Story' Continued from Page 1...

Through short video testimonials, now available at www.ProtectOurLocalEconomy.com, the video campaign tells real-life stories about people who have been helped by redevelopment activities in their communities: those who now have an affordable, safe home; domestic abuse survivors able to find housing temporarily in a shelter; those who have gained employment through redevelopment projects; and local small businesses.

If you have a redevelopment success story to share, tell your story through video. Contact your regional public affairs manager (<http://www.cacities.org/advo/camp/index.jsp>) today to share the benefits of redevelopment in your community and record a brief video highlight to them. Videos will be used on www.ProtectOurLocalEconomy.com and through social media efforts.

'AB 438' Continued from Page 1...

Libraries serve as a community cornerstone; a place where people gather, come to learn, access the internet, job hunt and much more. However facing economic hardship, city councils are grappling with making tough fiscal choices while preserving critical public services, like libraries. One option for cities to look at is to contract out the staffing services for the library. AB 438 puts a major roadblock before city councils by requiring the decision to contract out services to get voter approval.

The Assembly Local Government Committee's analysis noted correctly that AB 438 sets a dangerous precedent for local government by allowing for the first time a mandatory vote on a city contract. Forcing a vote of the people on a city contract handcuffs the ability of the city to run efficiently.

While the bill passed out of the Assembly Local Government Committee on Wednesday, it must still go to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for fiscal review before it can be heard on the Assembly floor.

More information on AB 438, including sample opposition letters can be found on the League's website at www.cacities.org/billsearch. Type "AB 438" into the search function.

'Bills' Continued from Page 1...

The League routinely takes positions on bills throughout the legislative session. Bills tracked by the League are marked as "watch" until such time that a policy position is taken. Typically, positions are taken early in the year on bills for which the League has standing policy. These policy positions can be found in the League's *Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles* (<http://www.cacities.org/summary>). Bills identified by the League without a standing policy are referred by League staff to one or more of the League's eight policy committees for a policy recommendation and the board of directors for a full position.

All League position letters and select sample letters can be found under the bill number in our bill search function on the website at <http://www.cacities.org/billsearch>.

Employee Relations

AB 400 (Ma) Employment. Paid Sick Day. *Oppose*

Provides that any employee, whether part-time, temporary, or seasonal, who works for seven or more days in a calendar year is entitled to paid sick days, which are accrued at a rate of one hour for every 30 hours worked. This bill does not apply to employees covered by a collective bargaining that provides for paid sick days.

AB 646 (Atkins) Public Employee Organizations. Impasse Procedures. *Oppose*

Undermines a local agency's authority to establish local rules for resolving an impasse by imposing mandatory fact-finding and mediation under the Meyers-Milias-Bown Act, which will likely delay the conclusion of contract negotiations.

Public Safety

AB 66 (Chesbro) Vehicle License Fees. Support

Extends the 0.15 percent VLF increase for Citizens Option for Public Safety programs, booking fee subventions, and county law enforcement programs indefinitely, deleting the current sunset date of June 30, 2011.

AB 604 (Skinner) Hypodermic Needles and Syringes. Oppose

Allows the state Department of Public Health to authorize local health clinics to provide needle and syringe exchange services, pre-empting the current local decision making powers of the city or county.

SB 49 (Strickland) Local Government Emergency Response Fees. Oppose

Repeals local agencies' authority, including charter cities, to levy an emergency response fee except for limited circumstances.

Transportation and Public Works

AB 1354 (Huber) Retention Proceeds. Oppose

Removes the authority of public entities to decide the appropriate amount of retention. This bill would require that contract retention proceeds not exceed 5 percent of the payment of all contracts between a public entity and an original contractor, between an original contractor and a subcontractor, and between all subcontractors.

Land Use and Housing

AB 579 (Monning) Mobilehome Parks: Liability: Attorney's Fees. Support

Allows cities to recover attorney's fees when they have successfully defended their mobilehome rent control ordinance and provides the courts with a special motion to dismiss proceedings that have no reasonable basis.

AB 1220 (Alejo) Land Use: Cause of Actions: Time Limitations. Oppose

Seeks to change the decision of a Court of Appeal (*Urban Habitat v. city of Pleasanton*). The bill would create a five year statute of limitations to challenge land use planning decisions.

SB 184 (Leno) Land Use: Zoning Regulations. Support

In response to *Palmer/Sixth Street Properties L.P. v. city of Los Angeles*, seeks to clarify that the Costa-Hawkins Act does not apply to inclusionary housing programs. This would make clear that inclusionary zoning is a permissible land use power.

SB 444 (Evans) Land Use: Subdivisions: Rental Mobilehome Park Conversion. Support

Allows an application to convert a mobilehome park from rental to resident-owned to be subject to all requirements of the Subdivision Map Act, thus allowing local governments the opportunity to mitigate the economic displacement of residents.

SB 469 (Vargas) Land Use: Development Project Review: Superstores. Oppose

Requires a city or county prior to approving or disapproving a "superstore retailer" to require, at applicant expense, a private consultant to prepare an exhaustive economic impact report examining 17 different detailed conditions. A "superstore" is defined as over 90,000 square feet, selling a wide range of consumer goods, and where 10 percent of the total floor area is devoted to selling non-taxable food items. This measure contains an exemption for "discount warehouses" (with no square foot limitations) that sell over half of their items in bulk and require a membership fee.

Community Services

AB 438 (Williams) County Free Libraries: Withdrawal. Oppose

Requires voter approval of a city council's decision to contract out library services to a private contractor.

Law Enforcement Associations Back Governor's Tax Extension in Appeal to Voters

Representatives of several statewide law enforcement associations, including the California Police Chiefs Association, California State Sheriffs' Association, California District Attorneys Association, and California Probation Officers Association, joined Gov. Jerry Brown at his press conference on Wednesday to speak in support of the tax extensions proposed to be sent to voters sometime this year.

The tax extension includes the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) revenues that are currently, and will continue to be, dedicated to local law enforcement services under realignment. The VLF also represents the most immediate pressing issue for public safety stakeholders because it would extend the soon-to-expire local law enforcement grants for Citizens Option for Public Safety programs, booking fee subventions, and several county level services. The VLF revenue source for these programs will expire on June 30 unless additional revenues are approved.

The Governor dismissed speculation that he would sign any tax extensions passed by the legislature by restating his campaign pledge to let the voters make that choice.

Additional Realignment Trailer Bills Drafted

Two additional budget trailer bills, AB 94 and AB 117, were drafted in response to the Governor's requests and in order to clean up technical issues with the realignment bills, AB 109 and AB 111.

AB 94 was amended to address the Governor's request in his signing message on the jail facility construction bill, AB 111. AB 94 reduces the required minimum contribution from counties from 25 percent to 10 percent of for those construction projects.

AB 117 was also amended to provide technical clean up to AB 109, the main corrections realignment bill, and clarify errors that conflicted with voter approved initiatives and Division of Juvenile Justice sentencing.

The Governor signed AB 109 and AB 111 earlier this month without a dedicated funding source being identified to pay for the corrections programs they seek to establish. His signing message included a pledge not to enact any of the changes until such a funding source was identified and secured.

Both AB 94 and AB 117 are currently on the Senate floor and have not been scheduled for a vote.

Congress Avoids Government Shutdown

Focus Immediately Turns to FY 2012 Budget Discussions

As widely reported, the Senate, House, and White House came to an agreement early this week that will keep the Federal government operating through Sept. 30, 2011, the end of the federal fiscal year. The final agreement included nearly a \$40 billion reduction in federal spending in FY 2011 when compared to FY 2010 spending. This includes \$12 billion in reductions previously approved, and \$28 billion in new spending cuts.

As part of the agreement, the following cuts were made that are of importance to cities:

- Community Development Block Grant Program — \$647 million
- State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance — \$415 million
- Juvenile Justice Programs — \$148 million
- Community Oriented Policing Services programs — \$296 million
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy — \$438 million
- Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds — \$997 million
- Surface Transportation Priorities — \$293 million

- High Speed Rail — \$2.9 billion
- HOME Investment Partnerships — \$215 million

In addition, all domestic discretionary programs, a category description that covers nearly all of the federal funding received by cities, will receive an additional 0.2 percent cut.

A full list of cuts is available at

<http://republicans.appropriations.house.gov/files/41211ProgramCutsListFinalFY2011CR.pdf>.

2012 Fiscal Year Discussions

On Wednesday, the President immediately turned the discussion toward FY 2012, releasing a fact sheet on his proposal that focuses on “Shared Prosperity and Shared Fiscal Responsibility.” The President proposes reducing the deficit by \$4 trillion in 12 years or less with a balance between spending cuts and tax reform. His proposal includes a “Debt Failsafe” trigger that would require that if, by 2014, the projected debt reduction is not realized, there will be an across-the-board cut to federal spending.

The President is proposing to build on the savings from the FY 2011 budget agreement this week, which could lead to additional cuts to domestic discretionary programs. A copy of the White House Fact Sheet on the proposal can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/04/13/fact-sheet-presidents-framework-shared-prosperity-and-shared-fiscal-resp>.

Tell the League How You Prefer to Receive Communication

The League is conducting a survey to learn about our member’s preferred means of communication, the frequency of the League’s messages and the value of League and Institute for Local Government publications.

The League believes that it is important to survey our membership periodically to gain a better understanding of how to best deliver important news and information. Striving to provide relevant updates on the most current legislative, legal and educational issues as they unfold, the League hopes to gather feedback on the preferred means of communication and learn what information the members find most valuable.

Members are encouraged to participate by April 29. Please follow the provided link to take this survey. http://cacities.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_b2gN9cgRhQbNGYY

Register Now for League’s Legislative Action Days and Advanced Leadership Workshop

Mark your calendars and register now for the League’s Legislative Action Days, scheduled for May 18 – 19 and the Advanced Leadership Workshop scheduled for May 19 – 20 in Sacramento.

Legislative Action Days

Join fellow city officials in learning about the breaking legislative developments that will affect your city, and also meet with your legislators. Topics will include current budget issues, pending legislation of critical importance, and bank partnerships and community investment strategies. For more information and to register, visit www.cacities.org/events. The schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Advanced Leadership Workshop

Following Legislative Action Days, local elected officials and staff can participate in the Advanced Leadership Workshop. The workshop is designed to prepare attendees for working together to solve problems more effectively. Attendees will gain practical tools on how to solve problems,

make council meetings more productive, and interact more effectively with individual residents and the broader community.

Facilitators will include city officials and experts in communication, meeting management and public engagement. The workshop is planned in conjunction with the Institute for Local Government. Attendance is limited to 75 attendees and advanced registration is required. For more information and to register, visit www.cacities.org/events.

ILG Offers Free Webinar on May 2 on California's Proposed Commercial Recycling Regulations

On May 2, the Institute for Local Government (ILG) will host a free webinar called "Understanding California's Proposed Commercial Recycling Regulations: What Local Agencies Need to Know about the Education, Outreach and Monitoring Requirements." The webinar is designed to help local officials understand the proposed new regulations, emphasize compliance with the education, monitoring and outreach requirements for cities and counties, include information about new tools available to help local agencies meet these challenges, and features a question and answers discussion.

Webinar Details

Understanding California's Proposed Commercial Recycling Regulations: What Local Agencies Need to Know about the Education, Outreach and Monitoring Requirements
May 2, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
Register online at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/516992208>.

This webinar is the last in a series offered by ILG, with support from the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), to help local officials develop commercial recycling programs. The previous four webinars offered by ILG are posted online at www.ca-ilg.org/CommercialRecyclingWebinar.

ILG (www.ca-ilg.org) is the nonprofit research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. ILG's mission is to promote good government at the local level with practical, impartial, and easy to use resources for California communities.

This Month in *Western City Magazine*

- "California's Biggest Economic Mistake" (<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/April-2011/Killing-Redevelopment-California-rsquo-s-Biggest-Economic-Mistake/>) — Read about the devastating consequences and long-term costs associated with what is likely one of the worst mistakes the state has ever made.
- "Centennial Way Links Neighborhoods and Transit" (<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/April-2011/South-San-Francisco-rsquo-s-Centennial-Way-Links-Neighborhoods-and-Transit/>) — Although everyone agreed in concept that an enhanced bike trail was sorely needed, limited funding and liability and maintenance concerns threatened to end this project before it began. Learn how the city of South San Francisco brought it to fruition.
- "A Safer Way to School Offers Multiple Amenities" (<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/April-2011/Whittier-Trail-Offers-a-Safer-Way-to-School-and-a-Recreational-Resource/>)
 - Transforming an abandoned railroad right-of-way into the Whittier Greenway Trail, a 4.5-mile recreational and commuter bikeway and pedestrian path, took 10 years of planning and securing funds — but it was worth it.