

August 9, 2013

WATER CONVEYANCE

[Garamendi in Renewed Water Fight with Gov. Brown](#)

Gov. Jerry Brown has shown mastery of Sacramento, but his hope for a legacy of enduring public works hinges on a different skill — the ability to work Washington. Brown has staked much on a \$24 billion plan to resolve California's decades-long fight over moving water from the north, where most of the state's rain and snow falls, to thirsty cities and farms in the south and the Central Valley.

Evan Halper, Tribune Washington Bureau

STORM WATER

[Appeals Court Deals Setback to L.A. County in Storm-Water Case](#)

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals dealt a setback to Los Angeles County on Thursday in a long-running lawsuit over storm-water pollution. Abby Sewell, LA Times.

[Fed Appeals Court Finds Los Angeles County Liable for Polluted Rivers](#)

A federal appeals panel ruled today that Los Angeles County is responsible for cleaning up two polluted Southland waterways. In its opinion, a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals found that untreated stormwater and urban runoff discharged into various watercourses has resulted in excessive levels of aluminum, copper, cyanide, zinc and fecal bacteria in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers.

City News Service, Our Weekly Los Angeles.

CITY SERVICES

[Cal Water Extends Sewer Billing Services Deadline](#)

California Water Service has agreed to extend until the end of this calendar year its inclusion of Marysville sewer service payments on city water bills. Cal Water District Manager Lee Seidel said Wednesday corporate officials have decided to eliminate such billing arrangements with all the cities the company serves in the state. But he said it will extend sewer billing and collection services for Marysville for 90 days beyond the Oct. 1 cutoff. Eric Vodden, Appeal Democrat.

[Frozen Federal Funds Threatens Bus Services](#)

The Board approved the development of contingency plans to reduce bus service if there is no resolution to the objection filed by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) against California's Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) which caused the US Department of Labor (DOL) to place a hold on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding for Omnitrans. Highland Community News.

[Transportation Commission Approves Statewide Improvements](#)

The California Transportation Commission today announced it has funded \$487 million for 82 construction projects to improve transportation, safety, and mobility across California. Oakdale Leader.

REDEVELOPMENT

[County Suit Delayed 2 Weeks](#)

The court date for Sonoma County's suit against the state for withholding former redevelopment funds has been pushed back two weeks. The suit was supposed to have been heard today, Friday, Aug. 9, but it will instead be heard on Friday, Aug. 23, in Sacramento Superior Court. Bill Hoban, Sonoma News.

[Supporters of \\$19M Santa Clara Library in Uproar After City Orders Construction Halt](#)

Supporters of a \$19.2 million library project in the city of Santa Clara are upset the city has halted construction after Santa Clara County won a court order freezing the city's former redevelopment assets.

Bay City News, Inside Bay Area.

REVENUE & TAXATION / FINANCE

[Scotts Valley Leaders Break Impasse, Put Sales Tax Increase Proposal on Ballot](#)

After one of the most heated debates Scotts Valley leaders have had among themselves in years, the City Council voted unanimously during a special meeting Thursday to put an eight-year, half-cent sales tax increase proposal on the November ballot. Shanna McCord, Santa Cruz Sentinel.

[Fresno Officials: Grizzlies Owe More than \\$1 Million in Back Rent](#)

The Fresno Grizzlies owe nearly \$1.2 million in back rent at city-owned Chukchansi Park, causing City Hall officials to pine for a new owner. Team officials, on the other hand, can't figure out City Hall's beef, saying the Grizzlies' financial picture has never been brighter. George Hostetter, The Fresno Bee.

[South Gate City Council Adopts Budget](#)

The City Council has approved a spending plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year with estimated revenues of \$107.227 million and overall expenses totaling \$119.417 million. That spending included capital improvement projects. Arnold Adler, Los Angeles Wave.

PENSIONS / EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

[Mayor Calls for Public Safety Union Cooperation as City Mulls Tax](#)

The Petaluma City Council struggled with a difficult financial dilemma Monday: Should it hire a much-needed police officer or an equally needed police dispatcher with its scarce funds? The decision — pushed off until city staff can better analyze funding sources — reflects the fact that Petaluma needs more revenue.

Janelle Watzstein, Petaluma Argus-Courier.

[L.A. City Council President Herb Wesson Offers to Mediate DWP Labor Talks](#)

With pressure mounting on Mayor Eric Garcetti over a proposed four-year contract with Department of Water and Power Workers, a new proposal emerged on Thursday to give him room to maneuver in return for dropping his opposition. City Council President Herb Wesson offered to serve as a mediator in a form of "shuttle diplomacy" between Garcetti and IBEW Business Manager Brian D'Arcy to resolve the dispute within the next three weeks. Rick Orlov, Daily News Los Angeles.

[City Council Schedules Hearings on LADWP Labor Contract](#)

City Council President Herb Wesson said Thursday he wants to open up private discussions of a proposed labor deal that would delay a scheduled salary increase for thousands of LADWP workers and settle a lawsuit filed by DWP union members. Wesson will ask the full City Council in the coming days to hold public hearings, led by the chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Energy and Environment Committee, on the proposed deal -- the terms of which would ultimately impact ratepayers' bills.

City News Service, Brentwood Patch.

[Hayward City Workers May Strike Tuesday](#)

City workers could go on strike Tuesday in an effort to get past a city-declared impasse at the bargaining table. City negotiators broke off talks with Local 1021 of the Service Employees International Union on July 26 and has not offered any new negotiating dates, said union spokeswoman Anna Bakalis. The union is asking for a three-year contract. Rebecca Par, Inside Bay Area.

EMINENT DOMAIN

[Kings Owners Ask City to Possibly Use Eminent Domain Threat in Arena Site Talks](#)

After months of negotiations, the new Sacramento Kings ownership group has been unable to close the deal on buying the remaining parcel at Downtown Plaza seen as vital to the development of a new arena. Now, to remain on track to open the facility by 2016, the team is asking City Hall to assist in the talks and provide its threat of eminent domain as a potential negotiating tactic. Ryan Lillis and Dale Kasler, Sacramento Bee.

[Banks Sue Richmond to Halt Plan to Seize Mortgages](#)

Major banks on Wednesday sued Richmond and its investment firm partners in an effort to thwart their plan to use the government's power of eminent domain to seize mortgages and slash payments for underwater homeowners. Robert Rodgers, Contra Costa Times.

[U.S. Warns Against Eminent-Domain Mortgage Seizures](#)

The nation's top housing finance regulator threatened to choke off mortgage lending in cities that use eminent domain to seize underwater loans from lenders. The salvo from the Federal Housing Finance Agency came Thursday, on the heels of a lawsuit directed by major Wall Street firms and U.S.-sponsored mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac against the Bay Area city of Richmond. Alejandro Lazo, LA Times.

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

[Marin County Launches Climate Change Action Plan](#)

A climate change "action plan" to curb greenhouse gases is moving ahead at the Marin County Civic Center. The new plan, which will weave together and refresh a patchwork of efforts and policies dealing with the risks posed by a warming planet, was authorized this week by county supervisors.

Nels Johnson, Marin Independent Journal.

[Cap-and-Trade System Issues New Types of Carbon Credits](#)

California's controversial cap-and-trade system may be fighting two different lawsuits, but the state is still forging ahead with important changes to the program. Christopher Arns, Sacramento Business Journal.

[Libertarian Foundation Uses CEQA to Litigate 'Plan Bay Area'](#)

In what might be perceived as an ironic application of the landmark 1970 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), written in part to reign-in the Golden State's sprawling growth in that era, a libertarian foundation is using the law as the basis for a lawsuit challenging the July 18 approval of the regional growth plan known as Plan Bay Area by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments. Irvin David, Planetizen.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[18 Miles of Natomas Levees Rebuilt – But 24 Miles Still Need Fixing](#)

Sacramento's Natomas basin is embraced by 18 miles of massive new levees, ensuring that 100,000 Natomas residents are safer from the mighty Sacramento River. These new levees were completed at the end of 2012 at a cost of \$400 million. The work produced some of the stoutest levees ever built in California. Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee.

[El Monte Moves Forward With Mobile-Home Rent Control Ordinance](#)

Residents applauded the City Council Tuesday night for taking the first step in adopting a Mobilehome Park Rent Stabilization program that will hopefully ease the burden of exorbitant space rent fees for some mobile-home park residents in the city. Claudia S. Palma, Pasadena Star-News.

HOUSING

[Dealing with Homelessness](#)

About half a dozen community organizations spoke to the Hanford City Council on Tuesday about the issue of homelessness in the city. The Kings/Tulare Continuum of Care on Homelessness, along with other area organizations, presented an overview of current statistics and programs available to serve the homeless population in Hanford. Mike Eiman, Hanford Sentinel.

[Pleasanton Council OKs High Density Apartment Complex on Bernal and Stanley](#)

With only one objector at a two-hour public hearing, the Pleasanton City Council Tuesday approved construction of a 345-unit upscale apartment complex on Bernal Avenue at Stanley Boulevard that will include a three-building retail center with a drug store and drive-through pharmacy. Jeb Bing, Pleasanton Weekly.

[City Allocates \\$650K to Affordable Housing](#)

City Council voted to allocate \$650,000 of the \$5.6 million from the Laguna Vista mobile home park sale to the Mission Cove affordable housing project on Wednesday. Council previously earmarked \$650,000 from the sale for beach sand replenishment and \$3 million to renovate and replace beach restrooms. Promise Yee, The Coast News.

[Palo Alto Voters to Have Say Over Maybell Project](#)

It will be up to Palo Alto voters this fall to decide whether a controversial affordable senior housing project in the south part of town should proceed. Instead of repealing an ordinance establishing zoning for the project at Maybell and Clemo avenues, the city council voted 9-0 Thursday night to hold a special election on Nov. 5. Council members did, however, repeal a related comprehensive plan amendment because it was not legally required. The decision was forced by the overwhelming success of referendum petitions targeting the ordinance and amendment. Jason Green, Contra Costa Times.

MISCELLANEOUS

[For Oakland City Administrator Deanna Santana, 'Honeymoon is Over'](#)

Until recently, the only thing Oakland City Administrator Deanna Santana didn't have to worry about was her job security. As the city careened from Occupy fiasco to redevelopment disaster to police drama du jour, Santana was hailed as a decisive leader, unafraid to stare down Occupy protesters and council members alike. Matthew Arts, Oakland Tribune.

[Georgia Town Offers Model for Fixing Cities](#)

A recent front-page Wall Street Journal headline jarringly declared: "Record bankruptcy for Detroit: Motor City is 'broke,' governor says, as it seeks to restructure \$18 billion in debt." Then came a similar headline from the Aug. 6 Breitbart News: "Rahm's Chicago: \$1 billion financial shortfall forecast by 2015." Detroit and Chicago certainly are not the only big cities in dire financial straits. An Aug. 5 CNBC report studied the nation's troubled big cities and found a common denominator: Too much debt and too generous public pensions. Phil Kent, WND.