



# CITY OF IONE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT



**FOR THE MEETING OF: APRIL 7, 2009**

**DATE: APRIL 3, 2008**  
**TO: MAYOR ARD AND CITY COUNCIL**  
**FROM: KIMBERLY A. KERR, CITY MANAGER**  
**SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the City Council receive and file the correspondence received from various sources and provide direction to staff, if necessary.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Various Funds

**DISCUSSION:**

The correspondence received during the past two weeks is provided for review and discussion. No action is expected to be taken at this time.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact at this time.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:** Various

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The City Council could elect to have correspondence handled in the current format instead of placing a copy on the agenda for review at City Council.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Correspondence received

TYPE OF ITEM:  
 Consent  
 Departmental  
 Public Hearing  
 Other Written Correspondence

City Council for the City of Ione  
Upon motion of Council Member  
Seconded by Council Member  
And carried \_\_\_\_\_ by those members present,  
The Council hereby adopts the recommended action contained in this report.

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Council Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

Janice Traverso, City Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Lee Ard  
Mayor of Ione  
1 East Main Street  
Ione, California 95640

Dear Mayor Ard:

Thank you for your letter dated February 3, 2009, regarding the Preston Youth Correctional Facility located in the City of Ione. Your letter expressed concern about a potential closure of the facility and the economic impact a closure could have on your community.

Population forecasts predict a decline in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) population resulting in a statewide population of 1,588 youth by the end of June 2009. Given the continuing decline of the population, the DJJ continues to evaluate the remaining facilities to ensure their highest and best use. Additionally, the DJJ completed a careful analysis of the projected population to determine the needs of youth as well as age and county of commitment. Demographics for the projected population could mean the closure of one facility in Northern California and another in Southern California.

Every facility's profile is being examined for capacity, condition of physical plant, cost for repairs, existing treatment programs, and potential for future expansion. Facility locations are also being considered to ensure compliance with best youth correctional practices and recent legislation in which DJJ should consider proximity to families when placing youth in facilities.

I am proud of the work performed by employees at all DJJ facilities and recognize that any closure will have an impact on our staff, their families and the community. As such, I have asked the Chief Deputy Secretary, Bernard Warner, and his staff to conduct a complete and thorough analysis before making any recommendations regarding facility closures. I assure you that all factors will be considered before a final decision is made.

We will continue to communicate with all stakeholders as we progress in the closure process.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW L. CATE  
Secretary

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

P.O. BOX 2048, STOCKTON, CA 95201  
(1976 E. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. 95205)  
PHONE (209) 948-7943  
FAX (209) 948-3670  
TTY 711



*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

March 19, 2009

Christopher Jordan, City Planner  
City of Ione  
P.O. Box 398  
Ione, CA 95640-0398

Dear Mr. Jordan:

Thank you for your letter requesting the California Department of Transportation assign a Project Manager and Project Development Team to the State Route 124 (SR-124) New Connection project in the City of Ione.

Ms. Christina Hibbard has been assigned as the Project Manager and as such will be responsible for requesting team assignments. We understand that the project has implications for a future Ione bypass as a well as potential relinquishment of SR-124 between State Route 104 (SR-104) and State Route 16 (SR-16). Ms. Hibbard will be in touch with you to discuss a kick-off meeting and project related topics.

We welcome the opportunity to assist in resolving transportation issues in the Ione area. If you have any questions please feel free to call Christina Hibbard directly, at (209) 948-7889.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Tavares".

TONY TAVARES  
Interim District 10 Director

c: Andrea Bonham, Mayor  
Charles Field, Executive Director, Amador County Transportation Commission  
Dennis T. Agar, Deputy District Director, Program Project Management  
Ken Baxter, Deputy District Director, Planning  
Christina Hibbard, Project Manager

*"Caltrans improves mobility across California"*



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**CALIFORNIA CITY OFFICIALS DELIVER THEIR MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

More than 100 California city officials joined 3,500 of their colleagues from across the nation in Washington, D.C., March 14-18, for the 2009 National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional Cities Conference. This annual event is a forum for city officials to communicate with U.S. senators, Congressional representatives and policy experts about the direct impact of federal decisions on local government. *For more, see Page 2.*

**VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN HOSTS ARRA BRIEFING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

The League attended a White House conference on implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 at the invitation of Vice President Joseph Biden on Wednesday, March 18. The vice president is heading up the oversight of ARRA and invited local governments to participate in the conference because of their role in ensuring that the implementation is effective, transparent, and efficient. *For more, see Page 3.*

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 15-16 IN SACRAMENTO**

*It's Time for City Voices to be Heard in the State Capitol*

The League of California Cities' annual Legislative Action Days are scheduled for April 15-16 in Sacramento with events being held at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. *For more, see Page 4.*



(From left to right) Jim Madaffer, League immediate past president and San Diego council member; Ken Cooley, League first vice president and Rancho Cordova council member; Ron Loveridge, NLC first vice president and Riverside council member; Rep. Laura Richardson; Judy Mitchell, League president and Rolling Hills Estates council member, and Chris McKenzie, League executive director.

Conference sessions focused on a variety of federal issues critical to cities including infrastructure investment, public safety, energy, climate change, transportation and the mortgage crisis. The California delegation was led by Judy Mitchell, League president and Rolling Hills Estates council member and Ken Cooley, League first vice president and Rancho Cordova council member.

NLC First Vice President and Riverside Council Member Ron Loveridge opened the conference to a roaring applause, where NLC President Kathleen Novak, mayor, Northglenn, Colo. discussed the struggles of cities today and the hope for the future with economic

stimulus dollars coming to cities across the nation.

Conference attendees also heard from a number of agency secretaries, including Steven Chu, secretary, U.S. Department of Energy; Lisa P. Jackson, administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Shaun Donovan, secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Ray LaHood, secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation; and, Janet Napolitano, secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The officials all stressed a desire to continue and strengthen their collaboration with local governments across the nation.

### **Congressional Meetings and Policy Briefings**

The League's officers met with Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Reps. Jackie Speier (D-12th) and Laura Richardson (D-37th) and other members of the California Congressional Delegation briefing them on the League's federal priorities.

Meeting with Sen. Feinstein, the League's officers discussed issues ranging from California cities' Neighborhood Stabilization priorities to municipal bond market assistance for local governments throughout the nation.

Sen. Boxer commented on California's position as a leader on many fronts including climate change. She told the League's officers that she understands the importance of infrastructure investments to support transportation that will be funded through the stimulus package and wants to make sure the roll-out of stimulus dollars goes without problems.

In their meeting with Rep. Richardson, the League's officers focused on the organization's priorities for SAFETEA-LU reauthorization. Rep. Richardson expressed her commitment to improve transportation systems, especially as it relates to good movement.

Rep. Richardson is a former Long Beach council member and League alternative board member. She says she credits much of her success in adjusting to Congress to her local government experiences and said she uses this to inform her decision-making at the federal level.

The League's legislative staff developed four issue papers on the League's 2009 federal priorities for the California delegation to use in their meetings with members of Congress. The papers focused on the following:

- Addressing climate change; ([http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/27844.Federal Energy-Environment Draft 9mar09.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27844.Federal_Energy-Environment_Draft_9mar09.pdf))
- The Neighborhood Stabilization Program ([http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/27842.NSP Round 2 criteria.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27842.NSP_Round_2_criteria.pdf))
- Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act-LU (SAFETEA-LU) reauthorization ([http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/27843.SAFETEA-LU Reauth.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27843.SAFETEA-LU_Reauth.pdf)); and
- Municipal bond market assistance to local governments. ([http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/27841.Municipal Bonds.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27841.Municipal_Bonds.pdf))

The League's federal priority issue papers used during the meetings are available at [www.cacities.org/federalstimulus](http://www.cacities.org/federalstimulus).

The NLC 2009 Legislative Priorities can also be found online at [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

### **Emphasis on Transportation Reauthorization**

The League and NLC are urging Congress to continue support for federal transportation programs that support bridges, roads, and transit with dedicated and direct funding to local governments. The League encouraged our representatives to recognize that California is taking a holistic approach in planning and transportation decisions. This new approach requires flexibility in funding.

The California Congressional Delegation also hosted a roundtable on SAFETEA-LU reauthorization. With SAFETEA-LU reauthorization being a League priority, the roundtable provided an important venue for California city officials to speak with their representatives about what the federal government is doing to support local transportation priorities.

Reps. David Dreier (R-26th), Ken Calvert (R-44th), Laura Richardson (D-37th), Ed Royce (R-40th), and Darrel Issa (R-49th) participated in the roundtable.

### **Next Step**

The League will continue to work with NLC and through the efforts of its Washington, D.C. office to continue to advance these and other legislative priorities as well as respond to federal legislation impacting cities.

#### **'ARRA Conference' Continued from Page 1...**

Vice President Biden remarked that the passage of ARRA was just the first step and that the implementation is the hard part. He thanked local government leaders for their work implementing ARRA. Biden encouraged local officials to have political courage in making the decisions on where to spend the funds, and to focus on projects – such as energy efficiency projects – that will move the country forward. He stressed the importance of picking projects that not only passed the legal test but also the “smell test.”

The day began with a briefing by Earl Devaney, chairman of the Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board (RATA). Devaney shared that RATA is currently focused on preventing fraud and abuse as the agency gets established. Asking local governments to be flexible, he commented that his staff is aware that there are a lot of questions about audit and reporting requirements and will be ready to assist local governments as they encounter problems.

This is the first time that the federal government has taken on a goal of full transparency and warned the guidelines will continually evolve to account for situations that come up. The 11 inspector generals who comprise the board will undoubtedly need additional data. Devaney also suggested that it would be beneficial if state and local governments set up their own accountability Web sites. The State of California has already done so, and it can be found at [www.recovery.ca.gov](http://www.recovery.ca.gov).

The conference also included presentations from ARRA implementation representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Energy, Transportation, Labor, Education, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Office of Management and Budget.

While some of the money is beginning to flow, many departments are still going through the rulemaking and public comment processes, and will announce application and program details in the future. The League will continue to follow funding opportunities for cities and will post updates in the City Funding Book that can be found online at [www.cacities.org/federalstimulus](http://www.cacities.org/federalstimulus).

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#### **'Legislative Action Days' Continued from Page 1...**

Join your colleagues to learn the latest on issues such as the budget, federal stimulus funding, state infrastructure bonds and cash flow. Legislative Action Days are also a prime opportunity for you to meet with state legislators to deliver the message of the importance of providing local services.

Confirmed general session speakers for Wednesday, April 15 are:

- Assembly Member Noreen Evans (D-Santa Rosa), chair, Assembly Budget Committee
- Senate Republican Leader Dennis Hollingsworth (R-Murrieta)
- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

Confirmed general session speakers for Thursday, April 16 are:

- Dale Bonner, secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (Invited – To Be Confirmed)
- Bill Lockyer, California State Treasurer
- Karen Douglas, chairman, California Energy Commission

#### **Legislative and Budget Reforms Panel Discussion**

Co-sponsored by the League and the League's Latino Caucus, the special panel discussion on Wednesday, April 15 from 3-4:30 p.m., will focus on California legislative and budget reform.

#### **Legislative Reception**

Invite your legislator to join you and your colleagues at a special legislative reception at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento on Wednesday, April 15 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Make plans to attend now. For more information about the 2009 Legislative Action Days, please visit [www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events).

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#### **Pooled Money Investment Board Proceeds Cautiously, Awaiting Outcome of Planned \$4 Billion Bond Sale**

The Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB) voted on March 18 to continue disbursing the \$650 million authorized in January to fund the exempted 276 local public works projects. These projects are worth approximately about \$3.6 billion. PMIB will reconvene the week of March 30 to review the outcome of the planned sale next week of \$4 billion of tax-exempt government obligation bonds (GO bonds).

If the bond issue is determined to be successful, the PMIB will release another \$500 million for other infrastructure projects to be prioritized according to criteria developed by Department of Finance (DOF). While the passage of the budget has eased the market and appears to have enabled the state to issue bonds, the PMIB decision comes as a cautious step amid declining state revenues and cash problems.

More than 5,000 state bond-funded public works projects are waiting for PMIB funding due to the state's budget and cash flow crisis. The state's recent inability to issue either commercial paper or bonds used to repay its obligations led the PMIB, on Dec. 17, 2008, to freeze lines of credit known as AB 55 Loans.

According to the PMIB staff report, as of March 16, the amount of outstanding AB 55 loan expenditures from the PMIA was \$6.02 billion. This amount consists of \$4.83 billion for GO bond programs, \$1.05 billion for State Public Works Board lease revenue bond projects and \$148.4 million for two revenue bond programs. The \$4.83 billion in expenditures for GO bond programs consists of approximately of \$3.83 billion of expenditures that can be repaid with tax-exempt bonds and approximately \$1 billion of expenditures that must be repaid with taxable bonds.

The state also has \$1.3 billion of outstanding short-term, GO Commercial Paper Notes that need to be paid down from the proceeds of a long-term GO bond issue. The Treasurer's Office also announced that it is exploring the possibility of issuing more bonds toward the end of April to pay down the approximately \$1 billion of outstanding taxable AB 55 loan expenditures for GO bond programs. The PMIB meeting agenda and staff report can be found online at: <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/pmia-laif/PMIBmeetings.asp>.

### **State Cash Flow Prospects Remain Difficult**

Recent legislative hearings and analyses reveal that the state continues to face fiscal challenges despite the recent adoption of the state budget.

At the Assembly Budget Committee informational meeting on March 11, representatives from DOF, the State Controller's Office and the State Treasurer's office elaborated on state's cash position, debt, ability to borrow, and impact on public projects. Revenues were significantly below what was estimated in the budget, with reductions in personal income taxes by \$437 million, sales and use revenue by \$334 million, and corporation tax revenues by \$138 million according to the DOF.

Testimony at the meeting focused on the conditions weakening California's economy. The labor markets lost nearly 80,000 jobs in January. With more than one in ten workers unemployed in January, the state registered its highest jobless rate since June 1983. New home construction is not showing any signs of improvement: single-family permits are down 51.6 percent, multi-family permits are down 61.6 percent and nonresidential buildings are down 42.1 percent from January 2008.

The state's current year (FY 2008-09) deficit of \$22.2 billion will be covered by borrowing \$14.2 from special funds, delaying \$3 billion in payments, and raising \$5 billion in Revenue Anticipation Notes. A variety of state payments totaling \$3 billion have been postponed by the controller to preserve cash for debt service, education, and other obligations. The general fund cash shortfall expected in early April 2009 will be offset with tax payments and pay the state's general fund obligations through June. However, once again, the state is expected to experience a cash flow shortfall in July and August.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report "The Fiscal Outlook Under the February Budget Package" published on March 13, forecasts relatively slow economic growth over the next five years compared to past recoveries. According to the report, further corrective budget steps totaling approximately \$8 billion will have to be taken to keep the FY 2009-10 budget balanced. The LAO report can be found at [http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/bud/feb\\_overview/feb\\_overview\\_031309.aspx](http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/bud/feb_overview/feb_overview_031309.aspx).

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### **Bipartisan Commission Studies State Revenue Reform**

The Commission on the 21st Century Economy held its third meeting on March 10 in Berkeley. Established by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the bipartisan commission is tasked with reviewing California's revenue laws and making modernization recommendations.

The March 10 meeting included:

- A presentation from California Director of Finance Mike Genest on the recently passed Budget Act of 2009;
- A presentation from University of California at Berkeley Professor Severin Borenstein on carbon and energy taxes;
- A presentation from Robert Rubin, an attorney, on the need for improved state tax dispute resolution procedures; and
- A presentation on the volatility and tax burden of California's major sources of revenue: personal income tax, sales tax, with a look at the estimated effects of some alternative structures of these taxes.

The commission's 14 members represent a range of interests and perspectives. The membership and charge of the commission was described in the Jan. 16 issue of *Priority Focus* ([http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/27584.Jan.16.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27584.Jan.16.pdf)). While the discussion has been lively and varied, it's not clear yet what consensus recommendations might emerge next month.

### **Additional Information**

The commission is scheduled to meet next on April 9 at the University of California at Davis and will deliver a report to the Governor and Legislature by April 15.

Details of the meetings, including agendas, documents, presentations, transcripts and video webcasts can be found at <http://www.cotce.ca.gov/>

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### **Cities Urged to Recoup Unclaimed Funds**

Many cities are entitled to unclaimed funds held by the state according to State Controller John Chiang's office. Chiang's office made this announcement in its aggressive effort to distribute unclaimed funds to rightful parties.

Bill Carson has been recently appointed Government Entities Liaison by the Controller's office and will serve as the contact for cities in this process. Contact Carson at (916) 464-6191 for more information or to inquire about city property held by the state.

The Unclaimed Property Search database is available online at <http://scoweb.sco.ca.gov/UCP/Default.aspx>.

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### **The League Salutes Florence Nakai's 50 Years of Service**

League employee Florence (Flo) Nakai celebrated her 50th anniversary with the organization this week. Hired for a part time position on March 16, 1959, Flo has spent her career running the League's print shop.

Flo came to the League when it was headquartered in Berkeley at the Claremont Hotel and moved with the organization to Sacramento in 1969. The Capital offices were originally located on 11th street until the League built its building at 14th and K Streets in 1978.

Former Executive Director Bud Carpenter was the only other person to have had as long an employment with the League. Carpenter passed away on Oct. 1, 2007 at the age of 94.

"Flo is the heart of the League. She performs a critical function here with grace and dedication. We are so lucky to have her as a living example of the best of the League and its service to members," commented League Executive Director Chris McKenzie.

When asked why she stayed working at the League for this long, Flo joked that she's too lazy to find another job but then admitted that her colleagues are the real reason for her long tenure. "I like working with a lot of good people," she remarked.

The League is honored to have Flo Nakai as a very long time member of our family.

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### **Job Opening? *Western City* Magazine Can Help You Find the Best Candidate**

List your job opening in *Western City* magazine. When you advertise your job opportunity in *Western City*, you also receive a Web site posting at no additional charge! Visit [www.westerncity.com](http://www.westerncity.com) or call (800) 262-1801 for more information.

In a hurry to get the word out? Place your ad on our Web site today by visiting: [www.westerncity.com/postjobs](http://www.westerncity.com/postjobs).

### **Interim Management Needs?**

MuniLink is the League of California Cities' interim management employee directory. Featuring searchable categories of interim resumes, MuniLink is still the best online tool to connect with highly trained municipal veterans eager to meet your agency's needs.

SEARCHING THE ONLINE DIRECTORY IS FREE for agencies looking for products and services, and offers individuals and companies a fast and effective way of connecting with city officials in California.

MuniLink is a joint project of the League, the Institute for Local Government and *Western City* magazine. Proceeds from MuniLink benefit the League's research and advocacy efforts on behalf of cities.

**Visit Today!** [www.cacities.org/munilink](http://www.cacities.org/munilink)

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### **Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff**

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) Web page ([www.cacities.org/legresources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources)). You'll find a roster and contact information for the League's legislative staff; the online Bill Search program, background materials on lobbying your legislators, and more.

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**March 27, 2009  
Issue #12-2009**

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Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Guidelines Released
- Page 6: Cities Have Additional Time to Apply for Federal Clean Water Funding
- Page 7: April 28 Hearing on Proposed Changes to Workers' Comp System  
California Communities Program Offers Cash Flow Relief for FY 2009-10
- Page 8: Administration Launches New Consumer Web site for Responsible Homeowners Seeking Relief
- Page 9: NLC Program Offers Prescription Discounts  
Job Opening? *Western City Magazine* Can Help You Find the Best Candidate
- Page 10: Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff

## **GOVERNOR EXPECTED TO SIGN BILL TO DISTRIBUTE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS**

The Assembly on Thursday, March 26, passed ABxxx20, a bill that establishes the process through which highway funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will be distributed in California. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **LOCAL IMPACTS OF FEDERAL STIMULUS FOCUS OF ASSEMBLY HEARING**

The Assembly Committees on Local Government and Housing and Community Development (HCD) invited local government officials to testify at a joint hearing held March 25 investigating the impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) at the local level. The federal funding is extremely important to California, especially given how the economic crisis has contributed to the state's significant cash flow problems. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **EPA RESOURCES TO HELP OFFICIALS WITH ARRA CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING**

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), state, local and tribal governments will receive substantial funding to implement clean energy efficiency initiatives in their jurisdictions. *For more, see Page 3.*

**'Transportation Funds' Continued from Page 1...**

This bill provides a preferred way to distribute the funds in California. Funds will be distributed through the Surface Transportation Program (STP). This process has several benefits to cities including increasing the funding available to cities and providing more flexibility in using the funds. The bill also states the Legislature's intention that at least 40 percent of funding allocated to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) be allocated to cities and counties.

The League has prepared a summary of the bill's highlights. The figures reported below are rounded.

California is receiving a total of \$2.57 billion in highway funds. Based on federal law, the state would receive \$1.79 billion (70 percent), and MPOs would receive \$771 million (30 percent). There is no requirement in federal law that funds be given directly to cities and counties.

Existing state law requires that federal highway funds be distributed through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process, which tends to be more lengthy than the STP and would make it difficult for regional and local governments to meet the time requirements in the ARRA.

Under ABxxx20, the funds will be distributed through the STP process, which allocates more money to MPOs, and increases the flexibility for using funds when compared to the STIP. Using STP formulas, CalTrans will receive \$963.7 million (37.5 percent), and MPOs will receive \$1.6 billion (62.5 percent). The legislation also states legislative intent that at least 40 percent of the regional funding (totaling \$642.5 million) go to cities and counties. If cities and counties don't obligate the funding, the funds will revert back to the region to be reallocated within that region.

ABxxx20 is now awaiting signature by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

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**'Hearing' Continued from Page 1...**

In her opening statement, Assembly Local Government Chair Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) commented on how ARRA funds going to local governments will create jobs, stressing that job creation is the most important thing the government can do to help turn the tide on the economic downturn. Assembly Member Norma Torres (D-Pomona), chair of HCD, said that she is focused on getting these federal funds out the door as fast as possible and asked the panelists to tell legislators what kind of support they need from the state to do this.

Greg Jolivette, principal fiscal and policy analyst with the Legislative Analyst's Office told the Assembly members that of the \$1 billion the state receives in formula based housing funding, 65 percent will go directly to the local level. Panelists from a variety of jurisdictions and local agencies addressed funding needs and realities at the local level.

Stockton Vice-Mayor Kathy Miller testified about how her city will benefit from the funds. The city stands to receive \$12.1 million of the \$529 million of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds allocated to California. Stockton is known world-wide as the foreclosure crisis' ground zero so while these funds will help the city address this problem it will only make a small impact according to Miller. The city has allocated \$7.2 million for the acquisition of single family homes to renovate and resell. This will cover about 200 homes initially with the goal that the resale of the homes will replenish the funds so more can be purchased and fixed.

Miller conveyed the importance of ARRA funds to Stockton. "It's not just about individual buildings or projects. It creates ripple effects in the community," said Miller "Stockton has an unemployment rate of 18 percent so you can't underestimate the impact that these funds will have on a community like Stockton."

The San Diego region stands to reap benefits from ARRA funding according to Gary Gallegos, San Diego Association of Governments executive director. He told the committee that ARRA funds allocated for San Diego projects will create 2,600 jobs and also help other regions because many of the products used to complete the projects will come from other areas.

There was consensus among the panelists that ARRA's emphasis on transparency and accountability is extremely important. However, several raised concern that this would put extra burden on local agencies which are grappling with the fact that declining revenues have made layoffs necessary to bring budgets into balance.

Local governments are encouraged to work closely with state organizations and their Metropolitan Planning Organizations on how to access the federal funds.

The League is continuing to update its "City Funding Book, which has information for cities on how to access and apply for ARRA funds. The most recent version is now available on the Federal Economic Stimulus section of the League's Web site at <http://www.cacities.org/federalstimulus>.

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#### 'EPA Resources' Continued from Page 1...

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a suite of resources focused on maximizing the benefits of ARRA funding:

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: State and Local Guide to U.S. EPA Climate and Energy Program Resources**

This guide has been designed to help state and local governments see which EPA programs could be leveraged to expand or develop clean energy initiatives in their locality. It includes synopses of 14 EPA climate and energy partnership programs. Each program description includes: basic information and contact details, potential target audiences, highlights of ready-to-go tools and resources, and possible actions a state or local government could take. [www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/slb\\_guide\\_to\\_program\\_resources.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/slb_guide_to_program_resources.pdf)

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: A Guide to Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Local and Tribal Governments**

This 16 page guide provides an overview of funding sources in ARRA that local governments can use to implement clean energy programs and EPA resources that can support clean energy efforts. The guide covers funding and resources for energy, energy in water treatment, schools, affordable housing, transportation, and green jobs. [www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/local\\_guide\\_to\\_arra.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/local_guide_to_arra.pdf)

#### **Webcast: Using EPA Resources to Maximize Clean Energy in Economic Recovery Spending**

This webcast was recorded March 5 and featured a crosswalk of available funds and EPA resources, including an overview of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, an overview of clean energy opportunities in the state water revolving funds, and a Q&A session with EPA staff. The recording, presentations, transcript and a 16-page guide of funding opportunities and resources are available. [www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/webcast.html](http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/webcast.html)

#### **Rapid Deployment Energy Efficiency (RDEE) Toolkit (in development)**

The toolkit will provide detailed program design and implementation guides for five-to-10 broadly applicable energy efficiency programs that have extensive, proven field experience with documentation on program design, program cost, and results. The RDEE toolkit is being developed through a joint effort of the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy, building upon technical information provided by the Leadership Group of the National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency. [http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/ee\\_toolkit.html](http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/ee_toolkit.html)

#### **ENERGY STAR Webcasts**

U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR team offers a series of Web trainings that can help you leverage ENERGY STAR tools to get the most out of your stimulus funding. Visit [www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus\\_internet\\_presentations](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_internet_presentations) to view upcoming or pre-recorded trainings.

Energy Star Webcast Example: Maximize Stimulus Funding with Performance Contracting and ENERGY STAR. This practical session provides you with the knowledge you need to understand the benefits and nuances of performance contracting and how to leverage ENERGY STAR tools in your contract to get the most out of stimulus funding.

EPA will update materials on the State and Local Clean Energy Web site as additional information becomes available. Please keep an eye on the “what’s new” section of the EPA’s Web site <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/index.html> for the latest information and resources.

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## **Deadline Approaching for PPIC Survey on the Economic Climate for Cities**

California cities can make their economic issues and concerns known by participating in a Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) survey. The deadline to participate is April 1. Only 25 percent of cities have completed the survey and the researchers need at least 60 percent participation to accurately complete their analysis.

The survey seeks to gather information about cities’ adjustment to the current fiscal and economic climate. While there are a range of topics, it is not a long survey, and the League recommends that your city take the time to complete it. PPIC will strive to elicit participation from as many cities as possible, since it is important that the views of every type of city are represented in the study.

PPIC will contact city officials and supply a link to the survey questions. Each city will be given a unique link for the survey.

PPIC abides by the strictest human subjects protection policies and is committed to ensuring the anonymity and confidentiality of respondents. Individuals and names will never be used in a way that links responses to reports or findings or any PPIC publications unless explicit permission is received from the individuals concerned.

For further questions about the survey, please contact Max Neiman at [neiman@ppic.org](mailto:neiman@ppic.org) or (415) 291-4441 or Daniel Krimm at [krimm@ppic.org](mailto:krimm@ppic.org) or call (415) 291-4423.

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## **Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Guidelines Released**

Federal guidelines for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) program were released this week by the Department of Energy (DOE). City officials will want to pay attention to the deadlines. Large cities (population over 35,000) have until June 25. Details for small cities will be released at a later date by the California Energy Commission (CEC).

Below is general information about EECBG funding. More detailed information is available on the League’s Web site.

The formal application is available online at: [http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/27861.EECBG\\_DE-FOA-00000131.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27861.EECBG_DE-FOA-00000131.pdf).

The breakdown of expected large city allocations is also available at: [http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/27860.AttachmentAEECBGProgramAllocations.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27860.AttachmentAEECBGProgramAllocations.pdf).

### **Funding Criteria**

EECBG funds can be used community wide, not only for government owned facilities and infrastructure. A list of eligible activities for use of program funds is provided in Section 544, Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). Additional details on eligible activities are in the attached Funding Opportunity Announcement. The following activities are eligible:

- Development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy and technical consultant services to assist in the development of such a strategy;
- Residential and commercial building energy audits;
- Financial incentive programs and mechanisms for energy efficiency improvements such as energy savings performance contracting, on-bill financing, and revolving loan funds;
- Grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing energy efficiency retrofits;
- Energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities;
- Development and implementation of transportation programs to conserve energy;
- Building Codes and Inspections to promote building energy efficiency;
- Energy distribution technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including distributed resources, combined heat and power, and district heating and cooling systems;
- Material conservation programs including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency;
- Reduction and capture of methane and greenhouse gases generated by landfills or similar waste-related sources;
- Energy efficient traffic signals and street lighting;
- Renewable energy technologies on government buildings; and
- Any other appropriate activity that meets the purposes of the program and is approved by DOE.

### **How to Prioritize Activities for Fund Use**

Energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy programs and projects are building blocks for increased economic vitality, energy security, and environmental quality. EECBG program funds will have maximum impact if invested in ways that create and/or retain jobs and stimulate the economy in the short term while laying the foundation for a long-term and sustainable clean energy economy. DOE encourages grantees to prioritize programs and projects that:

- Leverage other public and private resources;
- Enhance workforce development;
- Persist beyond the funding period; and
- Promote energy market transformation such as revolving loans, low-cost loans, energy savings performance contracting, advanced building codes, building and home retrofit incentives and policies, and transportation programs and policies.

### **Criteria for Large City Formula**

The formula for large cities is based in general on determining allocations to cities and counties with two weighted factors: resident and daytime (commuter) population. The resident population factor receives a weight of approximately 70 percent and the daytime population factor receives a weight of approximately 30 percent. This accounts for the energy use of these populations.

### **Application Process**

There is a three-step registration process required to do business with the federal government. Please allow 21 days to complete the registration process. This information is also listed on page 3 of the League's City Funding Book.

Step 1: Request a DUNS Number at: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>

Step 2: Register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) at: <http://www.ccr.gov/>

Step 3: E-Business Point of Contact must register in FedConnect at: <https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/>

The Funding Opportunity Announcement has complete application instructions. It can be obtained from FedConnect by searching under Reference Number DE-FOA-000013. Applications must be submitted through FedConnect. If you have problems, email [support@fedconnect.net](mailto:support@fedconnect.net)

FedConnect is an online marketplace where federal agencies post opportunities and make awards via the Web. More information about FedConnect is available online.:

[https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect\\_Ready\\_Set\\_Go.pdf](https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf)

DOE's first priority is to award the formula grants. Details on applying for competitive grants will soon be provided in a Funding Opportunity Announcement. Applications can be submitted now through FedConnect.

The DOE's project management team will review each application to ensure that the grantee has developed a strategy for use of funds with activities eligible under the program, and that the proposed budgets are acceptable.

### **Measurement of Success**

Grantees will be required to report regularly to the DOE on five metrics:

1. Jobs created and/or retained
2. Energy savings on a per dollar invested basis
3. Renewable energy capacity installed
4. Greenhouse gas emissions reduced
5. Funds leveraged

### **Funding Release Schedule**

Based on funding levels, formula grants will be released in stages:

1. Local governments will be required to submit a proposed energy efficiency and conservation strategy either with the application or within 120 days after the effective date of the award.
2. Entities are required to obligate/commit all funds within 18 months from the effective date of the award. In the event funds are not obligated/committed within 18 months, DOE reserves the right to de-obligate the funds and cancel the award.
3. ARRA gives preference to activities that can be started and completed expeditiously, including a goal of using at least 50 percent of the funds made available by it for activities that can be initiated not later than June 17.

### **Small City Information**

For California's smaller cities (population under 35,000), the CEC now has 60 days (until May 25) to turn in their application for the EECBG funding going to states (and then on to small cities). Once that funding has been released to the CEC, then information will be passed on to small cities about how to apply and receive EECBG funding for small cities.

### **Additional Information**

For more information about large city block grants, please visit <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/#ld2> or for small city block grants information please visit [www.energy.ca.gov/recovery](http://www.energy.ca.gov/recovery).

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## **Cities Have Additional Time to Apply for Federal Clean Water Funding**

City officials who thought they had until March 24 to get their clean water projects on the State Project Priority List (PPL) for federal stimulus funding can breathe a sigh of relief because the next deadline is May 1. The State Water Resource Control Board, which operates the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), can amend the PPL at any time to include applicants who are ready to proceed after that date.

Application for these funds is a two-step process. First, submit the project to the PPL by applying through the CWSRF's online Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) (<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>). Second, complete the hard copy Financial Assistance Application (FAA). It is available online at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/docs/forms/application.doc](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/forms/application.doc).

There is no deadline for the FAA, but applicants will not be considered for funding unless both steps are completed.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provides \$283 million for California's CWSRF.

The purpose of the CWSRF program is to implement the federal Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for the construction of facilities or implementation of measures necessary to address water quality problems and to prevent pollution of the waters of the State.

Eligible uses for the funds include construction of publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities, local sewers, sewer interceptors, water recycling facilities, as well as, expanded use projects such as implementation of nonpoint source (NPS) projects or programs, development and implementation of estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans, and storm water treatment.

The CWSRF program has released a new fact sheet on the program and how ARRA funds will be used. This fact sheet is available on the League's Web site at:  
[http://www.cacities.org/resource\\_files/27864.arra\\_cwsrf\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27864.arra_cwsrf_factsheet.pdf)

Cities interested in applying for these funds can find the CWSRF applications and program information at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/econ\\_recovery\\_info.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/econ_recovery_info.shtml)

Cities with additional questions should submit them to [cleanwaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cleanwaterSRF@waterboards.ca.gov) or call CWSRF at (916) 327-9978.

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### **April 28 Hearing on Proposed Changes to Workers' Comp System**

Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner is convening a hearing on April 28 in San Francisco on proposed increases to workers comp medical costs.

The Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau's (WCIRB) recently voted to recommend a 24.4 percent increase in the Workers Compensation Claims Cost Benchmark. The April 28 hearing will investigate the reason why medical costs are rising in the workers compensation system.

After WCIRB recommends a rate to the California Department of Insurance (CDI), the Insurance Commissioner holds a subsequent hearing to solicit feedback on the proposed change and can then accept or revise the WCIRB's recommended changes in the Workers Compensation Claims Cost Benchmark (WCCCB). The WCCCB is the estimated change in claim costs over the next 18 months. The CDI does not have the authority to set workers' compensation insurance rates.

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### **California Communities Program Offers Cash Flow Relief for FY 2009-10**

A California Communities program can help cities ease a potential cash flow burden in the coming fiscal year. The 2009 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes program (TRANs) was developed to assist local governments to finance short-term cash flow deficits. Individual participant issuance amounts have ranged in size from \$100,000 up to \$320,000,000. California Communities has issued over \$7.8 billion in TRANs, serving more than 150 local agencies since 1993.

In this uncertain financial market environment, California Communities is pleased to announce that US Bank has agreed to provide a partial letter of credit for the 2009 issuance. This coverage is important since the traditional method of insurance for credit enhancement is no longer available.

Interested cities can enroll in the TRANs program online at [www.cscdadocs.com](http://www.cscdadocs.com). Legal documents and worksheets will be available to cities through the online document management system after enrollment.

Some of the advantages of issuing TRANs through the California Communities Program include:

- **Streamlined Issuance Process:** California Communities TRANs issuers estimate that the staff time requirement is less than half of the time required for a stand-alone issuance;
- **Cost Savings:** California Communities has pre-negotiated fees at significant cost savings for borrowers;
- **Experienced Team:** The California Communities financing team includes a highly skilled group of professionals with many years of experience structuring California cash flow transactions. This is the program's 17th year. In 2008 the program provided \$854 million in cash flow financing to 29 local governments;
- **Market Access:** The significant transaction size of the California Communities TRANs program increases market access; and
- **Investor Relations:** Each year, the California Communities team schedules individual meetings with key institutional investors and holds investor conference calls for the TRANs Program.

#### **Additional Information**

For more information about the 2009 TRANs Program visit the California Communities Web site at [www.cacommunities.org](http://www.cacommunities.org) or contact Dan Harrison of the League staff at [dharrison@cacities.org](mailto:dharrison@cacities.org).

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### **Administration Launches New Consumer Web site for Responsible Homeowners Seeking Relief**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launched a new Web site, [www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov](http://www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov), for homeowners seeking information about the Making Home Affordable loan modification and refinancing program introduced in February by the President.

The Administration is accelerating efforts to communicate directly with borrowers about the Making Home Affordable program. Features of the Web site include:

- Extensive information about the Administration's Making Home Affordable plan;
- Self assessment tools to allow borrowers to determine if they are eligible for the program;
- A calculator feature that allows homeowners to estimate the reduction to their monthly mortgage payment;
- Resources to find free, HUD-approved counseling services for borrowers who have additional questions; and
- A handy checklist to ensure homeowners collect all the documents they need before calling their servicers

Since March 4, when the guidelines allowing modifications to eligible mortgages were released, representatives from the Treasury, HUD and other members of a broad interagency task force have conducted detailed briefings and training sessions for more than 2,500 mortgage loan servicers and investors, nonprofit housing counselors and nationwide borrower advocacy groups who have agreed to participate in the program.

The program, aimed at preventing the destructive impact of the housing crisis on families and communities, will offer assistance to 7 to 9 million homeowners making a good-faith effort to make their mortgage payments.

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## NLC Program Offers Prescription Discounts

The National League of Cities (NLC) is partnering with CVS Caremark® to offer residents of NLC member municipalities a prescription discount card that gives the user an average discount of 20 percent. This can be especially valuable to residents who don't have health insurance, have prescriptions that are not covered by their insurer or who may be enrolled in the Medicare drug program and have prescription costs that fall into the several thousand dollar gap before Medicare picks up all the costs.

Some features are:

- No cost to NLC-member municipalities;
- No cost to your residents;
- No age or income limits;
- Customized cards with city's name and logo provided at no cost;
- Promotional material provided at no cost (in English and Spanish); and
- Eight weeks to set up program from receipt of a completed application form.

Membership in NLC is required, however NLC has several "introductory" membership plans giving either one or two year discounts of 15 percent or 35 percent, respectively. Given the nature of the discount program, the NLC dues might be allocated among several different accounts such as General Assistance, Senior and/or Youth Services, Health, etc.

The NLC membership dues schedule is:

Population Range	One Year's Dues [15 percent discount]	Two Year's Dues [35 percent discount]
5,001-10,000	\$ 949.	\$1,452.
10,001-20,000	\$1,266.	\$1,936.
20,001-30,000	\$1,582.	\$2,419.
30,001-40,000	\$2,769.	\$4,235.
40,001-50,000	\$3,241.	\$4,957.
80,001-90,000	\$5,692.	\$8,706.
100,001-125,000	\$7,432	\$11,366.

To obtain more information and an NLC membership application contact Mark Shapiro at [shapiro@nlc.org](mailto:shapiro@nlc.org) or call (202) 626-3019.

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## Job Opening? *Western City Magazine* Can Help You Find the Best Candidate

List your job opening in *Western City* magazine. When you advertise your job opportunity in *Western City*, you also receive a Web site posting at no additional charge! Visit [www.westerncity.com](http://www.westerncity.com) or call (800) 262-1801 for more information.

In a hurry to get the word out? Place your ad on our Web site today by visiting: [www.westerncity.com/postjobs](http://www.westerncity.com/postjobs).

## Interim Management Needs?

MuniLink is the League of California Cities' interim management employee directory. Featuring searchable categories of interim resumes, MuniLink is still the best online tool to connect with highly trained municipal veterans eager to meet your agency's needs.

SEARCHING THE ONLINE DIRECTORY IS FREE for agencies looking for products and services, and offers individuals and companies a fast and effective way of connecting with city officials in California.

MuniLink is a joint project of the League, the Institute for Local Government and *Western City* magazine. Proceeds from MuniLink benefit the League's research and advocacy efforts on behalf of cities.

**Visit Today!** [www.cacities.org/munilink](http://www.cacities.org/munilink)

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### **Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff**

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) Web page ([www.cacities.org/legresources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources)). You'll find a roster and contact information for the League's legislative staff; the online Bill Search program, background materials on lobbying your legislators, and more.

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