

PRIORITY FOCUS



February 23, 2007

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Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee – or Ask League Leg Staff

SEX OFFENDER RE-ENTRY: WORKING TOWARD A STATE AND LOCAL SOLUTION

California Summit for Safe Communities Set for March 19

The issue of sex offender community re-entry has been a long-standing concern throughout the United States. To work towards developing collaborative solutions on housing and placement for sex offenders, California's local and state leaders are gathering for the California Summit for Safe Communities on March 19, at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento.

For more, see Page 4.

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APPOINTMENTS TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEE POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS COMMISSION MADE

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders announced their appointments to the Public Employee Post-Employment Benefits Commission. **For more, see Page 4.**

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CALL FOR ENTRIES: HELEN PUTNAM AWARDS - CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN CITY GOVERNMENT

If your city has been doing outstanding work in any of the 11 categories listed below, consider applying for a 2007 Helen Putnam Award. It's an opportunity to thank your employees and collaborators, gain the appreciation of your residents and feel proud of outstanding contributions made to better your city.

For more, see Page 5.

WANT MORE DETAILS ON BILLS?

Visit the League of California Cities website at www.cacities.org/billsearch.

LEAGUE SPONSORS WEB-HOSTED CONFERENCE CALL ON CASH FLOW FINANCING PROGRAM

The League of California Cities, together with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and California Communities, is co-sponsoring a web-hosted conference call for city and county officials on the cash flow financing program. The call will take place on Thursday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

This year's tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANS) program includes new features that long-time participants and prospective new participants will want to know about. Cities and counties that wish to participate in the 2007 financing program may enroll online beginning on Feb. 26, at www.cscda.qwikdox.com.

The 2007 Cash Flow Financing Program offers:

- **Large and Small Borrowers** – The program accommodates all cash flow borrowing sizes. Cash flow borrowings have ranged from a high of \$235 million to as little as \$100,000.
- **Time Savings** – Accessing the capital markets has never been easier. Participants estimate that the program takes about 25 percent of the time compared to a stand-alone TRANS issuance.
- **Excellent Pricing** – Our underwriting team lead by Lehman Brothers, with Bank of America, Citigroup, and E.J. De La Rosa will deliver excellent interest rate pricing as demonstrated in recent years. The program also offers a competitively bid investment contract as an investment alternative to participating cities.
- **Maturity Options** – The program offers 12 and 13 month maturities. These maturity options enable cities to maximize the benefits of a cash flow financing.

To view the presentation on the Internet, visit <https://www.callinfo.com/prt?host=globalcrossing&an=8663654406&ac=3624137>

For audio access, call (866) 365-4406. The access code for this call is 3624137#

If you have questions, please contact:

- **RBC Capital Markets:** Catherine Bando, (213) 362-4137, Catherine.bando@rbccm.com
- **California Communities:** James Hamill, (800) 635-3993, ext. 216, jhamill@cacommunities.org
- **League of California Cities:** Dan Harrison, (916) 658-8267, dharrison@cacities.org

Leaving City Office? Retiring?

The League wants to stay in touch! Just because you are leaving your position with the city doesn't mean you stop caring about or wanting to be involved in city issues. Keep abreast of developments affecting cities and the League by becoming part of the League's alumni group. Members will receive periodic updates on city issues and League activities. This is the League's way of saying "thank you" for your public service—there is no fee for this service.

To join, go to www.cacities.org/alumni or send your contact information to dharrison@cacities.org.

CAN SMALL CITIES BE COOL? FIND OUT ON APRIL 11!

Do you represent, or work for a small city and are looking for ways to attract other people to enjoy what your city has to offer? If so, consider attending "Can Small Cities Be Cool?" - an interactive virtual podium seminar on April 11.

"Cool Cities" has increasingly become a buzzword among community and economic development practitioners. The pursuit of the creative class, and the opportunity to reverse the brain drain that has plagued communities, is a hot topic. After examining nearly 250 best practice communities in 10 states, a series of actionable approaches were identified to enhance a small town's viability as a place where people of all ages want to live, work and play.

Presented by Dave Ivan, associate state program leader, Community & Economic Development Programs, Michigan State University Extension, East Lansing, Mich., this fast-paced virtual tour presentation of successful initiatives in other small cities and towns outlines the research findings and provides strategies to assist in building community vitality.

Registration costs \$89 per listening site, which includes access via phone and the Web portal URL to view the program. In addition, one set of handout materials containing content, resources and instructions for permission to duplicate for unlimited participant attendance at your listening site.

The seminar will be conducted via phone and the Internet from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST.

For more information and to register, go to www.cacities.org/events and scroll down to April 11 for links to online registration and registration forms.

CALIFORNIA CIVIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE NOMINATION APPROACHES

Nominations Due by March 2

The League of California Cities is accepting nominations for participants in the 2007 California Civic Leadership Institute (CCLI). Interested city officials must be nominated by a colleague or League Regional Public Affairs Manager no later than March 2. Nomination forms may be found at www.cacities.org/ccli.

Presented by the League Partners Program, CCLI is designed to educate small groups of city officials on the pressing infrastructure issues facing cities across the state, including housing, energy and transportation, and the history and importance of local government in California. The program's goal is to help cultivate future legislators to have a better understanding of these issues and develop lasting bonds among our state's rising leaders.

This year's program agenda is ideal for those already within leadership roles at the League, or for anyone interested in becoming a statewide advocate of local government.

Any mayor, council member or professional city staff may nominate a current city official to participate in CCLI. Nominations may also come from any of the League's constituency groups, or from the League Partners Program.

Nominations must successfully convey the governance skills and accomplishments of the nominee, and should highlight any and all contributions toward League goals and/or the League's mission of protecting local control. Nominations should be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 2, to Robb Korinke at rkorinke@cacities.org, or by fax at (916) 658-8240.

For further information or questions, please contact Robb Korinke at (916) 658-8258.

SEX OFFENDER from page 1

APPOINTMENTS from page 1

The summit is the result of a recommendation from the Governor's High Risk Sex Offender and Sexually Violent Predator (HRSO/SVP) Task Force. The League's participation in the summit is integral to the process. On December 1, 2006, the task force recommended that the Governor, League of California Cities, and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) should sponsor a statewide summit to specifically address the placement and housing of sex offenders.

The League encourages mayors, council members, city managers, city attorneys, and city planners to attend this event. (Police chiefs will also attend the summit, with the California Police Chiefs Association designating who will represent their organization.)

For more information and to register, see "California Summit for Safe Communities" at www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/current.htm. The link for the conference should be active shortly.

There is limited seating for the summit, so please make sure to register as soon as possible. The registration cost for the summit is \$75, which includes the receipt of an informational binder, breakfast, and lunch.

If you have any questions regarding the California Summit for Safe Communities, please contact League Legislative Analyst Leticia Farris at lfarris@cacities.org.

**FIND A BILL, LEGISLATORS,
LEG COMMITTEE – OR ASK
LEAGUE LEG STAFF**

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) page (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.

The commission consists of 12 members, six appointed by the Governor, three appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly Fabian Nunez and three appointed by the Senate President pro Tem Don Perata.

The following are the Governor's appointments (name, political party):

- Gerald Parsky, Republican (chair)
- Matthew Barger, Republican
- Paul Cappitelli, Republican
- John Cogan, Republican
- Connie Conway, Republican
- Curt Pringle, Republican

The legislative appointments are (name, political party):

- Ronald Cottingham, Republican
- Teresa Ghilarducci, Ph.D., Democrat
- Jim Hard, Democrat
- Leonard Lee Lipps, Democrat
- Dave Low, Democrat
- Robert Walton

The purpose of the Public Employee Post-Employment Benefits Commission, created by executive order S-25-06, is to propose a plan or plans for addressing unfunded post-employment benefits. The commission will deliver a report on January 1, 2008 to the Governor and the Legislature that identifies the full amount of post-employment health care and dental benefits for which California governments are liable and which remain unfunded.

The commission will also evaluate and compare various approaches for addressing governments' unfunded retirement health care and pension obligations; consider the advantages to the state from post-employment benefits, such as providing retiree health care; and propose a plan to address governments' unfunded retirement health care and pension obligations.

For a copy of the Governor's official press release, containing background information on the appointees, visit www.gov.ca.gov/news-room and click on "Press Releases."

HP AWARDS from page 1

The Helen Putnam awards recognize the excellence of California cities as demonstrated by beneficial innovations, resourceful efficiencies, improved public service, and overall enhanced public trust and support.

Categories for the 2007 Helen Putnam Awards are:

1. Effective Advocacy, Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Cooperation
2. Housing Programs and Innovations
3. Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics and Community Involvement
4. Community Services and Economic Development
5. Planning and Environmental Quality
6. Internal Administration
7. Public Safety
8. Public Works, Infrastructure and Transportation
9. Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government
10. League Partners Award for Excellence
11. ***NEW*** Health & Wellness Programs

To qualify, simply demonstrate that your city offered a program or service that has proven measurable and successful within a minimum of one year of actual implementation.

The submission deadline is April 12. For your convenience, applications and more information is also available at www.cacities.org/helenputnam.

Our Mission

Restore and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

Analysis, Commentary and Updates on Legislative and Policy Issues that Affect California Cities

PRIORITY FOCUS



March 2, 2007
Issue #9-2007

LEAGUE-SPONSORED BILL PACKAGE INTRODUCED

With the legislative session in high gear and approximately 3,000 bills introduced, the League of California Cities will be active on a number of items in 2007. Of particular note to League members, however, are six League-sponsored bills. *For more, see Page 2.*



CALIFORNIA SUMMIT FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES SET FOR MARCH 19

Registration Information Now Available!

As reported in last week's edition of *Priority Focus*, the California Summit for Safe Communities is set for March 19 at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. Registration and further information is now available online at www.cce.csus.edu/summit. *For more, see Page 2.*



OPEB COMMISSION SETS FIRST MEETING

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Commission has set its first meeting, which will take place on Friday, March 9. The meeting will be held at the State Capitol in Room 4203. This session will serve as the Commission's "organizational" meeting to explore future agenda items and hearing schedules. *For more, see Page 3.*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 4: HCD Hosts Workshops and Stakeholder Meetings for Housing Bond-Funded Programs
NLC 2007 Congressional City Conference: Events Scheduled for the League, California Delegates
- Page 5: California Communities Considering Clean Renewable Energy Bond Pool Program
March Edition of *Focus on Housing* Released
- Page 6: Find a Bill, Legislator, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff

League-Sponsored Bill Package Continued from Page 1...

A brief summary of these bills is below. Cities are encouraged to review them and send letters of support to the author. Copies of the League's support letters and sample letters for cities are available by looking up the bills at www.cacities.org/billsearch.

- **SB 286 (Dutton). Local Street and Road Transportation Funds.**

This measure contains a League-drafted formula for the accelerated distribution of \$2 billion in local street and road funds (contained in Proposition 1B) to cities and counties.

- **SB 934 (Lowenthal). Housing and Infrastructure Zones.**

SB 934 would establish a new financial tool to assist local governments seeking to develop high-density developments in infill areas through the use of tax increment financing.

- **AB 1256 (Caballero). Density Bonus Law.**

This bill would reward communities that have adopted local inclusionary housing requirements by relieving them from the conflicting and confusing requirements of the Density Bonus Law.

- **AB 1254 (Caballero). Property Tax Reward. Affordable Housing.**

AB 1254 would reward local governments that approve affordable housing units operated by non-profit entities through a reduction of their required ERAF payments.

- **SB 266 (Steinberg). Motor Vehicles. Speed Contests. Forfeiture.**

This bill is co-sponsored by the League of California Cities and the city of Elk Grove. It would strengthen the ability of local governments to impose penalties to those engaging in speed contests.

- **AB 411 (Emmerson)/SB 709 (Dutton). Over-Concentration of Residential Care Facilities.**

AB 411/SB 709 would require the Department of Social Services to solicit and consider local land use information prior to the siting of a facility in a single-family neighborhood.

The League's legislative staff is currently reviewing all of the other introduced bills and will provide updated information on those of interest to cities in future issues of *Priority Focus*.

California Summit Continued from Page 1...

The summit is the result of a recommendation from the Governor's High Risk Sex Offender and Sexually Violent Predator (HRSO/SVP) Task Force. On December 1, 2006, the task force recommended that the Governor, League of California Cities, and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) should sponsor a statewide summit to specifically address the placement and housing of sex offenders.

The League encourages mayors, council members, city managers, city attorneys, and city planners to attend this event. (Police chiefs will also attend the summit, with the California Police Chiefs Association designating who will represent their organization.)

There is limited seating for the summit, so please make sure to register as soon as possible. The registration cost for the summit is \$75, which includes the receipt of an informational binder, breakfast, and lunch.

If you have any questions regarding the California Summit for Safe Communities, please contact League Legislative Analyst Leticia Farris at lfarris@cacities.org.

OPEB Continued from Page 1...

The Commission intends to reach out to a broad range of stakeholders and other experts to gather information about the financial condition of public post-employment benefits in California. The Commission wants to hear from employers, employees and employee organizations, actuaries, investment houses, rating agencies, taxpayer groups and others to get a comprehensive look at the issue.

The Commission plans to hold hearings throughout the state to help facilitate input. A schedule for the hearings is being currently being developed. As soon as the schedule is available, the League s will forward the information to cities who may want to have officials attend.

The Commission's goal is two-fold - assess the current financial condition of state and local government retirement systems and other post-employment benefits as accurately as possible, and second, to make recommendations to address any problems that are identified in its research efforts.

The League, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), the State Association for County Retirement Systems (SACRS) and special districts are forming a technical working group to both help our memberships follow this issue and to provide input to the Commission in its deliberations.

The chair of the Commission is Gerald Parsky. Mr. Parsky currently serves as chair of the Aurora Capital Group, a Los Angeles-based investment firm. He has been a senior partner with the Los Angeles law firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher.

He is also a member of the California Board of Regents. In a meeting with local government organizations earlier this week, Parsky explained his intent to work together on the issue of post-employment benefits.

"The Governor and legislative leaders have given us an important charge - determining how to address one of the most significant budget issues that California will face in the coming years," Parsky said. "I look forward to sitting down with my fellow commissioners next week to begin the important work of building a bipartisan consensus on this issue."

The primary staff person to the Commission is Anne Sheehan, deputy director of the State Department of Finance. She will have other assistance from within the Department of Finance, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the State Teachers Retirement System.

HCD Hosts Workshops and Stakeholder Meetings for Housing Bond-Funded Programs

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is hosting a slate of stakeholder meetings and workshops on the funding that is available through Proposition 1C, the housing bond measure passed in November 2006.

City officials are encouraged to attend some of these meetings, to have a say in how these funds are distributed.

Of particular note is the Transit-Oriented Development Program, which provides funding for housing and related infrastructure near transit stations. Six stakeholder meetings are planned for this program, which will ultimately distribute \$95 million. The locations and times of these meetings are as follows:

- March 6 – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. – Rancho Cordova
- March 9 – 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Oakland
- March 12 – 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – San Diego
- March 13 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Los Angeles
- March 14 – 10 a.m. to noon – Riverside
- March 20 – 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Modesto

Workshops and meetings have also been planned for all other bond-funded programs, including rental programs, homeownership programs and farmworker housing. Click [here](#) for a complete list of programs, including the dates, times, and specific locations of each meeting.

NLC 2007 Congressional City Conference: Events Scheduled for the League, California Delegates

The National League of Cities (NLC) 2007 Congressional City Conference is just over a week away, beginning on March 10, and running through March 14 in Washington D.C. The League of California Cities has a variety of important events scheduled during the conference, including a reception on March 12.

California City officials that are attending the NLC conference should mark their calendars for the following activities:

- **Monday, March 12 – League of California Cities Reception.** This event will take place from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln East, Washington Hilton – Concourse Level.
- **Tuesday, March 13 – Capitol Hill Reception for California Delegation and Membership.** A reception for California city officials and the California Congressional Delegation will be held at the Longworth Cafeteria from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Meeting with Sen. Barbara Boxer.** The time is yet to be determined and the location will be announced during the League's reception on March 12.
- **Wednesday, March 14 – Roundtable Discussion with California Congressional Delegation – Issue: Homeland Security.** This hour-long discussion will begin at 10 a.m. in Room HC-5 at the Capitol.

If you have any questions, please contact Genevieve Morelos at gmorelos@cacities.org or (916) 658-8254.

California Communities Considering Clean Renewable Energy Bond Pool Program

California Communities, the joint powers authority sponsored by the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties, is considering establishing a statewide bond financing program to assist successful Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) applicants to acquire financing.

The CREB program was established by federal legislation in 2005 to facilitate the development of environmentally friendly power generating facilities by authorizing \$800 million of bonds to bear federal income tax credits instead of interest. Two hundred thirty-one California public agencies were granted CREB allocations in the \$1 million to \$2 million range.

A California Communities bond pool program would provide the following:

- CREB bonds could be issued on behalf of numerous CREB recipients by California Communities in a single issue.
- A pooled program would lower the overall transaction costs to each participant.
- Uniform program documents and consistent disclosure would be uniquely tailored to the CREBs program.

If you have received a CREBs allocation and are interested in a pooled program through California Communities, please email Terrence Murphy at tmurphy@cacomunities.org or James Hamill at jhamill@cacomunities.org no later than March 12.

If enough interest is expressed by cities and counties for a California Communities program, the interested parties will be notified and a program will be established.

March Edition of *Focus on Housing* Released

The March issue of *Focus on Housing*, the League of California Cities' monthly electronic newsletter that covers affordable housing issues was published on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

This month, feature articles include two pieces on manufactured housing and its use in affordable housing developments, housing news from around California, and much more! To read the current issue, visit www.imakenews.com/focusonhousing.

Do you have an affordable housing success story or an affordable housing issue you would like to write about? If so, we want to hear about it! Contact League Communications Specialist Brian Heaton at bheaton@cacities.org about how you can contribute to *Focus on Housing*.

Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee – or Ask League Leg Staff

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) page, (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.
