



City Advocate Weekly

LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

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LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES' BOARD SUPPORTS PROPOSITIONS 1A-F

The League of California Cities' board of directors on Monday, April 6, took formal action to support Propositions 1A-F on the May 19 statewide special election ballot. These measures are supported by a broad coalition of prominent statewide business, taxpayer and public safety groups as well as a bipartisan group of current and former state and local elected officials. *For more, see Page 2.*



LEAGUE OPPOSES AMENDED AB 155 *Send Your Opposition Letter by April 17*

The League has been opposed to AB 155 (Mendoza) since its introduction in January. This legislation would require that a local public agency seeking to file bankruptcy obtain approval by a state agency. The bill was amended March 27 and the League remains opposed because it would still impose an unnecessary procedural burden on local agencies, thwarting a city's authority to manage its fiscal affairs. *For more, see Page 2.*



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 3.*

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The board action came after the League's Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee recommended support last week by a three-to-one margin. Three-fourths of the votes cast by board members supported the board's action.

The board concluded that this action is of critical importance to protecting city revenues, furthering infrastructure investment and rebuilding California's state and local economies. Prop. 1A, the board concluded, offers the prospect for long-term fiscal reform and stability for state government as the new, less vulnerable rainy day fund is filled over the years.

The board also voted to support Props. 1A-F because we can't afford to stop our state and local infrastructure projects at a time when jobs and capital investment are critical to our recovery. If the propositions fail, it will only deepen the state's cash crisis and many of these projects will likely come to a halt.

The League's leadership made the following statements on the organization's support of Props. 1A-F:

League President Judy Mitchell, mayor, Rolling Hills Estates, endorsed the action, praising her colleagues. "Our board had a very spirited and respectful debate, representative I suspect of the one that is going on across California. As city officials, our most important job on state financial matters is to protect local government revenues. The difficult decision to support these ballot measures reflects our conviction as city leaders that the short-term and long-term interests of cities and the entire state will be better served if these measures pass," said Mitchell.

"Cities have long maintained that the state should face up to its fiscal challenges by making the tough choices required to balance the state budget with state funds rather than irresponsibly taking or 'borrowing' local funds needed for vital community services. These ballot measures and the budget they implement represent a bipartisan effort that reflects this philosophy at a time when city services are already being cut deeply due to the recession," continued Mitchell.

Ken Cooley, League first vice president and vice mayor, Rancho Cordova, observed: "These ballot measures reflect solid, bipartisan progress to achieve state budget reform and greater financial stability for our state. For me, the bottom line is that ultimately city public safety, transportation and other essential local services will be more stable if the state's finances are more predictable. That is why I believe it's critical to support these ballot measures."

League Second Vice President and Hemet Council Member Robin Lowe underscored the infrastructure and economic benefits of the plan during this time of economic recession. "We simply can't afford another state cash crisis that stops critically needed infrastructure projects dead in their tracks. These badly needed construction projects create valuable jobs and address serious needs in our communities that will provide long-term economic benefits for cities and our state."

'AB 155' Continued from Page 1...

AB 155, as originally drafted, required that a municipality seeking to file bankruptcy to first get approval from the Local Agency Bankruptcy Committee (LABC). This committee, which has not been created, would be comprised of the controller, the treasurer and the director of the Department of Finance. AB 155, as amended March 27, would require that a municipality obtains approval from the already existing California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC).

CDIAC is currently comprised of the following officials:

- Bill Lockyer: California State Treasurer and chair
- Arnold Schwarzenegger: Governor
- John Chiang: State Controller
- Dave Cox (R-Fair Oaks): State Senator

- Carol Liu (D-Pasadena): State Senator
- Anna Caballero (D-Salinas): Assembly Member
- Ted Lieu (D-Torrance): Assembly Member
- Jose Cisneros: Treasurer and Tax Collector, city and county of San Francisco
- Jay Goldstone: Chief Operating Officer, city of San Diego

Take Action

The League has drafted a sample opposition letter for AB 155 as amended for cities to use. The bill will be heard in the Assembly Local Government Committee on April 22. Opposition letters must be submitted by Friday, April 17 at 5 p.m. so it is imperative that opposition letters be sent immediately.

The sample opposition letter can be found on the League's Web site at www.cacities.org/billsearch. Type AB 155 into the search function to pull up the letter.

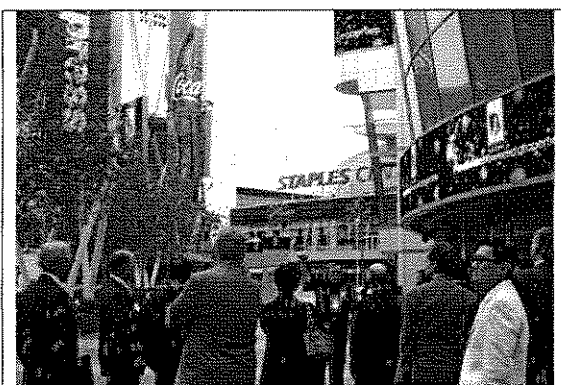
'Legislative Action Days' Continued from Page 1...

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 to meet with state legislators and deliver the message of the importance of providing local services.

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

Wednesday's events conclude with the legislative reception. Invite your legislator to join you and your colleagues at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento 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.



City officials on the L.A. Live tour see first-hand the benefits of redevelopment in downtown L.A., including the Nokia Theatre.

L.A.'s New Redevelopment Project Shines

Completed in fall 2008, the L.A. Live redevelopment project dazzled city officials and League Partners in Los Angeles last week for the League's policy committee meetings. This behind the scenes tour was an opportunity for them to see a project which has radically altered a once blighted area.

The new project is a mix of restaurants, nightclubs and entertainment venues anchored by the Nokia Theater and the 1,000-room J.W. Marriott hotel. The L.A. Live campus is located adjacent to the Staples

Center. Palmdale Mayor Pro Tem Steve Hofbauer led the tour. Hofbauer is a senior fire inspector for the city of Los Angeles and has worked throughout the fire safety certification process with the Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) which developed and managed the project. The tour included visits to the Conga Room, Nokia Theater, Club Nokia, Target Terrace and the brand new ESPN west coast studio.

During Hofbauer's presentation, attendees learned how downtown Los Angeles is evolving into an entertainment and conference hub. AEG's goal was to create a safe family-friendly environment. Along with the goal of attracting increased conference business to the city, the hope

is that concert and sporting event attendees will now have a place to spend an entire evening and will spend their entertainment dollars in Los Angeles.

The L.A. Live project is an example of how public-private partnerships can drive economic recovery. The benefits of redevelopment projects are multifaceted. The redevelopment phase stimulates the economy by putting people to work both locally and in other regions through products purchased to complete the project. Next, the completed project transforms what was once a downtrodden area into a safe and welcoming place with new business and vitality. Redevelopment funds, as city officials know, are a key component to strong communities.

What Is Your City Doing to Survive the Economic Downturn? *Western City Magazine* Wants to Spread the Word!

Cities throughout California are implementing a wide range of programs and steps to help cope with the economic crunch. Is your city doing something creative or innovative to help survive the downturn? If so, the *Western City* editorial team wants to hear about it for a series we are developing.

Send a brief description (up to 500 words) to editor@westerncity.com.

Items are due by June 20.

2010 City Managers Conference – Call for Topics & Speakers

The League of California Cities is looking for innovative, cutting-edge topics and speakers for the 2010 City Managers Conference. Scheduled for Feb. 3-5, 2010 in Carlsbad, the conference hosts 350 attendees including city managers, city administrators, assistant city managers, administrative or management analysts, count chief accounting officers and council of government directors.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal please visit www.cacities.org/events or download the form from the League Web site. (http://www.cacities.org/resource_files/27846.CM%20Call%20for%20Education%20Session%20Ideas.doc) The City Managers Department Meeting Program Planning Committee will review proposals fully completed and received electronically by 12 p.m., Friday, April 24. (Fax or mailed submissions will not be accepted).

Please send your proposal or e-mail any questions to League of California Cities Education Team at education@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) Web 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.
