



MAY 2011 LAC & BOARD MEETING SUMMARIES

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING:

- Mary Bradley, former Finance Director for the City of Sunnyvale, made an informative presentation on CalPers' history, current situation, and needed reform. The presentation is available for review at <http://www.sccca.gov/files/Retirement%20basics.pdf>. Mary also briefly discussed the recent release of the City Manager's Report on Pension reform. The report is available for review at [http://www.sccca.gov/files/DRAFT%20PENSION%20REFORM%20ACTION%20PLAN%20\(NK\).pdf](http://www.sccca.gov/files/DRAFT%20PENSION%20REFORM%20ACTION%20PLAN%20(NK).pdf). Current pension costs continue to increase and compromise the delivery of basic public service, general fund budgets, and pose a long-term fiscal challenge for local and state government. Causes of the problem include enhanced benefit formulas granted after 1999 (SB 400/AB616), reduced return on pension investments combined with the Great Recession, and increased life span of retired employees. Several reform proposals are in consideration to make pension costs more sustainable, adequate and affordable. Reform actions in consideration include prohibition of employer paid member contributions, adoption of two-tier pension system, and providing a hybrid pension system that includes defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan.
- The LAC Committee reviewed and considered support of AB 1105 (Gordon), legislation that would allow VTA to continue the construction of express lanes (or HOT lanes) through San Mateo County with the approval of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County. Existing law authorizes the Santa Clara VTA to implement express lanes on two transportation corridors within Santa Clara County. AB 1105 would extend VTA's existing authorization for an express lane on U.S. 101 to the end of the existing carpool lane in southern San Mateo County. The LAC supported AB 1105 unanimously.
- Future LAC Agenda items include reviewing:
 - modification of 85% rule on radar and parking speed limits; currently in rural areas, police cannot enforce speed limit by radar if 85% of traffic is traveling faster than the posted speed limit
 - amortization of buy-out from CalPERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

- **CSC Report: Jamie McLeod, Chair, Recycling Waste & Reduction Commission** presented a summary of current activities. For 2010-2011, the

commission has 1) completed all state-mandated reviews; 2) developed Zero Waste Action Plan, which was forwarded to all local jurisdictions; 3) recommended to SCC Board of Supervisors a discontinuation of meeting stipend provided to all commissioners, to be consistent with other SCC boards and commissions and in response to economically difficult times; 4) currently reviewing policy recommendations on management of expanded polystyrene (EPS) – recommendations will be ready for June; 5) reviewing organizational study on current structure of Commission and advisory body – considering an MOU/MOA to clarify roles and responsibilities.

- **United Way Silicon Valley, Kim Ferm**, presented on SCC's 2-1-1 program. The 2-1-1 program is a toll-free number that connects callers with local services, such as food, shelter, counseling, employment assistance, quality child care and more. This service can especially be useful in times of natural disaster; the call center receives public information from the County Department of Emergency Operations. 2-1-1 can help city governments by reducing the number of 9-1-1 calls (a large portion of emergency calls are not really emergency calls and can be handled with the 2-1-1 service). 2-1-1 can provide public health information regarding vaccinations flu shots. It can also be a resource for peace officers.
- **The Subcommittee on Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (Liccardo, Hamilton, Pirzynski, Wang)** presented a draft a resolution stating the need for the State to provide guidelines on regulation of the drug, and that the Federal government takes action to regulate marijuana through rescheduling of the drug so that it is distributed through licensed, regulated pharmacies, if distribution should occur at all within the State of California. The Board of Directors unanimously passed a motion to support the resolution and to present to their city councils for review and support.
- **FY 2009-2010 Expenditure Review: Steve Tate (Treasurer)** summarized an expenditure review that the City of San Jose's Auditor's office performed for three months (April – June) in the FY 2009-2010. Based on the review, the Cities Association accurately reports its revenues and expenditures to its Board of Directors and has controls in place to protect Association assets. Two recommendations were made and have been implemented: 1) highlight and provide receipts for reimbursed expenses to the Board Treasurer for review; and 2) raise the credit limit on the Association's credit card.
- **Dues & Budget Proposal FY 2011-2012: Steve Tate (Treasurer)** summarized the proposal to include: 1) a decrease in dues by 4.77% for the next three fiscal years in order to attain a level of Reserves consistent with the organization's financial policy, per the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Use of Reserves; 2) a projected loss of about \$3,000 for the current fiscal year due to the Board-approved contribution (\$3,000) to SVLG's "Save Cal Train" Initiative; 3) use of reserves for the next three years to cover projected expenses. Each year, the dues schedule and reserves level will be reviewed and re-evaluated to ensure a level of Reserves consistent with the Cities Association financial policy.
- **City Manger's Report:** due to Gary Luebbers' absence and per his request, Raania Mohsen mentioned that two items were discussed at the Santa Clara County Cities/Manager Association (SCCCMA) meeting the previous day.

The two items included: 1) an overview of the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program, which has led to the formation of a JPA to oversee and implement the public-private partnership arrangement (grant-funded) with Motorola and Bay Area jurisdictions to support a regional public safety broadband initiative to improve broadband communications across Bay Area jurisdictions; and 2) the status of the County EMS Agreements with Cities for Ambulance Services; this is a new agreement to take effect beginning July 1, 2011. Raania noted that these two items should be upcoming items on their councils' agendas and recommended for Board Members to speak to their respective city managers for more details and information.

- President Melinda Hamilton updated Members that the Cities Association Annual General Membership Meeting was a success with an engaging panel discussion (Senator Simitian, Assembly Member Gordon, Policy Analyst Fred Silva, and SCC Executive Jeff Smith moderated by Terry Christensen) on the state budget and proposed realignment of state services to local jurisdictions. Supervisor Liz Kniss and U.S. Health & Human Services Area Manager Herb Schultz presented an award to the Cities Association and the SCC Public Health Department and recognized all cities and Mayors for being the first county in the state to support Michele Obama's "Let's Move Cities & Towns" Initiative in support of reducing childhood obesity and building healthier communities.
- Per the Legislative Action Committee's Recommendation to support AB 1105 (Gordon), the Board unanimously passed a motion in support of the legislation to allow VTA to extend its existing authorization for an express lane on U.S. 101 to the end of the existing carpool lane in southern San Mateo County, subject to the concurrence of the San Mateo City/county Association of Governments.
- In Besty Shotwell's absence, Raania Mohsen reminded Members that the May Revise to the Governor's Budget will be released on Monday, May 16th.

Joys and Challenges

- Howard Miller of Saratoga shared that the Saratoga High School Marching Band was accepted to participate in the upcoming Macy's Parade.
- Steve Tate of Morgan Hill found joy in the fact that nothing happened in Morgan Hill on May 5th – as opposed to last year's misunderstanding when two boys were suspended from school after arriving to school that day wearing American Flag t-shirts.
- Jac Siegel of Mountain View shared that the City of Mountain View has received a \$44,000 grant from the YMCA to use for city employees' wellness.
- David Casas of Los Altos announced the city's annual Rotary Fine Art in the Park, May 14-15. It is a fundraiser for the Rotary Club.
- Jim Griffith announced that the Financial Times released their American Cities of the Future 2011-2012 Report for North, South, and Central American. In the category of cities with populations 150,000 – 200,000, Sunnyvale was #1 city for economic potential, #2 for human resources, and #5 for quality of life.

- Melinda Hamilton announced Sunnyvale's Art & Wine Festival June 4-5, Murphy Avenue. In addition, Sunnyvale is turning 100 years old; a parade celebration will take place on August 25, 2012.
- Jac Siegel announced that the Mayor of San Carlos passed away. Services will be held on Friday, May 13th. In addition, Mountain View is one of the first cities to have its gas pipelines tested. One-and-a-half miles of pipelines were tested and no leaks were found.
- Sam Liccardo announced that according to a recent publication, San Jose has the nation's happiest workers.
- Jason Baker announced Campbell's Boogie on the Bayou Festival, May 21-May 22, 2011.

Announcements

- Cal Train Town Hall, Tuesday, May 17th, 9:30 – 11:30 am, Palo Alto City Council Chambers
- Citizen's Redistricting Commission Meeting, May 19th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, County Government Center

Other

- It was recommended to include the county's redistricting issue on the June 9th Board Agenda.