



OCTOBER 2011 LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE & BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING:

- **Assembly Member Jim Beall** reviewed AB 57 (Beall), which increases the membership of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) from 19 to 21 members. The bill proposes to add two voting seats to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) representing Santa Clara and Alameda Counties. These seats would be appointed by the Mayors of San Jose and Oakland from among the membership of the San Jose and Oakland city councils.
- The reasons for giving seats to the cities of San Jose and Oakland include the following:
 - They are among the largest Bay Area cities in terms of both population and households.
 - They will each play a leading role in the Bay Area's efforts to comply with the state's greenhouse gas reduction requirements.
 - Their combined total of 1.2 million workers represents one-third of the entire Bay Area workforce.
 - Oakland and San Jose have a combined total of 183,000 daily transit commuters, which represents more than 50 percent of all transit commuters in the Bay area as a whole.
- A change in the representation structure is needed to implement the requirements of SB 375 (Steinberg), which seek to focus new development within the existing urban core and near public transit stations. To achieve this goal, MTC writes that "a strong partnership with the cities of San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose is essential."
- The Legislative Action Committee unanimously voted to support AB 57.
- Assembly Member Beall also provided a report on Pension Reform Legislation and the upcoming formation of a committee that will be addressing pension reform. Members have not been selected. Three hearings will be held to discuss legislation to be introduced in the next Legislative session and to provide opportunity for the community to make suggestions and ideas about pension reform. The first hearing will take place in the City of Carson.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

- **Rafael Reyes, Executive Director, Bay Area Climate Collaborative (BACC)**, presented on SunShares, a first-of-its-kind residential solar group-buy model based on the City of San Jose's employee group-buy pilot program which achieved a 40% cost saving, the lowest in the state to date. BACC is a public-private initiative launched by the Mayors of San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland along with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to accelerate the clean energy economy in the Bay Area. SunShares is available to companies and local governments to replicate with their credit unions or other financial institutions. It provides an opportunity for employees to put solar power on their homes. The benefits of solar power include \$17,000+ additional value to a home, creates jobs, and reduces reliance on nonrenewable energy. The SunShares process takes 6 months to execute. Thus far, the process has been implemented by organizations such as the City of San Jose and Adobe. For more information on how to implement the program, there will be a workshop on Thursday, October 27th, 1-3 pm, City View Plaza, San Jose. For more information about the workshop, contact Eleanor Hughes at 484-4398 or ehughes@baclimate.org. For more information about SunShares or BACC, members or city staff is encouraged to contact Rafael Reyes at (408) 409-5534, reyes@baclimate.org. Rafael's presentation is available at <http://www.citiesassociation.org/files/2011-10%20SunShares%20Overview%20-%20SCCA%20v3.pdf>.
- **Leon Beauchman, Joint Venture Silicon Valley**, presented on Joint Venture's Wireless Communications Initiative. In 2008, Joint Venture published a report that revealed serious gaps in wireless service in Silicon Valley. Now, due to the iphone, access to internet is a major issue. In 2010, Joint Venture organized the WCI to bring together wireless carriers, staff from local cities, and elected officials. The region does not have the infrastructure to support our wireless needs. Joint Venture collaborates with cities to work strategically with carriers and educate citizens to address the needed technology and equipment needed to improve wireless coverage in our region. On November 9th at 8:30 am, Joint Venture plans to host a Wireless Symposium at Santa Clara University, to be co-hosted by the Cities Association. The regional event will bring together elected officials, municipal and county staff, governmental agencies, business leaders, and wireless service providers to focus on how public policy can expedite the process of building a 21st century communications infrastructure and to exchange ideas and suggestions about moving forward.
- **Subcommittee on Education (David Casas, Margaret Abe-Koga)** - The Subcommittee invited **Santa Clara County Office of Education Superintendent Dr. Charles Weis** and **Mountain View Los Altos High School District Superintendent Barry Groves** to present on the state of education in Santa Clara County and on existing collaborations with cities.
 - Dr. Weiss 's presentation is available at <http://www.citiesassociation.org/files/SOS%20County%20Cities%20As sn%2010-2011v3.pdf> and included highlights of the state of schools in SCC. Overall SCC schools exceed statewide API scores. The top two elementary schools statewide in API scores are in our county:

Murdock-Portal and Faria. Seventy-five percent of our county elementary schools meet 800 API target; while 57% of statewide elementary schools meeting API target. Sixty-three percent of county schools meet 800 API target; while 47% of statewide schools meet API target. However, growing segments of student population continue to struggle and thus, we have an “achievement gap,” the disparity in academic performance between lower-performing Hispanic/Latino and African-American students and higher performing Asian and White/non-Hispanic students. As a result, SJ/SV 2020 was formed to eliminate the Achievement Gap by 2020. In San Jose, 50% of those tested are not proficient in grade-level skills. Partners include City of San Jose, SCC Office of Education, school districts, charter schools, colleges, business, and nonprofit community agencies. Four focus areas include: early learning, home & community, school & classroom, and college/career success. Thus far, progress to decrease the achievement gap has been made but more needed.

- Dr. Barry Groves presented on current partnerships between public school districts and cities in Santa Clara County. Partnerships include support for anti-gang activity, safe routes to school funding, joint go green initiatives, city building facilities on school district property, library and librarian services, summer school, after-school programs, etc., Dr. Groves’ presentation is available at http://www.citiesassociation.org/files/MVLA_Cities%20Presentation%20October%202011.pdf.

Due to state budget crisis, funding for education can be reduced by 4% by February of 2012.

- **Nominating Committee Recommendation, President Melinda Hamilton** presented the following recommendation for appointments to the Executive Board 2012 to be voted for approval in November 2011:

President:	Sam Liccardo, San Jose
First Vice President	Council Member Margaret Abe-Koga, Mountain View
Second Vice President	Mayor Steve Tate, Morgan Hill
Secretary/Treasurer	Mayor Jason Baker, Campbell
Legislative Action Committee Chair	Mayor Ron Packard, Los Altos
Director-at-Large	Vice Mayor Jim Griffith, Sunnyvale

- **LAC Report:** Ron Packard reported on the LAC’s recommendation to support AB 57 (Beall), which proposes to increase MTC’s voting members from 19 to 21. The Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

- **City Managers' Report:** In Gary Luebbers' absence, Raania reported that the city managers met yesterday. The agenda included a discussion on the public policy paper addressing compensation and the attorney's review. No changes were recommended and it is ready for presentation and further discussion by the Board in November's Board Meeting.
- **CSC Report:** Council on Aging Advisory Board Representative K. Gabrielle Tiemann presented a summary of recent activities. Activities include a recent partnership with Santa Clara University to provide seniors free classes on aging, lifestyles, and health; support of AB 69 (Beall) CalFresh Program, AB 138 (Beall) adjustment of the poverty line, and a Senior Health Fair in Milpitas.
- **Legislation Report:** Betsy Shotwell of San Jose reported that the latest budget deficit estimate is now \$700 million. There may be a special session in November or December to address the budget deficit. The Governor signed 745 bills and vetoed 125 bills this year. Gov. Brown's veto percentage (14.36 percent) for 2011 legislation is only slightly above the average since 1967 (13.82 percent). Of the 25 bills on the League's priority list, the Governor's actions were consistent with the League's request 56 percent of the time. The governor signed AB 438 (Williams), despite the League's recommendation to veto. The bill mandates specific contractual provisions for general law cities that leave county library systems and choose to contract for library staffing systems for their city-owned library. The bill exempts non-profit organizations that a city contracts with for staffing services, and sunsets in 2019. The governor signed AB 353 (Cedillo, Allen), which prohibits police at checkpoints from seizing a car solely because the driver is unlicensed; instead it gives unlicensed motorists time to find a legal driver and avoid impound. The governor also signed SB 202, which will require all statewide initiatives to be placed on November general election ballots, concurrent with either a presidential or gubernatorial election. For January, we are awaiting the outcome on the RDA lawsuit and the state budget report.

Joys and Challenges

- Jac Siegel of Mountain View reported that Vice Mayor Mike Kasperzak is the incoming President of the League of California Cities; the City of Mountain View recently hosted a civility forum; Jac reported mixed feedback; there was a recent medical device forum hosed in Mountain View.
- Jim Griffith of Sunnyvale reported that as the city is considering a ban on single use bags, he just discovered that Los Angeles County is being sued for violating Prop 26 with its single-use bag ban and 10-cent fee on use of paper bags. Proposition 26, passed by California voters in November, requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers of the state legislature for new statewide fees and taxes, and a two-thirds vote in local communities for the adoption of local fees and taxes. It also broadened the definition of a tax to include many fees.
- Howard Miller of Saratoga reported that the city just finalized the purchase of a Quarry at \$3,900 per acre.

- Melinda Hamilton thanked fellow cities who sent their public safety officers to Sunnyvale last week to assist in capturing the Lehigh Cement Plant employee who shot civilians at work, HP, and then fled to Sunnyvale to hide.
- David Casas announced that there is a vacancy on the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA). The appointment is an Alternate appointment and is available to the Northern Cities grouping, which includes Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills.

Announcements

- Melinda Hamilton announced that there is a vacancy on the Cal ID Ran Board available to a mayor. She urged members to notify fellow council members who are currently vice mayors or mayors. The appointment has been scheduled for January 2012.
- Joe Pirzynski announced to members to Save the Date for November 1st, the first event by a broad coalition of Bay Area public, private sector, and non-profit organizations and associations to develop an *action plan* of activities focusing on recovery from a major earth quake or disaster to help build a resilient Bay Area. It will take place at NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, from 8:30 – 4:30 pm, November 1st.
- Melinda Hamilton announced that the Cities Association will be hosting a future workshop with the SCC Suicide Prevention Coordinator on Suicide Prevention and Media Relations for Elected Officials.
- Melinda Hamilton encouraged members and their fellow council members to attend the upcoming JVSV Wireless Symposium on Thursday, November 9th at Santa Clara University; the Cities Association is co-hosting the event.
- Melinda Hamilton encouraged Members and their fellow colleagues to save the date for the Cities Association annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 8th, 6 pm, Historic Del Monte Building, Sunnyvale.