



## **JUNE 2013 LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY**

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING:**

- SB 391 (DeSaulnier) would impose a fee on the recording of each real estate-related document, excluding documents related to the sale of a property, in order to permanently fund the California Homes and Jobs Trust Fund that will support the development of homes affordable to low- and moderate-income households. It is estimated that this fee will generate an average of \$525 million per year for the Homes and Jobs Trust Fund. Supporters of the bill include the City of San Jose, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and the League of California Cities (LCC). Opposition has been expressed by CA Association of Realtors, county clerk recorders, etc., Legislative Action Committee (LAC) Members expressed concern that the allocation of the funds is undefined in the bill. The LCC has requested that an equitable distribution of funds be applied when allocation is implemented. The LAC recommended support of the bill due to its useful concept, which proposes a permanent source of funding for affordable housing, with one opposition from Mountain View.
- LAC unanimously recommended support of SCC Library Measure A, a mail-in ballot measure proposing the continuation of a tax (\$33.66) needed to continue library services for the cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, and Saratoga. This tax has already been in place for 20 years and the current measure proposes continuation for another 20 years.
- Jessica Stanfill Mullen from the LCC reviewed SB 731 (Steinberg) and the current status of its review by LCC subcommittees; SB 731 proposes various changes and clarifications to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). After review of several of the concerns the LCC currently has with the development of SB 731, LAC members agreed to continue watching the bill before taking a position.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

- **Leslye Corsiglia of the City of San Jose and Emily Harrison of Santa Clara County presented an overview of homelessness and the status of encampments in Santa Clara County.**

- Seventy-five percent of homeless in SCC are unsheltered; 1/3 is chronically homeless; 46% suffer from a mental illness; 16% have substance abuse concerns; 10% are veterans; 24% are under 24.
- Homelessness impacts all cities in the county; thus a regional coordination is needed; current regional responses include Housing 1000, Homelessness Cost Study.
- Regional/governance coordination is needed in order to maximize resources; a JPA will eventually be formed to focus and respond to homelessness, affordable housing, etc., on a regional basis.
- Currently inviting members to join the Destination: Home Board, which is a public/private partnership dedicated to ending chronic homelessness. Organizations interested in participating thus far include Santa Clara Valley Water District, VTA, Santa Clara County Cities Managers Association
- Cities Association was invited to appoint one Board Member to Destination: Home's Board. Jim Griffith of Sunnyvale was unanimously appointed to represent the Cities Association.
- **Cities Association Board Member Jason Baker and SCC Deputy Executive Emily Harrison presented an overview of the newly formed Santa Clara County Emergency Operational Area Council.**
  - On June 4, 2013, the SCC BOS approved formation of the Operation Area Council (OAC), which combines the Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) and the County Disaster Council (CDC) into one central authority, eventually transitioning into a JPA, to help address and coordinate countywide emergency preparedness for the county and all the cities in Santa Clara County.
  - The members of the OAC will include 13 representatives (a balance of 7 elected officials and 6 appointed officials); 5 of those representatives are to be elected officials representing the 15 cities of Santa Clara County.
  - The objective of combining the EPC and the CDC is to form one entity that can maximize resources (attain new funding sources) and efficiencies and fulfill priorities based on needs across the county; to ensure that our cities and county are prepared to respond effectively when a natural disaster e.g. earthquake, occurs.
  - The OAC Stakeholders Committee proposed an allocation of the 5 seats based on population: 2 seats for San Jose, 1 seat for the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, Cupertino; 1 seat for Santa Clara and Sunnyvale; 1 seat for Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Milpitas. Morgan Hill and Gilroy expressed a need for their own seat based on their geography and location relative to other cities in the county.
  - The allocation of the five seats will be reviewed and determined at a City Selection Committee (CSC) special meeting in August and then the seats will be appointed at the September 12<sup>th</sup> CSC Meeting. Notification will be distributed to all elected officials.

- **Alex Sanchez of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara (HASCS) presented an overview of the organization’s objectives and the impacts of reduced funding due to sequestration.**
  - The Housing Authority was created by the Board of Supervisors in 1967.
  - The Agency’s primary source of funding is the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program – it provides rental subsidies to over 17,000 households county-wide, paying over \$20 million per month or \$240 million annually. Over half of program participants include elderly and/or disabled who do not have the capacity to earn income.
  - Congress has reduced funding for the 2013 HUD Section 8 program that may result in the termination of nearly 1,000 families and individuals from the program.
  - In March 2013, cuts to HACSC reduced rental assistance by 8% (\$13.7M) and 43.33% in Administrative fees (\$2.4M)
  - The current actions taken by the agency (changes to tenant rent contribution and transfer of Moving – to – Work (MTW) funds addresses the current financial crisis created by the federal sequester; however, the President’s FFY 2014 budget does not resolve the current year financial problem.
  - If the federal sequester impact on Section 8 is not corrected in FY 2014, higher tenant rent contributions and/or program terminations are expected.
  - It was requested that the Cities Association submit a letter to Congress requesting full funding of the Section 8 voucher programs for FFY 2014. The Board voted to submit the letter with one opposition from Milpitas.
- **President Margaret Abe-Koga reviewed the May 9th General Membership Meeting.** Overall, it was successful with nearly 100 people attending the event at Microsoft in Mountain View. Positive feedback was received regarding the fishbowl discussion, content of information provided by the speakers, and location. Next steps include working with stakeholder agencies, e.g. The Housing Trust, in developing a white paper on actions the Cities Association can take to move forward.
- **Board Member Jim Griffith led a discussion on regional crime, or the increase of crimes impacting our communities.** Sunnyvale has experienced a 48% increase in residential burglaries and no cuts have been implemented in Public Safety services. Several cities have experienced significant increases in crime. Members agreed to request statistics and quantitative data from each city’s police chief and schedule a future collaborative conversation with the county’s probation officer.
- **Board Member & Secretary/Treasurer Jim Griffith** reviewed the proposal of FY 2013-2014 Budget and Annual Dues to include a continuation of the reduced dues schedule. In 2011, as a gesture of support for cities experiencing financial hardships, the organization adopted a reduced dues schedule (5%) for three years. The Board unanimously approved the budget and dues schedule.

- **LAC Report: Jac Siegel, LAC Chair, reviewed the committee's recommendations** to support SB 391 (DeSualnier) and the SCC Library Measure A. The Board voted to support SB 391 with three opposing votes from Mountain View, Cupertino, and Milpitas. The Board voted to unanimously support the SCC Library Measure.
- **CSC Appointee Report: ABAG Appointees Joe Pirzynski and Ronit Bryant** updated the Board on the recent presentation of Plan Bay Area, which integrates transportation, land-use, housing and the objective to reduce green-house gases in the bay area. It is based on SB 375 and identifies the region's strategy to house its population in the next 25 years. The objective is to utilize local vision, increase economic competitiveness, and preserve our natural environment. Based on a presented summary of Plan Bay Area performance, some targets have been met and exceeded, e.g. climate protection, adequate housing, reduction of fine particulate matter causing premature deaths, and some targets have not been met, e.g. reduction of particulate emissions, active transportation, reduction of deaths by collisions. Overall, the draft plan makes great progress on nine of 15 performance measures; however MTC and ABAG will need to focus future attention on achieving success with the other targets. ABAG is also responsible for other programs such as the Bay Trail, SF Estuary Partnership, and financial services.
- **City Managers Report:** Dan Rich reported recent presentations and discussions included homelessness & encampments, regionalization of fire services, SCC Emergency OAC, and a joint meeting with the San Mateo County City Managers Association.
- **Legislation Report:** Betsy Shotwell of San Jose reported that the State Budget must be approved by Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> or the legislature will not receive their salaries and the League's list of "hot" bills to watch was distributed.