



## SEPTEMBER 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

- **Board Chair Kathy Espinoza-Howard and Deputy Executive Director Katherine Harasz of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara (HACSC) presented on the organization's Moving to Work (MTW) designation and the need to extend the agreement.**
  - HACSC is designated as a MTW agency, which allows the organization to seek HUD waivers of program regulations in order to test innovations in the Section 8 rental assistance program. Because of its MTW status, it has been able to preserve its 2,600 units of affordable housing, acquire land for the development of 180 units of new affordable housing, and increase housing choices for low-income families.
  - The MTW status (10-year agreement) is due to expire in 2018.
  - HACSC operates the Section 8 program countywide and controls affordable housing countywide. The MTW flexibility allowed the organization to respond to the federal government's sequestration in 2013 by making budget cuts elsewhere in its business model and continuing support of the most vulnerable households in our community.
  - Ninety percent of HACSC's funds are used for Section 8 housing; while, 10% of funds are used for administrative costs.
  - Request: support HACSC's efforts in obtaining an extension of the MTW Agreement.
  - The Board unanimously agreed to support its request and efforts and submit letters to Federal Senators Feinstein and Boxer requesting an extension of the MTW agreement.
  
- **Cities Association policy related to communicating Association's position on pending state legislation or regional initiatives was unanimously approved.**
  - At the Cities Association, full Board review of pending state/federal legislation and regional initiatives is recommended and preferred in order for an action of support or oppose to be communicated.
  - New policy allows action of support or opposition to be taken by the President and Executive Director when there is not sufficient time to bring the matter to the Board or LAC and the legislation clearly supports or hinders cities' interests or the Association's adopted goals.

- Guiding principles for the Executive Director and President to take action are included in the policy and once action is taken, a written report must be submitted to the Board for review.

**City Managers' Report:** Steve Rymer, City Manager of Morgan Hill, provided overview of the Leadership's Academy presentation on Wellness Programs and the variety of programs that organizations implement for their employees, e.g. rigid versus employee friendly. Santa Clara Valley Water District is planning to work with the City Palo Alto on addressing regulation issues that arise when trying to move projects forward within our jurisdictions. Other cities are welcome to provide examples of projects as case studies. Next month's meeting will be a joint session with Assistant City Managers.

**CSC Appointee Report:** Jason Baker, Chair of the Emergency Operational Area Council (OAC), provided a report that included a review of Members of the Board, its function, subcommittee projects and work plan, and overview of Emergency SCC Alerts. The OAC is an advisory board to the SCC Board of Supervisors and is staffed by the Office of Emergency Preparedness. Per the Cities Association request and other individual cities' request to consider the use of Emergency SCC Alerts in languages other than English, the OAC is reviewing implementing the alerts in other languages through the use of multilingual services. Next steps include identifying prevalent languages in all cities and increasing use of the portal countywide.

**Legislation Report:** Betsy Shotwell of San Jose provided an overview of legislation that passed and died in session this year, e.g. AB 2145 (Community Choice Aggregation) died, AB 2126 (Brown Act: Mediation) is on the Governor's desk and veto letters are needed, AB 2280 (Community Revitalization and Investment Authority) is on the Governor's desk and support letters are needed. There are six state ballot propositions to be included in the November 2014 election; LAC to review and provide recommendations at the October Board Meeting.

**Joys and Challenges:**

- Emily Lo of Saratoga announced SCC Library District's Centennial Celebration with a Sept. 26 fundraiser at the historic Hakone Gardens in Saratoga. Tickets are \$100 each, with proceeds supporting the district's bookmobile program.
- Margaret Abe-Koga of Mountain View announced the city's recognition for its wellness program; it was named as one of the top 100 wellness programs; since its implementation, expenses have decreased due to healthier employees and less sick days.
- Jim Griffith of Sunnyvale announced his State of the City will take place on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Announcements:**

- New Energy Choices for Silicon Valley, September 17th, Microsoft, Sunnyvale, 10:00 am

- Markkula Ethics Center Public Sector Roundtable, October 3, 11:30 am
- Tour of NASA's Sustainability Base – TBD
- Upcoming CSC Appointments: MTC, OAC, SVRIA, LAFCO