



## OCTOBER 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

### **Assembly Member Even Low participated in a Roundtable Discussion with Cities Association Board Members.**

- Assembly Member Low shared some highlights of the recent and upcoming legislative session.
  - There will be three new Assembly Members representing the Silicon Valley beginning in 2017, which is an opportunity for new collaborations.
  - AB 650 (Low) was vetoed, which proposed to deregulate the taxi cab industry and shift oversight from local jurisdictions to the State's Public Utilities Commission. Several cities in Santa Clara County, e.g. Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, are in the process of updating their regulations and the Cities Association is working with the City Managers Association on proposing a regional solution, such as a reciprocity agreement.
  - Much reform in oversight of state-run entities is needed, especially with the CPUC; several constituents have complained about significant increase of water rates. Such increases need to be justified with transparency.
  - Just as the state needs to do its share in improving funds available for more housing, cities also are called upon to approve developments that will provide more housing, especially affordable housing. Though the Governor's By-Right Proposal failed to pass the Assembly, a revised version is likely to come back in the next session.
  - Other topics of discussion included the passage of AB 2501 (Bloom and Low) addressing density bonuses, school impact fees, the suggested restructuring of the State's source of revenue (sales tax vs. tax on goods and services) to prevent significant decrease of funds during an economic downturn, the important leadership role of the Silicon Valley, and the significance of continuing to engage and voice support or opposition to legislation and proposals.

**Board Member Pat Showalter introduced the roundtable discussion of jurisdictions' recent efforts regarding homelessness; participants included Director Richard Santos of SCVWD, Ky Le of SCC, Kimberly Thomas of Mountain View, and Kelly Hemphill of San Jose.**

- Santa Clara Valley Water District Director Richard Santos shared recent efforts addressing homelessness.
  - Currently, nearly 1,400 homeless individuals live along the region’s waterways.
  - Since 2015, the SCVWD has spent \$1.3 million to remove waste from the encampments along the waterways.
  - In protecting the waterways, the SCVWD has collaborated with a number of agencies including City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and several non-profit organizations.
  - Current challenges include multiple jurisdictions with varying authorities, multiple property ownerships, and lack of affordable housing options.
  - An ad hoc committee was formed to address the challenges; the committee included a homeless advisor from the “Jungle.”
  - The committee held three meetings and has recently provided 3 recommendations:
    - Continue maintaining encampment free creeks through collaboration with other jurisdictions.
    - Continue to engage with City of San Jose through the use of SCVWD’s \$350,000 grant to help homeless migrate to housing.
    - Transfer residential and vacant lands to municipalities with housing jurisdiction.
- Ky Le of Santa Clara County shared recent efforts, which were recommended as short-term and long-term efforts by the Santa Clara County Housing Task Force.
  - The Task Force met throughout 2015 and included several stakeholder representatives from across the County: Cities Association, CA State Senate, San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Working Partnerships, and Santa Clara County.
  - In September 2015, \$13 million of one-time funds and \$8.2 million annual ongoing funds were approved to implement the recommendations in addition to \$7 million of ongoing funds in FY 17’.
  - In addition to the County’s efforts, other ongoing regional efforts include the Silicon Valley Nexus Study on Housing Impact fees, the Cities Association Regional Housing Coordination (RHNA Sub Region) Subcommittee, the Community Plan to End Homelessness, Homelessness Crisis Resolution adopted by several jurisdictions throughout the County, and Measure A for Affordable Housing.
  - Current efforts include a combination of interventions (permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, homeless prevention), partnerships with cities and special districts, and housing development through financing, funding sources, and development decisions.
  - Lower-income households are disproportionately affected the most by lack of housing in the region; there is a funding gap of \$3.8 billion for extremely low-income housing. To prevent homelessness, it is important to focus on providing housing for the extremely low-income and most vulnerable of our population.
  - In the last five years, partnerships and regional coordination has

- increased through subsidies and provision of services; housing for the homeless will be provided from Gilroy to Palo Alto.
- The County is looking to partner with cities to ensure services and housing is distributed across the region.
  - Kimberly Thomas of Mountain View shared the results of the city's recent survey of homeless people and long-term and short-term actions taken and recommended by the Council.
    - There are 6,556 homeless persons countywide; 276 of them are located in Mountain View and 126 of them live in their vehicles without a permanent residence.
    - LifeMoves census and survey of people living in their cars was completed in June 2016; 68 surveys were completed; the largest group were single men (47%); 43% of respondents had Mountain View as their last permanent address while the remaining came from other parts of the region.
    - They live in cars due to rent and economic factors; 1/3 of them have been living in cars for over two years and 93% said they were not connected to community services.
    - Over 50% reported working and receiving some type of government financial assistance.
    - Income levels range from \$0 to \$3000 with 48% percent making between \$600 and \$1000.
    - Mountain View Council recently recommended the following:
      - Basic Care Services (\$200,000) for people living in vehicles as an effort to make this temporary shelter more humane;
      - Hire a caseworker to connect the homeless with community services;
      - Consider long-term options that will leverage city, county, and other resources.
    - Collective efforts are needed to address needs for:
      - Infrastructure (e.g. dump station –there is only one in Santa Clara County in Morgan Hill);
      - Emergency/Temporary Shelters
      - Transitional Housing
      - Rapid Rehousing
      - Permanent Supportive Housing
  - Kelly Hemphill of San Jose shared recent efforts made in San Jose to address the homelessness crisis.
    - According to the 2015 San Jose Homeless Census & Survey, 4,063 individuals are homeless, 69% of them are unsheltered, and since 2013, there has been a 15% reduction in the homeless population.
    - The Fair Market Rent of a 1-bedroom apartment in San Jose is \$1,773; an individual needs to work two minimum-wage jobs to afford a one bedroom apartment in San Jose.
    - San Jose has implemented a number of programs/initiatives to address homelessness.
1. Crisis Response System
    - Includes outreach and engagement with the homeless

- population as an effort to get them sheltered;
  - Homeless Concern Hotline 408-975-1440;
  - Provides essential services, such as laundry, hygiene, warming programs, etc.;
  - Partnerships with churches for shelters and safe parking;
  - A new ordinance passed in March allows usage of locations of assembly for shelter, e.g. movie theatres.
- 2. Interim Housing
  - Rapid Rehousing programs;
  - Partnership with Abode through the Hotel Master Leasing Ordinance that will provide 105 new hotel units for homeless;
  - Recent passage of AB 2176 (Campos), which amends the Shelter Crisis Act and allows innovative, cost effective methods to provide bridge housing; San Jose plans to create 10 communities of transitional housing with case management services.
- 3. Permanent Supportive Housing
  - Over 400 units are in the pipeline;
  - \$40 million collaborative Permanent Supportive Housing NOFA.
- 4. Community Initiatives
  - All the Way Home Campaign – housing for Veterans
  - Employment Strategy
  - Community Plan to End Homelessness
- Comments and topics of discussion between Board Members included:
  - Providing more cost-effective options such as shared housing in which there are private rooms but shared kitchens, bathrooms; AB 2147 will allow more shared housing units and the conversion of motels;
  - Providing community services in South County, for homeless and re-individuals re-entering communities from prisons.

**Laura Jones of SCC Health Department provided an update on the Healthy Cities Campaign and requested endorsement.**

- The Healthy Cities Campaign was presented early 2016; after considering feedback from the Board of Directors, Cities Association Health Policy Committee Members, and City Managers/staff across the county, the Public Health Department is ready to launch the “Healthy Cities Campaign – Dashboard” as an effort to incentivize cities to develop and implement health policies and change within their communities.
- The County is ready to provide support, data, funding, model policies, technical expertise, and outreach to impacted groups.
- Per the feedback received, the initiative will include:
  - “Dashboard” vs. a report card;
  - Toolkit of best practices and “peer to peer” contact to foster collaboration;
  - Model policies easily accessible for review on website;
  - Inclusion of a “healthy cities showcase” in the upcoming Healthy Cities Conference on Friday, November 18, 2016, 9:30 am – 1 pm.

- Recognition of cities at the conference to encourage and acknowledge “stand out” work.
- Feedback was requested regarding whether or not cities would like to receive recommendations from the PHD; Board Members expressed interest in receiving recommendations.
- It was suggested to also promote or support active movement in public events.
- Board Members unanimously endorsed the Healthy Cities Campaign.

**CSC Appointee Rod Sinks of Cupertino provided update on recent activities of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).** Recent efforts include addressing wood smoke regulations and reducing wood smoke across the region; capping emission from all refineries; capping pollutants & GHG emissions, and reducing health risks, e.g. pollutants that cause cancer.

**City Managers’ Association Report:** Sunnyvale Assistant City Manager Walter Rossmann provided update; the Leadership Academy presented projects/efforts addressing commuting incentive programs and revamping performance evaluations. Due to the veto of AB 650 (Low) Taxi Regulations, City Managers will resume work on the two regional options being considered for streamlining taxi regulations countywide: a model ordinance for all cities to adopt or the inclusion of a statement of reciprocity that allows cities to accept current certificates of public convenience from other cities in the County.

**Legislation Report:** Betsy Shotwell of San Jose provided update on the recent legislative session; the League of California Cities is hosting a webinar on October 20<sup>th</sup> addressing the legalization of marijuana; the legislature is in recess until December 5<sup>th</sup> and the new legislative session will begin in January 2017.

**Joys & Challenges/Announcements**

- Los Gatos – Town of Los Gatos is being sued for Council voting against the development proposal of North 40.
- Saratoga – Constituents are complaining of significant increases in water rates.
- Sunnyvale – Groundbreaking of downtown is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>; the development of downtown has been a 15-year project.
- Save the Date: Cities Association Holiday Party, Thursday, December 1, 2016, 6 – 9 pm, LinkedIn, Sunnyvale. All Council Members, City Managers, Assistant City Managers, State and Federal Representatives, and their guests are invited.