

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**August 27, 2015**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council      FROM: Scott Stiles, City Manager  
Members

**I. PRIORITY AND COUNCIL AGENDA ISSUES**

None.

**II. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

**A. INVESTMENT REPORT**

Kingsley Okereke provides the July, 2015 Investment Report.

**B. DRAFT COPY OF THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

A draft copy of the City's Communication Strategy is attached for your review. Once finalized, it will be discussed at an upcoming Study Session.

**C. 2006 SEWER CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION MOODY'S AA3 RATING AFFIRMED**

Kingsley Okereke informs you of the outcome of the credit ratings review of the Sewer Revenue Certificates of Participation Series 2006 conducted by Moody's Investors Service in August, 2015.

• **OTHER ITEMS**

– NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



SCOTT C. STILES  
City Manager

**City of Garden Grove**

**INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

To: Scott Stiles  
Dept: City Manager  
Subject: INVESTMENT REPORT  
FOR JULY 2015

From: Kingsley Okereke  
Dept: Finance  
Date: AUGUST 24, 2015

Enclosed is the July 2015 Investment Report which shows the financial institutions, types of investment instruments, monthly transactions, current month interest received, and the par and fair market value of investments held. The month-end cash in the bank and petty cash balances are also listed on the Cash and Investment Report. The pie chart reflects the investment instruments as a percentage of the total portfolio.

This investment portfolio meets State guidelines and adheres to the City investment policy. As of July 2015, the City invested 19.176% of its total portfolio in treasury securities and 56.765% in federally backed securities. 19.467% of the portfolio or \$39.593 million is invested in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) managed by the California State Treasurer. A portion of the investment portfolio is restricted as they are funds held and invested by an outside fiscal agent. The restrictions were set forth in the related bond indentures. As of July 2015, 4.592% of the portfolio is restricted. Please see chart on attachment A.

In summary, the investment portfolio is secured and the City has the necessary cash to pay its bills for six months in a timely manner.

Please call me at extension #5060 if you have any questions.



KINGSLEY OKEREKE  
Assistant City Manager/Finance Director

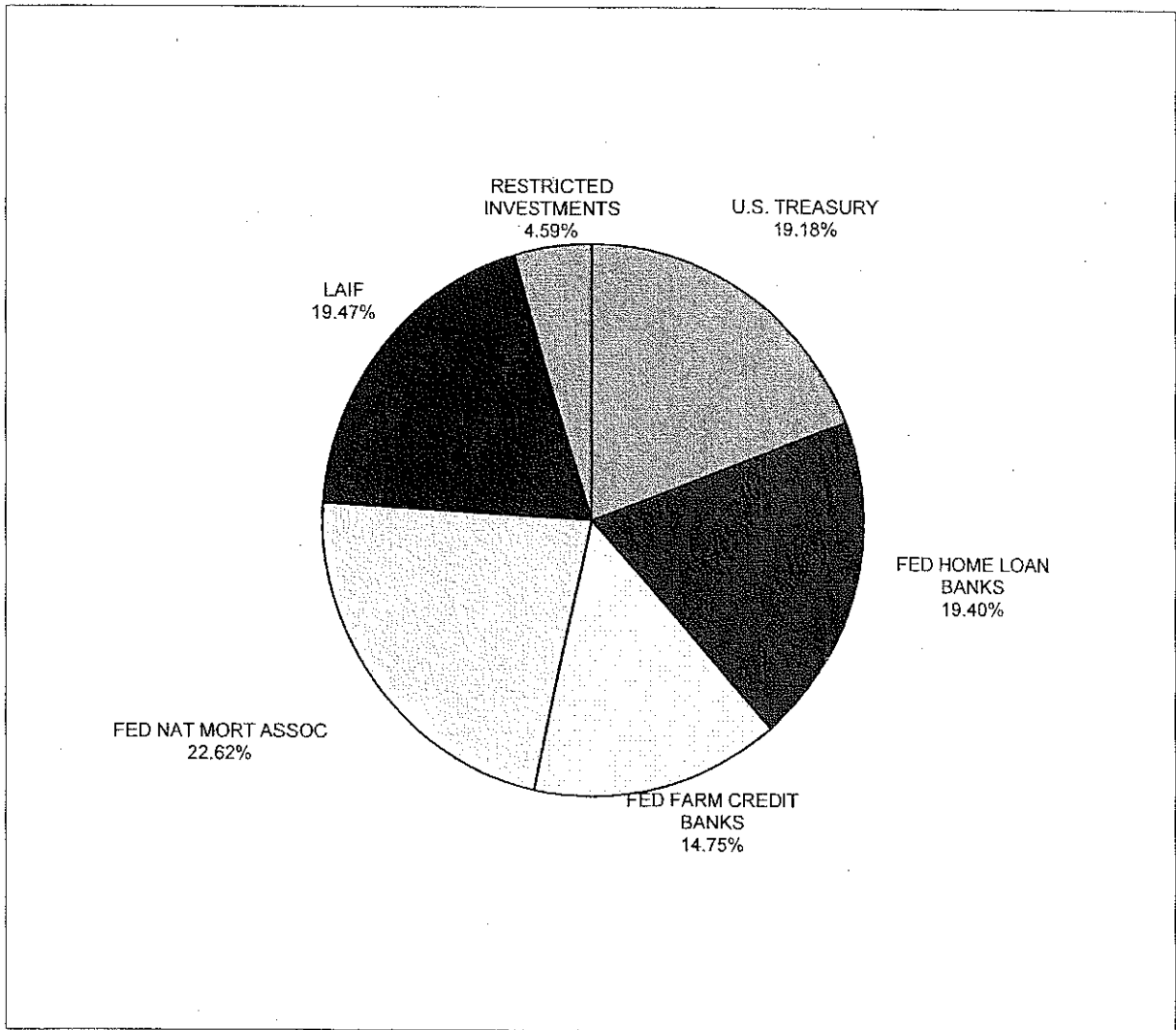
KO/EC/HW

Attachments  
cc: Monica Neely

# ATTACHMENT A

## INVESTMENT SUMMARY July 2015

<u>TYPE OF INVESTMENT / FIN INSTITUTION</u>		<u>END. INV</u>	<u>% OF INV.</u>
U.S. TREASURY	\$	39,000,000	19.176%
FED HOME LOAN BANKS		39,450,000	19.397%
FED FARM CREDIT BANKS		30,000,000	14.751%
FED NAT MORT ASSOC		46,000,000	22.618%
LAIF		39,593,192	19.467%
RESTRICTED INVESTMENTS		9,338,798	4.592%
TOTAL OF INVESTMENTS	\$	203,381,989	100.000%



**WEIGHTED AVERAGE MATURITIES**  
July 2015

Investment	Yield (Rate)	UBOC Held	Amount	Date of Maturity	No. Days to Mat. 7/31/2016	Weighted Investment Amt	Weighted # of Days
			(a)		(b)	(a / total a = c)	(b x c)
<b>TREASURY</b>							
U S TREASURY	2.250	*	3,000,000	02/29/16	213	1.54605%	3.293
U S TREASURY	0.250	*	2,000,000	09/15/15	46	1.03070%	0.474
U S TREASURY	1.500	*	4,000,000	06/30/16	335	2.06140%	6.906
U S TREASURY	1.500	*	3,000,000	07/31/16	366	1.54605%	5.659
U S TREASURY	1.000	*	6,000,000	08/31/16	397	3.09210%	12.276
U S TREASURY	1.000	*	6,000,000	10/31/16	458	3.09210%	14.162
U S TREASURY	1.375	*	3,000,000	06/30/18	1,065	1.54605%	16.465
U S TREASURY	1.500	*	3,000,000	08/31/18	1,127	1.54605%	17.424
U S TREASURY	1.250	*	3,000,000	10/31/18	1,188	1.54605%	18.367
U S TREASURY	1.375	*	3,000,000	07/31/18	1,096	1.54605%	16.945
U S TREASURY	1.625	*	3,000,000	03/31/19	1,339	1.54605%	20.702
<b>CITY</b>							
FHLB	1.360	*	4,000,000	09/06/16	403	2.06140%	8.307
FHLB	1.625	*	1,000,000	09/28/15	59	0.51535%	0.304
FHLB	1.630	*	2,450,000	08/20/15	20	1.26261%	0.253
FHLB	2.125	*	2,000,000	06/10/16	315	1.03070%	3.247
FHLB	1.300	*	6,000,000	11/30/16	488	3.09210%	15.089
FHLB	1.000	*	3,000,000	06/09/17	679	1.54605%	10.498
FHLB	1.125	*	3,000,000	07/28/17	728	1.54605%	11.255
FHLB	2.250	*	3,000,000	09/08/17	770	1.54605%	11.905
FHLB	0.875	*	3,000,000	03/10/17	588	1.54605%	9.091
FHLB	1.500	*	3,000,000	03/13/19	1,321	1.54605%	20.423
FHLB	2.000	*	3,000,000	09/13/19	1,505	1.54605%	23.268
FHLB	1.625	*	3,000,000	06/14/19	1,414	1.54605%	21.861
FHLB	1.750	*	3,000,000	06/12/20	1,778	1.54605%	27.489
FFCB	1.500	*	2,000,000	11/16/15	108	1.03070%	1.113
FFCB	0.930	*	2,500,000	11/16/15	108	1.28837%	1.391
FFCB	1.050	*	3,000,000	03/28/16	241	1.54605%	3.726
FFCB	1.000	*	3,000,000	05/16/17	655	1.54605%	10.127
FFCB	0.370	*	3,000,000	10/14/15	75	1.54605%	1.160
FFCB	0.360	*	3,000,000	08/14/15	14	1.54605%	0.216
FFCB	0.400	*	3,000,000	02/01/16	185	1.54605%	2.860
FFCB	1.160	*	3,000,000	10/23/17	815	1.54605%	12.600
FFCB	1.460	*	3,000,000	11/21/18	1,209	1.54605%	18.692
FFCB	1.590	*	3,000,000	10/01/18	1,158	1.54605%	17.903
FFCB	2.060	*	1,500,000	08/01/19	1,462	0.77302%	11.302
FNMA	2.200	*	3,000,000	03/24/16	237	1.54605%	3.664
FNMA	2.170	*	3,000,000	09/15/16	412	1.54605%	6.370
FNMA	1.625	*	2,000,000	10/26/15	87	1.03070%	0.897
FNMA	5.375	*	3,000,000	07/15/16	350	1.54605%	5.411
FNMA	0.875	*	3,000,000	10/26/17	818	1.54605%	12.647
FNMA	1.000	*	3,000,000	09/20/17	782	1.54605%	12.090
FNMA	1.325	*	3,000,000	11/27/18	1,215	1.54605%	18.784
FNMA	0.875	*	3,000,000	02/08/18	923	1.54605%	14.270
FNMA	0.875	*	3,000,000	08/28/17	759	1.54605%	11.735
FNMA	0.875	*	3,000,000	05/21/18	1,025	1.54605%	15.847
FNMA	1.375	*	3,000,000	02/27/19	1,307	1.54605%	20.207
FNMA	1.750	*	3,000,000	11/26/19	1,579	1.54605%	24.412
FNMA	1.625	*	3,000,000	11/27/19	1,580	1.54605%	24.428
FNMA	1.320	*	2,000,000	10/22/19	1,544	1.03070%	15.914
FNMA	1.800	*	3,000,000	06/30/20	1,796	1.54605%	27.767
FNMA	1.500	*	3,000,000	09/18/19	1,510	1.54605%	23.345
<b>LAIF/REPO/COMMERCIAL PAPER</b>							
LAIF	0.500		39,593,192	07/31/15	-	20.40432%	0.000
			194,043,192		39,652	100.00000%	615
							<b>Wtd. Avg. Mat.</b>
<b>RESTRICTED</b>							
U.S. BANK-2002 COP			-	07/31/15	-	0.00000%	0.000
UNION BANK -2008 Katella Cottages			175,517	07/31/15	-	1.87943%	0.000
U.S. BANK-2004 WATER			1,338,438	07/31/15	-	14.33201%	0.000
US BANK -2006 SEWER			1,505,509	07/31/15	-	16.12101%	0.000
US BANK -2010 WATER			696,299	07/31/15	-	7.45598%	0.000
US BANK -2014 TARB			5,623,036	07/31/15	-	60.21156%	0.000
			9,338,798		-	100.00000%	-
<b>Investment Total</b>			<b>203,381,989</b>			<b>TOT WAM</b>	<b>586</b>



CASH AND INVESTMENT REPORT  
PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 2015

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	TYPE INVESTMENT	PURCHASES		CURRENT MONTH MATURITIES		CURRENT MONTH MATURITIES		ENDING INVESTMENT MATURITIES		PERIOD INTEREST RECEIVED	PAR VALUE	MARKET VALUE	LAST INT RECD DATE
		DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT				
FEDERAL FARM CREDIT BANKS													
FFCB	0.350	01/14/13	2,000,000.00	07/14/15	2,000,000.00	07/14/15	2,500,000.00	07/14/15	3,500.00	2,500,000.00	2,500,125.00	07/14/15	
FFCB	0.360	01/14/13	2,500,000.00			08/14/15	3,000,000.00	02/17/15		3,000,000.00	3,001,110.00	02/17/15	
FFCB	0.370	01/14/13	3,000,000.00			10/14/15	3,000,000.00	11/16/15		3,000,000.00	3,011,220.00	04/14/15	
FFCB	1.500	10/12/11	3,000,000.00			11/16/15	2,000,000.00	11/16/15		2,000,000.00	2,004,160.00	05/18/15	
FFCB	0.930	11/17/11	2,000,000.00			11/16/15	3,000,000.00	02/01/16		3,000,000.00	3,002,430.00	02/02/15	
FFCB	0.400	02/01/13	3,000,000.00			03/28/16	3,000,000.00	03/28/16		3,000,000.00	3,014,340.00	03/30/15	
FFCB	1.050	03/28/12	3,000,000.00			05/16/17	3,000,000.00	10/23/17		3,000,000.00	3,016,410.00	05/18/15	
FFCB	1.160	01/23/14	3,000,000.00			11/21/18	3,000,000.00	10/01/18		3,000,000.00	3,012,630.00	04/23/15	
FFCB	1.460	06/05/14	3,000,000.00			07/09/16	3,000,000.00	07/09/16	22,662.50	3,000,000.00	3,012,210.00	06/21/15	
FFCB	1.470	07/09/14	3,000,000.00			07/14/15	3,000,000.00	10/01/18		3,000,000.00	3,036,270.00	07/09/15	
FFCB	1.590	10/01/14	3,000,000.00	07/28/15	1,500,000.00	08/01/19	1,500,000.00	08/01/19		1,500,000.00	1,534,385.00	04/01/15	
FFCB	2.060		33,500,000.00		1,500,000.00		30,000,000.00		26,162.50	30,000,000.00	30,145,270.00		
FED NAT MORT ASSOC													
FNMA	1.625	12/07/11	3,000,000.00			10/26/15	3,000,000.00	10/26/15		3,000,000.00	3,009,840.00	04/27/15	
FNMA	2.200	11/17/11	3,000,000.00			03/24/16	3,000,000.00	03/24/16		3,000,000.00	3,035,420.00	03/24/15	
FNMA	2.170	11/17/11	2,000,000.00			09/15/16	2,000,000.00	09/15/16		2,000,000.00	2,036,500.00	03/16/15	
FNMA	5.375	05/09/13	3,000,000.00			07/15/16	3,000,000.00	07/15/16	80,625.00	3,000,000.00	3,140,880.00	07/15/15	
FNMA	0.875	09/13/13	3,000,000.00			10/26/17	3,000,000.00	10/26/17		3,000,000.00	3,003,630.00	04/27/15	
FNMA	1.000	10/01/13	3,000,000.00			09/28/18	3,000,000.00	09/28/18		3,000,000.00	3,012,360.00	03/20/15	
FNMA	1.625	12/19/13	3,000,000.00			11/27/18	3,000,000.00	11/27/18		3,000,000.00	3,042,990.00	05/27/15	
FNMA	0.875	01/18/14	3,000,000.00			08/28/17	3,000,000.00	08/28/17		3,000,000.00	3,005,850.00	03/02/15	
FNMA	0.875	01/09/14	3,000,000.00			02/09/18	3,000,000.00	02/09/18		3,000,000.00	2,980,140.00	03/02/15	
FNMA	0.875	06/05/14	3,000,000.00			06/21/16	3,000,000.00	06/21/16		3,000,000.00	2,966,740.00	05/21/15	
FNMA	1.375	02/27/15	3,000,000.00			02/27/19	3,000,000.00	02/27/19		3,000,000.00	2,988,470.00		
FNMA	1.750	05/07/15	3,000,000.00			11/26/19	3,000,000.00	11/26/19		3,000,000.00	3,032,670.00		
FNMA	1.625	05/27/15	3,000,000.00			11/27/19	3,000,000.00	11/27/19		3,000,000.00	2,992,630.00		
FNMA	1.320	06/03/15	2,000,000.00			10/22/19	2,000,000.00	10/22/19		2,000,000.00	1,985,960.00		
FNMA	1.800	06/30/15	3,000,000.00			06/30/20	3,000,000.00	06/30/20		3,000,000.00	3,004,170.00		
FNMA	1.500			07/15/15	3,000,000.00	08/18/19	3,000,000.00	08/18/19		3,000,000.00	3,001,140.00		
			43,000,000.00		3,000,000.00		46,000,000.00		80,625.00	46,000,000.00	46,261,590.00		
SUBTOTAL			199,064,769.50		12,526,422.42		194,043,191.92		221,459.92	154,450,000.00	155,563,545.00		

CASH AND INVESTMENT REPORT  
PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 2015

TYPE INVESTMENT/ FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	BEGINNING INVESTMENT PURCHASES RATE %	DATE	AMOUNT	CURRENT MONTH		CURRENT MONTH		DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	PERIOD INTEREST RECEIVED	PAR VALUE	MARKET VALUE	LAST INT REC'D DATE
				PURCHASES DATE	AMOUNT	MATURITIES DATE	AMOUNT								

CASH WITH FISCAL AGENTS

RESTRICTED INVESTMENTS															
UNION BANK - 2008 Katella Cottages (VanKampen)		07/31/15	175,516.58	-	-	07/31/15	-	175,516.58							
US BANK - 2004 WATER		07/31/15	1,338,437.75	-	-	07/31/15	-	1,338,437.75							
US BANK - 2006 SEWER		07/31/15	1,505,508.54	-	-	07/31/15	-	1,505,508.54							
US BANK - 2010 WATER		07/31/15	696,288.57	-	-	07/31/15	-	696,288.57							
US BANK - 2014 TAR		07/31/15	5,623,036.08	-	-	07/31/15	-	5,623,036.08							
			<u>9,338,787.52</u>					<u>9,338,787.52</u>							
SUBTOTAL			9,338,787.52					9,338,787.52							
TOTAL INVESTMENTS			209,403,567.02	12,528,422.42	21,000,000.00			203,381,985.44							

CASH AND INVESTMENT REPORT  
PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 2015

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	BEGINNING INVESTMENT PURCHASES		CURRENT MONTH PURCHASES		ENDING INVESTMENT MATURITIES		PERIOD INTEREST RECEIVED	PAR VALUE	MARKET VALUE	LAST INT RECD DATE
	RATE %	DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DATE				

CASH IN BANK

	Ending Cash Balance	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15
COMMERCIAL BANK-Willowick		72,133.49							
WELLS FARGO BANK - Civic Center Housing		94,782.64							
UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA									
Charge Back Account		14,396.61							
General Account		2,694,795.71							
Home		216.22							
Housing Authority (Accounting)		1.40							
Housing Authority Escrow		79,699.29							
Liability		84,197.83							
Workers Comp		292,288.19							
Successor Agency		156,398.68							
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>3,486,980.06</b>							

PETTY CASH ACCOUNTS

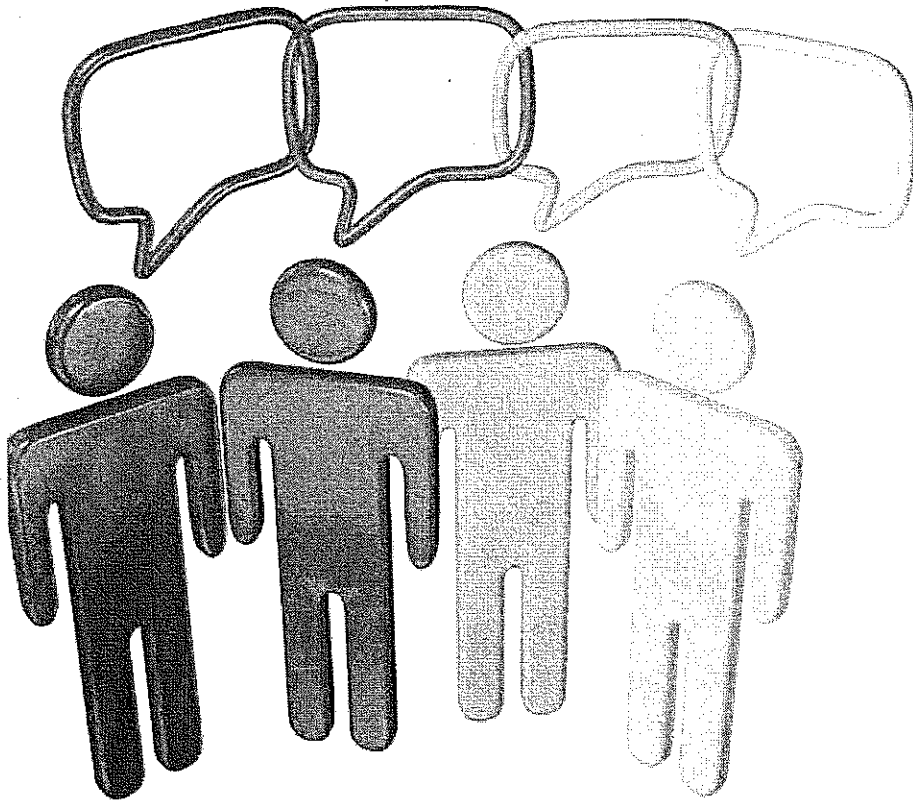
	Ending Cash Balance	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15	07/31/15
Change Fund		3,680.00					
Finance		3,000.00					
Departments		3,550.00					
Police Dept-SIU		30,000.00					
Police Dept-Drug		3,500.00					
Police Dept-Reg		200.00					
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>43,930.00</b>					

GRAND TOTAL INVESTMENTS

	12,528,422.42	21,000,000.00	206,614,789.50	221,459.92	154,450,000.00	158,593,545.00
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# COMMUNICATION STRATEGY



**GARDEN GROVE**

## **MISSION**

The mission of the City of Garden Grove is to provide responsible leadership and quality services as we promote safety, cultural harmony and life enrichment.

## **VISION**

The vision of Garden Grove is to be a safe, attractive, and economically vibrant city with an informed and involved public. We are a diverse community that promotes our unique attributes and preserves our residential character.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

We commit ourselves to the betterment of the individual, the organization, and the community, by fostering a spirit of trust, creativity, cooperation, integrity, empathy, respect, and quality service to all.

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- 1.** Communication Strategy Overview
- 2.** Current Communication Practices
- 3.** Social Media Technology and Communication Assets
- 4.** Issue Identification
- 5.** Media Relations, Public Relations and Marketing Tools
- 6.** Crisis Management and Emergency Communications
- 7.** Measurement
- 8.** Conclusion

## COMMUNICATION STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The City of Garden Grove has made communication a strategic priority, with the intent of increasing awareness of the policies and programs of the City and generating enhanced engagement of constituents in the governing process. The goal of the communication strategy is to identify opportunities to share the City's message and streamline the methods by which those messages are shared, while conducting the business of the City in an open and inclusive manner.

This plan will serve to enhance communication with the residents and businesses in Garden Grove by proactively identifying emerging issues; improving long-range communication strategies; and communicating more effectively the identified key issues, policy decisions made, and actions taken by the City Council.

In Garden Grove, communication is seen as an important role of government, and an essential component of the democratic process. It helps build pride, trust and awareness within the community, increases participation, and contributes to strengthening the quality of life in the community. It is a fundamental component of the City's mission and vision.

The Communication Strategy is built on the foundation of four concepts that guide the City of Garden Grove in its communications approach:

1. *Clear and Direct:* The City will always strive to use the most direct and straightforward language to communicate its policies and programs, by explaining technical terms, avoiding jargon, and providing background information to ensure that all of our communications are understandable and accessible to the widest possible audience.
2. *Proactive:* Whenever possible, the City will provide information on emerging issues, and follow these up to ensure the most accurate and complete information is available to the public as soon as is possible.
3. *Transparent:* The City will be open in communicating its business and make information about the policies, finances, and operations of the City available to all citizens. One way of accomplishing this is to include citizens in the decision making process, from soliciting input to encouraging service on boards and commissions that actively advise management and the City Council on policy decisions.
4. *Listening and Learning:* The City recognizes that communication flows two-ways, both providing information and receiving feedback. Listening to residents builds better trust and credibility so the policies and programs created by the City also reflect the needs and wishes of the community.

The City has identified five broad objectives designed to meet the City Council's intent in establishing the communication strategy. Each issue or program campaign will be designed with these desired outcomes in mind:

1. *Increase Awareness:* We want information about City policies and programs to be available to all of our audiences and for priority projects to be common knowledge among our key audiences.
2. *Increase Engagement:* We want to encourage and enable residents and business owners to participate in public policy formation. In addition, we would like to generate high levels of participation in, and attendance at, City programs and events.
3. *Provide Access:* We want to reduce barriers to communication in order to reach the broadest possible audience.
4. *Enhance Transparency:* It is our intent to conduct the "people's business" in the open, making information about City policies and operations available to all.
5. *Reinforce Credibility:* We will provide honest and responsive communications that will help us build trust and credibility with our audiences.

By carefully planning our communications to achieve these objectives we believe that we can successfully reinforce the City's key messages while simultaneously increasing constituent awareness and engagement.

The City of Garden Grove has established the following communication goals:

1. Establish one clear voice throughout all communication channels;
2. Maximize awareness and support of the City Council's actions, goals, and programs;
3. Achieve coordinated and consistent communication both internally and externally;
4. Establish and maintain proactive media relations programs;
5. Protect and grow positive relationships with all stakeholders;
6. Clearly establish the Public Information Office as the central point for incoming and outgoing official information; providing communication services to City Council members, executive management, departments, employees and target audiences; and,
7. Maintain communication as top priority for the City.

## CURRENT COMMUNICATION PRACTICES

### Legal and Ethical Considerations

Executing communications within the established policies of the City of Garden Grove is a top priority and the City strives to meet the highest ethical standards of both government agencies and the communications profession.

*California Open Meeting Laws:* The Legislature states in California Government Code 54950 "In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards and councils and other public agencies in this State exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly." We will make sure that all of our communications efforts uphold both the letter and spirit of California Government Code 54950 in providing the public with information about City business.

*Accessibility:* We will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the information about City programs and policies is available to all of our audiences, despite any barriers to communication. These barriers include access to media, language, cultural differences, and physical disabilities.

*Informing vs. Persuading:* One of the many challenges of communicating emerging issues is in providing complete and unbiased information to residents on issues that are coming to the City Council before the Council has had the opportunity to deliberate and establish the City's official position, or vote on a specific decision.

Ultimately, we aim to provide the data and reasoning behind the policy decisions so that residents can understand how those decisions were made. All communications disseminated by the City of Garden Grove will be tested against the highest ethical and legal standards, to ensure that we are faithfully serving the public to the best of our ability.

What this means in practice is that City staff will ensure that all activities are developed and executed within the context of the City's over-arching communications strategy. The lynch pin of the strategy is the City Council Strategic Plan.

### Our Audiences

The single largest audience we want to reach is residents and business owners/operators, made up of people who live and work in the City of Garden Grove. Today there approximately 175,140 residents living within the City limits. There are a number of defining characteristics that create subcategories with specific needs, such as:

- Property Owners/Renters
- Children/No Children
- Employed/Not Employed
- Length of Residence
- Educational Attainment
- Household Income
- Ethnicity
- Age

According to the 2013 American Community Survey, there are 46,037 household dwellings in Garden Grove, 57% of which are owner occupied and the median income is \$59,648. About 45.5% of the households include children under 18, who make up 34% of the population. The median age is 35.6 years. 22.6% of the population identify themselves as Caucasian. Residents of Asian ancestry account for 37.5%, with Vietnamese ancestry as the majority (27.7%). 36.9% identify themselves as Latino, with Mexican ancestry as the majority (31.9%).

For adults over the age of 25, 18.6% have a bachelor's degree or higher.

The City also has a significant "English as a second language" audience. According to the 2013 American Community Survey, 34.9% of Garden Grove's population has Asian as their native language and over half of them (21.4%) "speak English less than very well." In addition, 30.2% of Garden Grove's population has Spanish as their native language, with 12.2% indicating that they "speak English less than very well." This means that there are as many as 58,850 residents who may have trouble comprehending our communications in English.

The City also makes a distinction between direct and indirect customers. People who have had contact with a City of Garden Grove employee or who have used one of the City's services within the last year are direct customers. Those who benefit from, but have had no interaction with the City are indirect.

Another way of dividing our audiences is through their level of engagement. We recognize four distinct levels:

- Engaged (Ambassadors/Watchdogs)
- Interested (Aware or Impacted)
- Passive
- Disinterested (Actively avoiding or those who consider City communications intrusive)

The most engaged residents are those who have a particular interest in the policies or programs of the City. Many of our communication efforts are specifically aimed at the two most engaged groups – engaged and interested – as they have the highest interest in receiving communications from the City and have the most utility for that information, and therefore represent the most efficient use of resources.

We recognize that the most engaged audience is largely made up of two distinct groups: residents who participate in the governing process either as volunteers or through participation in specific programs (ambassadors), and those that monitor government actions to ensure that they are appropriate, ethical, and legal (watchdogs). In both cases, these audience members tend to have highly specialized interests, such as the environment, growth, or senior programs.

It's also possible for disinterested or passive audience members to shift suddenly to interested or engaged when City policies and programs impact them directly.

In all of our communication, we also recognize that the media is a primary audience, both in providing information directly to our audiences and in creating commentary and criticism of our policies and programs.

City of Garden Grove employees are another key audience, as residents see them as experts and expect them to know a great deal about the City programs and policies.

Recognizing that employees are one of the most immediate and direct ways that our audiences receive information about the City, we use our internal communications vehicles as resources for informing staff about the City's strategic messages and issues that may arise throughout the year.

In the end, the desired outcome is a workforce that understands the City's mission and vision, exemplifies the City's values, and actively communicates the key strategic messages. Keeping staff informed also builds morale and heads off misinformation circulated by a rumor.

Other audiences that we have a need to communicate with from time to time are special interest community groups; various niche stakeholder groups, such as senior citizens, teenagers, or volunteers; Federal or State Legislators; candidates for political office; elected and appointed leaders in other local governments and agencies; and business, service and cultural organizations.

When visitors stay in Garden Grove, we have the ability to deliver messages that will enhance the reputation of the City, spur additional use of City facilities and programs, and promote interest in the City throughout the rest of the country.

Lastly, we consider potential corporate relocations as an audience for our communications. The City's Economic Development Staff strives to promote the City as the best location for business, both in quality of life for their employees and as a business-friendly environment for their organization.

### Our Methods

As our demographics indicate, the City of Garden Grove is a very culturally diverse community and has developed a strong rapport with the local ethnic media and several community organizations.



Translation of policies, procedures and programs into various languages represented in the community is a top priority and is provided by bilingual City staff or the use of translation services. In addition, the Public Information Office includes a Vietnamese Bilingual Community Liaison whose time is dedicated to media outreach and translation of news releases, brochures and other printed material. The liaison also produces a quarterly Vietnamese newsletter in partnership with the Police Department for the City's Vietnamese residents. The City's website also has its own Vietnamese web page (<http://www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us/Vietnamese>).

City staff have also built relationships with several ethnic organizations, such as the Korean Chamber of Commerce, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The City also promotes its programs to the ethnic community by utilizing the services of the community's multicultural television, radio and print mediums. Examples include Little Saigon TV, Nguoi Viet, Korea Daily News, and Excelsior.

In 2015, the City Council approved the adoption of a Translation Policy, which is being developed by the Public Information Office. Currently, City Hall and City Council press releases are internally translated into both Vietnamese and Spanish and are made available on the City's website. All other Police, Recreation and Human Services press releases utilize Google Translate for languages other than English.

The City also implemented a one-year pilot program to provide translation services at all regular City Council and Commission meetings with a 72-hour advance notice and continues the use of Google Translate for all other online translations for languages other than English.

The City uses a variety of tools to disseminate information to staff:

- The City's Intranet
- "Everyone" emails
- Department and Division meetings
- Fliers and posters
- City Manager Town Hall meetings and Mid-Manager Briefings

## **SOCIAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION ASSETS**

It would not be an exaggeration to say that within the past eight years the media landscape and the relating communications model has begun to shift in a fundamental way. The tools and techniques that have served us well over the past five decades are becoming obsolete as the next-generation's way of approaching mass communications is rapidly being deployed.

Eight years ago, it was unthinkable for government employees to spend time on social networks, but the public sector discovered that social media could be a valuable channel for two-way customer communication.

Next-generation technologies, like social networks, are helping government agencies disseminate important information rapidly, broaden transparency, engage the community, improve public perceptions, expand outreach to new audiences, and enhance public safety, while meeting the increasing demand for services.

As of today, there are over 1 billion monthly active users on Facebook, more than 80,000 of which belong to the Garden Grove, California network. Twitter has over 300 million monthly active users and records about 500 million sent tweets per day.

The number of users for both Facebook and Twitter are staggering – the growth has been unprecedented and shows no sign of diminishing any time soon.

Even the smallest organizations usually have a Facebook page or Twitter account. But there's more to social media than Facebook and Twitter.

### YouTube

YouTube is the Internet's top video-sharing network. Government agencies can create branded YouTube channels that make publishing, promoting, and archiving easy and efficient. The City of Garden Grove has had a YouTube channel since 2009 and it is managed by Garden Grove TV3 (GGTV3). To date, the GGTV3 channel has 1,341 subscribers and over 2,000,000 views. The City live streams Garden Grove City Council meetings through the channel, saving costs and keeping residents who are unable to attend the meeting informed on important issues.

### Instagram

Instagram is a mobile app, known for its square image format and photo-sharing capabilities. Instagram is a form of nonverbal communication that holds the ability to deliver visual messages to many recipients quickly and conveniently. The City of Garden Grove has had an Instagram account since 2014. Photos shared include pictures from community events, behind the scenes snapshots, Mayor and City Council members, award honorees, parks and infrastructures. The City's Instagram is also used to promote community engagement. For example, residents and tourists are encouraged to share their photos via Instagram, by tagging the City with the hashtag #gardengrove.

The explosion of new-generation communication methods over the last few years has significantly changed the government and citizen relationship. Today, citizens and employees engage with agencies through mobile devices, social media, applications, and websites. Public sectors can meet these demands with a well-thought-out strategy that informs, engages, interacts, and delivers services, while creating a business-friendly environment.

The City has several existing communications assets that have been used for a number of years, with a relatively high level of resident awareness.

### City Website

The City has dramatically enhanced its web presence over the past few years and launched the newly upgraded ninth version of the website in April 2015. Maintaining an excellent website is an ever-evolving process. The main access points are <http://www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us>, and <http://www.garden-grove.org>. The new design features include:

- Easier navigation with an improved menu
- An improved overall look
- Mobile friendly (will work on a PC, Tablet or Smartphone)

Since the launch of the site, there have been approximately 900 new and returning users per day and a 23% growth in mobile access. There has been a decline in the number of pages visited and the duration of visits, which suggests that users are able to access information quicker and more readily.

The outcome we desire is to make Garden Grove's key information "discoverable" by our audiences. With over a trillion websites in Google's database and roughly two billion searches each day, it can be difficult to achieve high rankings on search engine results. Fortunately for us, the search algorithm used by the biggest search engines, Google and Yahoo!, both favor government sites.

Moving forward, the focus will be to improve navigation and mobile friendliness, while remaining transparent and encouraging citizen engagement. Further development of the content and services available on the web will continue to make it the resource of first choice for many of our audiences.

### Social Media Platforms

The City has also established profiles on several social media platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram and has been testing possible uses for these emerging technologies. In addition, several individual departments such as Fire, Police, Code Enforcement and Public Works have created individual pages and/or accounts. As new platforms are released, the City will register the user name "City of Garden Grove" to establish a presence and reserve the name, and conduct an analysis of the local reach of the search. Once it is established that the platform is worth investing in, it will be tested for inclusion in our active portals.

## Mobile App

On June 1, 2014, the City of Garden Grove launched its free mobile app, available for download through the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Google Play (Android). The app includes City news, an events calendar, social media updates, access to departments and services, job openings, parks and recreation information, shopping and dining establishments, and features local discounts from participating businesses in the Buy in Garden Grove program.

The goal is to make the City of Garden Grove more accessible by putting City Hall into the hands of its citizens, allowing them to access information more readily and receive important City notifications in real-time. The app currently has 1,500 subscribers.

## Garden Grove TV3 (GGTV3)

GGTV3 is the City's local Emmy-nominated cable network. Videos are produced and shown via the City's YouTube channel. GGT3 runs programming seven days a week on Time Warner Channel 3, the City's website, YouTube and Facebook.

The goal of the Cable Division has always been to inform the community about their city, highlight its accomplishments, and support other departments within the City while keeping the image of the city in mind.

GGTV3 now programs topical blocks, which include numerous smaller stories that cover specific topics such as City Council, public safety, parks and recreation, or culture and the arts. They produce 3-4 of these each month, which run Tuesday through Saturday each week.

When programs are not airing, GGT3 utilizes a Community Bulletin Board, which is comprised of slides that have static messages and are rotated every three seconds. These slides generally promote City services and programs. The bulletin board is also offered free of charge to residents, community groups, businesses, service organizations, churches, etc. to advertise and promote events and programs happening in the community.

## Published Documents

In addition, the City publishes several special audience newsletters and documents, such as *CityWorks*, *the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report*, *the Parks and Recreation Guide*, and *the Annual Performance Report*. The graphic design team and Community Relations Division produce hundreds of program brochures, fliers, posters, banners, event displays, promotional items, and custom materials, including official notices.

An area of focus is to ensure that all print materials are available via the City's website and translated into Spanish and Vietnamese.

## ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

The City has established a number of formal avenues for identifying emerging issues. The key mechanisms are:

- Staff review of City Council agendas and City Council meetings;
- Media tracking and analysis;
- Weekly management team meetings; and,
- Bi-weekly Public Information Office "promo" meetings.

City Council members are also encouraged to contact the City Manager whenever they have a concern that a particular issue may need to be addressed or to pass that information to the appropriate Department Director.

There are a number of issues that will continue to be important for the City to communicate about. These include:

*Financial Management:* An important element of this topic is the legal and contractual restrictions we have on use of funds and making sure residents understand the different sources of funding at our disposal. We are also addressing what we are doing to help protect the local economy and provide assistance to residents who have severe financial problems.

*Public Safety:* The emphasis here is on planning for the future and providing adequate resources to the Police and Fire departments. Issues such as facility size and locations, equipment, and staffing will continue to generate debate during budget development.

*Economic Development:* Local economic development is a process that strives to improve the economic well-being of the community. It helps to retain and increase local revenue that funds government services that both city residents and businesses desire. The economic development process has long been a major part of how the City of Garden Grove does business. Since the dissolution of redevelopment by the California Supreme Court in 2012, the City has worked diligently to save most of the existing redevelopment projects. The goal is to increase the city's tax base, increase other revenue sources, create and retain jobs within the city, address sales tax leakage and diversify the sales tax base, create new markets, and build local and regional relationships to aid in the advancement of the economic development program.

*Tourism:* The City of Garden Grove is located in the midst of a Southern California tourist hub that is one of the most successful in America. Given the proximity to the Disneyland Resort, the Anaheim Convention Center, Christ Cathedral, and other Los Angeles landmarks and attractions, Garden Grove has benefited from its efforts to provide visitor entertainment and lodging. Expanding hotel and tourism amenities will bring additional revenues to the City.

*Public Works:* Maintenance of City infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, parks, public buildings, street trees, flood control channels and traffic signals continues to be a priority.

## **MEDIA RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND MARKETING TOOLS**

The City continues to use the following tools to generate stories with the local media, both traditional and non-traditional:

- News releases/Press conferences
- Speeches
- Tailored pitches
- Media Campaigns
- Media contact database

The City has always approached media relations as a collaborative process in helping reporters understand the issues, providing access to City experts and data, and facilitating a dialogue with elected officials. In television news, this can include sharing b-roll and interview footage produced in-house to help local news programs cover stories that their shrinking staffs may be unable to cover.

Another large element of our media relations efforts is response to media inquiries and Public Record requests. Acting on tips, or reacting to our news releases, many reporters contact the City for information on their assignments every day. We make a point of resolving all such requests as quickly as possible. The City is also proactive in responding to incorrect information in stories, working with editors and reporters to correct future reporting.

When dealing with the media, it is important that the City works with the media to maintain a fair balance in reporting positive stories with ones dealing with crime or controversial issues.

Public Relations is one of the tools related to managing the City's reputation, creating outreach, helping audiences understand background on policy decisions, and clarifying the role of government. Some of the public relations tools employed by the City of Garden Grove and the Public Information Office include:

- Organizing ceremonies, such as ribbon cuttings and dedications;
- Holding community meetings and forums;
- Facilitating recognitions, proclamations, and presentations at City Council meetings;
- Providing photography and video on our website, Facebook, Instagram and publications to tell the City's stories;
- Applying for awards that demonstrate the quality and success of City of Garden Grove programs;
- Executing public education campaigns;
- Placing PSA's on radio, television and the City's social media platforms;
- Exchanging event and luncheon sponsorships for in-kind services;
- Developing promotional collateral, such as brochures and fliers;
- Making community group presentations;
- Participating in charity or cause-related community events; and,
- Promoting the City's image and offerings to regional and national audiences.

The goals of our public relations efforts are twofold, to make the complicated easier to understand and to create better partnerships with all audiences, including media.

Marketing in government is generally reserved for driving participation in fee-based activities and programs, and for the most part is funded by the revenues those programs generate.

The City also deploys marketing efforts for public hearings, community events, public awareness, and other non-paid participation opportunities as well. We have also used marketing tools to educate constituents, customers, and audiences about the availability of information and services offered by the City.

The City has a number of open, volunteer advisory committees and boards that meet periodically to discuss City business. We will continue to use meetings and board communications to inform the community about issues. We also produce a number of public forums each year, which provide additional opportunities for residents and business owners to become involved in policy deliberation and information gathering.

The City can increase the level of media outreach overall through various means such as:

- Increased press releases;
- Increased coverage on television news/radio news programs;
- Development of media opportunities, such as tours of City facilities and parks;
- Increased press conferences on important issues; and,
- Increased staff availability to media.

Public Information staff also provides support and consultation to numerous departments for external communications and special events. The Division is available to all departments at any time, but works most closely with the following:

- City Manager's Office
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Community Services
- Public Works
- Economic Development
- Information Technology

Per City Administrative Regulation 7.4, the Community Services Department is the City's primary media contact except for Police and Fire information. Both the Police and Fire Departments have a designated staff member assigned as the Public Information Officer (PIO). Community Services coordinates press contacts and conferences concerning matters of City policy and acts as a central point for approval and dissemination of written press releases. Department Directors and Division Managers are authorized to discuss information with members of the media provided that the information is within the parameters of established City policy.

## **CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

Issues, for the purposes of this discussion, are topics of concern to one or more audiences that relate directly to City policies or programs. Many issues arise over the course of a year, a minority of which may rise to the level of crisis.

There is a critical distinction between emergencies – such as floods, earthquakes, and fires – and crises. Where we recognize any threat to public safety as an emergency, a crisis is a threat to the organization's financial health or reputation.

The City cannot predict every issue that will arise over the course of a year, nor would it be desirable to attempt to prepare for every possible contingency. Instead, our strategic messages are designed to position the City on a foundation of broad concepts that allow for flexibility in addressing any situation that should arise. When an issue comes up, the first step should be to determine what actions – if any – are appropriate in response.

There can be unintended consequences if the City were to attempt to proactively respond to every evolving issue; we could waste resources, diffuse our strategic messages and potentially generate negative stories that might otherwise not have happened.

The key then, is preparation – through clear procedures and general strategies. As issues arise and are identified by staff, the first step is to determine if:

- The issue should be monitored, but no response should be made;
- The issue requires a response; or,
- The issue rises to the level of crisis.

Issues not requiring a public response are generally routine topics generated by local media or public comment. In most cases the story may pass without much community discussion, or the individuals affected can be directly contacted to address their concerns or answer their questions. Routine exchange have a limited impact or a very short lifespan.

Issues requiring a response are those that impact a large number of people and have a relatively long lifespan, meaning that the issue will continue to impact people over several days or longer. The standard approach should be to research and develop a list of talking points that describe the issue, outline City policy in regard to the issue, and describe the City's response plan.

Elected officials and appropriate staff will be briefed on the situation. Then the City should publicly respond with an explanation and the plan to address the issue.

For crises, the approach is similar, but more robust. In general, the City will respond within 24 hours – if not sooner – to the emergence of the crisis, as described below. To promote the greatest levels of transparency and credibility, we will always tell the truth about what happened and have a plan to resolve the problem.

There are three phases in our approach to crisis management.



When a crisis arises, the first phase is known as preparation. During that time Community Relations staff will conduct research to determine:

- What has happened?
- What are the questions people might have?
- What is our message?

As soon as possible, we will move to the response phase.

The key here is that our messages should say what we are going to do. Action always is preferable to talk.

During the recovery phase we will assess the following:

- Did we reach our intended audience?
- Was our message accurate?
- Was our message credible?
- Have we solved the problem?
- What can we learn from this?

Each crisis has a "teachable moment" as anxiety starts to subside when we can deliver important information about City policies or programs. The City can leverage a crisis as an opportunity to reach higher levels of awareness and engagement if we are prepared and respond appropriately.

The Fire Department publishes an "Emergency Operations Plan." The most recent version was adopted in January of 2009. The Fire Department is currently reviewing and updating the plan for adoption in 2015. In the event of an emergency, government, at all levels, is responsible for providing clear directions of emergency and recovery operations.

The plan identifies staff roles and responsibilities during an emergency in keeping with the National Incident Management System, in which all appropriate staff have received required training.

## MEASUREMENT

*Level of Engagement:* One way to measure engagement is to measure the reach of particular messages through individual communication channels and the actual participation, and then compare the various communications methods to determine which methods yield the highest levels of participation.

To that end, we collect the following data:

- Attendance at events, forums, and meetings;
- Participation on boards and committees; and,
- Participation in online polls and voluntary surveys.

*Experiences and Opinion:* One of the more challenging aspects of the changes in media is that while there is now more subjective feedback available directly from constituents on issues, this flood of information is difficult to compile and analyze in a way that provides actionable data. One way is to collect comments and feedback from various sources and conduct an affinity analysis to see what the general tone or direction those comments are taking.

The City of Garden Grove currently monitors the following to do that analysis:

- "How Are We Doing?" Surveys (City-wide surveys through mailed forms and electronic means);
- User ratings (Mobile App, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Etc.), both City-produced and user-content generated;
- Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/YouTube mentions;
- Number of fans/subscribers/followers; and
- Comment tone on other sites.

This type of online reputation management is done by analysis of user comments on social networking sites, blogs, and discussion groups. The information gathered, including opinions shared, and the frequency and tone of *Garden Grove* mentions on various sites, will be identified and classified by pertinent data.

## **CONCLUSION**

The City of Garden Grove's Communication Strategy is in place to provide means by which we can increase awareness of our programs and policies, and to generate heightened engagement of our community members. This strategy is meant to be fluid; to grow and change along with technology and social media. Our goals, to conduct business in an open and inclusive manner by tracking community input, and to share the City's message in streamlined methods, will continue to be implemented and enhanced on an ongoing basis.

**City of Garden Grove**

**INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

To: Scott C. Stiles  
Dept.: City Manager  
Subject: 2006 SEWER CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION MOODY'S AA3 RATING AFFIRMED

From: Kingsley Okereke  
Dept.: Finance  
Date: August 26, 2015

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Garden Grove Sanitary District (GGSD) Board of the outcome of the credit ratings review of the Sewer Revenue Certificates of Participation Series 2006 (2006 Sewer Bonds) conducted by Moody's Investors Service in August 2015.

BACKGROUND / INFORMATION

As part of its overall Sewer System Management Plan, the GGSD issued the 2006 Sewer Bonds to finance improvements identified to address capacity and structural deficiencies in the sewer system.

Periodically, credit rating services such as Moody's Investor Services (Moody's) provide evaluations of bond issuer's financial strength and/or its ability to pay outstanding bond's principal and interest. Moody's recently evaluated the 2006 Sewer bonds, and on August 26, 2015 affirmed the bond's current Aa3 credit rating.

As outlined in the attached Moody's official rating release, the affirmed rating reflects the GGSD's strong debt service coverage, liquidity, low debt burden, and stable service area. The ratings review also highlights the GGSD's ability to meet its debt service coverage requirements and liquidity needs.

KINGSLEY OKEREKE  
Assistant City Manager/Finance Director

By: Ellis Chang  
Accounting Manager

Attachment 1 – Moody's Investor Service Rating Update dated August 21, 2015

# MOODY'S

## INVESTORS SERVICE

### Rating Update: Moody's affirms Aa3 to Garden Grove Sanitary District's (CA) Revenue Certificates of Participation

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Global Credit Research - 21 Aug 2015

#### **\$19.8M in debt affected**

GARDEN GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT, CA  
Sewer Enterprise  
CA

NEW YORK, August 21, 2015 --Moody's Investors Service has affirmed the Aa3 rating to Garden Grove Sanitary District, California's Revenue Certificates of Participation Series 2006. The rating action affects approximately \$19.8 million in debt.

#### SUMMARY RATING RATIONALE

The rating reflects the district's strong debt service coverage, ample liquidity, low debt burden and stable service area with slightly below average wealth levels. The rating also incorporates the system's rate structure, which includes a volumetric component based on flow rates and accounts for 64% of revenues resulting in the potential for a higher degree of revenue variability than is typical for the sector. This is mitigated by very strong debt service coverage, which will likely remain above 3.0 times in both 2015 and 2016 despite a 20% conservation mandate; ample liquidity with over 3,000 days of cash on hand; and annual rate increases based on an inflation index.

#### OUTLOOK

Outlooks are usually not assigned to local government credits with this amount of debt outstanding.

#### WHAT COULD MAKE THE RATING GO UP

- Significant growth in the system's service area
- Improvement in the socioeconomic profile of the service area

#### WHAT COULD MAKE THE RATING GO DOWN

- Significant declines in debt service coverage
- Deterioration in liquidity position

#### STRENGTHS

- Ample liquidity
- Very strong debt service coverage

#### CHALLENGES

- Volumetric portion of the rate structure accounts for 64% of operating revenues and heightens exposure to California drought
- Debt service coverage expected to decline over next two years
- Large capital improvement plan will utilize significant cash over the next five years

#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

#### DETAILED RATING RATIONALE

SERVICE AREA AND SYSTEM CHARACTERISTICS: STABLE, RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AREA IN CENTRAL

## ORANGE COUNTY; RATE STRUCTURE HEIGHTENS EXPOSURE TO DROUGHT

The district primarily provides sewer collection service to the City of Garden Grove and a small portion of unincorporated Orange County. The district serves a primarily residential customer base with of 35,154 accounts (94% residential). The service area benefits from the city's location in central Orange County and the access it provides to ample employment opportunities in the larger metropolitan area. The city has slightly below average wealth levels with median family income at 95.6% of the US. The service area is largely built out and as a result accounts have been stable growing just 0.6% between 2011 and 2015. The customer base is diverse as the ten largest users account for 2.0% of 2014 revenues.

The district maintains and services over 312 miles of sewer lines, 9,700 manholes, and four lift stations located throughout the city. Treatment for wastewater is provided by Orange County Sanitation District and is recycled for commercial use or deposited back into the ocean. The district's rates are based on a fixed and volume charge which are both adjusted annually with the inflation index. The volume charge is based on the customer's lowest water usage from the prior 12 months. The volumetric portion of the rate structure makes up the majority of operating revenues (64% in 2014) and heightens the district's exposure to the California drought. The City of Garden Grove's conservation mandate was 20% and in June and July 2015 the City conserved 24% and 27%, respectively. The system is in compliance with all environmental standards.

## DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE AND LIQUIDITY: DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE LIKELY TO DECLINE IN 2015 AND 2016 FROM CONSERVATION EFFORTS BUT WILL REMAIN STRONG; AMPLE LIQUIDITY

The district has historically maintained very strong debt service coverage ranging between 3.92 times and 6.53 times in 2009 through 2014, largely due to the system's rate structure, which increases automatically every year with the inflation index; healthy operating margins; and the relatively simple nature of its operations. We expect coverage will likely decline in 2015 and 2016 from a reduction in water usage from conservation efforts.

In 2014, net revenues increased by 6.6% and debt service coverage was a very strong 4.85 times. Operating margins are healthy for the district with an operating ratio of 32.6% and net working capital at 780.7% of operations and maintenance in 2014. For 2015, officials are estimating net revenues will decline 11.2% from the prior year, which will likely result in debt service coverage of a still strong 4.06 times. The decline in revenues in 2015 largely reflects the conservation efforts in 2014. For 2016, officials are budgeting for a decline in operating revenues of \$800,000 from the prior year as a result of reduction in the volumetric portion of revenues, which would narrow coverage to a still healthy 3.5 times. Officials do not plan on filling all vacant positions appropriated for in the 2016 budget, which will likely offset some of the declines in operating revenues. At this time officials do not anticipate increasing rates above the inflation index to mitigate the declines in debt service coverage.

### Liquidity

The district has a very strong liquidity position, which is a credit strength. In 2014, total available cash and investments was \$25.7 million or approximately 3,038 days. The district is planning on using a significant amount of cash for its 5-year capital improvement plan (CIP) projected to be \$30 million between fiscal 2016 to fiscal 2020. The majority of the CIP is for new capital (64%) and replacements (36%) and will be funded on a pay-go basis. While, the district's ample liquidity is a credit strength, significant reductions in liquidity could put downward pressure on the rating.

## DEBT AND LEGAL COVENANTS: LOW DEBT LEVELS; WEAK RATE COVENANT

The district has a low debt levels and has no plans to issue additional debt over the next five years. The system's debt to operating revenues was low at 1.88 times revenues in 2014.

### Debt Structure

All of the system's debt is fixed rate and amortizes over the long term.

The security features of the bonds are mixed with a strong debt service reserve requirement and slightly weak rate covenant and additional bonds test (ABT) at 1.15 times annual debt service. The debt service reserve requirement is maximum annual debt service and is fully funded with cash and sized at \$1.5 million. The rate covenant is weaker than average both in its threshold and mechanics. The district covenants to maintain rates sufficient to generate net revenues that are 1.15 times the coming year's debt service, but only if the amount in its Revenue Stabilization Fund is less than that coming year's debt service. If the Revenue Stabilization Fund balance is greater or equal to the debt service payment, the district covenants to maintain rates sufficient only to generate revenues, not net revenues, of 1.15 times operating expenses. This latter element of the rate covenant could result

in net revenue coverage of much less than sum sufficient. However, the district has not set up a Revenue Stabilization Fund and has no plans to utilize this mechanism and has maintained very strong debt service coverage levels well in excess of the requirement.

#### Debt-Related Derivatives

The enterprise does not have any debt-related derivatives.

#### MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE: ADEQUATE RESERVE POLICY; AUTOMATIC ANNUAL RATE INCREASES TIED TO INFLATION INDEX

The district is a subsidiary district of the City of Garden Grove and the City Council serves as the Board of Directors of the district. The City maintains a set of business principles and policies for managing its enterprise fund operations which include maintenance of two months cash flow as well as \$500,000 in reserves for contingencies.

The district's rates are annually adjusted for increases or decreases in inflation and are based on the Engineering News Record Construction Costs Index-Los Angeles with an inflation cap of 6% per year. Rates have typically increased around 2.5% annually. Management does not intend to increase rates above this level to offset declines in operating revenues due to conservation, while this is somewhat of a credit weakness but mitigated by the very strong debt service coverage and ample liquidity.

#### KEY STATISTICS

- Asset Condition (remaining useful life): 46 years
- System Size (O&M): \$3,264M
- Service Area Wealth (MFI): 95.6% of the US
- Annual Debt Service Coverage: 4.85x
- Days Cash on Hand: 3,038
- Debt to Operating Revenues: 1.88x
- Rate Management: A
- Regulatory Compliance and Capital Planning: A
- Rate Covenant: 1.15x
- Debt Service Reserve Requirement: Aa

#### OBLIGOR PROFILE

The district primarily provides sewer collection service to the City of Garden Grove and a small portion of unincorporated Orange County. The district serves a primarily residential customer base with a total population of 173,953 and 35,154 accounts.

#### LEGAL SECURITY

The certificates represent shares of installment payments to be made by the district to the Garden Grove Public Financing Authority for the purchase of the system improvements financed with the current offering. The installment payments are secured by the district's pledge of net revenues received in connection with its ownership and operation of the wastewater collection system. The rate covenant and additional bonds test are 1.15 times annual debt service. The debt service reserve requirement is maximum annual debt service and is cash funded.

#### USE OF PROCEEDS

Not applicable.

#### PRINCIPAL METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in this rating was US Municipal Utility Revenue Debt published in December 2014. Please see the Credit Policy page on [www.moody's.com](http://www.moody's.com) for a copy of this methodology.

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#### Analysts

Brittni Smith  
Lead Analyst  
Public Finance Group  
Moody's Investors Service

Christian Ward  
Additional Contact  
Public Finance Group  
Moody's Investors Service

#### Contacts

Journalists: (212) 553-0376  
Research Clients: (212) 553-1653

Moody's Investors Service, Inc.  
250 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10007  
USA

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**Weekly Memo 8/27/15**

**NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLES**



# Red-light cameras hanging on in O.C.

Los Al, Garden Grove keeping devices at least awhile longer.

Orange County was nearly free of red-light cameras. Los Alamitos and Garden Grove, the last holdouts using the dubious traffic safety devices, crashed the party by renewing their contracts with their camera operator.

The Garden Grove council chose Tuesday not to act on its cameras, allowing the contract to automatically renew with Redflex Traffic Systems Inc. Monday, the Los Alamitos council voted unanimously to renew its contract with Redflex, despite paying nearly \$2,000 more per camera than Garden Grove.

While the Los Alamitos council seemed persuaded of the cameras' beneficial uses, the Garden Grove council at least showed willingness toward reasoning that hopefully will see the city become camera-free.

Despite suggestions by the Garden Grove Police Department, city staff and the company that the cameras had proven their worth, a majority of the council was moved by data compiled by Jay Beeber, executive director of Safer Streets L.A., a grass-roots coalition for motorists that has had success in removing red-light cameras in that city.

He compiled data from the Highway Patrol's traffic records system and found that, when counting all collisions caused by red-light running, collisions at photo-enforced intersections either increased or the decrease was not statistically significant enough to attribute to the use of cameras.

In fact, only one intersection in either city, Garden Grove's Harbor Boulevard and Trask Avenue, saw a reduction in crashes deemed statistically significant. At many other intersections, however, rear-end collisions noticeably spiked.

Councilman Phat Bui said he has personally noticed a rise in rear-end collisions at the intersection near his home and attributed it to the behavioral changes motorists make at intersections with red-light cameras.

The council has asked staff to respond to Mr. Beeber's statistics, which we find speak for themselves and only confirm what we, and officials in almost every other city in the county, already know. Red-light cameras are a poor traffic safety tool, and, we surmise, were installed largely for their revenue-generating potential - but even that has proven spotty.

Garden Grove would be wise to dump them as soon as possible.

# LOTS OF LUAU FUN

**T**here was no lack of Hawaiian print at the H. Louis Senior Center on Friday night.

The annual luau dinner and dance drew a crowd of guests dressed in the night's theme. They dined, watched the Manana Polynesian Entertainment group perform and then danced the evening away.



Friends Marlene Fritts and Joe Weber join in the festivities after the meal at the annual Hawaiian Luau dinner and dance.



Sally Dyer has her picture taken with Polynesian dancers Tiare Kaonohi, left, and Akela Dickinson at luau.

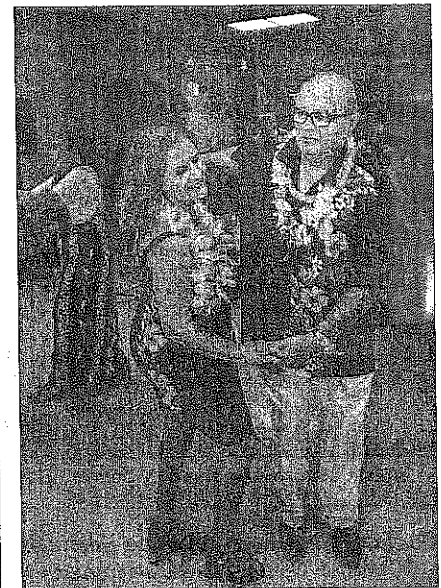


Dolores Lorenzen, left, and Judy Rippe greeted guests and sold raffle tickets.



Steadies Carolyn Flynn and Walter Fetty cuddle for a portrait at the Hawaiian Luau dinner and dance.

Clockwise from left are dancer Akela Dickinson, Strawberry Festival King Hazlette "Tsuki" Tsukiyama, Best Dressed winners Gerda Hartwig and Phillip Schmidt, Strawberry Festival Queen Yolanda Montano, dancer Tiare Kaonohi and dancer Rico Moreno.



Hope Galvez swings with her fiancé, Al Shrader, to the sounds of the Five Star Band at the dance.



Akela Dickinson with Manana Polynesian Entertainment gives dancing lessons at the H. Louis Senior Center.

PHOTOS: FRANK D'AMATO; CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

## Science students swab, observe, learn

BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

How does bacteria grow? What's the proper way to wash your hands? Can you improve dietary habits by understanding food labels.

These are just some of the key questions that students in Camie Walker's fifth-grade class at Murdy Elementary School in Garden Grove will focus on this year.

Walker, a 20-year teacher at the Garden Grove Unified School District campus, was one of 34 teachers nationwide to

participate in an eight-day training program in Washington, D.C., over the summer.

"It was an amazing experience," she said. "Students will get their hands wet with microbiology and see that science is a living, breathing way to learn about the world."

She will, for example, have students swab a bathroom sink, cellphone, desk or something else and put the material into a petri dish. The kids will then watch the bacteria

grow.

There will also be a hand-washing lesson, where kids will wash their hands with a material that allows you to see germs under a black light.

During the program, the teachers traveled to Food and Drug Administration farms and met their scientists. They learned about the spread of food-borne illnesses, the science behind safe food-handling and preparation, and how to use food labels to understand the nutritional value of the foods you eat. They left with lab experiments to conduct

to learn more about food science.

In December, Walker will travel to a conference in Kansas City to learn to teach other instructors in the district how to implement food-science lessons into their classes next year.

Walker is a combination teacher, meaning she covers every subject - science, English, social studies. But, she says, food science has become a passion of hers.

"These lessons will hopefully help them become more aware and develop better sanitary and dietary habits," Walker said. "I'm really excited."

CONTACT THE WRITER:  
714-704-3707 or  
chaire@ocregister.com

# THE SWEETNESS OF GOOD MEMORIES

Garden Grove Journal / Register  
Aug. 27, 2015

Honey buns were our weakness as a kid. Those prepackaged pastry swirls laced with honey and cinnamon were the favored after-school snack, grabbed on the way home from school for a quarter, maybe less back in the early '70s.

Brainiac hasn't had one for years. We've gone to fancy and fresh donuts in our adulthood, but the memories of those gooey and sweet treats came flooding back this week as we wandered down Nostalgia Trail in a Facebook group called "You Know You Grew Up In Garden Grove When ..."

We didn't grow up there, nor did we come of age in Westminster, which we wrote about last week in a similar fashion, but the memories shared on posts on the page felt almost universal, starting with those honey buns that **Dean Watson** mentioned picking up along with a chocolate milk at Pronto Market on his way to Walton Junior High School every day.

**Jeanette Webley** got the conversation started when she posted a question - "Does any body remember Pronto Market on the corner of Chapman

and West when Bud was still alive and he ran it?" - and invited everyone to share their memories of Pronto and Bud and growing up in the heart of Garden Grove.

A whole bunch of grown-up Walton kids chimed in, including **Randy Love**, the first one to mention fishing in a lake, or maybe it was more of a pond, between the intermediate school and the market.

"What was the name of that little lake???" Love asked.

"Kids Haven," answered **Debra Phillips Barquin**.

"Has been a long time," Love replied. "Talked to my brother who still lives in GG. (He) said it's there, just not used."

That got others talking about the lake, or maybe the pond, about catching crawdads there and just having a grand old time in a place that, officially or not, everyone knew as Kids Haven. Though perhaps it's true purpose was much more utilitarian.

"Pond? It was a storm water catchment," **Bruce Witt** said. "Fun though."

We were thoroughly intrigued by now and hopped on Google to see if

we could verify that the lake-pond-catchment was in fact still there. With the satellite map view we zoomed in to the intersection of Chapman Avenue and West Street where, bless our britches, we spotted the catchment-pond-lake.

It's located right behind Certified Market - could that be the old Pronto Market? Probably! - and above the baseball fields on the east side of Chapman Avenue. An L-shaped pool of greenish water surrounded by trees. And Witt was right: It's labeled on the map as West Street Basin.

From there, the conversation veered into other areas: The legless old man who cruised around in a wagon, selling pencils and pens. The "old and kinda grumpy" ice cream truck driver. The Helms bakery truck and the Foremost milk man.

Good memories growing up in Garden Grove.

And now you'll have to excuse us while we walk to the liquor store for a honey bun. A yummy, sticky honey bun.

---

Got a question, comment, story idea? 714-796-7787 or [Brainiac@ocregister.com](mailto:Brainiac@ocregister.com)

## School lunch prices stay the same 7 years running

Gas, vegetables and milk prices may be going up - but school lunches certainly aren't. At least in the Garden Grove Unified School District.

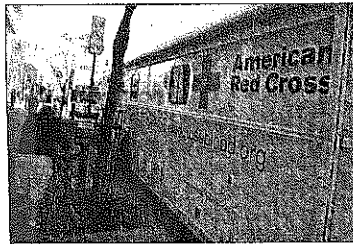
For the seventh straight year, school lunch prices remain unchanged, according to district officials.

Lunch prices are: elementary schools, \$1.50; intermediates, \$2; high schools, \$2.50; reduced-price, 40 cents at all levels.

Breakfast prices are slightly cheaper and milk is 50 cents for a half pint.

Children may buy meals with cash, or parents can prepay with a check at their child's school or online at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com). Information: 714-663-6155.

- Chris Haire



PAUL BERSEBACH, FILE PHOTO

The Red Cross will hold a blood drive today at Garden Grove Hospital.

## Blood drive today at Garden Grove hospital

The Red Cross wants your blood.

A blood drive is scheduled noon to 6:15 p.m. today at Garden Grove Hospital, 12601 Garden Grove Blvd. The Red Cross is handling the drive in the hospital's Litke Auditorium.

One pint of donated blood can save up to three lives, according to the Red Cross. The most needed donations are of type O-, A-, B- and AB, and platelets.

To schedule an appointment, contact Christine Tran at 714-658-1183 or sign up online at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) using the sponsor code: ggh.

- Amy Wang

# THE THINGS TO KNOW

Garden Grove Journal / Register  
Aug. 27, 2015

GARDEN GROVE JOURNAL STAFF

## WHO WANTS TO FEED AUDREY II

Do you have what it takes to keep Audrey II in line?

If you think so - and you have a love of rock musicals - head down Monday and Tuesday to the Gem Theater in Garden Grove for open auditions to act in "Little Shop of Horrors."

One More Production is

putting on the famous Alan Menken musical, about a Venus flytrap from outer space that has an appetite for human flesh, in October.

The Gem's doors open at 6:30 p.m. and auditions begin at 7 p.m. They are walk-in auditions, so you do not need to make an appoint-

ment.

Prepare 16 to 32 bars of a song to sing and bring sheet music in the correct key for the accompanist. Candidates will also dance and must provide a head shot and resume.

- Amy Wang

The Gem Theater in Garden Grove is holding auditions for a staging of 'Little Shop of Horrors.'



H. LORREN AU JR., FILE PHOTO



## Two Garden Grove students learn as research fellows

Two Garden Grove high school students are well on their way to becoming doctors or big-time scientists — thanks to some advice from the people who fight cancer.

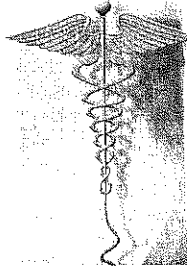
Jair Fabian, a senior at Bolsa Grande High School, and Nancy Nguyen, a senior at Rancho Alamitos High, were two of 19 Orange County students to recently finish the Youth Science

Fellows Program at UC Irvine's Cancer Research Institute.

As a part of the program, students worked alongside faculty, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and technicians for six hours a day.

They also attended weekly meetings for advice on careers and college admissions. The program concluded with each student presenting independent research Aug. 7.

— Amy Wang



## One-man musical celebrates Whitman

"O Captain! My Captain!" 19th century poet Walt Whitman is coming to the Garden Grove stage in a one-man play filled with poetry and catchy tunes.

### If you go

**When:** 7 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** Mike Fountain Stage, The Strawberry Bowl, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove

**Cost:** \$20

**More info:** 714-928-3894

The full-length show, "Walt Whitman Sings!," is directed and performed by John Slade and includes not just Whitman's poems, but letters from the poet's friends. Performances range from a simple recitation of a poem, to chants, songs

and even rap.

The show runs 80 minutes without an intermission. Slade will put on his final performance of the show Sunday evening. Food and drinks are available at the venue.

— Brooke E. Seipel

# Garden Grove, Westminster get money to improve water

BY CHRIS HAIRE  
STAFF WRITER

Garden Grove and Westminster recently received thousands of dollars from the Orange County Transportation Authority to improve water quality in their cities.

Garden Grove received \$200,000 to retrofit an irrigation system at the median on Magnolia Street from Westminster Avenue to Trask Avenue and Lampsion Avenue to Chapman Avenue.

The city will provide \$85,780 for the project.

The irrigation system is part of an overall median-improvement project that should begin in about a

year, said Public Works Director Bill Murray. It will include planting drought-tolerant landscaping.

The irrigation system will be more efficient than the current sprinkler system and will help reduce water usage and preserve streets, Murray said.

"A lot of our streets are having problems," he said. "And a lot of that is because the spray gets on the asphalt and damages it. This project will help us reduce water and preserve the asphalt."

Garden Grove is also installing eight filters on storm drains in the Magnolia area to keep debris and pollutants out of water-

ways.

Westminster received \$125,414 to install 77 catch basins, which collect rainwater, throughout industrial, commercial and high-density residential areas. The city will contribute \$44,475.

Westminster officials couldn't immediately be reached for a comment. It is unclear whether the project has begun.

The money Garden Grove and Westminster received is part of a \$3 million allocation for projects in 17 cities and the unincorporated Ladera Ranch. Other cities in north Orange County include Orange, Fullerton and Ana-

heim.

The money comes from Measure M, a half-cent sales tax that voters approved in 2006 for transportation improvements. The measure included money for environmental cleanup.

The authority received 26 applications from 20 cities and the county. It approved 18 projects focusing on everything from cleaning up litter and debris, up-grading catch basins and filters to prevent pollutants from getting into waterways.

CONTACT THE WRITER:

714-704-3707 or  
chaire@ocregister.com

# Orange County NEWS

Orange County News  
Aug. 26, 2015

Community news since 1909

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

4 August 26, 2015 The Orange County News

## Community Calendar

### Ongoing

Overachievers, check this out Chamber holds Friday meetings The Garden Grove Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee meets the second Friday of the month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call the chamber at 714-638-7950.

### Grief support

The Grief Share Support Group is for mothers who have lost children of every age. The group meets Thursday evenings at 12831 Olive St., Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-892-1520 or 714-343-7516.

Learn about Alzheimer's The Alzheimer's Association of Orange County hosts a support group to provide an opportunity to meet other caregivers and families, share experiences and exchange ideas. These meetings are free and open to all caregivers and family members of individuals with dementia. All groups listed are in compliance with chapter and national standards. This is a faith-based meeting and may include prayer or pastoral speaker, and will take place at 1 p.m. Saturdays at Christ Cathedral, 12141 Lewis St. in Garden Grove. For more information, call Peggy Woelke at 714-634-2161.

Join the staff of the Cedarbrook Dance Center for nights of square dancing, line dancing, round dancing (pre-choreographed social dancing) and salsa. The Dance Center is at 12812 Garden Grove Blvd. For more information on classes, call Eileen Silvia at 949-637-4169.

### Eco-friendly storytime

Family storytime all through the summer will highlight books about our environment and the animals that live in rivers, oceans and icy places. All ages are encouraged to attend at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Garden Grove Regional Library, 11200 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-530-0711.

### Rotary Club to meet

The Rotary Club of Garden Grove meets at 12:10 p.m. Wednesdays at The Marriott Hotel, at Chapman Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove.

### GG Kiwanis to meet

The Kiwanis Club of Garden Grove hosts dinner meetings at 7 p.m. Thursdays at Kiwanisland, 9840 Larson Ave. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call 714-892-7267.

### School Board to meet

The Garden Grove Unified School District holds its regular meetings at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the district

offices, 10331 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove.

## My favorite Italian eatery turns 40



### Tony on the Town

### Carolina's is offering special deals to celebrate the milestone

#### By Tony Cheong

Carolina's Italian Restaurant, which I reviewed a couple of years ago for this paper's Dining & Entertainment section, might have the best Italian food in Garden Grove, and is one of the go-to Italian eateries in Orange County.

Carolina's — a homey, strikingly beautiful and artistic place on the inside, but set in, frankly, an ugly neighborhood at 12045 Chapman Ave. in Garden Grove — turns 40 this year.

Because of this, owner Tim Ibrahim is sending out \$10 gift certificates and offering free appetizers to those who book private Happy Hours.

Tim is a great guy who gives back to the community in so many ways. He doesn't just serve

up delicious food, he genuinely cares about Garden Grove and actively works with City Hall, police and schools.

His restaurant suffered a fire a couple years ago, and it was amazing how quickly he procured the proper permits and fixed up the place, which included certain renovations that made it even more attractive.

Oh, and this foodie must get back to the food.

There's, of course, all kinds of pastas and pizzas, straight-out-of-the-oven breads, steak, seafood and a massive choice of brews (more than 400, to be exact).

I was in a simple mood so I ordered the chicken marsala, which is sliced chicken breast sauteed with mushrooms and garlic with marsala and marinara over penne pasta. This isn't a food review so I'll keep it simple: Yum!

One item you must try at Carolina's is the minestrone soup (the only soup the restaurant serves). I think it's the best in Orange County. It's served in a chicken base with a slew of wonderful fresh veggies: tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, Italian squash and white cabbage.

I'm not a beer drinker but here are three interesting drinks among that huge selection: Danish Style Red Lager, Wreck Alley Imperial Stout and Davy Brown Ale. This place is a beer drinker's paradise.

Call 714-971-5551 or visit [Carolinaitalianrestaurant.com](http://Carolinaitalianrestaurant.com) for more information.

Happy 40th, Carolina's!

Do you have a comment, question or news tip for Tony? Email her at [tonyontown@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyontown@yahoo.com).

### Holiday closure

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Garden Grove City Hall and the H. Louis Lake Senior Center will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7.

Trash pick-up and street sweeping services will not be provided on the holiday.

For more information on street sweeping, call the Public Works Department at 714-741-5375.

### Elks event

A lunch and presentation by Steve Snyder, author and speaker, will be held at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 10 at Elks Lodge #1952, 11551 Trask Ave. in Garden Grove.

Snyder was a member of the Grampaw Pettibone Squadron of the Association of Naval Aviation.

For more information, go to [www.gpsana.org](http://www.gpsana.org).

### Progress on solar

Garden Grove has joined Stanton in creating a streamlined permitting process for residents who wish to install solar panels on rooftops.

The City Council last week approved changing the permitting process, which will make it easier and cheaper to install solar panels. The council must vote one more time before the law can go into effect.

Garden Grove, like Stanton, must create easier standards by Sept. 30 to abide a new California law.

### Assemblyman outraged

Assemblyman Travis Allen, who represents Garden Grove, Westminster and other cities, issued the following statement last week regarding the Democrats' legislation to increase taxes:

"It is entirely unreasonable for the Democrats to raise taxes on hardworking Californians when we are just over one month into the most expensive budget in California's history, costing taxpayers \$115 billion," said Allen. "If the Democrats were serious about providing necessary access to healthcare for the Californians most in need, they would have prioritized it when spending the record level of taxes they took from California's families instead of squandering the money away on high speed rail and pet projects for special interests. Assembly Republicans will stand strong to fight new taxes and to restore Medi-Cal reimbursement rates, which will add more doctors to the Medi-Cal program and provide greater access to healthcare for all Californians."

# Special Report Part II: Prep Sports Review

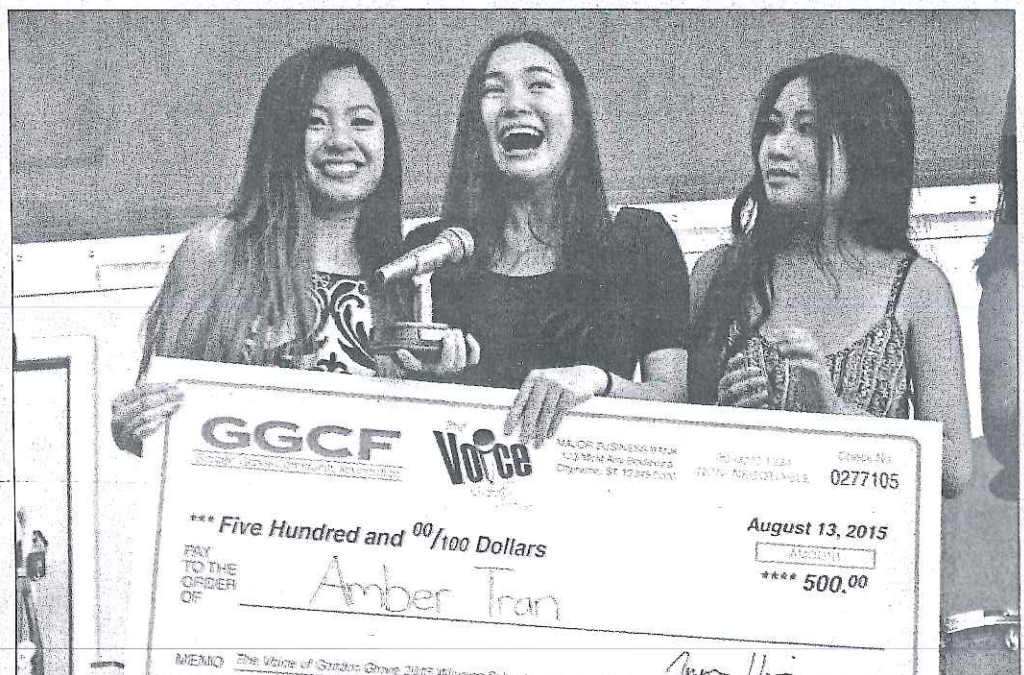


Orange County News  
Aug. 26, 2015

Photo by Jesus A. Ruiz

Welcome to Part II of our Prep Sports Preview. Inside, you'll find out everything you need to know about Garden Grove sports. Here, Pacifica High School goalie Daniel Issacson denies a Downey High shot during a game last season at Downey. Downey won, 10-9. A late goal in the fourth period by Downey High sealed the non-league victory, which was a nail-biter until the final minutes. Mariners head coach Eric Anderson feels his team will be strong this season. For full coverage, see Page 12.

## Amber Tran named Voice of Garden Grove



Courtesy photo

Last week, at Garden Grove's final summer concert, the winner of this year's Voice of Garden Grove was chosen among five local high school students. The student who took home the title Voice of Garden Grove 2015 and won a \$500 cash prize was Amber Tran from Bolsa Grande High School. Tran sang "At Last" by Etta James. Mariah Abato from Pacifica High School was announced runner-up and received a \$250 cash prize. From left are Voice of Garden Grove 2014 Kang Lo, Tran and Voice of Garden Grove 2015 competitor Anna Pham.

# GG kids participate in Kayak Day



Photo by Jamie Rector

Mentors and children from Orange County — including two from Garden Grove — participated in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters UnitedHealthcare Special Kayak Day recently. The event was held in Newport Beach's Back Bay. Kayak Day is part of the "Big F.U.N." (fitness, understanding, nutrition) program, a summer-long series of events sponsored by UnitedHealthcare to help encourage healthy habits among Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Orange County children. Besides kayaking, other events of the day included playing volleyball, Frisbee, and lawn games. From left are mentor Gabby Grimes of Costa Mesa; Dariana, 15, of Garden Grove; mentor Kathyrn Zarkos of Seal Beach; and Vanessa, 8, of Garden Grove.

# Nearly \$3 Million awarded to improve water quality

## Seventeen cities and the county received funding to improve water quality through OCTA's Measure M

The Orange County Transportation Authority board recently allocated nearly \$3 million to improve water quality in Orange County.

The funds come from Measure M, a half-cent sales tax approved by Orange County voters in 2006 for transportation improvements. The ballot measure includes funding for an environmental cleanup program that awards money on a competitive basis to cities and the county for projects that reduce the impacts of water pollution related to transportation.

Protecting the county's natural resources, while at the same time improving the transportation network, is a key promise made to voters in Measure M.

After reviewing 26 applications from 20 cities and the County of Orange, the OCTA board approved to make \$2.9 million available for 18 projects focused on removing visible pollutants, such

as litter and debris, from roads before they reach waterways. These projects include purchasing or upgrading screens, filters and inserts for catch basins, as well as other devices designed to remove pollutants.

The following cities, along with the County of Orange, received funding: Fullerton, La Habra, Orange, Westminster, Mission Viejo, Tustin, Buena Park, Lake Forest, Fountain Valley, Placentia, Rancho Santa Margarita, Irvine, Cypress, Garden Grove, Anaheim, Brea and Laguna Hills.

The OCTA board has approved funding for 102 projects since the inception of this program in 2011, totaling just more than \$11 million. An estimated half million cubic feet of trash has since been captured as a result of the installation of these devices.

For more information of the Measure M water quality program, visit [octa.net/water](http://octa.net/water).

Orange County News  
Aug. 26, 2015

Notice Inviting Sealed Bids (IFB)

IFB No. S-1178

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent for the City of Garden Grove, Room 220, Second Floor, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840 to Provide One New and Unused 2015 Godwin Dri-Prime CD225 Portable Trailer Mounted Pump per the technical specifications. A copy of the bid document may be obtained from the City of Garden Grove's website. Direct any questions regarding this bid process to Sandra Segawa via email at [sandras@garden-grove.org](mailto:sandras@garden-grove.org). Bids are due and will be opened in the office of the Purchasing Agent at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2015. Bids received after that exact time will not be considered.

Dated: August 19, 2015

Sandra Segawa, C.P.M., CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
**Orange County News**  
15-50549  
**Publish Aug. 19, 26, 2015**

City of Garden Grove

Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP No. S-1176

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent for the City of Garden Grove, second floor, Room 220, 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840 For City of Garden Grove Annual Audit. Contractors interested in submitting a proposal for this project are required to attend a MANDATORY pre-proposal meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 11, 2015, at Garden Grove City Hall, Third Floor Training Room, located at 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840. A copy of the RFP document may be obtained from the City of Garden Grove's website. Questions can be directed to Sandra Segawa via email at [sandras@garden-grove.org](mailto:sandras@garden-grove.org). Proposals are due in the office of the Purchasing Agent by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2015. Proposals received after that exact time will not be considered.

Dated: August 26, 2015

Sandy Segawa, C.P.M., CPPB  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Garden Grove  
11222 Acacia Parkway  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
**Orange County News**  
15-50557  
**Publish Aug. 26, Sept. 2, 2015**

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE COURTYARD CENTER, 12732 MAIN STREET, GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, ON THE DATE \* INDICATED BELOW TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER ALL EVIDENCE AND REPORTS RELATIVE TO THE APPLICATION(S) DESCRIBED BELOW:

\* THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

### CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-047-2015

A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to operate a new, approximately 3,748 square foot, educational institution, Bodhi Youth of America, at 8762 Garden Grove Boulevard #102. The site is in the GGMU2 (Garden Grove Mixed Use 2) zone. The project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15301 - Existing Facilities.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend said Hearing and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposal as outlined above, on September 17, 2015. If you challenge the application in Court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Further information on the above may be obtained at the Planning Services Division, City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway, or by telephone at (714) 741 5312.

DATE: August 24, 2015  
PUBLISH: August 26, 2015  
**Orange County News**  
15-50572  
**Publish Aug. 26, 2015**

# The secret's out:

## Gem production is a winner

Erika Baldwin, playing Lily,  
steals the show in "The Secret Garden"

By Angela Hatcher

One More Production's latest musical, "The Secret Garden," is a family classic

that is based on the beloved Frances Hodgson Burnett 1900s children's novel, adapted for the stage by Marsha Norman and is known for its beautiful music by Lucy Simon (sister of well-known pop singer Carly Simon).

A heartwarming and engaging personification of a children's story for grown-ups, Director Damien Lorton brings charm and fluency to his storytelling with a superb cast and an incredibly rich musical score.

The story revolves around a young orphan girl, Mary Lennox (Sophia Scarsi),

who is sent to live with an uncle she has never met, and she finds herself in his sprawling English manor – worlds away from India – the only home she's ever known. Adapting to her new life, Mary soon learns that Uncle Archibald (Duane Thomas) is still reeling from the loss of his young wife, Lily, who died over a decade ago, and Uncle Archie has no room in his heart for anyone else or anything new.

There are secrets and mystery

surrounding the grand old estate, and in time, Mary comes across a locked and neglected Victorian garden. From Mary's discovery of the overgrown secret garden, a spiritual reawakening and emotional rebirth for all soon begins.

With full acting range, 12-year-old Sophia Scarsi immortalizes the role of Mary, and she doesn't skip a beat while bringing her skillful interpretation of her character to her audience. As the "Goldilocks" of "The Secret Garden's" many interpretations of the musical, Scarsi's performance is not too hot, nor too cold, because she portrays Mary Lennox with just the right amount of 20th Century insight and curiosity to make the story about a precocious young orphan girl seem relevant, fresh, and meaningful.

"She (Sophia) has always loved singing and dancing from a very young age. It started when she was about 4 years old and she's just gone on from there," said Sophia's beaming father, John.

As the ethereal gardener, Lily, Erika Baldwin is the true soul of the show. Her beautiful soprano singing voice and in-depth acting rivet the audience's attention whenever she appears on stage.

Lily's emanation of love is so incredibly powerful that she is actually more the guardian angel and less of the beguiling woman who is haunting her loved ones' dreams and memories.

A highlight is the duet, "Lily's

Eyes," a powerful and beautifully harmonized performance by Archibald (Duane Thomas) and his physician-brother, Neville (Chris Peduzzi). Another incredible number is "How Could I Ever Know," sung beautifully by Archibald (Thomas) and Lily (Baldwin).

A special mention must also go to the spirited and blithe Rebecca Silverman portraying the chambermaid, Martha. Other notably fine performances are by Ira Trachter as Ben, Connor Dapkus as Colin, Brandon Taylor Jones as Dickon, Carmen Tunis as Mrs. Medlock, and Nickie Gentry as Rose.

Wally Huntoon's minimal set design and Jon Hyrkas' simple touch in his lighting design are creative ways of utilizing empty space that is echoing the isolation and loneliness of the characters.

Again, the key element in this musical is the intricate score, which is quite impressively executed by Toni Helms on piano and a busy Kevin Weed on percussion.

The Gem's "The Secret Garden" is in full bloom.

Orange County News  
Aug. 26, 2015

### "The Secret Garden"

The Gem Theatre  
12852 Main St.

Garden Grove

Phone: 714-741-9550.

[www.onemoreproductions.com](http://www.onemoreproductions.com)

Runs through Sept. 13.

# Boy, 14, shoots self hammering bullet into gun

BY ALYSSA DURANTY  
STAFF WRITER

**GARDEN GROVE** • A 14-year-old boy was hospitalized Wednesday night after he shot himself while attempting to hammer a too-large bullet into a revolver, officials said.

The unidentified teen was inside his home at 9:07 p.m. in the 14000 block of Hope Street when

he was attempting to fit a 9 mm cartridge into a .38 caliber revolver cylinder, police Lt. Bob Bogue said.

Officials said the boy began hammering the cartridge into the gun but it was too large to fit, causing the bullet to shoot into his left hand and then his leg.

He was taken to UCI Medical Center in Orange, where he is expected to survive.

The gun is not registered to either of his parents, and it was not reported stolen, Bogue said.

"It seems like an accident, and I don't think there was any malicious intent," Bogue said.

Police seized the bullets, and no one else was injured.

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**

714-796-7802 or  
aduranty@ocregister.com

Register  
Aug. 21, 2015

## Garden Grove man arrested in Vacaville shooting

BY ALMA FAUSTO  
STAFF WRITER

A 20-year-old Garden Grove man was arrested in Northern California after police said he fired shots in downtown Vacaville during a dispute on Sunday.

Vacaville police said that at 2 a.m., officers were flagged down by a witness who reported seeing a man fire multiple shots near a parking lot behind a bar in the 500 block of Main Street.

The man was later identified as Anthony Pech of Garden Grove, according to Vacaville police.

Officers found a car



Pech

matching witnesses' description in a hotel lot. They saw a handgun under the passenger's seat.

Officers waited to see if anyone would come to the car. Shortly after, Pech approached the car and police tried to talk to him.

"Pech ran from officers back into the hotel. Officers chased him through the hotel, up to the third floor and back down and out a back door," Vacaville police Sgt. David Spencer said.

After Pech refused to

stop several times, officers fired a bean bag round that disabled him, and he was arrested.

In the investigation, officers found that Pech had argued with someone behind a bar before firing the gun into the air.

He was booked on suspicion of unlawful discharge of a firearm, resisting arrest, having a concealed firearm, possession of an unregistered handgun and conspiracy. He was booked into the Solano County jail.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Vacaville police Officer Andrew Shaw at 707-449-5200.

Register  
Aug. 26, 2015

# Los Alamitos, Garden Grove vote to keep red-light cameras

BY NICOLE EINBINDER  
STAFF WRITER

Red-light cameras are staying put in Los Alamitos and Garden Grove, the last two Orange County cities still using the devices.

The Los Alamitos City Council voted 5-0 Monday night to renew the city's agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems Inc., the company that provides the cameras, after the five-year contract was set to expire in September.

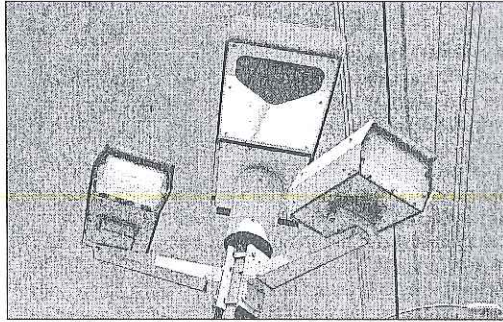
And on Tuesday, the Garden Grove City Council chose to keep its red-light cameras for now, opting not to terminate its contract with Redflex. The Garden Grove council, however, was unhappy with a statistical analysis of the system and asked city staffers to come back with a more comprehensive report. Garden Grove has had red-light cameras for 15 years.

Los Alamitos will continue to pay \$4,576 a month per approach, which is one direction heading into an intersection, for a total of \$13,728 each month. Garden Grove spends \$2,900 per approach for a total of \$31,900 every month to maintain the technology.

Council members cited safety, cost-effectiveness, and major traffic within Los Alamitos – considered a gateway city into the county – as reasons for their vote.

"I think every city has its own unique circumstances and for us it's traffic and to financially balance our public safety needs," Los Alamitos Mayor Pro Tem Troy Edgar said. "The cameras condition the behavior of drivers on major intersections, and once they are aware of where the cameras are it acts as a deterrent to limit the amount of unsafe and illegal accidents."

Santa Ana ended its contract with Redflex in June, while other cities, like Huntington Beach and Laguna Woods, removed the cameras in response to growing complaints. Residents and



KEN STEINHARDT, FILE PHOTO

Los Alamitos and Garden Grove are the last two cities in Orange County using red-light cameras.

others said the program encouraged rear-end collisions because cars stopped too abruptly, created a financial burden with steep legal and enforcement costs and interfered with safe driving as drivers focused less on the road and more on avoiding a ticket.

Edgar said the 24-hour cameras enable the Los Alamitos Police Department to better utilize its resources, instead of sending officers to the intersections of Los Alamitos Boulevard and Katella Avenue – where two cameras are set up – and Bloomfield Street and Katella Avenue, where one camera is employed.

The city launched the Red Light Camera Enforcement program in 2005. The number of red light violations has decreased by 33 percent since the first four months of the program, and the city has seen a 38 percent decline in the average number of traffic collisions since the program began, according to the staff report.

While Redflex pushed for a \$30,000 cancellation fee if the city terminated the contract without cause, the city negotiated at the meeting to waive the fee.

However, Los Alamitos Mayor Richard Murphy acknowledged that the city would likely only remove the cameras if they were ruled illegal at the state level.

"The Police Department is convinced it does what

it's supposed to do safety-wise and the chief has a lot of credibility in our city so I think that's really the persuading factor," he said.

One attendee voiced his concerns against the cameras.

"Mainly, they don't work," said Jim Lissner, 69, of Hermosa Beach. "If you've lived in Los Al, you know where the cameras are so you're unlikely to get a ticket. Most of the tickets are going to go to visitors."

He cited what he considered to be exorbitant costs of the program, compared to neighboring Garden Grove, and questioned how the staff report determined the numbers that affirmed reduced accident figures.

In an email to the council, James Walker, executive director of the National Motorists Association Foundation, argued that the cameras damage the local economy since the majority of ticket fines go to either Sacramento or camera companies based outside of the state.

But Los Alamitos Councilman Warren Kusumoto said residents' safety remains his utmost priority. He recalled outside the meeting how as a teen he was hit by a car that ran a red light and spent eight days in the hospital.

The driver was never apprehended, he said.

Register staff writer  
Chris Haire contributed  
to this report.

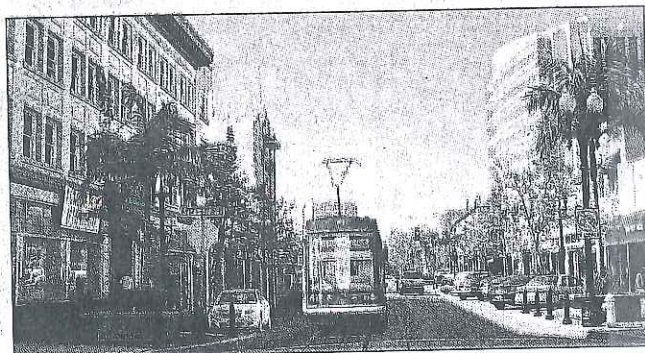
# OCTA pledges \$56 million in taxes for streetcar project

Proposed route would span 4 miles from Santa Ana to Garden Grove.

BY NICOLE KNIGHT SHINE  
STAFF WRITER

In a bid to win federal approval and matching funds for a new foray into light rail, the board of the Orange County Transportation Authority on Monday pledged \$56 million in local sales taxes to the OC Streetcar.

With the commitment, the agency stands to gain



COURTESY OF CITY OF SANTA ANA

This rendering shows plans for a \$289 million streetcar line proposed to run through downtown Santa Ana.

up to \$144 million from a competitive federal grant program called New Starts to spend on the planned \$289 million light-rail line. The hop-on, hop-off service

would carry commuters, tourists and shoppers to jobs, stores and the Santa Ana train station, travers-

SEE OCTA • PAGE 6

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Aug. 25, 2015

## OCTA

FROM PAGE 1

ing 4 densely populated miles from Santa Ana to Garden Grove.

Supporters say the streetcar would bring much-needed mass transit to car-centric Orange County. Critics contend ridership estimates of 6,000 passengers per day seem optimistic, and say operating costs will be steep.

With fares projected to cover 30 percent of the streetcar's estimated \$5 million annual cost of operation, OCTA Director Mi-

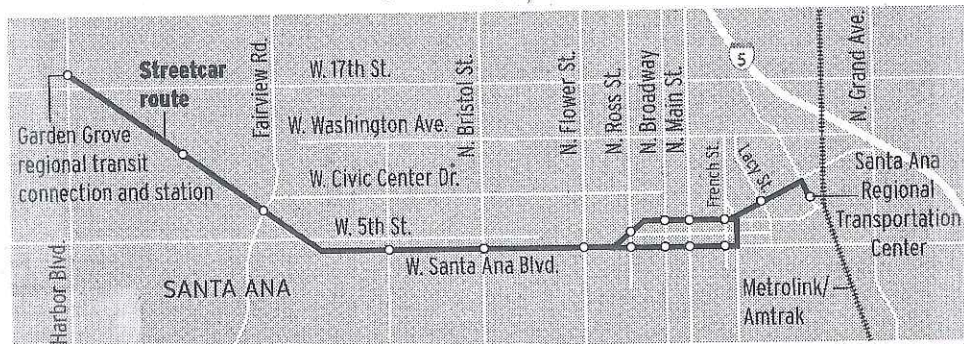
chelle Steel, who represents District 2 on the Orange County Board of

Supervisors, said, "We have to think about ... how we're going to cover these expenses."

Under a deal approved in July, OCTA will pay 90 per-

## OC Streetcar

The hop-on, hop-off OC Streetcar would carry commuters, tourists and shoppers to jobs, stores, and the Garden Grove and Santa Ana train stations, traversing 4 densely populated miles.



Source: OCTA

STAFF GRAPHIC

cent of the balance, with Santa Ana covering 10 percent.

Others asked about a fallback plan if state and federal funds fall through. Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido, an OCTA director and champion of the project, said, "Without a project, we're not going to get any money."

Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait, who voted against the pledge, questioned the cost and ridership estimates. He pointed to the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center, where the city is shoring up a multi-million operating deficit after financial projections

didn't pan out.

The Federal Transit Administration is expected to rate OCTA's application late this year or early next, and make a final decision in 2017. The project is expected to break ground that same year. OCTA officials have said money from transportation sales tax Measure M is available to pay for the entire project, but that decision would require board approval.

The streetcar is the county's second recent attempt at light rail. The \$1 billion CenterLine project, scuttled about a decade ago, was to run from Santa Ana to John Wayne Airport.



# Driver, 21, arrested after head-on crash with police car

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF  
STAFF WRITER

**GARDEN GROVE** • A 21-year-old driver crashed his car head-on into a Garden Grove police cruiser early Sunday.

Police suspect that Alexander Berlimo was drunk when his car crossed into a southbound lane as he drove north on Knott Street at about 3:40 a.m. A Garden Grove police officer tried to avoid the crash and both cars sustained major damage, police said.

Berlimo was taken to UCI Medical Center. The officer, whose name was not released, was injured on his face and left hand. He was



SOUTHERN COUNTIES NEWS SERVICE

**A man suspected of drunken driving crashed into a police cruiser on Knott Street in Garden Grove on Sunday.**

treated at the hospital and released.

Berlimo was arrested on suspicion of felony drunken

driving and driving while unlicensed. The District Attorney's Office will consider other charges.

Register  
Aug. 23, 2015

## Garden Grove police arrest couple in string of vehicle burglaries

BY ALMA FAUSTO  
STAFF WRITER

Police said Friday that they have arrested a couple from Santa Ana on suspicion of breaking into at least 20 cars in Garden Grove since May.

Detectives had been investigating a string of vehicle burglaries in the parking lots of a 24 Hour Fitness gym on Chapman Avenue and an LA Fitness on Valley View Street, Sgt. Lonzo Reyes of the Garden Grove Police Department said in a statement.

Investigators say 27-year-old Salvador Beltran and 23-year-old Maria Sanchez-Avalos took wallets, purses, cellphones and credit cards from cars of people working out at the gyms. Police said Sanchez-Avalos is Beltran's common-law wife.

"In several cases, the sus-



**Sancho-Avalos**



**Beltran**

to fast-food restaurants/gas stations and use the stolen cards," Reyes said.

Investigators were able to identify the suspects through fingerprints found on one of the cars. On Friday, investigators served a search warrant at the couple's home and found stolen property.

They were arrested and later admitted to being involved in the Garden Grove burglaries, as well as several in Costa Mesa, Tustin and Irvine, Reyes said.

They were booked on suspicion of burglary, possession of stolen property

Register  
Aug. 24, 2015

# Walker, Huckabee to speak at GOP state convention

Register  
Aug. 24, 2015



**MARTIN WISCKOL**  
STAFF COLUMNIST

**T**he California Republican Party will return to the relative sanctuary of Orange County next month, when the faithful gather at the Anaheim Marriott on Sept. 18-20 for their semiannual convention. Featured speakers will be presidential hopefuls **Scott Walker** and **Mike Huckabee**, both of whom will be making their second trip of the year to the county.

While the GOP has been losing voter share in the county for more than two decades, it still represents 40 percent of the voters here - an 8.5-percentage point advantage over Democrats. That may look like heaven to Republicans in the state, who account for just 28 percent of California's voters and trail Democrats by 15 points statewide.

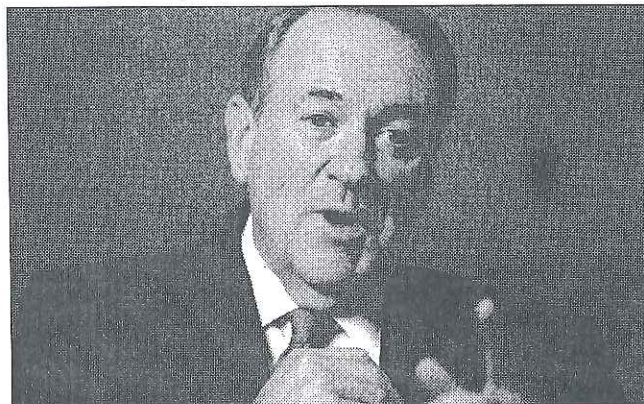
But while the state is considered out of play for the GOP presidential nominee, the race for the Republican nomination could come down to California next June if the race remains tight through early primaries. Between that and the large amounts of GOP donations that flow from the state, it's unsurprising to see candidates spending time here.

In addition to providing a stage for the two candidates, Republicans' will use next month's event to attend to party business, network and attend workshops on campaign strategy, the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, above, and fellow Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee, below, will attend the California Republican Party's semiannual convention on Sept. 18-20 at the Anaheim Marriott.**



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

public pension dilemma and how to become a delegate to the national convention. Anaheim last hosted the event in 2013.

The convention is open to the public for a \$90 advance registration fee. Banquet attendance is an additional \$100 for each, and is open to those who don't register for the convention as well as those who do.

Rep. **Ed Royce**, R-Fullerton, will be the luncheon speaker Saturday, and Walker will address the crowd at Saturday's dinner. Huckabee will speak at a Friday luncheon exclusive to the state party's executive committee and their guests.

Also on Saturday night, a Royce fundraiser at Knott's Berry Farm will feature Walker. Tickets are \$250.

For more information or to register for the convention, visit [cagop.org](http://cagop.org). The Saturday night banquet is expected to sell out soon. For information or RSVPs for the Royce fundraiser, call 949-474-6930 or contact [eva@stacy-davis.com](mailto:eva@stacy-davis.com).

## JANET NGUYEN FOR CONGRESS?

The prospects of a Republican replacing Rep. **Loretta Sanchez**, D-Orange, seem unlikely, at least on paper. But state Sen. **Janet Nguyen**, R-Fountain Valley, hasn't ruled out a run for

## THE BUZZ

the seat, which Sanchez is vacating to run for U.S. Senate against Democratic state Attorney General **Kamala Harris**.

"If you ask me right now today, I'd say, 'No,'" Nguyen told me Wednesday. "But I'm watching. To say that I'm not interested in it is completely false."

Nguyen overcame Democrats' 4.5-percentage point advantage to win her Senate seat from former Assemblyman

**Jose Solario**, D-Santa Ana, by almost 17 points in



Nguyen

November. A similar performance would be needed to overcome Democrats' 19-point edge in the House district, a task made tougher by Democrats' historically higher turnout in presidential election years.

Nguyen has the advantage of being able to run while retaining her current seat if she loses, as her current term in the state Senate goes to 2018.

Former state Sen. **Lou Correa**, Anaheim Councilman **Jordan Brandman** and civil servant **Heberto Sanchez** of Pomona - all Democrats - are the declared candidates so far.

Former state Sen. **Joe Dunn** and Garden Grove Mayor **Bao Nguyen** - both Democrats - and Republican Irvine Councilwoman **Lynn Schott** have all opened campaign accounts but have not announced candidacies, typical for those who have not made final decision but are exploring the possibility.

## Police chief meets with state rep

Discussion is about the most important issues regarding public safety

Assemblyman Travis Allen (R-Huntington Beach) hosted a roundtable for local police chiefs (including Garden Grove Chief Todd Elgin) and law enforcement to discuss the most important public safety issues facing the 72nd Assembly District and all of California.

"Our local law enforcement is critical to keeping our neighborhoods and families safe. Our police officers put their lives on the line every day so that we can remain safe and they deserve the utmost respect from our communities and elected officials," said Allen, who represents Garden Grove, Westminster and other cities. "It was an honor to sit down with our local police chiefs from the 72nd District to discuss the



Courtesy photo  
Assemblyman Travis Allen, sixth from left, met with police chiefs from Garden Grove Westminster and other cities to discuss public safety. Garden Grove Police Chief Todd Elgin is at far left; Westminster Police Chief Kevin Baker is seventh from left.

## CHIEF:

key issues affecting their departments, cities and the safety of our families throughout California."

The roundtable was attended by local police chiefs and representatives from Garden Grove, Westminster, Seal Beach, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Los Alamitos and Huntington Beach. The discussion covered a range of issues such as AB 109, the "Prison Realignment of 2011",

and Proposition 47, which reduced penalties on nonviolent crimes. They also discussed the future of marijuana policies and the importance of local control to address the challenges surrounding massage parlors in Orange County.

"There are a multitude of criminal and social issues converging in our local communities, so it's unusual to have a State elected official who really wanted to hear what's happening at the 'street' level. Fighting crime and improving the quality of life in our

communities takes leadership from everyone; so, I'm glad to see Assemblyman Allen willing to roll up his sleeves and partner with law enforcement on battling some of these issues," said Westminster Police Chief Kevin Baker.

"I appreciate that Assemblyman Allen hosted what was a very meaningful dialogue with the law enforcement leaders in his district about important issues. It's clear that he is genuinely committed to public safety in Orange County," said Todd Mattern, Los Alamitos police chief.

## Heat wave

With no end in sight for Southern California's hot weather, the Garden Grove Fire Department wants residents to remember the "ABC's" of water safety.

A is for active adult supervision. B is for barriers, such as installing proper fencing. C is for classes, so kids learn to swim properly.

For its drowning prevention campaign, with money received from an Emblem Club of Garden Grove donation, the department is giving out tags and fliers with information about staying attentive to children in the water. Residents can pick them up for free at any fire station or city facility.

## Firefighters help save drowning boy

Fire chief stresses awareness, says many such incidents are avoidable

Fire Department personnel responded to the 10400 block of Garden Grove Boulevard last week for a reported near-drowning.

Firefighter/paramedics arrived on scene, and found a 3-year-old boy who had been pulled out of the water. It was reported that an adult who was watching the child had looked away for several moments to look at his phone.

CPR was initiated prior to firefighter arrival. Assessment by Fire Department personnel found the child to be breathing.

The child was transported to Children's Hospital of Orange County for further evaluation.

"Many of the near-drowning and drowning incidents that we respond to are avoidable if preventive measures are in place, and exercised," said Fire Chief Tom Schultz.

The Garden Grove Fire Department offers free water watcher tags that designate a responsible person to watch the water and the area around it when people are around. These tags can be picked up at all Garden Grove fire stations.

# Measure GG funds the hiring of two new officers

## City beefs up police presence in hopes of reducing crime

By Loreen Berlin

Two Orange County Sheriff's Department officers have been reassigned to serve the City of Stanton.

They are Deputy Sheriff Motorcycle Officer Ramiro Trujillo and Deputy Sheriff Community Enforcement Officer Scott McTigue. Trujillo is a 24-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department, beginning as a patrol deputy in 1998 for Stanton.

"Because of his great work ethic, he was selected to work on the Directed Enforcement Team and was previously honored as Stanton's Deputy of the Year," said Stanton Police Services Lt. Jim England.

In 2003, Trujillo transferred back to Mission Viejo where he began a career as a Motor Deputy until he was recently transferred back to Stanton to fill the newly-funded motorcycle position.

"During his time in Mission Viejo, Deputy Trujillo became a POST Certified Traffic Reconstruction expert and joined the Department's Major Accident and Reconstruction Team (MART)," England said.

"In 2008 Deputy Trujillo began his second tour in Stanton as a motor deputy and distinguished himself in that capacity until 2012 when the motor deputy position was eliminated," England said.

Trujillo was praised by England for his wide range of experience with traffic enforcement, accident investigations and traffic safety,

noting Trujillo's passion for traffic control.

"We are fortunate to have him back home," England said.

The second officer is Deputy Sheriff Community Enforcement Officer Scott McTigue, who is an eight-year veteran in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving two combat tours to Iraq, before he joined the Sheriff's Department.

The new position McTigue will work in has to do with issues specific to Stanton, "Which includes, but is not limited to, the homeless population and prostitution," said England.

England further explained that McTigue will be cross-trained as the homeless liaison officer deputy and work with government agencies and private organizations to provide assistance to the homeless community.

Some of the services include reunification with family, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment and housing.

McTigue has a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Chapman University and is currently working on his master's degree in organizational leadership at Brandman University.

"Deputy McTigue has been with the OCSD for more than eight years; the last three years he has served as a patrol deputy for Stanton," said England. "He has distinguished himself with OCSD, becoming a terrorism liaison officer, drug liaison of



Photo by Loreen Berlin

Streets will be safer because of Measure GG, which has allowed the City of Stanton to hire two new motorcycle police officers. Pictured from left are Councilman David Shawver, Deputy Sheriff Motorcycle Officer Ramiro Trujillo, Mayor Al Ethans, Deputy Sheriff Community Enforcement Officer Scott McTigue and City Councilwoman Carol Warren.

ficer, a member of special and critical response teams and as a field training officer and will be working with civic and public organizations, including Stanton Collaborative, Neighborhood Enhancement Task Force and the

Human Trafficking Task Force." the city and looks forward to a "The Orange County Sheriff's Department is proud to provide these services to the citizens of England said.

# Community Calendar

## Ongoing

**Overachievers, check this out**  
Achievers Club 9331 is hosting communication and leadership meetings featuring professional speakers at the Crystal Cathedral Tower of Hope, 12141 Lewis St. Meetings will be held every Thursday except during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holiday weeks. For more information, call Barbara Barrientas at 714-971-4123, e-mail [bbarrientas@crystal-cathedral.org](mailto:bbarrientas@crystal-cathedral.org) or visit [www.orgsites.com/ca/achievers9331](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/achievers9331).

**Chamber holds Friday meetings**  
The Garden Grove Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee meets the second Friday of the month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call the chamber at 714-638-7950.

**Grief support**  
The Grief Share Support Group is for mothers who have lost children of every age.

The group meets Thursday evenings at 12831 Olive St., Garden Grove.

For more information, call 714-892-1520 or 714-343-7516.

**Learn about Alzheimer's**  
The Alzheimer's Association of Orange County hosts a support

group to provide an opportunity to meet other caregivers and families, share experiences and exchange ideas. These meetings are free and open to all caregivers and family members of individuals with dementia. All groups listed are in compliance with chapter and national standards. This is a faith-based meeting and may include prayer or pastoral speaker, and will take place at 1 p.m. Saturdays at the Crystal Cathedral Arboretum, 12141 Lewis St. in Garden Grove. For more information, call Peggy Woelke at 714-634-2161.

**Dance Center hosts social**  
Join the staff of the Cedarbrook Dance Center for nights of square dancing, line dancing, round dancing (pre-choreographed social dancing) and salsa. The Dance Center is at 12812 Garden Grove Blvd. For more information on classes, call Eileen Silvia at (949) 637-4169.

**Eco-friendly storytime**  
Family storytime all through the summer will highlight books about our environment and the animals that live in rivers, oceans and icy places. All ages are encouraged to attend at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Garden Grove Regional Library, 11200 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove. For more information, call 714-530-0711.

## Rotary Club to meet

The Rotary Club of Garden Grove meets at 12:10 p.m. Wednesdays at The Marriott Hotel, at Chapman Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove.

## GG Kiwanis to meet

The Kiwanis Club of Garden Grove hosts dinner meetings at 7 p.m. Thursdays at Kiwanisland, 9840 Larson Ave. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. Call 714-892-7267.

## City Council to meet

Anaheim City Council meetings are held in City Hall Council Chambers, 200 S. Anaheim Blvd., first floor. Public session commences at 5 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The meetings are broadcasted on local cable Channel 3 and can also be viewed live online at [www.anaheim.net](http://www.anaheim.net).

## School Board to meet

The Garden Grove Unified School District holds its regular meetings at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the district offices, 10331 Stanford Ave. in Garden Grove.

## 'Hot August Nights'

The Boys & Girls Club of Stanton is holding its annual "Hot August Nights" Casino Classic on Saturday, Aug. 22.

It's a "fun" draiser for the club and will have a taco and dessert bar and games of Black Jack, Craps, and Double Roulette. Games begin at 6 p.m. and there are prizes.

This is also an opportunity to tour Glenn McElroy's (former owner of Pick Your Part in Stanton) "Man Cave" and Classic Car Collection and have fun raising money for the Boys & Girls Club of Stanton.

Play your favorite Vegas-style games and take in the sights of the classic car collection and with your donation, you receive \$250 Vegas Bucks. There's a no-host bar and it's casual dress.

Cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple.

To reserve a spot (only 150 spots are available), call 714-891-0790.

Register  
Aug. 21, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Meeting:** Community Arts Resources, which hosts Los Angeles' CicLAvia open-spaces festival, and city staffers will host a community meeting to discuss Garden Grove's second annual open streets event. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Courtyard Center, 12732 Main St. The event, Re:Imagine Garden Grove by Day and by Night, is Oct. 10.  
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

**GARDEN GROVE**  
**City Hall:** City Council meetings - the next one is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday - will for now be in the Courtyard Center, at 12732 Main St., next to Garden Grove's iconic clock tower, because of construction at the Community Meeting Center. The center is undergoing a \$1.3 million renovation and is scheduled to reopen in early 2016. Information: 714-741-5040.  
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
Aug. 22, 2015

Register  
Aug. 23, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Camera:** The Police Department is recommending that the City Council renew its contract with the company that runs Garden Grove's red-light photo-enforcement system. Garden Grove has had red-light cameras since 2007 and, according to a staff report for Tuesday's meeting, there have been less T-bone collisions at intersections.  
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com

Register  
Aug. 25, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Solar panels:** Garden Grove soon would have a streamlined permitting process for those wanting to install solar panels on residential rooftops, pending City Council approval tonight. The city must enact a more efficient and quicker permitting process to obey state law. The council approved the measure last meeting but needs to vote one more time.  
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707

Register  
Aug. 26, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Research students:** Jair Fabian, a senior at Bolsa Grande High School, and Nancy Nguyen, a senior at Rancho Alamitos High, were two of 19 Orange County students to recently finish the Youth Science Fellows Program at UC Irvine's Cancer Research Institute. They worked with faculty, graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and technicians.  
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707

Register  
Aug. 27, 2015

### GARDEN GROVE

**Solar panels:** The City Council finalized a streamlined permitting process for those wanting to install solar panels on residential rooftops, after it gave the second of two required votes Tuesday evening. The city had to create a more efficient and quicker permitting process to obey state law.  
Chris Haire, 714-704-3707  
chaire@ocregister.com



# THÔNG TIN

## Từ Thành Phố Garden Grove

Để phổ biến trên các phương tiện truyền thông  
Văn phòng thông tin liên lạc: (714) 741-5280

Liên lạc: Captain Keith Velottar, (714) 741-5634  
Thuộc Sở Cứu Hỏa

Thứ Năm, 27/8/2015

### THÀNH PHỐ GARDEN GROVE MỞ LỚP HUẤN LUYỆN CẤP CỨU CPR

Thành phố Garden Grove sẽ mở một lớp huấn luyện để cấp chứng chỉ CPR / First Aid / AED do công ty EMS Safety Services phụ trách hướng dẫn. Lớp huấn luyện sẽ được tổ chức vào ngày Thứ Bảy, 12 tháng 9, từ 8:00 giờ sáng - 5:00 giờ chiều. Chi phí cho lớp học là \$25.

CERT là một tổ chức tình nguyện phối hợp với Sở Cứu Hỏa Garden Grove với mục đích huấn luyện cho cư dân để chuẩn bị ứng phó, hướng dẫn khả năng tự vệ nếu có biến cố xảy ra. Các thành viên của đội C.E.R.T. đã được huấn luyện để giúp đỡ hỗ trợ ở giai đoạn đầu trong trường hợp có thiên tai xảy ra.

Chỗ ngồi có giới hạn. Để đăng ký và biết địa điểm tổ chức lớp học, vui lòng liên lạc ông Don Thorpe qua email tại [thorpedj@yahoo.com](mailto:thorpedj@yahoo.com) hoặc 714-376-7633. Để biết thêm thông tin liên quan đến chương trình C.E.R.T., vui lòng truy cập tại <http://cert.gardengrovefire.org>.

# # #



# THÔNG TIN

## Từ Thành Phố Garden Grove

Để phổ biến trên các phương tiện truyền thông  
Văn phòng thông tin liên lạc: (714) 741-5280

Contact: Mark Ladney (714) 741-5382  
Public Works Department

Thứ Ba, 25/8/2015

### **CITY HALL ĐÓNG CỬA NGHĨ LỄ LAO ĐỘNG**

Thành phố Garden Grove và Trung tâm H. Louis Lake Senior Center sẽ đóng cửa vào Thứ Hai, ngày 7 tháng 9, 2015 nhân dịp lễ Lao Động (Labor Day). Phục vụ quét đường và lấy rác sẽ không làm việc vào ngày lễ mà được dời vào những ngày khác.

Để biết thêm chi tiết về việc quét đường, xin gọi ban Public Works tại số (714) 741-5375.

# # #





# THÔNG TIN

## Từ Thành Phố Garden Grove

Để phổ biến trên các phương tiện truyền thông  
Văn phòng thông tin liên lạc: (714) 741-5280

Contact: Kathy Bailor (714) 741-5035  
Thư Ký Thành phố

Thứ Năm, 27/8/2015

### **CÁC CUỘC HỌP CỘNG ĐỒNG TẠM THỜI SẼ TỔ CHỨC TẠI COURTYARD CENTER**

Trung tâm họp Hội đồng thành phố Garden Grove (Community meeting center) đang tạm thời đóng cửa để sửa sang, vì vậy các buổi họp Hội Đồng, Hợp Housing Authority, Successor Agency, và các cuộc họp vệ sinh khu vực (Sanitary District) tất cả sẽ diễn ra tại Trung tâm Courtyard Center, tọa lạc tại 12732 Main Street, bắt đầu từ thứ Ba 25 tháng 8, 2015 cho đến khi có thông báo mới.

Các cuộc họp Hội đồng Thành phố và Successor Agency họp vào các ngày Thứ Ba vào tuần thứ hai và thứ tư mỗi tháng. Closed sessions, thường bắt đầu lúc 5:30 chiều, tiếp theo là các cuộc họp Hội đồng thành phố bắt đầu vào lúc 6:30 chiều, trong đó bao gồm Oral Communications. Riêng các buổi họp của Housing Authority và Sanitary District rơi vào Thứ Ba tuần thứ tư trong tháng vào lúc 6:30.

Để biết thêm chi tiết, xin vui lòng liên lạc văn phòng Thư Ký Thành phố tại (714) 741-5040.

# # #

Thursday, August 27, 2015



Buffalo David Bitton Nagilvanet Polo...

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Đi Khắp Nẻo Gắn Xe TOYOTA

Tìm hiểu thêm

« Trở về trang trước

## Garden Grove chưa quyết định bỏ máy chụp hình đèn đỏ

Wednesday, August 26, 2015 7:53:01 PM

Twitter Print Email 0

GARDEN GROVE, California (NV) - Trong buổi họp thường lệ tối Thứ Ba, 25 Tháng Tám, Hội Đồng Thành Phố Garden Grove chưa quyết định có bỏ máy chụp hình đèn đỏ hay không và muốn xem xét thêm báo cáo của nhân viên, theo tin nhật báo The Orange County Register.



(Hình minh họa: Linh Nguyễn/Người Việt)

Hội Đồng Thành Phố cho biết họ chưa hài lòng với bản báo cáo dài 104 trang của nhân viên, và yêu cầu làm một báo cáo khác đầy đủ hơn.

Hệ thống máy chụp hình đèn đỏ ở Garden Grove đã có 15 năm nay, và thời gian này thành phố phải quyết định chấm dứt hoặc gia hạn hợp đồng với Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc., (RTS) công ty gắn hệ thống máy chụp hình này tại các giao lộ trong thành phố.

Hiện nay, Garden Grove phải trả cho RTS mỗi tháng \$31,900 để duy trì các hệ thống này.

Trong một cuộc phỏng vấn trước đây của nhật báo người Việt, ông Tony Aquino, kỹ sư lưu thông của Garden Grove, cho biết, "Thành phố không phải trả chi phí cho việc gắn máy chụp hình tại các ngã tư, nhưng phải trả \$2,900/tháng cho mỗi chiều xe chạy tại một ngã tư, cho công ty RTS điều hành và bảo trì hệ thống máy chụp hình. Thí dụ tại ngã tư Brookhurst và Westminster Blvd., chiều xe chạy hướng Bắc là \$2,900/tháng; và hướng Nam là \$2,900/tháng. Tiền trả cho RTS là từ số tiền phạt thu được."

Ông cho biết: "Garden Grove hiện có tám ngã tư sử dụng máy chụp hình đèn đỏ. Đó là các ngã tư Brookhurst/Westminster, Valley View/Lampson, Brookhurst/Trask, Brookhurst/Chapman, Trask/Magnolia, Harbor/Trask, Valley View/Chapman, và Brookhurst/Chapman."

Cũng theo ông Tony Aquino, "Các ngã tư có gắn máy chụp hình giúp giảm thiểu các tai nạn đụng xe trầm trọng gây tử vong, tuy nhiên lại có thể gây tai nạn, vì xe bị đụng từ phía sau, khi người đi trước có thói quen gấp đề khởi bị chụp hình."

Hôm Thứ Hai, thành phố Los Alamitos bỏ phiếu tiếp tục máy chụp hình đèn đỏ. Như vậy, cho đến nay, Orange County chỉ còn hai thành phố sử dụng hệ thống này. (L.N.)

### BÀI ĐỌC THÊM

### RAV4

Có chỗ ngồi tại xế chạy bằng máy 8 chiều với bộ nhớ. Cứ tự nhiên hit hạ nhỏ.



Tìm hiểu thêm

Đi Khắp Nẻo Gắn Xe TOYOTA

Tìm hiểu thêm

### CÁC TIN KHÁC »

- Garden Grove chưa quyết định bỏ máy chụp hình đèn đỏ
- Đảng Cộng Hòa tuyển người nói tiếng Việt vận động tranh cử
- Tour thiện tập của Làng Mai từ New York đến California
- 'Rời Mẹ Như Sương,' bài hát nhớ mẹ mùa Vu Lan 2015
- Đại Lễ Vu Lan tại tu viện Hoa Nghiêm, Santa Ana

### ĐỌC NHIỀU NHẤT»

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### PHOTO Blog »



RIO CHUẨN BỊ THỂ VẬN HỘI 2016



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Contact: Captain Keith Velotta  
Fire Department, 714-741-5634

Tuesday, August 26, 2015

## **GARDEN GROVE OFFERING CPR, FIRST AID, AED TRAINING**

The City of Garden Grove's CERT program will offer a CPR/First Aid/AED certification on Saturday, September 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Certification will be through EMS Safety Services, Inc. The cost for the class is \$25.

C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) is a volunteer organization with the Garden Grove Fire Department that provides citizens training on how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster. C.E.R.T. members are also trained to help augment first responders in the event of a disaster.

Seating is limited. To register and receive the class location, please contact Don Thorpe at [thorpedj@yahoo.com](mailto:thorpedj@yahoo.com) or 714-376-7633. For more information regarding the C.E.R.T. program, please visit <http://cert.gardengrovefire.org>.

# # #



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Erin Webb (714) 741-5313      Public Information Office (714) 741-5280  
Community Development Department

Monday, August 24, 2015

### **GARDEN GROVE'S BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN MOVES FORWARD**

In the City's continued efforts to make Garden Grove a bike-friendly and pedestrian-friendly city, Los Angeles-based Alta Planning + Design has been chosen to develop an effective and permanent Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) as part of the Sustainability Program grant awarded by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The BPMP will build on the recently completed study, 'Community in Motion,' by Cal Poly Pomona's award-winning Department of Landscape Architecture 606 Studio.

During the week of September 14, Alta Planning + Design will conduct a bicycle and pedestrian count-survey that will be used in the development of the BPMP. The community is asked to participate and volunteer in the week-long study.

Residents will have a second opportunity to take part in the BPMP planning process at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Re:Imagine Garden Grove 'By Day and By Night' event, on Saturday, October 10. Alta Planning + Design will host temporary displays of proposed crossing-improvement designs that the public can try out and provide feedback.

To volunteer for the September count-survey, contact Amanda Berman from Community Arts Resources, producers of Re:Imagine Garden Grove, at [Amanda@carsla.net](mailto:Amanda@carsla.net) or (213) 201-6844.

For more information about the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan or the Sustainability Program grant awarded by SCAG, contact Erin Webb, Community Development Department, at (714) 741-5313.



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact:  
Ana Pulido (714) 741-5283  
Community Relations Supervisor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Thursday, August 27, 2015

## **CITY ENCOURAGES LICENSING PETS**

The City of Garden Grove reminds all responsible pet owners to license their pets through OC Animal Care. Obtaining a pet license not only establishes ownership of an animal, it increases the chances that lost pets will be reunited with their owners, as well as protect pets, families, and neighbors from coming in contact with rabies.

OC Animal Care, under contract with the City of Garden Grove, provides licensing and other animal services for all residents. All dogs in Orange County over four months of age are required by law to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies. Residents owning or having custody of any dog must license the dog within 15 days of acquisition or within 15 days after the license becomes due. Residents must provide proof of a California-approved rabies vaccination to obtain a license (OCCO 4-1-70). Cat licensing is optional and available through OC Animal Care.

Licensed pets that are lost and taken to the OC Animal Care shelter can be retrieved by their owners for free on the first day of impound. The shelter will call and send the owner a letter, and give licensed pet owners a longer period of time to claim their pet.

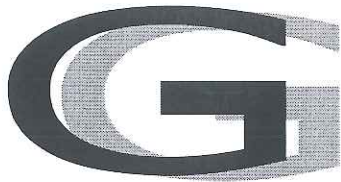
Prices for pet licensing vary, based on sterilized vs non-sterilized animals. Senior citizen owner discounts are also available. For more information on licensing, please call (714) 935-6848, or go to [www.ocpetinfo.com](http://www.ocpetinfo.com).

# # #

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**August 27, 2015**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Minutes from the August 6 and August 20, 2015 Planning Commission meetings.
3. Planning Commission agenda for the September 3, 2015 meeting.
4. League of California Cities, "CA Cities Advocates" dated August 21, 24, 25 and 26, 2015



**GARDEN GROVE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 27, 2015 – September 10, 2015

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Thursday	August 27		Casual Day – Hawaiian Shirt Day
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room
Thursday-Saturday	August 27-29	8:00 p.m.	Shakespeare Orange County presents "As You Like It", Festival Amphitheater
Thursday-Sunday	August 27-30		One More Productions presents "The Secret Garden", Gem Theater
Sunday	August 30	7:00 p.m.	Shakespeare Orange County presents "Walt Whitman Sings", Festival Amphitheater
Tuesday	September 1	6:00 p.m.	Traffic Commission Meeting, Courtyard Center
Thursday	September 3	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Courtyard Center
Thursday-Sunday	September 3-6		One More Productions presents "The Secret Garden", Gem Theater
Friday	September 4		City Hall Closed
Monday	September 7		City Hall Closed
Tuesday	September 8		Garden Grove Unified School District First Day of School
		5:30 p.m.	Closed Session, Courtyard Center
		6:30 p.m.	Successor Agency Meeting, Courtyard Center
		6:30 p.m.	City Council Meeting, Courtyard Center
Wednesday	September 9	2:00 p.m.	Oversight Board Meeting, Courtyard Center <b>CANCELLED</b>
Thursday	September 10	9:00 a.m.	Main Street Commission Meeting, Courtyard Center
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room

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GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 6, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chair O'Neill  
Vice Chair Kanzler  
Commissioner Mai  
Commissioner Margolin  
Commissioner Pak  
Commissioner Paredes  
Commissioner Zamora

Absent: Commissioner Mai - Due to a conflict of interest on Item No. C.1., Commissioner Mai recused himself at 7:02 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Paredes.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: David Webber and Graham Allchorn referred to an email by Rick Jerabek, submitted to staff and entered into the record, which stated Costco Wholesale and the applicant, Eastern Seafood Buffet, had a conceptual agreement on a revised proposal for the restaurant on the Office Depot parcel and asked for a continuance of the hearing to a later date.

JULY 16, 2015 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Margolin Second: Zamora

Ayes: (6) Kanzler, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes, Zamora  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Mai

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION – VARIANCE NO. V-011-2015. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 11100 AND 11102 GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD, SOUTH SIDE OF GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD, WEST OF EUCLID STREET.

Applicant: David Webber  
Date: August 6, 2015

Request: For the Planning Commission to consider and act on a proposed



Resolution denying the Applicant's request for Variance approval to deviate from the required number of parking spaces, Municipal Code Section 9.18.140.030 (Parking Spaces Required), to allow the operation of a new 14,300 square foot restaurant/eating establishment, East Seafood Buffet, at 11102 Garden Grove Boulevard. A Public Hearing was held on June 18, 2015 and July 16, 2015. On July 16, 2015, following conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Planning Commission voted to direct Staff to prepare a Resolution of Denial of the requested Variance for its consideration.

Action: A motion to continue the case to a re-noticed date of Thursday, September 3, 2015 Planning Commission meeting in order to consider a revised proposal in regard to safety and parking concerns.

Motion: Kanzler Second: Zamora

Ayes: (6) Kanzler, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes, Zamora  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Mai

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Vice Chair Kanzler mentioned that a Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance regional group was being created to develop a model ordinance for Orange County; that if a city does not participate, they must comply by December 1<sup>st</sup>, however, if a city participates the compliance would be extended for two months, which would be a benefit for Garden Grove. Staff added that the ordinance could be adopted between October and January.

Commissioner Paredes mentioned that Maureen Blackmun suggested using the City's website to poll the community on its stand in regard to Poseidon, and to possibly use this method for other topics as well. Commissioner Zamora cautioned that the idea was good if the community was educated on the topics. Paredes then emphasized that the purpose was to find vehicles to engage and benefit the community in the future. Chair O'Neill added that he typically encourages people to do their own educational research and directed them to the Orange County Water District website.

Commissioner Pak mentioned the meet and greet for the new City Manager, Scott Stiles on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Zamora asked if the Commissioners could have professional nametags for City gatherings in lieu of the customary stickers. Staff said the matter would be looked into.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff noted that for the next five months, the Planning Commission meetings would be held at The Courtyard Center due to the remodel of the Community Meeting Center.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:45 p.m. to the next meeting of the Garden Grove Planning

Commission on Thursday, August 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Center, 12732 Main Street, Garden Grove.

Motion: Pak Second: Margolin

Ayes: (7) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Pak, Paredes, Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

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Judith Moore, Recording Secretary

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Courtyard Center, 12732 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Special Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 20, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chair O'Neill  
Vice Chair Kanzler  
Commissioner Mai  
Commissioner Margolin  
Commissioner Pak  
Commissioner Paredes  
Commissioner Zamora

Absent: Pak

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Chair O'Neill.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

AUGUST 6, 2015 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed with an amendment.

Motion: Margolin Second: Paredes

Ayes: (6) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Paredes, Zamora  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Pak

City Manager Scott Stiles joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and was introduced to the Planning Commission by Chair O'Neill.

STUDY SESSION – REVIEW OF THE GENERAL PLAN, ZONING, MIXED USE, AND ASSEMBLY BILL AB551.

Staff presented an overview of the General Plan, Zoning, Mixed Use, and Assembly Bill AB551 (Urban Agricultural Incentive Zones Legislation).

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Mai asked staff if graffiti removal on private property was also the responsibility of the City. Staff recommended that with any case of graffiti, to please call the City's graffiti line. Commissioner Mai expressed that he had called in regard to a particular location, but had no response. Staff stated they would have Public Works look into the matter.

Commissioner Paredes asked staff what was the biggest hurdle in preventing the hiring of City police personnel. Staff responded that every city was short on police personnel and that cities were hiring, though hiring was difficult due to many variables.

Chair O'Neill thanked his wife for twenty-nine years of marriage and mentioned that they had been married in Bixby Chapel.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff gave a brief description of the items for the Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> Planning Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:00 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission on Thursday, September 3, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Center, 12732 Main Street, Garden Grove.

Motion: Margolin Second: Kanzler

Ayes: (6) Kanzler, Mai, Margolin, O'Neill, Paredes, Zamora

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (1) Pak

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Judith Moore, Recording Secretary



## A G E N D A

### GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

#### REGULAR MEETING

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

COURTYARD CENTER  
12732 MAIN STREET

#### REGULAR SESSION – 7:00 P.M. COURTYARD CENTER

ROLL CALL: CHAIR O'NEILL, VICE CHAIR KANZLER  
COMMISSIONERS MAI, MARGOLIN, PAK, PAREDES, ZAMORA

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except public hearings, must do so during Oral Communications at the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker shall fill out a card stating name and address, to be presented to the Recording Secretary, and shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services due to a disability should contact the City Clerk's office at (714) 741-5035 to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2).

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to all or a majority of the Planning Commissioners within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Planning Services Division during normal business hours; and (2) at the City Courtyard Center at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Planning Commission may take legislative action it deems appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 20, 2015
- C. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)
  - C.1. VARIANCE NO. V-011-2015

APPLICANT: DAVID WEBBER  
LOCATION: SOUTH SIDE OF GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD,  
WEST OF EUCLID STREET AT 11102 GARDEN  
GROVE BOULEVARD

REQUEST: Variance approval to deviate from the required  
number of parking spaces, Municipal Code Section

9.18.140.030 (Parking Spaces Required), and to reduce the required percentage of landscaping for surface parking lots, Municipal Code Section 9.18.140.070.b.1.a (Surface Parking Lot Landscaping), to allow the operation of a new 14,300 square foot restaurant/eating establishment, East Seafood Buffet. The site is at 11102 Garden Grove Boulevard in the CC-3 (Civic Center Core) zone. This project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15301 – Existing Facilities and 15332 – In-Fill Development Projects.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Planning Commission either: (1): Adopt a Resolution approving Variance No. V-011-2015, (2) adopt a Resolution of Denial denying Variance No. V-011-2015, or (3) provide further direction to Staff.

D. PUBLIC HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)

D.1. AMENDMENT NO. A-014-2015

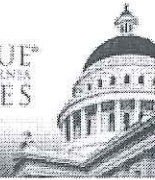
APPLICANT: CITY OF GARDEN GROVE  
LOCATION: CITYWIDE

REQUEST: A request by the City of Garden Grove for adoption of zoning text amendments to portions of Chapters 9.04 (Definitions), 9.16 (Commercial, Office Professional, Industrial, and Open Space Development Standards), and 9.18 (Mixed Use Regulations and Development Standards) of Title 9 of the Garden Grove Municipal Code to update the references, definitions, development standards, and operational conditions in the City's Land Use Code, pertaining to massage establishments and other types of uses at which massage services are provided, to be consistent with the City Massage Regulations set forth in Chapter 5.12 of the Garden Grove Municipal Code and the State Massage Therapy Act. Pursuant to the proposed Amendment, massage establishments would be treated as a separate commercial use, rather than as an adult entertainment business, and would be permitted to be located in the C-2 (Community Commercial), GGMU-1,2,3 (Garden Grove Boulevard Mixed Use), and NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) zones, subject to approval of a Conditional Use Permit, provided they are not located within 1000 feet of another massage establishment, meet specified development, operational, and minimum parking standards, possess a valid and current massage operator's permit issued by the

Police Chief, and comply with all other requirements of the City Massage Regulations in Chapter 5.12. Existing legally established and permitted massage establishments would be deemed legal nonconforming uses that are subject to the provisions of Chapter 5.12 (Massage Regulations) and Chapter 9.36 (Nonconformities) of the Garden Grove Municipal Code. The proposed Amendment would also update the definitions, references, conditions and standards applicable to Athletic and Health Clubs, Spas or Gyms that provide massage services, and would permit massage services to be provided as part of a salon, spa or similar facility located in, and incidental to the operation of, a Hotel that contains at least one hundred fifty (150) rooms located anywhere in the City. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Garden Grove City Council regarding the proposed Amendment and a determination that it is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of Amendment No. A-014-2015 to City Council.

- E. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS
- F. MATTERS FROM STAFF
- G. ADJOURNMENT



**Aug. 21, 2015**  
**Issue #78**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Page 7: Local Jurisdictions Must Contract with BOE for Collection of Local Charges on Prepaid Mobile Telephony Services by Sept. 1  
Limited Space Available for Mobile Tour of the San José Environmental Innovation Center during the 2015 Annual Conference & Expo

## **Transportation Dominates Policy Discussion in Capitol and Throughout California**

With legislators back in the Capitol after their month-long recess, the special session on transportation funding was front and center this week with the first committee hearing on specific legislation and several events in Northern and Southern California. The special session is not subject to deadlines imposed on the regular session, but Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders are working to craft a deal before the regular session adjourns on Sept. 11. The League is part of Fix Our Roads, a broad coalition of local government, transportation, labor and business organizations advocating for a seven principle approach to transportation funding that would dedicate \$6 billion annually, split 50-50 between the state and locals, in the coming decade. *For more, see Page 2.*



### **DOF, Senate Again Attempt to Move RDA Trailer Bill, AB 113 Set Thursday, Aug. 27**

*League Remains Opposed Due to Harmful Provisions; Concerned Cities  
Should Contact Legislators Immediately*

Here we go again. An end-of-session effort to move the Department of Finance's (DOF) bill, AB 113 (Committee on Budget), was launched today when the Senate File revealed that the bill has been set for Thursday, Aug. 27 in the Senate Budget Committee. AB 113 is a 100-page bill drafted by DOF that contains significant revisions to the redevelopment dissolution process, some of which seek to reverse recent court decisions benefitting affected cities. While there are currently several other bills listed on the Senate Budget Committee's agenda, all of them are "spot bills" with nothing in them.

*For more, see Page 3.*



## **California City Solutions: Volunteers Help Beautify Public Places in South San Francisco**

*This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2014 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called California City Solutions. South San Francisco's Improving Public Places was submitted in 2014 for the Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement award category. *For more, see Page 5.**



## Press Conferences and Roundtables

The Governor joined Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) along with elected and appointed officials from Bay Area cities and counties, transportation agencies and representatives of labor and business on Wednesday morning at the Port of Oakland for a well-attended news conference. Participants all stressed that California can't wait any longer for a solution to fund the state's crumbling roadways. There is great consensus that the chronic deterioration of local streets and roads and bridges, along with the state highways, threatens jobs, the economy and California's quality of life.

Members of the Fix Our Roads coalition emphasized the group's seven principles that focus on the need to maintain and rehabilitate California's existing system. The coalition believes revenues need to be raised through a broad range of options, with funds divided equally between the state and local governments. Strong accountability requirements are needed to protect the taxpayers' investment, along with consistent funding levels to ensure reliability.

Oakland City Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney told reporters that her city has an estimated \$42 million in shovel-ready road repair projects alone.

When pressed about how to increase transportation funding, Governor Brown declined to offer specifics. He's quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle* as saying: "I'm not going to try to say where the revenue's going to come from, how we're going to get it."

Several hours later, Assembly Member Jim Frazier (D-Oakley) convened a roundtable discussion in Walnut Creek with Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) and Assembly Member Susan Bonilla (D-Concord). The legislators, labor and business leaders and local government reiterated the message from the morning press conference. Each pressed how transportation funding affects their areas. Clayton City Council Member Julie Pierce represented cities in the discussion. "No one likes to talk about raising fees and taxes. But it's undeniable that the current funding is insufficient. The gas tax has not kept up with inflation or our local maintenance needs, as cars have become more fuel efficient despite doing the same amount of damage to our roads." Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Anderson represented counties.

Today in Los Angeles two transportation events were held at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce that included leaders from the Legislature, local government, transportation, business and labor. The day began with a news conference with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti joining Speaker Atkins, California State Transportation Agency Secretary Brian Kelly, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Ruben Gonzalez, senior vice president with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, at the podium.

The speakers again stressed the ways in which California's roadways are in dire need of stable and sustainable funding and pressed for a bipartisan solution to adequately fund transportation.

A roundtable discussion followed the press conference. The local government panel featured Santa Monica City Council Member Pam O'Connor, Los Angeles County Deputy Public Works Director Patrick DeChellis, Lakewood Public Works Director Lisa Rapp and Hasan Ikhata, the executive director of the Southern California Association of Governments.

Several Assembly members representing communities in Los Angeles County participated in the roundtable: David Bloom (D-Santa Monica), Ed Chau (D-Arcadia) Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles), Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach), Adrin Nazarian (D-Sherman Oaks), Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) and Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles).

## Legislative Action

The Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Development met on Wednesday to consider some of the bills introduced in the special session. Of note, the committee passed League-supported SB x1 1 (Beall), which would increase several taxes and fees to raise between \$4.3 and \$4.3 billion in new

transportation revenues. SB x1 1 is similar to Sen. Jim Beall's (D-San Jose) SB 16 in the regular session that was supported by the League and many cities.

The committee also passed two other bills introduced by the Republican caucus on accountability. SBx1 12 (Runner) would make the California Transportation Commission, currently under the State Transportation Agency, an independent entity. SBx1 13 (Vidak), which would create the Office of the Inspector General. The Governor would appoint this position, which would be responsible for auditing all state agencies that work on transportation, namely CalTrans and the High Speed Rail Authority. SBx1 13 is one of the accountability proposals put forward by the Republican caucus.

The League supports two additional streamlining proposals from the Republican caucus: SB x1 11 (Berryhill), which would exempt roadway improvements within the existing rights of way from CEQA if certain conditions are met, and SB x1 14 (Cannella), which would remove the sunset date on existing law that allows CalTrans and regional transportation agencies to use public-private partnerships. The authorization is currently set to expire Jan. 1, 2017.

Many special session bills remain to be heard, but hearing dates have not yet been announced.

The League will continue to update members as developments occur.

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**'AB 113' Continued from Page 1...**

An earlier effort to move this bill occurred in July prior to the legislative summer break when a hearing of the Senate Budget Committee was scheduled, then later cancelled due to a lack of sufficient support from the members. Nothing has changed in the bill since the last time it was set, but DOF has met with at least one senator to discuss possible amendments that might secure a vote. Such carve out tactics that have been employed through the year on this measure have been very divisive.

Because of the many League member cities that would be harmfully impacted by AB 113 in its current form, the League remains opposed unless the harmful provisions are removed. Since January, cities' main concerns with the proposal have been its effort to reverse and revise key provisions of dissolution laws offered to local agencies as incentives for resolving issues DOF and obtaining a "finding of completion."

These were promises made to cities in AB 1484 of 2012. Agencies that settled with DOF would be rewarded with the ability to have previous city-RDA loans repaid at interest rates benchmarked against a conservative fund managed by the State Treasurer. Now that many agencies have made the concessions to DOF necessary to obtain these findings, it is frustrating for affected agencies to have to spend the last eight months combating an effort to move the goal posts.

AB 113 contains many provisions, but it is important to not be distracted from the major issues. The dissolution statute gave DOF staff wide latitude with no process for oversight or review other than the courts. With the original proposal's introduction in January, one of DOF's key objective focuses on undoing court decisions that have interpreted existing law in three areas — re-entered agreements, definition of "loans," and calculation of interest rates. In these three instances the courts have overruled DOF interpretations to the benefit of the affected local agencies.

While the effort to reverse appellate court decisions affecting re-entered agreements was thankfully withdrawn by DOF in the May Revise, AB 113 continues to attempt to moot the effect of two other cases: *City of Watsonville v. California Department of Finance* (relating to the definition of loans) and *City of Glendale v. California Department of Finance* (relating to calculation of interest). If local agencies are expected to respect court decisions that have gone against them, then cities believe DOF should as well.

Beyond the efforts to reverse court decisions, this measure contains several provisions that would tip the balance on matters of interpretation of dissolution laws even further by exempting DOF from the Administrative Procedures Act and eliminating language in the law (that was previously agreed to by DOF

and the Legislature in 2012) that enabled successor agencies to fund legal representation in the only due process forum where DOF staff decisions could be reviewed: Sacramento County Superior Court.

So while efforts to reverse aspects of AB 1484 and related court decisions can be purported by DOF to be “streamlining,” negatively affected cities characterize them as “unfair and harmful.” Many individual cities have directly reported to their legislators that such a change in law would collectively cost them hundreds of millions in lost loan repayments.

Below is a list of cities (and some counties) that as of Aug. 21 have re-confirmed with the League their opposition to this measure and sent letters to legislators:

- Alhambra
- Baldwin Park
- Bell Gardens
- Big Bear Lake
- Brentwood
- Buellton
- Buena Park
- Capitola
- Cerritos
- Chino
- Claremont
- Cloverdale
- Corona
- Coronado
- Covina
- Crescent City
- Culver City
- Cypress
- Danville
- Dinuba
- Downey
- Duarte
- Dublin
- Emeryville
- Eureka
- Fountain Valley
- Fresno
- Fullerton
- Garden Grove
- Glendale
- Glendora
- Goleta
- Grand Terrace
- Greenfield
- Gustine
- Hercules
- Highland
- Huntington Beach
- La Habra
- La Mirada
- La Palma
- La Quinta
- Lafayette
- Lake Forest
- Lakeport
- Lancaster
- Lawndale
- League’s Latino  
Caucus
- Loma Linda
- Los Alamitos
- Los Ang. Co. Div.
- Maywood
- Merced
- Mission Viejo
- Modesto
- Montebello
- Monterey
- Monterey Park
- Napa
- Norco
- Norwalk
- Novato
- Oroville
- Oxnard
- Paramount
- Pasadena
- Pico Rivera
- Rancho  
Cucamonga
- Rancho Palos  
Verdes
- Rialto
- Ridgecrest
- Sacramento
- San Carlos
- San Dimas
- San Marcos
- Sand City
- Santa Ana
- Santa Clarita
- Santa Cruz  
County
- Santa Fe Springs
- Santa Maria
- Santa Monica
- Santa Rosa
- Scotts Valley
- Seaside
- Selma
- Sonoma
- Sonoma County  
Mayors &  
Councilmembers  
Association
- South El Monte
- South San  
Francisco
- Suisun City
- Sunnyvale
- Taft
- Tuolumne County  
COC GRC
- Union City
- Upland
- Vacaville
- Ventura
- Vernon
- Victorville
- Vista
- West Covina
- Whittier
- Winters
- Yorba Linda
- Yucaipa

The heart of the dispute is that AB 113’s definition of loan does not reflect the court’s view in *Watsonville* and is an effort to insert into the law a DOF-interpretation the court said was “improper.” The League has proposed a definition of “loans” to reflect the Court’s holding, but it has been rejected. While there are other debates about interest rates in the measure, if statutes

are allowed to be rewritten in a manner that eliminates valid loans from the possibility of repayment, it does not matter what the interest rate is.

As to the balance of the bill, there are essentially three categories of changes in the measure:

1. Adjustments to various processes that can be represented as true "streamlining."
2. Provisions that address several outstanding dissolution-related issues of benefit to specific agencies, most significantly: San Francisco affordable housing, issuers of 2011 bonds, and clarifications on special levies for pensions.
3. Provisions that have nothing to do with redevelopment dissolution but were added into this proposal at the May Revise. These provisions (negative bailout, San Benito County, Santa Clara city tax equity and a fix to assist recent incorporations) all have individual merit and should proceed separately as did an "excess ERAF" fix that was originally inserted into this proposal then later removed and enacted with the budget.

It is regrettable that the current version of the measure remains so divisive. If the major areas of dispute cannot be appropriately resolved in a manner that accurately reflects the applicable court decisions, then the cities harmed by this measure are simply asking for existing law to be left as it is and allow the courts to continue the work of interpreting the law without interference.

### **Next Steps**

This is the time for action. Concerned cities are encouraged to contact their legislators immediately.

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#### **'CCS: SSF' Continued from Page 1...**

The city of South San Francisco is a growing community, home to innovative biotechnology and technology corporations, industry and trade. The city's Parks and Recreation Department maintains 200 acres of parks and open space areas, with more than 8,000 trees. When the recession forced the city to cut staff and funding for parks, Mayor Karyl Matsumoto created a volunteer force to ensure these community resources remained well-maintained.

South San Francisco's park land and maintenance needs increased in recent years as budget constraints limited the city's ability to add more parks staff. Due to budget cuts, the department's staff shrunk from 25 to 19 employees and funding for many needed capital improvements and equipment replacement was put on hold.

Department staff was directed to focus on routine maintenance and emergency repairs, rather than targeted cleanups and beautification projects. Parks remained safe and useable, but often hit by vandals. Areas with potential for vibrant and welcoming landscapes were left barren. The city struggled with how to keep park areas maintained, including a 16-acre, three mile long trail from the town of Colma to the city of Brisbane, which cuts through South San Francisco. While the city received grants for construction, the estimated \$100,000 in annual maintenance costs had to be absorbed.

At the same time, South San Francisco experienced an increase in violent gang activity, graffiti, and vandalism. Areas hit by graffiti, such as restrooms, picnic areas, and recreation buildings were susceptible to vandalism and gang activity. A greater sense of community and investment was needed to help clean up after and deter this behavior.

In 2006, Mayor Karyl Matsumoto founded the Improving Public Places group (IPP) with the public works director's support. The city called upon volunteers to help perform civic beautification projects, hoping to increase community involvement and civic pride.

The mayor and public works director collaborated and planned the group's first cleanups that included weeding, plant trimming and trash cleanup. After recruiting more volunteers, the group began organizing quarterly planting projects. Mayor Matsumoto, IPP volunteers, and city staff launched monthly meetings to discuss and budget projects, strategize priorities for future community plantings, develop partnerships, and craft long term goals.

IPP volunteers, along with the mayor, host regular volunteer planting events to perform tasks such as picking up trash, grubbing weeds, clearing pathways and trails, removing graffiti, planting native and low maintenance trees and plants, and funding installation of park furnishings, interpretive signage, and outdoor art. IPP partners with the department's grant funding initiatives, including supporting two KaBOOM!, volunteer-driven playground installations and tree planting grants. KaBOOM! is a nonprofit organization that partners with companies creating and catalyzing great places to play.

IPP landscaped the award-winning Sculpture Garden, planting 50 trees along the Centennial Way Trail and renovating the landscaping at the South San Francisco Conference Center.

IPP utilizes several outreach tools to target all generations and abilities, including the city's website, distributing printed flyers, and social media to distribute. IPP's quarterly newsletter features updates on current and future programs, volunteer recruitment, park adoption, and articles on landscaping or affirming the importance of their volunteers' work. Also, given the dynamics of the community, word of mouth is an integral part of the committee's outreach and recruitment efforts.

Committee members partner with other groups as well including the South San Francisco School Unified District, high school and middle school service clubs, and other community service organizations. They promote hands on community service so that volunteers become more familiar with their community, the city's needs, and network with neighbors, and become advocates for parks and recreation programs.

IPP volunteers were the incentive for the city's first ever Adopt-a-Park program. As part of the program, individuals or groups can adopt identified sites where they maintain and improve park areas throughout the city. At least 24 sites have been adopted. While volunteers cannot replace full-time qualified crews, they have allowed maintenance workers to focus their attention on skilled maintenance tasks and repairs. This allows the city to do more work with fewer resources, and keep parks safe and clean.

Most importantly, Mayor Matsumoto and IPP volunteers create a sense of civic pride with their dedication to their community. During the past eight years, IPP has grown from two volunteers to nine committee members and more than 250 volunteers. More than 25 targeted park cleanup events have been completed including planting 4,000 native plants and trees and installing numerous park furnishings. Volunteers donated more than 15,000 hours, equivalent to one full-time maintenance person per year.

Mayor Matsumoto has made an effort to draw in skilled professionals to help lead volunteers and to provide professional designs. She has carefully advocated for attractive yet low maintenance and hardy native plants so not to add more burden to maintenance personnel or city resources.

South San Francisco was recognized in 2009 as a model of volunteer service and designated as a "City of Service" under the Kennedy Serve America Act. This national designation is for cities that harness power of volunteers in solving community challenges.

A 2012 study of service calls for graffiti showed a decline in vandalism and graffiti by 50 percent — credited in large part to this greater investment in the community. In making many enhancements and creating more inviting public spaces, the committee has improved public assets, and created greater commitment and investment in parks and recreation services.

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## **Limited Space Available for Mobile Tour of the San José Environmental Innovation Center during the 2015 Annual Conference & Expo**

There are 20 spots for a special tour of the San José Environmental Innovation Center on Wednesday, Sept. 3 before the start of the League's 2015 Annual Conference in San José. The center, which opened in May 2014, is a first-of-its-kind "green enterprise" facility that houses services for residents and clean tech entrepreneurs. This tour is a pre-conference event, with only 20 spots left.

With the help of the federal New Markets Tax Credit, San José transformed a marginal property into a showcase of energy- and water-efficient practices. The city's Environmental Services Department is the building owner and tenant coordinator for Prospect Silicon Valley, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, and the County's household hazardous waste facility. During this walking tour you'll view unique environmental features and the services offered to residents and entrepreneurs.

### **Tour Details**

San José Environmental Innovation Center Mobile Tour  
Wednesday, Sept. 30  
9 a.m. – noon

Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$25.

To reserve a spot on the tour, please either:

- Register for the Annual Conference. When [registering online](#), there will be an option to add the Mobile Tour to your registration.
- If you have already registered for the Conference, register for the tour [online](#). The second page of the registration process has an option to register for the tour.

Reservations are non-refundable. Please contact [Megan Dunn](#) with questions.

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## **Local Jurisdictions Must Contract with BOE for Collection of Local Charges on Prepaid Mobile Telephony Services by Sept. 1**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2016, [AB 1717](#) requires local jurisdictions to contract with the [California State Board of Equalization](#) (BOE) in order to receive revenue from local utility user taxes (UUT), local 911 charges, and any other local charges imposed on consumers of prepaid mobile services.

### **Important Deadlines**

To ensure the uninterrupted collection of these local revenues, local jurisdictions must contract with the BOE by Sept. 1. If a local jurisdiction does not contract with the BOE, any local charges imposed upon prepaid mobile telephony services (MTS) will not be collected by the sellers and the local jurisdiction will not receive local charge revenue from prepaid MTS once the new law is effective on Jan. 1.

If the local jurisdiction does not contract with BOE by Sept. 1, 2015, the next deadline is Dec. 1 for collection beginning April 1, 2016. In order to contract with the BOE, local jurisdictions must have an ordinance that applies its local charge to prepaid MTS.

### **New Law Requirements**

Current law imposes a variety of surcharges on phone services, including prepaid mobile phone services. Currently, phone carriers are generally responsible for collecting and paying these surcharges (for example, the 911 emergency surcharge and California Public Utilities Commission surcharges) to the state. The new law replaces all current charges imposed upon prepaid mobile phone services with a new prepaid MTS surcharge. The prepaid MTS surcharge will be paid by purchasers of prepaid wireless services in California and be collected at the time of purchase.

Under the new law, the MTS surcharge will be the only method for local jurisdictions to collect taxes and surcharges imposed upon prepaid mobile telephone services sold in their jurisdiction.

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### **For More Information**

For more information about contracting with BOE for the collection of UUT and/or local 911 charges, please contact the BOE's Local Revenue Allocation Unit at (916) 324-3000 or by [email](#).

General information about the new Prepaid MTS surcharge is available on BOE's [Prepaid Mobile Telephony Services Surcharge guide](#).

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## UPDATES

### **League Testifies at CalPERS Board Workshop on Lowering Investment Volatility Risk** *Board Tentatively Votes to Implement Risk Reduction Strategy*

The CalPERS Board of Administration conducted a workshop on Aug. 19 to examine whether to implement a long-term strategy to reduce investment volatility risk by gradually implementing a long-term rate hike, a move designed to prevent future rate hike spikes as well. The League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> participated to report on the results of a member survey on the various risk management proposals. The League's comments are available on the [League website](#).

The over 100 city officials who responded to the survey overwhelmingly (77 percent) supported action by CalPERS to reduce investment volatility risk, but there was not a consensus on whether CalPERS should use the Flexible Glide Path (30 percent) or Blended Glide Path (41 percent) options. Twenty-nine percent of the respondents did not indicate a preference of the two options.

In his article on Calpensions.com about the meeting, [Ed Mendel covers](#) the suggestion by aides to Gov. Jerry Brown that CalPERS more quickly lower its investment return assumption of 7.5 percent (i.e., implement it over five years instead of 20 as recommended by staff). Mendel reports on the CalPERS staff reaction to that suggestion, expressing concern about the impact on local governments.

The CalPERS Chief Actuary Alan Milligan said the proposed strategy balances the need to lower investment risk with concern about the impact on the budgets of 3,000 local governments, some in better financial condition than others. "I would be concerned about the amount of strain we would put on some of our public agency (local government) employers," Milligan said of dropping the earnings forecast too quickly. "Apparently, it's not such a concern for the state."

After a straw vote of 8-4, the CalPERS Board of Administration directed staff to develop a detailed Flexible Glide Path option for consideration on first reading at its meeting in October, with a second and final reading set for November.



Aug. 25, 2015  
Issue #80

## California's Local Streets and Roads and State Highway System Need Investment Says Fix Our Roads Coalition in *Sacramento Bee* Op-ed

"Roads fix must put real dent in repair backlog" reads the headline of an op-ed in today's *Sacramento Bee* penned by the executive directors of the three organizations that founded the Fix Our Roads Coalition. The op-ed clearly outlines the massive funding backlog that plagues the state's streets, roads, bridges and highways and how a real solution must rely on equal investment in the state and local system.

California's network of roads and highways are deteriorating rapidly. In fact, California has the second highest share of roads in "poor condition" nationally and 58 percent of state roads need rehabilitation or pavement maintenance. Our state is also home to four of the five cities ranked with the worst road conditions in the nation. California local streets and roads face a \$78 billion shortfall in deferred maintenance, \$7.8 billion annually. CalTrans faces a \$59 billion backlog in deferred maintenance and \$5.7 billion annual shortfall in the State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

The Fix Our Roads Coalition believes that a legislative solution should be reached during the special session that results in a robust and meaningful dent in California's transportation funding shortfall. This critical issue must be addressed immediately with the state's road system continuing to deteriorate as inadequate funding to deal with deficiencies creates safety hazards, costs motorists time and money, and leaves California stuck in gridlock.

Additional information and a complete list of coalition members can be found at [www.FixCARoads.com](http://www.FixCARoads.com).

## **Surveying City Managers on Climate Change Action Planning** *Complete Survey by Sept. 11*

The League of California Cities® and the Institute for Local Government (ILG) are surveying city managers regarding local climate action planning. Up to \$3 billion dollars in Cap-and-Trade emissions auction funds will be distributed over the next two years. The survey will help the League demonstrate to state government that cities are prepared to compete for a fair share of these funds, and to advocate for Cap-and-Trade programs that reflect the projects and programs that local communities have identified as a priority for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.  
*For more, see Page 2.*



## **EPA to Host Webinar on Aug. 27 on New Clean Water Rule**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to ensure that stakeholders understand the new federal Clean Water Rule (a.k.a. the Waters of the U.S./WOTUS rule) that will go into effect on Aug. 28. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **Cities Take Center Stage in Nashville**

The National League of Cities is excited to invite you to Nashville this year for their annual Congress of Cities Conference — the largest gathering of city leaders in the country.  
*For more, see Page 2.*

**'Cap-and-Trade' Continued from Page 1...**

ILG and the League would appreciate it if you or the appropriate member of your agency's staff could take a few minutes to complete the [survey](#) by Friday, Sept. 11. More information on the state's Cap-and-Trade program is available on ILG's online [Cap-and-Trade Resource Center](#).

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**'EPA' Continued from Page 1...**

EPA will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 10 a.m. PDT to provide more details on the rule. The webinar will provide a review of the final rule, answer some commonly asked questions, and discuss what to expect as the rule is implemented. Registration can be completed [online](#).

As the rule goes into effect, EPA is expected to put out a series of Q&A documents to address technical and practical questions regarding implementation of the rule. The National League of Cities (NLC) is hopeful that these documents will address the outstanding concerns that have been raised with the rule, particularly around the issues of "dry land" as it relates to the stormwater exclusion: who is responsible for determining whether a feature meets the terms of the exclusion and how should that determination be made.

The first of several expected [Q&A documents](#) is available on the EPA website.

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**'NLC' Continued from Page 1...**

Nov. 4-7, come see for yourself how Nashville embraced its historic identity as a music center, and created a thriving economy that is now attracting tourists and creative young professionals alike. Learn how to develop your city's economy by capitalizing on what makes it unique in sessions such as *Financially Empowering Your Residents*, *Cutting Red Tape to Promote Business Growth*, and *Bring Your Downtown to Life!* You'll also have the opportunity to take "field trips" around Nashville with our mobile workshops.

Explore the city after the conference sessions, or extend your stay to experience it to the fullest. It's a town that harvests American music, Southern hospitality, unbelievable cuisine, and a boundless spectrum of nightlife. Come join us and together we will keep the music playing!

Register before Oct. 9 at [www.nlc.org/nashville](http://www.nlc.org/nashville).