

AB 1234SUMMARY OF USCM CONFERENCE

On June 13 through the 16th, I attended the 80th U.S. Conference of Mayors in Orlando, Florida. Approximately 600 Mayors from throughout the country were in attendance; about twenty of the Mayors were from California. The conference had four plenary sessions and over 31 workshops of varying topics/issues; I focused and attended those important to our city and the region.

"Networking" at conferences, or any gathering of your peers, is a priceless benefit of these and other meetings. Collectively, the five top issues facing those Mayors I spoke with included: budgets, infrastructure, healthy communities, jobs/benefits and retirements, water issues...including use of recycled water. One additional uniform response was the problems created by the intractable, partisan political stance of each party at our state houses and in Washington.

Two major pieces of legislation were still being debated in congress while we were there, both extremely important to the nation, transportation and the agricultural bill each which could provide a kick-start to the economy by the thousands of jobs that would be created.

The issue of when we would come out of this great recession had as many projections as those who were making them, depending of what part of the country, political affiliation or industry they belonged to. The consensus is that we are still three to five years away from a "normal" recovery. Another disturbing fact is that the "average middle American family" has lost 40 percent of their net worth during this recession and even more depressing is that they will not be able to recover/make up that loss during their life time.

The U.S. medium household income didn't grow from 1997 to 2007, while the income of the upper income earners has continued to grow exponentially each year. (Those and other insightful comments were made by the Honorable Henry M. Paulson, Jr. the 74 U.S. Secretary of the Treasure from 2006-2009 under the Bush Administration.)

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS WATER COUNCIL MEETING

Abstract

On April 11 and 12, I attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors Water Council meeting in Indianapolis. In attendance were ninety percent of the thirty-one Mayor's Water Council Committee members.

The topics varied from the history of the Chlorination of U.S. Drinking Water to: Agricultural Production, Food Supply, Natural Resources and Growing Population; Modernizing Water and Wastewater Infrastructure; Expanded Capacity, Treat CSO's, combined sewer overflows, and improve Effluent Quality in Challenging Economic Times, and an interesting presentation of Decentralized Wastewater and Storm water and Urban Water Reuse, the Solaire Concept Project in New York City.

All presentations were timely to today's need and challenges regarding every aspect of water and water use. Safe water is the lifeblood of US Cities; it arrives at our taps through a complex circulation system of more than one million miles of buried pipe. Just over a century ago, city residents regularly fell victim to waterborne diseases such as typhoid and cholera. In 1908, through a series of chlorination trials first in the Chicago's Union Stockyard and then Boonton Reservoir in Jersey City, New Jersey transformed US public health forever.

Expanded capacity to treat CSO/SSO's and improve effluent quality in challenging economic times is a looming challenge. The most recent EPA Clean Watershed Needs Survey identifies Combined Sewer Overflow as the greatest wastewater treatment needed for the next twenty years. Over \$60 billion has been identified as needed by municipalities to meet current regulations, Expanding secondary treatment plant capacity to handle increase flows makes up and additional \$59 billion of need while \$45 billion is necessary to met the requirements for achieving advanced treatment standards.

Item 9 of our 4/24 council meeting is the results of my attending this meeting and the first step to quantify the economic challenges our city faces with future wastewater treatment costs.

mtg
4-24-12

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION BOARD MEETING

Abstract

On March 16-18 I attended the LGC's 21ST Annual Ahwahnee Conference regarding "*Building Livable Communities.*"

The membership of this organization consists of local elected officials, county staff, planners, architects and community leaders who are committed to make their communities more livable, prosperous and resource efficient.

One of the key discussion items was, "what follows the elimination of Redevelopment;" it was agreed that things were still in a state of flux, however, the discussions focused on the role of successor agencies and oversight boards and their role as it relates to equitable resolution of redevelopment properties.

The presentations also focused on the impact social issues will have on the state and our respective cities because of the following:

- First, we are all living longer.
- The economic recession will now require individuals to work longer, which could have an impact on services cities provide.
- Health care issues are a greater concern to the senior population because of rising costs regarding medical, health care and medicines.
- Senior's are choosing to "age in place" rather than be placed in a "retirement home, institution or family member.
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These are other factors, including the "life styles" people are choosing such moving back to an urban environment rather than living in the once popular, trendy goal of living in the suburbs; this is also expected to impact city services and costs.

Other topics discussed included, the use of automobiles and how to reduce their green house emissions; climate change, which all agreed is the tipping point for many, however, all agreed that mounting evidence shows an unprecedented increase regarding more destructive tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, storms and droughts. These activities are having a devastating cost in human lives and financial resources.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Mayor and Council reported on various outside boards, commissions and committee meetings they attended. No action was taken.

AB 1234 REPORTS

Councilmember Allan announced an upcoming trip to Washington D.C. for the National League of Cities 2012 Congressional City Conference in March.

COUNCIL INITIATED

- 8. CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTING STAFF TO DRAFT A FLAG POLICY – COUNCILMEMBER ALLAN

Councilmember Allan said he noticed that each city facility displayed flags in a different way and requested the Council’s approval to direct staff to bring back a standard flag policy.

ACTION: It was the consensus of the Council to approve the request.

7:00 P.M.

HEARING – Continued from January 24, 2012

- 9. CONSIDERATION OF THE FINAL LA MESA BICYCLE FACILITIES AND ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND ADOPTION OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Community Development Director Chopyk presented the final draft Plan and gave a brief overview of the minor adjustments that were made to the Plan. Mr. Chopyk said staff recommended the Council adopt a resolution to adopt the Negative Declaration and approve the Final Bicycle Facilities and Alternative Transportation Plan.

Council discussion ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Madrid and seconded by Councilmember Arapostathis to close the hearing since there was no one in the audience who wished to speak. Motion passed 5/0.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Sterling to approve staff’s recommendation. Motion passed 5/0. Resolution No. 2012-018 was adopted.

CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

There were no remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Madrid adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Mary J. Kennedy, CMC
City Clerk

AB 1234 REPORTS (GC 53232.3(d)) – Continued

Mayor Madrid attended the National League of Cities Conference as well and spoke of a new internet based program that he and Councilmember Allan learned about at the Conference that had the potential of enhancing the City's Neighborhood Watch program.

CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

There were no remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor/Chairman Madrid adjourned the City Council, La Mesa Community Redevelopment Agency and La Mesa Public Financing Authority meetings at 6:53 p.m.

Mary J. Kennedy, CMC
City Clerk