

## News from the Institute for Local Government

### April 2020

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#### A Message From ILG's Executive Director

Greetings from ILG!

April is Earth Month and the perfect time to highlight the relationship between the environment, the economy, and community health. As local governments face unprecedented impacts to their communities and budgets, now more than ever we must work together creatively to reinforce our commitment to sustainability in order to decrease costs and increase resilience to future disasters and public health crises.

Environmental sustainability is one of ILG's core values and an important part of community resilience. ILG programs like [BOOST](#) and [Beacon](#) and our collaborative efforts to implement AB 617 are helping hundreds of local governments meet the state's climate goals, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and save energy. We're proud of the work that hundreds of local agencies are doing every day to build healthy and thriving communities.

In this super-sized issue of *ILG News*, we'll explore a wide range of topics related to sustainability and resilience. We'll continue to share information about COVID-19 and the many resources available for cities, counties, and special districts. We'll premier a new section highlighting members of the ILG board of directors, who are all exceptional and well-respected local government leaders. (Our first profile features ILG's new board chair Rod Gould.) And finally, you'll find information about important award and recognition programs that will offer a refreshing opportunity to highlight some of the great work being done by local agency leaders across the state.

As always, we're here to help you -- our partners -- get the tools and information you need to navigate complexity, build capacity, and continue to make a lasting, positive impact.

With care and enthusiasm from everyone at the Institute for Local Government,

Erica L. Manuel  
CEO & Executive Director



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#### Board Member Spotlight

*Rod Gould, ILG Board Chair*

*Former City Manager, City of Santa Monica*

##### Why did you enter public service?

Quite simply, the central notion behind the Athenian Oath, which is essentially to "leave it better than we found it."

##### What do you love about local government?

More than any other profession I know, in local government you have the chance to make a significant positive difference in thousands of people's lives every single day.

##### Why should local agencies care about sustainability or resilience when there



are so many other local priorities to address?

The fate of our species and our planet hangs in the balance. This is not hyperbole.

### **What are the biggest challenges local government will face in the coming months? What are the biggest opportunities?**

Recovering and improving after the COVID-19 pandemic is an historic challenge that cannot be overstated.

The opportunity before us is to get reforms in place as we emerge from the crisis. We can enhance health care availability, better prepare for the next pandemic, improve social cohesion, prioritize civic engagement, expand housing availability and homeless services, enact aggressive climate change legislation, and focus on mitigating the profound effects of income inequality in the Golden State.

### **Why do you volunteer your time as a board member for ILG?**

ILG is purely committed to serving local government in California and has been for 65 years. I truly believe in the work we're doing as a non-profit. The four pillars focus attention on creating better, more effective local government, by involving those who are served and governed with an eye to preserving the planet and educating people -- especially the next generation -- about the roles local governments play in their lives.

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## **Equity, Sustainability & Resilience with a COVID-19 Lens**



As local governments develop new policies and programs to address the economic, environmental, and emotional fallout from the COVID-19 crisis, ILG will be sharing resources that are helpful in that effort. In today's issue, we're spotlighting three documents that were created by the [Governor's Office of Planning and Research](#). While these resources were developed in the context of climate adaptation, they are useful for assisting local leaders during a public health crisis with defining [vulnerable communities](#) and providing a [checklist](#) to better understand if the policies, programs, or initiatives integrate equity considerations. ILG has served on OPR's Integrated Climate

Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) board for a number of years and this recent [Impact Report](#) provides an important update and recommendations from that group.

Last, we appreciate this [guidebook](#) from the [Greenlining Institute](#) about intentionally incorporating social equity into climate adaptation efforts.

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## **Energy & Resiliency in the Fight Against COVID-19**

Energy efficiency is an important strategy in the local government toolbox to not only reduce costs, but also support social, economic, and environmental resilience in our communities. [A recent report by ACEEE](#) illuminates how energy efficiency upgrades protect local budgets while keeping local economic resources in the community.

While Coronavirus is the immediate concern, wildfire season is also looming. In response, the [CPUC](#) has just launched its [Self-Generation Incentive Program \(SGIP\)](#) that offers rebates for installing energy storage technology, with a special focus on disadvantaged communities. These storage technologies include battery storage systems that can function in the event of a power outage. [Review this flyer](#) to see if your agency qualifies.



Read more about energy efficiency benefits and how the County of San Benito has reached over \$100,000 in energy savings with help from our Beacon team.

[Read More](#)

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## **It's Awards Season! Get Recognition for Your Agency's Efforts**

### **Beacon Award Deadline Extended**

For over a decade, ILG's Beacon Program has provided a framework to help local



governments implement energy and climate action initiatives in their communities as well as recognize local governments for these efforts. Last year, ILG honored over 40 cities and counties with awards at the League of California Cities' Annual Conference and the CSAC Annual Meeting.

The application window for 2020 award consideration has been extended to Friday, July 31. Participating cities and counties can apply for awards in the following categories: Energy Savings, Natural Gas Savings, Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions, and Sustainability Best Practices.

**Apply for a Beacon or Spotlight Award here!**

**Become a Beacon Participant Anytime**

COVID-19 has really reinforced the importance of climate action. ILG's Beacon Program is an easy way for agencies of any size or budget to take active steps to improve their communities through support for the environment. Beacon participants have the opportunity to share, learn, and connect with other local agencies that are implementing sustainability best practices, saving energy, and reducing GHG emissions. ILG provides free resources and technical support to assist participants on their journey. There is no deadline to apply to participate in the program. Learn how to become a participant [here](#).

**Special District Awards Deadline is May 29!**

Each year, CSDA presents various awards during the CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase. There are several different categories to enter your district, chapter, and/or an individual. Take this opportunity to nominate deserving individuals, projects, and programs in your own district and/or others! CSDA Annual Award Nominations must be submitted by **Friday, May 29, 2020!**

**Apply for a CSDA Award Here**

**Funding Opportunity: Sustainable Transportation Equity Project**

The Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) is a new transportation equity pilot for Fiscal Year 2019-20 that aims to address community residents' transportation needs, increase access to key destinations, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by funding planning, clean transportation, and supporting projects.



\$20 million is available for up to three implementation grants to fund clean transportation and support projects in disadvantaged communities. Funded projects will work together to increase community residents' access to and use of their transportation system so they can get where they need to go without needing a personal vehicle. This competitive grant application will tentatively open in June 2020.

**Find Out More**

**Join a New Cleantech Community**



ILG is excited to join the California Energy Commission as its first Affiliate Partner for Empower Innovation. Empower Innovation is a free professional networking platform to help diverse communities and businesses identify funding and partnering opportunities to advance a clean energy future for all. Through Empower Innovation, technology developers, clean energy funders, and local communities

can message each other directly and create mutually beneficial partnerships to respond to cleantech funding opportunities.

We are actively recruiting under-resourced communities to join the platform. Local governments and community-based organizations (CBOs) serving Tribes, disadvantaged communities, low income communities, and opportunity zones are welcome and encouraged to sign up.

Empower Innovation can be a tool to break down barriers to clean energy projects, connect with potential

## Find Out More

### COVID-19 Resources for Local Agencies

#### COVID-19 Webinar Recordings from ILG

ILG hosted four webinars in April focused on COVID-19 response. The webinar recordings, presentations, and additional resources are now available on our website and below.

- [Transparency, Public Access & Trust Keeping Local Government Open Through Social Distancing \(April 1, 2020\)](#)
- [Managing Human Resources During a Public Health Crisis \(April 2, 2020\)](#)
- [Staying Connected – Tips and Tactics for Effective External Communication Despite Social Distance \(April 7, 2020\)](#)
- [Financial Uncertainty During COVID-19 – Budget Forecasting and Financial Tips for Local Government Leaders \(April 29, 2020\)](#)



#### Special Districts Play an Important Role in Responding to COVID-19

California's special districts are working diligently to maintain essential services and infrastructure during this unprecedented public health emergency. Special district employees are on the front lines, ensuring the delivery of critical local services to California's communities such as water, wastewater, fire and police protection, healthcare delivery, and more. The following CSDA webinars and events will focus on finding solutions to some of the unique challenges special districts are facing amidst COVID-19.

- May 1 – [Webinar: Successful Strategies for Utilizing Debt](#)
- May 5 – [Webinar: Budgeting for the COVID-19 Recession](#)
- May 6 – [Webinar: Optimizing Your Grant Writing Success: Idea to Award](#)
- May 12 – [Virtual Workshop HR Boot Camp for Special Districts](#)
- May 18-22 – [2020 Virtual Special Districts Legislative Days](#)

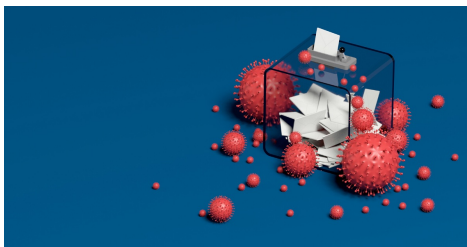
#### Local Governments Rise to the Challenge – Tell Us How!

ILG has started collecting incredible stories highlighting creative and meaningful ways local governments are meeting the moment and responding to COVID-19. These stories offer valuable insight for public health emergencies, disasters, and crises. Have additional insight and observations to share? [Email us](#) positive local government response efforts so we can add to our COVID-19 response tracker.

#### Public Engagement Training Postponed

In light of the extended Shelter in Place Orders, we are postponing ILG's June TIERS public engagement training in Monterey. Stay tuned for more information on new virtual training opportunities that highlight public engagement. In the meantime, learn about the TIERS public engagement framework on [our website](#) and don't hesitate to reach out to ILG's [public engagement team](#) if you have any questions.

## News from our Partners



### Legal Alert: CA Voting Rights Act Deadlines Delayed

A new Executive Order clarifies legal deadlines to conduct required hearings when an agency switches from an at-large



### Article: We Need Adaptive Leaders Now

to a district-based method of election under the California Voting Rights Act. Read ILG's Partner Best Best & Krieger's alert here.

[Read more](#)  
[www.bbklaw.com](http://www.bbklaw.com)

In our current climate, there is great uncertainty about when and how to act. Yet our local government leaders must act anyway. Read this article from ICMA to find tips on how to be an adaptive leader.

[Read more](#)  
[icma.org](http://icma.org)

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