



INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

News from the Institute for Local Government Summer 2020

A Message From ILG's Executive Director

Greetings from ILG.

The theme of this summer edition of our newsletter is Disaster Preparedness & Response. The topic is timely and relevant, albeit daunting.

Our beautiful state is struggling to handle the pressure of concurrent disasters, both natural and man-made. The continuous weight of COVID has been compounded by widespread civil unrest and aggressive wildfires. Local governments throughout California are stretched very thin.

ILG has a 65-year history of providing on-the-ground solutions to the problems local agencies face. But the solutions to the problems we're facing right now are as complex as the issues themselves. In August, ILG hosted a webinar with disaster expert and seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones. In that webinar she poignantly observed that disasters magnify the weakest points in our communities. What is already strong can remain resilient. But what is unprotected, not well maintained or vulnerable, will likely succumb to the disaster. This is an apt metaphor for both our infrastructure and our people.

A resilient community is a strong, prepared and unified community.

For this newsletter, we have assembled resources and guidance related to some of the issues we're facing right now so we can all work to achieve that resilience and unity.

We're excited to highlight the county perspective on disaster preparedness with a board member spotlight from CSAC Executive Director Graham Knaus. We're grateful to have additional guest commentary about natural disasters from Dr. Lucy Jones. And we're adding some timely resources and tips from the National League of Cities about addressing racial equity and responding to racial tension in your community. We also have lots of partner and affiliate updates and learning opportunities.

The team at ILG remains resolute and optimistic. We are eternally grateful for the tireless effort and unwavering commitment of local government leaders, first responders and community volunteers throughout the state.

Thank you for your service. We're all in this together.

Erica L. Manuel
CEO & Executive Director



Board Member Spotlight
Graham Knaus, ILG Board Member
Executive Director
California State Association of Counties



How have counties adjusted their disaster preparedness approach since COVID?

COVID-19 has changed how to approach natural disasters, especially wildfires, which remain our immediate threat. With wider-spread disasters, counties have been preparing contingency plans which include: 1) providing shelters in hotels and motels rather than evacuation centers 2) providing physical spacing at community centers where residents can go to charge phones and electronics and 3) adjusting how cooling centers and clean-air facilities can function with social distancing protocols. Emergency shelters are still planned in many areas, but social distancing is needed to minimize the spread of COVID-19. CSAC has hosted a series of calls between state officials and boards of supervisors to provide direct access to answer pressing questions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How can cities, counties and special districts work together to better prepare for and respond to natural disasters?

Counties are working together to share best practices for handling natural disasters—both before, during and in the recovery phase. Staying in close communication in all phases is paramount to being ready for a disaster. Local agencies working together to identify critical infrastructure and to build an emergency response network to assist in delivering essential services for life and property during a disaster, from water and wastewater services, to identification and support for medically fragile individuals, necessitates communication across agencies and jurisdictions.

Favorite quote?

*“The cave you fear to enter has the treasure you seek”
-Yoda, Empire Strikes Back*

[Read More](#)



National League of Cities Offers Tips to Address Racial Equity

The National League of Cities' Race, Equity and Leadership Program (REAL) has compiled a number of resources to help cities think about and address racial equity. Resources include:

- [Responding to Racial Tension in Your City: A Municipal Action Guide](#)
- [Advancing Racial Equity in Your City: A Municipal Action Guide](#)
- [Repository of City Racial Equity Policies and Decisions](#)

City of Ventura Poised to Take On Climate Change

In December 2017, the Thomas Fire swept through the City of Ventura causing more than \$2.2 billion in damages and taking a huge toll on the city's residents and staff. Two and a half years later, the community is ready to undertake a massive planning effort, which will define future development, protect critical infrastructure and prepare Ventura for the

increasing threats of climate change.

Recently, the Strategic Growth Council awarded the City of Ventura nearly \$200,000 to create a Climate Action and Resilience Plan that specifically addresses the city's risk and recovery from wildfire. The city also received another \$750,000 in funding through the Housing and Community Development's SB2 and LEAP Programs to fund its General Plan Update. That's nearly \$1 million that ILG's **BOOST Program** helped the city procure to produce these two vital planning documents. By integrating these planning policies and processes, the city hopes to realize efficiencies in engagement and alignment to continue recovery from the Thomas Fire and create a more sustainable and resilient community.



[Read More](#)



DR. LUCY JONES CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Guest Commentary: Disasters in a Time of COVID-19

Authored by Seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones



Dr. Lucy Jones was a featured speaker during ILG's recent webinar focused on "Rethinking Natural Disasters After COVID-19: Building Local Resilience to Earthquakes, Mudslides & Wildfires". Dr. Jones provided the following guest commentary about planning for crises during a time of crisis.

"If you had asked me last year about the chances that we would have to deal with a big earthquake and a pandemic at the same time, I would have said, "don't worry!" These are two independent events, and the chance of them happening at the same time is so low that we shouldn't waste time planning for that.

What a difference one year can make. Now we have a pandemic, and it is not going away any time soon. The chance of a big earthquake has not changed but, if it were to happen in the next year, it is certain to be complicated by the pandemic. Now, how we manage a large disaster in the middle of a pandemic is something all local officials should be asking themselves."

[Read More](#)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES FROM CalOES

Disasters in California:

A Brief Overview of Preparedness, Proclamations and Assistance

An Excerpt from an Emergency Preparedness Brief from CalOES published in Western City Magazine

Emergency operations professionals have a saying: "All disasters are local." While certain disasters may warrant mutual aid from other jurisdictions or state or federal assistance, the effects of a disaster are suffered locally.

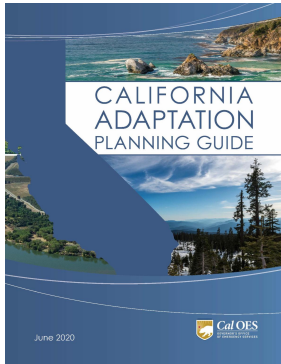
Though no two disasters are exactly alike, and each event has unique circumstances and challenges, a local government can prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters in many ways. To prepare for a disaster, local governments should take actions such as:



- Conducting exercises;
- Developing and updating existing hazard mitigation and emergency operations plans;
- Developing and updating debris removal plans (keeping in mind the complexities that may accompany a large-scale debris operation); and
- Ensuring that a robust alert system and warning plan are in place.

[Read More](#)

Adaptation Planning Guide 2.0 Now Available



The California Adaptation Planning Guide, or APG, is designed to support local governments, regional organizations, and climate collaborative groups to integrate best practices and current science into their adaptation planning efforts. The APG provides helpful resources to local governments as they comply with state requirements for local adaptation planning, and provides recommendations and advice on community-level climate change adaptation planning.

On August 19, Cal OES released the latest version- APG 2.0. Since the first release in 2012, California's adaptation program has progressed to include the Adaptation Clearinghouse hosted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; the Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update; California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment; and Cal-Adapt, an interactive tool that helps users assess their climate risk. The Adaptation Planning Guide adds to California's toolkit and will ultimately evolve to a web-based platform within the Adaptation Clearinghouse.

[Download Here](#)

BOOST & Beacon Communities Secure Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Grant Funding

Many communities are experiencing rotating power outages related to wildfires and extreme heat events. CalOES recently awarded [Public Safety Power Shutoff \(PSPS\) grant funding](#) to a number of ILG's BOOST and Beacon communities allowing them to make power generator purchases to help prepare their local residents and businesses with future wildfire and extreme heat wave response tools. The following communities have received funding:



City of American Canyon
City of Cupertino
City of Encinitas
City of Fillmore
City of Goleta
City of Grass Valley
City of Jackson
City of Palmdale
City of Scotts Valley
City of Ventura
Town of Mammoth Lakes

UPCOMING WORKSHOP - FREE

HCD Technical Assistance Workshop
Public Engagement for Housing Elements During COVID

Virtual Community Workshop



HCD Program Technical Assistance Tools

September 1, 2020

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Virtual Workshop Featuring ILG and PlaceWorks

The California Department of Housing and Community Development is hosting a virtual workshop for local agency leaders featuring ILG and their other Technical Assistance contractors. Subject matter experts will offer tips, tools and best practices for authentic public engagement for housing elements. FREE.

[Register Here](#)

ILG AFFILIATE NEWS



CSAC Upcoming Webinars

The California State Association of Counties is hosting a series of free webinars offering excellent resources to navigate these challenging days.

Engage Your Employees in their Health with Optum Rally | Sept. 2, 2020 [Register here.](#)

P3's for Counties: An Efficient Project Delivery | Sept. 17, 2020 [Register here.](#)

How Counties in CA Can Simplify Solar & Energy Storage Procurement Process Through SPURR | Oct. 1, 2020 [Register here.](#)

An advertisement for a video contest. At the top, it says 'Submit Your Video Today.' Below this is a horizontal strip of small images showing various scenes. The main text reads 'VIDEO contest win \$2,000'. A blue starburst graphic contains the text 'DEADLINE Sept. 30'. Below the main text, it lists the prizes: '1ST PLACE-\$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP', '2ND PLACE-\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP', and '3RD PLACE-\$500 SCHOLARSHIP'. At the bottom, there is a small note: 'NOTE: AN ADDITIONAL \$500 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE STUDENT'S TEACHER' and the website 'www.DistrictsMakeTheDifference.org/video-contest'.

2020 Student Video Contest Now Open! Entries due September 30, 2020 5:00PM

Calling all students, teachers and parents to participate in California Special Districts Association's Student Video Contest! Students are invited to create a fun informational video highlighting how special districts make a difference. Winners receive up to \$2,000 and an extra \$500 for their classroom.

[Enter Here](#)



LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

Register now!

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
INTERACTIVE • EXPERIENTIAL • COLLABORATIVE

OCTOBER 7-9, 2020

www.cacities.org/events

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO 2020

Registration Now Open for the League's 2020 Annual Conference & Expo October 7-9, 2020

Join the League of California Cities and fellow city officials from throughout the state. Learn, collaborate and celebrate virtually with unparalleled educational and networking forums, including dynamic panel discussions, keynotes, breakout sessions, opportunities to connect directly with your peers and an interactive Expo!

[Register Here](#)



COVID-19
Resources for Local Government

ILG INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COVID-19 Webinars on Demand

In July and August, ILG hosted four webinars related to COVID-19 and the archived presentations and recordings are now available.

- [Rethinking Natural Disasters After COVID-19: Building Local Resilience to Earthquakes, Mudslides & Wildfires](#)
- [Tips and Tools to Engage Your Community in a Digital Environment](#)
- [Preparing Vulnerable Californians for Natural Disasters - Is Your Community Listos \(ready\)?](#)
- [Resetting the Local Economy after COVID-19](#)

Free COVID-19 Resources for Local Government

Don't forget to visit ILG's COVID resources page, which tracks the latest developments with COVID-19 and highlights positive local government response efforts that can lend insight to other agencies and provide best practices for recovery efforts in times of crisis. Access the ILG portal [here](#). Our affiliates also have comprehensive resource pages for their members:

- [League of California Cities](#)
- [California State Association of Counties \(CSAC\)](#)
- [California Special Districts Association \(CSDA\)](#)

COVID-19 Resources from ILG Partners

Toolkit: In response to COVID-19, Liebert Cassidy & Whitmore created the [Return to Work Toolkit](#), which includes template protocols, policies and guidelines to assist with the return to work and reopening of facilities to the public.

Article: "How Public Agencies Should Communicate With Employees About Their Potential Exposure to COVID-19 In The Workplace" - Liebert Cassidy & Whitmore

[Read here](#)

Article: "How to Track and Report Recyclables Landfilled Due to COVID-19"-Best, Best & Krieger

[Read here](#)

News from our Partners



NLC Equity and Resilience Survey *Survey responses due August 31, 2020*

The National League of Cities (NLC) is working closely with the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS) and a national / cross-sector panel of experts on equity and climate resilience survey for cities larger than 50,000 in population. The project is seeking survey responses from municipal department heads and/or other staff, city managers or administrators and elected leaders in an effort to better understand the challenges local governments are facing in addressing equitable climate resilience. [Take the survey here.](#)



Webinar: Clearing the Haze: Demystifying Cannabis Code Enforcement *September 8, 2020*

What are the best approaches for California cities to abate illegal cannabis dispensaries and cultivation operations? What are the available remedies and how are they best implemented in practice? The leaders of BB&K's Comprehensive Code Enforcement service team – Supervising Prosecution Counsel Denise Grimes and Senior Prosecution Counsel Brandon Sanchez – will share how they've helped numerous California public agencies shut down illegal marijuana operations of all kinds in this free webinar. [Register here.](#)



ICMA Coaching Webinar: Managing Hostility in Public Discourse to Create Effective Public Engagement *September 9, 2020*



2021 Redistricting: New Rules for CA Local Governments *September 17, 2020 10:00am - 4:00pm*

*Virtual Conference featuring ILG
Partner Tripepi Smith*

Join the Rose Institute of State and Local Government for a virtual conference discussion about new election rules for CA

Living in an Age of Anger and Getting Things Done

The International City/County Management Association is hosting a free webinar to provide a few simple strategies that can help increase the ability to have a productive conversation, ensure community voices are heard in decision making and ensure that the decisions made will address the needs of the community and “stick” for the long haul. [Register here.](#)

local governments. Speakers include ILG Program Manager Melissa Kuehne and Ryder Smith of Tripepi Smith, an ILG Partner. [Register here.](#)

Help ILG Continue to Support Local Government

Help ILG continue to support California's cities, counties and special districts by [considering a donation today](#). Your tax-deductible contribution to the Institute for Local Government is an investment in helping educate, train and promote good governance to our local public agencies. Every dollar you give will make a difference in your community.

DONATE TODAY

ca-ilg.org

