

March 2003

President's Message

Zane Johnston, Finance Director, City of Tracy

These are the worst of times and the best of times. With all due respect to Dickens' tale of the French Revolution, the same can be said for public finance in California today. Worst of times – absolutely. With a prolonged recession reducing revenues for many cities, a \$30+ billion State budget deficit driving proposals to steal further revenues from cities, and rising PERS costs to cover investment losses, it doesn't get any worse than this for those of us in municipal finance.

Unfortunately, bad times also seem to bring about the ugliest politics. Promises made just six months ago — designed to receive just enough votes to win an election — are soon forgotten. As a case in point, our governor, who assured city leaders that the State would not further raid local revenues, has nevertheless proposed to eliminate the VLF backfill. Adding salt to the wound, the governor's finance director calling VLF the "crack cocaine of local government" is evidence of a total lack of understanding of local government finance.

Then there is the hypocrisy of the Legislature that, while considering a raid on redevelopment housing funds, seems intent on requiring cities to meet unrealistic housing goals. Now exactly how are cities to meet housing challenges when such funds have been plundered by the State?

And yet, Dickens was right: with the worst of times can also come the best of times. The challenges for local government finance professionals are so great that we truly have the opportunity

to shine. After all, good times are easy to manage. The real test of our professionalism and ingenuity comes only in the worst of times. The greatest rewards in life often come as a result of meeting a challenge and succeeding. Anyone can make a two-foot put, but oh! what a feeling it is to sink a 30-footer on a side hill.

More than ever, our communities need our professionalism, knowledge, skills and insights in order to chart a course and weather this storm for them. The result can be that kind of satisfaction that is only found when one musters every ounce of energy and brainpower and provides a workable solution to difficult issues.



Zane Johnston, President

The CSMFO Annual Seminar was held in Sacramento on February 23 to 25 with over 550 in attendance. This year's theme, "The Capitol Connection" was aptly named with several special programs and speakers addressing state government issues. On Monday morning, 150 people attended a special program at the Capitol featuring several state legislators, legislative staff and a local government lobbyist.

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Attachments: CSMFO 2002 Annual Report

The MiniNews is your newsletter! Take advantage of our monthly publication by sharing with us your ideas. CSMFO is always seeking input from all members on topics in any department section.

Don't forget to visit the website at www.csmfo.org for the latest news!



California Society of Municipal Finance Officers

Officers and Directors

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 Pauline Marx, Emeryville
 Barbara Hennessy, Long Beach

Intergovernmental Relations

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 Tracey Hause, Arcadia
 Bob Torrez, Long Beach

Professional & Technical Standards

Bret Plumlee, El Segundo
 Bill Thomas, Petaluma
 Judy Lancaster, La Mirada
 Derek Hanway, Burbank

Technology

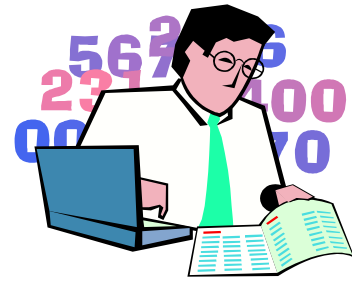
Josh Betta, South Pasadena
 Julia James, Malibu
 Bill Statler, San Luis Obispo

Scholarship Program

Debra Ryan, Half Moon Bay
 Candis Hong, Thousand Oaks

Technology Corner

Josh Betta, South Pasadena
 Julia James, Malibu
 Bill Statler, San Luis Obispo



Changes in the Technology Sector — Silicon Valley

The San Francisco Chronicle reported a while ago from the report “Joint Venture’s 2003 Index of Silicon Valley,” a report authored by Collaborative Economics of Mountain View. The report suggests that things are back to 1998.

A few data quickies:

- After peaking at \$79,800 in 2000, the average salary in the technology country is now \$62,500.
- Cuts and attrition have reduced by half the jobs created in the growth years; 127,000 jobs went the way of the dinosaur in 2001 and 2002.
- Office lease rates have fallen to 1997 levels at \$1.55 per square foot.
- The office vacancy rate is 20%, up considerably from the low of 4% in 2000.
- Housing? The percent of households that could afford a median-priced home jumped to 26% in 2002 from 18% in 2000 – still well below the national average of 56 percent.
- Productivity continues to grow through thick and thin. Measured by subtracting what a company spends per worker from what it earns, “value added per employee” in Santa Clara County increased to \$184,300 in 2002 from just over \$100,000 in 1992.
- Venture capital investments decreased 42 % in 2002 to \$4.8 billion, just above the 1998 level of investment.
- Corporate donations accounted for 7% of nonprofits’ income in 2002, down from 16% in 1998.

UCR Extension Spring Quarter Class

For information contact University of California, Riverside Extension at (909) 787-4111 or check out our web site: www.UCRExtension.net

April 2-June 18, 2003

The Budgetary Process in Governmental and Nonprofit Organizations, Riverside, California, Wednesdays, 6-9:45 pm, no meeting May 21, 28, Fee: \$345. Overview of the financial planning process with emphasis on budgeting techniques, financial sources, chronologies, roles and politics.



Beyond VLF: Resisting Additional Threats to Local Revenues

By Robert Torrez, CFO/Director of Financial Management, City of Long Beach

When Governor Davis announced his intention to end the Vehicle License Fee backfill payments to local governments, it was a clarion call to action for jurisdictions throughout California. With the support of the League of California Cities, municipalities throughout the state mobilized to defend themselves against the proposed loss of funds.

Never has the power of unity been more clearly demonstrated. Within a two-week period, Speaker Wesson's legislation to facilitate reinstating the VLF to former levels had passed both houses and was headed to the Governor. When the Governor obstructed that particular avenue, it did not diminish the commitment of those involved: attention was turned to invoking the so-called VLF trigger.

Because the VLF backfill payments were guaranteed by statute, the primary issue involved was how the payments would be funded, since the Legislature showed no inclination to eliminate the actual payments. However, our collective vigilance should not be lulled into complacency by the relative security of VLF statutes. Those who regularly work the halls of the Capitol know that local governments face even more potential obstacles than the loss of the VLF backfill. Facing these future hindrances will require even greater unity and determination than ever before.

Local governments in California have recently been fortunate in having a core of sympathetic legislators willing to listen to their concerns. Many of these individuals began their public service careers in their home cities. However, the current fiscal crisis in California is so uniquely grave that, off the record, some legislators have expressed the sentiment that local governments will have to "share the pain" even if backfill payments are preserved intact. In the words of one legislator, "Cities will not get through this unscathed."

Although it appears that VLF payments have been ostensibly removed from consideration, there is now talk of directing most or all of the VLF to counties. We know there is lobbying taking place in Sacramento that is attempting to convince legislators that cities are doing fine financially, while counties are not. The League, CSAC and their other LOCAL coalition partners remain consistent in their demands that the VLF monies come back in the same allocation formula as before. Additionally, our concerns must be focused on what other funding sources may attract the attention of the Legislature. Of particular concern is the possibility of a new ERAF shift from both Redevelopment Agencies (RDAs) and General Funds. Originally, monies from General Funds were required to make up for any RDA's inability to fully fund its ERAF shift amounts.

Another worrisome possibility is that various new and questionable programs will be imposed upon cities and counties without commensurate funding.

In the current fiscal climate, with a legislative budgetary deadlock looming, it appears unlikely that we will escape all revenue impacting actions. We may be able to defend ourselves against the most extreme proposals, but in the end, there is the danger that we may either lose revenues or be assessed new costs. It is important that we maintain our unity in the face of these actions; it is even more important that we develop viable strategies for addressing and mitigating whatever the Legislature imposes upon us in this and future years.

Among the actions we should pursue are changing the law to enable any taxes, including property taxes, to be increased by majority voter approval. We also need permanent relief from State mandates that are imposed upon localities without funding and for which the State was not even responsible in the past. Without such mandates, unnecessary programs and costs would be eliminated.

Finally, we need to begin a two-sided dialogue with the State on fiscal reform. Without our input, the State will decide on its own what "reform" consists of and they will undoubtedly attempt to force it upon us.

Our recent successes have demonstrated the value of solidarity and coordinated action by California cities. Now, rather than wait to react to intolerable and unacceptable maneuvers by the State, we must proactively plan our responses to whatever assaults on our fiscal sovereignty the State may announce. Recent and past histories have demonstrated that at no time in the foreseeable future can we afford to let down our guard.

Chapter Meeting Notices

Coachella Valley	San Gabriel Valley	Central Valley
Jenny Barnes, Chapter Chair Accountant II, Cathedral City	Josh Betta, Co-Chapter Chair Finance Director, South Pasadena	Steven King, Chapter Chair Accountant, City of Jackson
Date: Monday, March 17, 2003 Time: 12:00-1:30pm Place: Blue Coyote Grill (downtown Palm Springs) 445 N. Palm Canyon Drive Palm Springs, CA 92262 Spkr: Steve Siberman, Executive Editor, The Desert Sun Topic: "How the Media covers the Money" Menu: Choice of Enchilada Especial, Fish Tacos, Caesar Wrap, or Tahquitz Tostada Salad **Vegetarian available upon request Coffee/Tea/iced tea/soft drink included. Desert not included. Cost: \$18.00 per person (Includes gratuity and tax) Make checks payable to City of Palm Springs RSVP: Maureen Fox 760/323-8229 Reservations not cancelled by March 11, 2003 will be billed	Tracey Hause, Co-Chapter Chair Admin. Svcs. Director, City of Arcadia Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2003 Time: 11:30am Place: Four Points Sheraton Hotel 700 West Huntington Drive Monrovia, CA 91016 626/357-5211 Spkr: Paula Cone HdL, Coren & Cone Topic: "The Property Tax: Everything and the Kitchen Sink" Menu: The Fajita Grill Cost: \$30.00 per person - payable at the door (Make checks payable to the City of Arcadia) RSVP: Kelley Williams 626/574-5465 kwilliams@ci.arcadia.ca.us Please RSVP by March 14 at 5:00pm (no shows may be billed)	Date: Thursday, March 20, 2003 Time: 12:00 Noon Place: Holiday Inn Express 16855 Old Harlan Road Lathrop, CA 209/858-1234 Spkr: Don Raught, Union Bank Topic: How to Avoid ACH Fraud Menu: Roast Beef w/jack Sandwich on French Roll Turkey w/provolone Sandwich on French Roll Ham w/swiss Sandwich on French Roll Cost: \$19.00 please make checks payable to the City of Lathrop. Payment may be made at the door RSVP: Please RSVP by March 12, 2003 Tessie Monjes, City of Lathrop 209/858-2860 ext 323 tmonjes@ci.lathrop.ca.us

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CSMFO Chapter Chairs

Chapter Assistant - Tawni Escudero, League of California Cities 916/658-8210 or tescudero@cacities.org

Chapter	Chairperson	Telephone	Email Address
Central Coast	Lynda Snodgrass	805/473-5432	lsnodgrass@arroyogrande.org
Central Los Angeles	Robert S. Ridley	562/801-4395	bridley@pico-rivera.org
Central Valley	John French	209/357-6311	jfrench@data.co.merced.ca.us
Channel Counties	Christine Cohen	805/654-3151	christine.cohen@mail.co.ventura.ca.us
Coachella Valley	Jenny Barnes	760/770-0321	jbarnes@cathedralcity.gov
Desert Mountain	Kevin Smith	760/240-7000	ksmith@applevalley.org
East Bay (S.F.)	Mary Dodge	925/671-3182	maryd@ci.concord.ca.us
Imperial County	Vacant		
Inland Empire	Bernie Simon	909/487-7340	bscra2@netscape.net
Monterey Bay	Marc Pimentel	831/646-3947	pimentel@ci.monterey.ca.us
North Coast	Greg Rogers	707/431-3184	grogers@ci.healdsburg.ca.us
Northeast Counties	Steve Strong	530/225-4087	sstrong@ci.redding.ca.us
Northwest Counties	Carolynn Thomas	707/441-4114	cjthomas@eurekaweb.com
Orange County	Darren Hernandez	562/905-9730	darren_hernandez@lahabracity.com
Peninsula	Thomas Fil	650/595-7435	tfil@ci.belmont.ca.us
Sacramento Valley	Barbara Brock	916/645-3314	bbrock@ci.lincoln.ca.us
Sacramento Valley	Susan Mahoney	916/725-2448	smahoney@ci.citrus-heights.ca.us
San Diego County	Carol Swindell	760/435-3839	cswindell@ci.oceanside.ca.us
San Gabriel Valley	Josh Betta	626/403-7250	jbetta@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us
San Gabriel Valley	Tracey Hause	626/574-5400	thause@ci.arcadia.ca.us
South Bay	Jag Pathirana	310/970-7927	jpathirana@earthlink.net
South San Joaquin	Sandra Montoya	559/713-4423	smontoya@ci.visalia.ca.us

2003 Budget Awards Program Award Recipients

OPERATING CATEGORY- EXCELLENCE AWARD

Central Coast Water Authority
 City of Arroyo Grande
 City of Bell
 City of Brea
 City of Brisbane
 City of Burbank
 City of Calabasas
 City of Campbell
 City of Carpinteria
 City of Claremont*
 City of Concord
 City of Costa Mesa
 City of Culver City
 City of Cupertino
 City of Daly City
 City of Dinuba
 City of El Cajon
 City of Eureka
 City of Fairfield
 City of Fontana
 City of Gardena
 City of Glendale
 City of Indian Wells
 City of Irvine
 City of Lancaster
 City of Long Beach
 City of Manhattan Beach
 City of Milpitas
 City of Modesto
 City of Monterey Park
 City of Morgan Hill
 City of Mountain View
 City of Murietta
 City of Newark
 City of Novato
 City of Ontario
 City of Orange
 City of Palmdale
 City of Redondo Beach
 City of Roseville
 City of San Bernardino

OPERATING CATEGORY - EXCELLENCE AWARD (CONT.)

City of San Carlos*
 City of San Clemente
 City of San Diego
 City of San Jose
 City of San Marino*
 City of San Mateo
 City of Santa Ana
 City of Santa Clara
 City of Santa Clarita
 City of Santa Maria
 City of Santa Monica
 City of Seal Beach
 City of Selma
 City of Simi Valley
 City of Stanton
 City of Temecula
 City of Tracy
 City of Walnut
 City of Wasco
 City of West Hollywood
 City of Yuba City
 Inland Empire Utilities Agency
 Las Virgenes MWD
 Padre Dam Municipal Water District
 San Diego County Water Authority
 Town of Loomis
 Valley Center MWD

OPERATING CATEGORY MERITORIOUS AWARD

City of Antioch
 City of Citrus Heights*
 City of Fountain Valley
 City of Glendale
 City of Hermosa Beach
 City of Martinez*
 City of Palm Springs*
 City of Union City*
 City of Winters

CAPITAL BUDGETS - EXCELLENCE AWARD

City of Burbank
 City of Campbell
 City of Concord
 City of Daly City
 City of Fontana
 City of Murietta
 City of Santa Clara
 City of Temecula
 Padre Dam Muni Water District

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS EXCELLENCE AWARD

City of Alameda*
 City of Costa Mesa (2 awards)
 City of Dinuba*
 City of Manhattan Beach
 City of Monterey Park
 City of San Diego
 City of Santa Clarita
 City of Tracy*
 South Lake Tahoe Utilities

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS MERITORIOUS AWARD

City of Costa Mesa (1 award)
 City of El Cajon
 City of Long Beach
 City of Martinez*
 Padre Dam Munil Water D istrict

INNOVATIONS IN BUDGETING EXCELLENCE AWARD

City of San Diego

INNOVATIONS IN BUDGETING MERITORIOUS AWARD

None

* First time award in this category

2003 CSMFO CAFR Award Winners

Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Awards for Outstanding Financial Reporting

Cities

Alameda	Folsom	Monterey	San Marcos
Albany	Fontana	Monterey Park	San Mateo
Alhambra	Foster City	Morgan Hill	San Pablo
Aliso Viejo	Fullerton	Mountain View	Santa Ana
American Canyon	Galt	Murrieta	Santa Clara
Anaheim	Garden Grove	Newark	Santa Clarita
Antioch	Gardena	Newport Beach	Santa Maria
Bakersfield	Hawthorne	Oakley	Santa Rosa
Baldwin Park	Healdsburg	Ontario	Santee
Bell	Hermosa Beach	Orange	Saratoga
Bellflower	Highland	Oxnard	Scotts Valley
Berkeley	Hillsborough	Palm Desert	Shafter
Beverly Hills	Indian Wells	Palm Springs	Signal Hill
Brea	Irvine	Palmdale	Solana Beach
Brentwood	La Habra	Palo Alto	Solvang
Burbank	La Mirada	Paramount	South Pasadena
Burlingame	La Palma	Pasadena	South San Francisco
Calabasas	La Puente	Petaluma	Stanton
Camarillo	La Quinta	Pico Rivera	Stockton
Campbell	La Verne	Pinole	Suisun City
Capitola	Laguna Hills	Pismo Beach	Sunnyvale
Cerritos	Laguna Niguel	Pleasant Hill	Temecula
Chino	Lake Elsinore	Poway	Thousand Oaks
Chula Vista	Lake Forest	Rancho Cucamonga	Tracy
Claremont	Lakewood	Rancho Mirage	Tulare
Colton	Lathrop	Rancho Palos Verdes	Tustin
Concord	Livermore	Rancho Santa Margarita	Vacaville
Costa Mesa	Lodi	Redondo Beach	Vista
Cypress	Los Alamitos	Redwood City	Walnut
Daly City	Los Gatos	Rohnert Park	West Hollywood
Danville	Malibu	Rolling Hills Estates	West Sacramento
Davis	Manhattan Beach	Rosemead	Westlake Village
Del Mar	Manteca	Sacramento	Westminster
Diamond Bar	Martinez	Saint Helena	Woodland
Dinuba	Menlo Park	San Buenaventura	Yorba Linda
Downey	Merced	San Carlos	Yuba City
El Cajon	Millbrae	San Clemente	Yucca Valley
El Monte	Milpitas	San Diego	
El Paso de Robles	Mission Viejo	San Gabriel	
Escondido	Monrovia	San Jose	
Fairfield	Montebello	San Luis Obispo	

Special Districts

Central Coast Water Authority	Long Beach Transit	San Ramon Valley Fire Protection Dist
Contra Costa Water District	Mesa Consolidated Water District	South Tahoe Public Utility District
Cucamonga County Water District	Orange County Fire Authority	Triunfo Sanitation District
El Dorado Irrigation District	Orange County Sanitation District	Tuolumne Utilities District
Elk Grove Comm. Svcs. Dist.	Orange County Transportation Authority	Union Sanitary District
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District	Orange County Water District	Valley Center Municipal Water District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Oro Loma Sanitation District	Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Lake Arrowhead Comm Svcs. Dist.	Port of Stockton	
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	San Diego County Water Authority	

Chapter Meeting Notices

(continued from pg. 4)

Central Los Angeles/ South Bay

Bob Ridley, Central Los Angeles
Chapter Chair
Jag Pathirana, South Bay
Chapter Chair

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2003
Time: 11:30am-1:30pm
Place: The Centre at Sycamore Plaza
Sycamore Room
5000 Clark Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90712
562/804-4434
Spkr: William S. Morgan, CPA
Diehl, Evans & Company, LLP
Topic: Governmental Tax Topics
Menu: Chicken Wellington or Vegetable
Wellington available upon
request.
Cost: \$25.00 per person. Checks payable
to City of Pico Rivera
RSVP: Please make your reservation by
Thursday March 13, 2003 with
Dianna Sanburg at the City of Pico
Rivera, email
dsanburg@picorivera.org or call 562/
801-4392

Monterey Bay

Marc Pimentel, Chapter Chair
Financial Services Manager, Monterey

Date: March 14, 2003
Time: 11:30am
Place: Tarpy's Roadhouse
Monterey, CA
www.tarpys.com
Spkr: Nasi Raissian, Finance Manager, City
of Sunnyvale
Topic: GASB 34 - Brief overview of
Sunnyvale's implementation
(highlighting issues they encountered)
and spend the remainder of the time
for Q & A
Cost: \$20.00 per person
RSVP: Please RSVP by March 11, 2003
Marc Pimentel
831/646-3947
pimentel@ci.monterey.ca.us

Administrative Services Policy Committee Update

Robert Franz, Administrative Services Director, City of Glendale

The Administrative Services Policy Committee had a lively meeting in January, 2003 at the Ontario Convention Center. The two main topics that dominated the four-hour meeting were the League's efforts in negotiating a deal with the proponents of a measure that would expand access to governmental information; the second topic was how cities can get involved in the League's efforts to restore public confidence in city government.

SCA 1 – Expanded Access to Governmental Information

One of the two associations that are sponsoring SCA1 was on hand to present the background and intent of measure. Tom Newton of the California Newspaper Publishers Association (CNPA) gave a brief legislative history and reasoning behind his association's (along with the California First Amendment Coalition – CFAC) efforts to push this measure through the legislature. If passed by two-thirds vote, it will be placed on the March, 2004 state ballot, without a governor's signature, which is a predominant reason why the proponents have pushed for this to be a constitutional amendment rather than a statute. A statute requires the Governor's signature, and according to the CNPA and the CFAC, their efforts to expand access to governmental information has fallen prey to the Governor's vetos.

SCA 1 is authored by Senator John Burton, President of the Senate and is aimed at curbing incidents where the public's right to know is outweighed by special political interests. Specifically, Mr. Newton cited incidents including: 1) the closed session negotiations leading to the Raiders returning to Oakland (and the public costs involved), 2) the inability to obtain information regarding locations of radioactive waste within the State of California, 3) energy contracts negotiated by the State, and 4) court decisions protecting the "deliberative process".

This is not the first attempt made by the proponents to expand access. Last year, SCA 7 was introduced but subsequently died in the Assembly. It was very onerous for local governments and of great concern to the League, which had an official "oppose unless amended" position on the measure. This year's SCA 1 contains dramatic improvements from last year's measure, and the intent of the measure is one that the League supports: people have the right of access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business. SCA 1 specifically would, 1) establish a general "right to know" regarding public information, 2) create protection for those requesting information, 3) provide a "narrow construction" clause, 4) acknowledge that new laws may require findings for release of public information, and 5) guarantees that privacy rights will be maintained. After careful review, the League finds one significant concern that remains, however. The measure sets forth a new standard by which to "test" exemptions on a case-by-case basis. The measure should provide protection against each and every exemption being put to a test by the courts, while at the same time allowing people the right to inspect, participate and petition their government and its information. The League will continue to work with the proponents of SCA 1 to address that concern and perhaps find a mutually agreeable legislation, if possible. Incidentally, the Attorney General's office, who was instrumental in opposing SCA 7 last year, has recently indicated their support for SCA 1.

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CSMFO Members Who Have Served as Coaches 1999-2003

Richard Averett	Jon Ellis	Mike Prandini
Jo Barrick	Carol Ferrell	Matt Pressey
Dave Bass	Agnes Flor	Marc Puckett
Robin Bertagna	Jay Goldstone	Bill Ramsey
Judy Bier	Kurt Hahn	Susan Rossi
Bob Biery	Derek Hanway	Jose Sanchez
Anita Bingham-Lawrence	Barbara Hennessey	Rebecca Santini
Cindy Borchard	John Herrera	Sandra Sato
Irwin Bornstein	Zenda James	Sandra Schmidt
Mary Bradley	Bob Leland	Mike Shelton
Karen Brust	Becky Lingad	David Spilman
Ivan Chand	Pauline Marx	Bill Statler
Mike Compton	Susan Mayer	John Thornberry
John Concar	Jim McAdler	Bob Torrez
Dennis Danner	Dave Millican	Eric Tsao
Fran David	Ron Nault	Barbara Underwood
Mike Dennis	Ken Nordoff	Agnes Walker
John DeRussy	John O'Sullivan	Jim Winegardner
Kay Diamond	Jill Olsen	Clara Wong
Linda Downing	Evelene Payne	Bill Yeomans

Insights and Support to Thrive in Your Finance Career

The new CSMFO Coaching Program offers benefits for all CSMFO members. With convenient bridge calls, easy to access web materials, and one-to-one coaching, you can get the information and support you need. Dial **415-732-5999** to join the following informative conference calls with panels of master coaches.

“Up and Comers” — junior and mid-level finance people who want information and resources to advance their careers. Leading finance directors will offer special telephone conference calls at 4-5 p.m. on the following Wednesdays:

* Top 10 Ways to Advance Your Career – *March 19*

“New Finance Directors” – people who have become FD's in the last few years or are in active pursuit of FD positions. Master coaches will lead special telephone conference calls at 2-3 p.m. on the following Thursdays:

* Best Practices for Finance Directors (what you need to succeed) – *March 13*

* How to Interview for a FD Position and Get the Job – *April 10*

“Senior Finance Directors” – experienced finance directors who want to take their work to the next level in terms of performance or personal satisfaction. Join a lively panel discussion at 4-5 p.m. on the following Thursdays:

* How to Avoid the Crazy Little Mistakes that Can Ruin Your Career – *March 13*

* Exiting Gracefully—Planning to Retire on a Positive Note – *April 10*

Personal Productivity Tools – access tools top executives use to enhance their management performance and personal satisfaction. Go to the “Coaching Corner” at www.csmfo.org to access these materials and special sessions:

* *Managing Your Priorities, Delegating, and Personal Balance*

* *Management Style Profile (a personalized report to help you be your best)*

One-to-One Coaching – If you'd like the personal touch of a volunteer coach, let us know and we'll help make a match. Send an email to don@donmaruska.com with details about your interests and your preferences for a coach.

Go to the “Coaching Corner” at www.csmfo.org for more

Administrative Services Policy Committee Update

(cont'd from page 7)

Restoring Public Confidence in Government

Chris McKenzie, League Director, gave an update on the Strategic Goal of restoring public confidence in government. He provided the committee with a sample of newspaper articles of incidents involving elected and appointed officials engaged in unlawful and unethical situations ranging from money laundering to Brown Act violations. The League Board strongly believes that the League should be the leader in educating its members about the "do's and don'ts" of holding political office, for instance, knowing when and how to accept campaign contributions, and how to conduct oneself in a public setting. The Institute for Local Self Government developed a video, which can be obtained through their website at www.ilsg.org. Some of the members of the Administrative Services Committee have shown the tape to their city employees and find it very beneficial. A task force is currently being developed. If you are interested in serving on that task force, email mckenzie@cacities.org.

The Committee's next meeting will be Friday March 28th in Sacramento.

CSMFO MiniNews



1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Tawni Escudero
Phone: 916/658-8210
Fax: 916/658-8240

Email: tescudero@cacities.org

Up the Ladder

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR - Town of Truckee, CA. Salary \$74,496 - \$100,560 per year with additional non-base pay compensation eligibility.

PERS 2% @ 55 - Town pays employee and employer portion and does not participate in Social Security. Truckee is a unique High Sierra community, population 15,000, with a tourism based economy and an idyllic four season climate. Just 10 years old, the Town government is fiscally sound and aspires to excellence and long term planning. The position is responsible for both HR and financial management, functioning with a small, three person staff. Some redevelopment experience desired. The equivalent of a Bachelor's degree and six years admin/finance experience including three years of supervisory responsibility (or equivalent) is required. The Town of Truckee is a drug-free work place and all employees must pass a pre-employment drug screen and physical. Send application and resume to Town Manager, Town of Truckee, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, CA 96161. Applications and resumes must be received by April 30, 2003. Applications may be downloaded from the Town website @ www.townoftruckee.com or call 530.582.7700. The Town of Truckee is an equal opportunity employer.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT - City of Santa Monica, CA. Salary - \$55,176 - \$68,124/yr. Plus excellent benefits. Immediate vacancy for a Senior Accountant to perform complex accounting and auditing duties. Requires: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Four years of progressively responsible experience as an accountant. Municipal experience is desirable. To request an application: Please contact the City of Santa Monica's job hotline at (310) 458-8697 or visit our website. Please submit application materials by filing deadline noted above.

FINANCE MANAGER - City of Santee, CA. Salary: \$4,815 - \$6,500. Senior Mgmt, at-will position to assist in the planning, organizing, and managing of activities & operations of Finance Dept, and perform complex accounting and budgetary work. BA degree in Accounting, Bus. Admin. or related field, and 5 yrs of prog. resp. accounting exp, incl 1 yr supervisory exp. Certification as a CPA desir. City appl., resume & questionnaire required by 5 pm, 3/24/03. Criminal history investigation will be conducted.

Apply: City of Santee HR, 10601 Magnolia Ave., Santee CA 92071. (619) 258-4100, ext. 132. www.ci.santee.ca.us

FINANCE DIRECTOR - Visalia, CA. Salary: \$91,012-\$105,349. Exp. in municipal financial mgt. & admin. BA required. Masters/ CPA desirable. Apply by 3/28/03. For brochure contact: Janice Avila, City of Visalia, 707 W. Acequia, Visalia, CA 93291, Phone: (559) 713-4417. www.ci.visalia.ca.us

FINANCE MANAGER - Visalia, CA. Salary \$61,000 - \$76,692; Req. 5 yrs exp. in municipal finance; grad. with accounting, finance, business admin. or similar degree. Apply by 5pm on April 4th. For apps contact: City of Visalia, H.R., 707 W. Acequia Ave., Visalia, CA 93291, Ph: (559) 713-4007, Fax: (559) 713-4803, www.ci.visalia.ca.us

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT - City of Bell, CA. Salary - \$49,344 - \$59,988/yr. Excellent benefits (inc. paid PERS). Immediate vacancy for a Senior Accountant to perform complex accounting and financial reporting duties. Requires: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Three years of progressively responsible experience as an accountant. At least two years of Municipal experience is required. To request an application: Contact the City of Bell's Personnel Department at (323) 588-6211. Submit application materials by Thursday, April 3, 2003 at 4 p.m. (resumes will not be accepted in lieu of city application).

Up the Ladder

ACCOUNTING MANAGER- Salary: \$3,648.00 - \$5,632.00 per month* (*Salary range is currently under review and is recommended to increase to the Level IV range). OMNITRANS, provider of public mass transit for the San Bernardino Valley, has an opening for an Accounting Manager. This position is responsible for managing the financial activities of the Agency, including the supervision of accountants and clerks. The requirements are a Bachelor's degree (B.A.) from a 4-yr. college or univ. in Accounting or Bus. Admin. + 5 yrs. of progressively responsible acct'g. exp. w/at least 2 yrs. as a supervisor maintaining a general ledger. Exp. in governmental acct'g., public acct'g., or the transportation industry is desirable. If interested and qualified, please apply by Friday, March 21, 2003. If unable to come by during normal business hours, call 909/379-7260 and an application will be mailed to you; or visit our website at www.omnitrans.org to download an application. OMNITRANS, 1700 W.5th Street, San Bernardino, CA. EOE

SUPERVISING ACCOUNTANT - City of Fontana, CA. Salary: \$4,994-\$6,071/mo. plus excellent benefits. The City of Fontana (pop. 140,000), the fastest growing City in the Inland Empire, is seeking a management level Accountant to perform a variety of highly complex professional accounting duties and to provide lead supervision to professional, technical and clerical staff. Requires four years of increasingly responsible experience in professional governmental accounting, which included three years local California agency experience and some supervisory responsibility, and possession of a Bachelor's Degree in accounting or closely related field. A Master's Degree or CPA is preferred. For more information and application, please visit our website at www.fontana.org or call (909) 350-6737. Apply by 3/27/03. EOE.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER - Santa Clarita, CA. The Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) services an area of 195 square miles in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The Agency is supported by 88 employees (wholesale and retail) and is known for its state of the art facilities and outstanding work environment. CLWA is undergoing reorganization and staffing expansions as a result of a recent organizational assessment. The Administrative Services Manager will oversee the Human Resources/Risk Management, Finance/Accounting, and Information Technology functions. This position requires strong people and contract management skills and extensive experience and/or knowledge in public finance and human resources. A detailed brochure is available. The salary for this new position is open and negotiable DOQ and is supplemented by an exceptional benefits package. To be considered for this exciting opportunity, submit resume, three work-related references, and cover letter with current salary by Friday, March 28, 2003 to: Teri Black-Brann or John Shannon, SHANNON EXECUTIVE SEARCH, 241 Lathrop Way, Sacramento, CA 95815, Tel: 916 263-1401, Fax: 916 561-7205 E-mail: resumes@cps.ca.gov, Website: www.cps.ca.gov/shannon

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE - City of Encinitas, CA. Salary range up to \$110,207 DOQ. Experience as a division head or higher in a municipal finance organization or private sector with municipal clients, plus a minimum of a BA/BS Degree in a related field. Submit cover letter, resume, and five work-related references to Avery Associates, 3 1/2 N. Santa Cruz Ave. Suite A, Los Gatos, Ca. 95030. Contact Kimberly Warner for more information at 408-399-4424. A detailed brochure is available upon request. Final filing date is February 28, 2003

ACCOUNTING DIVISION MANAGER - City of Culver City, CA. \$5,531-\$6,751/month plus excellent benefits. This position will assume management responsibility for all services and activities of the Accounting Division including accounts payable, general ledger, payroll, fixed assets and financial reporting. Knowledge of modern accounting principles including governmental accounting and financial administration including budgeting and reporting. Ability to manage, direct and coordinate the work of professional, technical and clerical personnel. Bachelor's degree in accounting and five years of experience at the working level of professional accountant, preferably in the public sector. Apply by 5:30 p.m., March 13, 2003. For more information, call (310) 253-5641 or visit our Website: www.culvercity.org

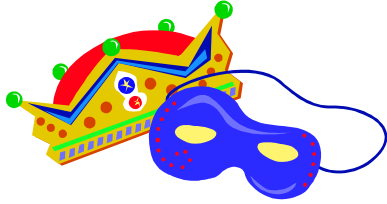


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Capital Connection: CSMFO 2003 Annual Conference



With the State budget deficit looming and municipal finances threatened, it was good to hear from Elizabeth Hill, the Legislative Analyst, who provided an independent view of the current crisis and potential budget solutions. Comedian Jim Pelley provided some much needed laughter and reminded conference attendees that there is great benefit in laughter during stressful times.

The conference also featured a fantastic Mardi Gras party on Monday night. Festive decorations and colorful masks added to the ambiance of the event. And let's not forget about all those colorful beads. Two great Zydeco bands provided musical enjoyment and the Cajun food was fantastic. Authentic "king cakes" were flown in from New Orleans for the event.

By all accounts the conference was a huge success both in terms of program content and the special events that made the conference memorable and unique. A special thank you is extended to Gus Vina, Seminar Co-Chair and members of conference committee including Liz Brenner, Patti Bisharat, Mike Medema, Gail Buller, Inez Kiri, Patty Rocha, Russ Branson, Stephanie Mortz and Bob Leland. Additionally, this conference could not have been a success without the professional assistance of Donna Leon and Terri Anticevich, meeting planners as well as the extra effort of Frances Medema, Tawni Escudero and Adrienne Schmeling.

The Sacramento conference will be hard to top but we look forward to the 2004 Annual Seminar in Long Beach.

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