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## News from the Institute for Local Government

### April 2019

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

Greetings from ILG!

Our team has been traveling up and down the state for the past month and we're excited for warmer weather and clearer skies along the way.

If you've heard the phrase "busy is the new normal" that's certainly true for ILG.

In April, we welcomed a new team member to help tackle our growing portfolio of sustainability work. **Nicole Enright** has joined the ILG team as an Associate Program Manager and she brings a wealth of experience in climate resilience and sustainability. We also welcomed four new board members:

- **Richard Montgomery**, City Councilmember from Manhattan Beach
- **Sue Novasel**, County Supervisor from El Dorado County
- **Nat Rojanasathira**, Administrative Services Director from the Town of Danville and **Hilary Straus**, General Manager of the Citrus Heights Water District



Together with the board, ILG staff will continue to brainstorm innovative ways for ILG to support local agencies with creative solutions that meet the needs of an increasingly complex world.

Every week we're uncovering new opportunities for local agencies that need to be explored and explained. Opportunity Zones are a good example. This week we're posting a suite of online resources related to Opportunity Zones so local governments can get up to speed before critical deadlines arrive. Take a look, and please also answer our short poll to let us know how familiar your region is with Opportunity Zones and what additional information you may need to take advantage of them.

The team at ILG is working hard to stay informed about the many new programs and funding opportunities available so we can share them with you. Beyond sharing the information, if you need guidance to understand it, ILG may be able to help with that as well.

We believe ILG exists to help local governments meet their goals. We want to help you -- our partners -- get the information and resources you need to build capacity, secure funding and continue to make a lasting, positive impact.

In this issue, we've added a new "Solutions for Success" section highlighting one of our local agency partners (with April being Earth Month, we thought a sustainability theme would be appropriate). You'll also find some time-sensitive updates about funding, awards and events.

Enjoy!

Erica L. Manuel  
CEO & Executive Director

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#### Opportunity Zones - New Investment Tool for Communities

Opportunity Zones (OZs) are a new community investment tool designed to encourage long-term investments in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide. OZs were



established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and provide a tax incentive for investors to re-invest capital gains into dedicated Opportunity Funds.

businesses.

ILG has compiled some online resources to help local leaders understand OZs, locate areas designated as OZs and determine how to leverage OZ designations. [Access the resources here.](#)

[Poll: How familiar is your agency with OZs?](#)

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## Solutions for Success - Gateway Cities Climate Action Framework

Faced with limited budgets and a lack of capacity, the small cities in the Gateway Cities region found themselves unable to develop the plans, inventories and projects needed to compete for valuable state Cap & Trade Funding. To remedy this, the Council of Governments led a multi-partner effort with ILG to create a Regional Climate Action Framework that now is helping cities advance their goals for economic development, public health, air quality, climate resiliency, equity, public engagement and job creation while planning for the impacts of climate change. [Find out more.](#)



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## Get Recognition for Your Agency's Sustainability Efforts – Beacon Award Applications Now Open

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 in Long Beach.

ILG recently opened the application window for 2019 award consideration. Participating cities 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!](#)

**Deadline to Apply: Friday, May 31st**

### Become a Participant Anytime

Local agencies are always welcome to participate in the Beacon Program. 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 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.](#)

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## Celebrate National County Government Month - Submit Your County's Innovative Program to CSAC's Challenge Award Program

Each April, the National Association of Counties (NACo) honors county programs and services through National County Government Month (NCGM). NCGM is an excellent opportunity for your county to highlight effective county programs and raise public awareness and understanding about the various services provided to the community.



As part of National County Government Month, ILG partner CSAC has opened their [Call for Entries](#) for the 2019 Challenge Awards. The Challenge Awards spotlight California counties' most innovative programs. These unique awards recognize the creative and committed spirit of our California counties as they find new, cost-effective ways to provide programs and services to residents. **Entry Deadline: Friday, June 21st**

[Learn more about how to submit your county's program here.](#)

## Funding Opportunity - Local and Regional Planning Grants

The Department of Conservation has \$950,000 for local and regional planning grants to support the integration of natural and working lands, specifically agricultural lands, into local and regional planning documents.

Eligible planning grants will support the development of at least one of the following:

1. Climate Action Plan, Natural and Working Lands Component
2. Sustainable Communities Strategy, Natural and Working Lands Component
3. General Plan, Agricultural Element or Component
4. Specific Plan, Agricultural Conservation Priority Plan
5. TerraCount Adoption (TerraCount is a scenario planning tool developed by the Department of Conservation and the Nature Conservancy for use by cities, counties, districts, and other land use planners and decision-makers.)

Eligible applicants include cities, counties, councils of government, municipal planning organizations and resource conservation districts. Grant awards are up to \$200,000 for each project type. Applicants may apply for more than project type. More information can be found on the Department of Conservation's [website](#).

## News from Our Partners

### MMANC Women's Leadership Summit

The 2019 Women's Leadership Summit will take place May 16 in Santa Cruz. It will focus on the development and redevelopment of communities and how women influence outcomes.

[Read more](#)

### MMASC Women's Leadership Summit

The 2019 MMASC Women's Leadership Summit is May 29 in San Marino. This year's theme "Rise Up! Lift Up! Straight Up!" focuses on internal growth (Rise Up!), encouraging growth in others (Lift Up!) and discussions on female leadership (Straight Up!).



### **Webinar - Hot Topics in FLSA Litigation & Settlements**

ILG Partner Liebert Cassidy Whitmore will be hosting a webinar on May 7 to share the latest trends in Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) litigation and settlements and help local governments navigate these lawsuits.

[Read more](#)  
www.lcwlegal.com



### **Strategies, best practices and resources for sustainable ...**

The 2019 Forum will be held May 16 in Sacramento. This year's topics include electric vehicle charging infrastructure and incentives, smart landscaping, project funding and more.

[Read more](#)  
green-technology.org

Visit our Website

