



# U.S. MAYOR

Villaraigosa, Plusquellic Lead CDBG/Budget Rallies . . . . . 5

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## MAYORS, CITY, COUNTY OFFICIALS RELEASE CDBG ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

### Leverages Over \$13 Billion in Economic Activity Annually

By Elena Temple-Webb, Dave Gatton and Gene Lowe

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties at a March 16 press conference in the Hart Senate Office Building continued their

fight to Save CDBG and avoid draconian cuts (62 percent) in the program. These cuts were passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in H.R. 1 in February.

At the event, the three organizations released a major report outlining the broad economic impacts of the Community Development Block Grant program. Prepared independently by IHS Global Insight, the report calculated the economic impacts of the CDBG program in ten cities and counties. Between 2003-2008, these ten communities spent an annual average of nearly \$300 million, which generated per year 9,080 jobs;

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Left to right, IHS Global Insight Regional Economies Director James Diffley, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, USCM Community Development and Housing Chair Newton (MA) Mayor Setti Warren, Tarrant County (TX) Judge NACo President Glen Whitley, Davenport (IA) Mayor Bill Gluba, USCM President Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz, NLC 2nd Vice President Avondale (AZ) Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, NLC 1st Vice President Bluffton (IN) Mayor Ted Ellis, and NLC President Charlotte (NC) Council Member James Mitchell.

## Conference of Mayors Reaches Out to Mayors in Japan See Story on page 7

### President Kautz to NLC: We Stand United on CDBG

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USCM President Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz

### Mayors Discuss CDBG, Funding Priorities with Chairman Inouye



Left to right: USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, USCM Vice President Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Senator Daniel Inouye (HI), City and County of Hawaii Mayor Bill Kenoi, and USCM Second Vice President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter.

# Best Practices

## Pleasanton's Underground Infrastructure: Sustainability, Cost-Efficiency Through Better Materials Procurement Practices

By Pleasanton (CA) Mayor Jennifer Hosterman

Pleasanton (CA) is one of the best places to live in the U.S., according to Money Magazine. As a long-time resident and fourth-term mayor, I am not surprised the city is recognized for its recreational, educational and cultural facilities as well as a climate that are second-to-none. Our residents are proud of the general high quality of life: a low crime rate, clean streets, and stable employment – even in these times of high unemployment. We are also committed to building and maintaining state-of-the-art infrastructure – particularly the underground water and wastewater systems. That is why we have embraced a non-traditional approach to pipe material selection and installation. The city enjoys several significant public benefits from doing so.

The city grew rapidly in the 1960s and 70s, and to accommodate the growth, it was necessary to expand water and wastewater pipe systems. The city contracts for water purification and wastewater treatment services, but owns and maintains the pipe systems. Over the years, various piping materials were used. At first asbestos-cement pipe was installed, later being replaced by ductile iron. Local soil with high alkalinity and other factors, such as soil moisture and stray electrical currents from other utilities, accelerate the corrosion of buried metal infrastructure. Thus, corrosion-induced failure led to adoption of costly measures to protect the iron pipe.

Pleasanton is not alone in this respect. A 2002 Congressional study found that



Pleasanton (CA) Mayor Jennifer Hosterman

corrosion costs U.S. drinking water and sewer systems \$50.7 billion annually.<sup>1</sup> Pipe corrosion is a leading cause of over 850 daily water main breaks throughout North America.

Pleasanton's utilities department adopted a variety of measures to deal with corrosion. Pleasanton Utilities Superintendent Dan Martin has overseen operations and maintenance of the water and wastewater pipe systems in addition to his many other utilities responsibilities. Utilities managers strive to build durable, sustainable utilities that minimize operating and maintenance costs. When rehabilitating or expanding the infrastructure with ductile iron pipe, we typically require corrosion protection based on several systems that include epoxy coatings, polyethylene sleeves and



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sacrificial anodes connected to the pipe. While these protective measures have performed well, they greatly increased initial material and placement costs.

As a solution to corrosion and to better control costs, Pleasanton began using corrosion-proof PVC pipe in the mid-1980s because it doesn't need coatings, liners, or other materials to ensure strength or sustainability. Martin, who reports to the mayor and city council regularly, indicates that for the past decade over 90 percent of our pipe installations have involved PVC, which now represents about one third of our water and wastewater lines.

The results have been very impressive. Cost savings are confirmed by city staff. Jim Gotcher, our city construction manager, reports that PVC pipe is about 70 percent cheaper than ductile iron. He also emphasizes that PVC's cost-effectiveness results from various factors in addition to its relative cost advantage compared to traditional pipe materials. For example, he says that it doesn't need the corrosion protection of ductile iron pipe, and installation is less labor intensive and can be done with lighter equipment.

This alternative pipe material performs well in the sustainability category. PVC pipe failures are extremely rare, helping to hold the line on operation and maintenance costs – which are, according to a 2010 U.S. Conference of Mayors Report on Trends in Public Expenditures on Water and Wastewater, have far surpassed capital costs. Other public works information suggests that water and wastewater pipe O&M costs are increasing by six percent above inflation yearly.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, PVC pipe is totally recyclable, though most of it has yet to enter the recycling stream given its durability and expected long in-use life-cycle.

As mayor, I am committed to the goal of continually enhancing our community's livability and sustainability. Like other mayors, I rely heavily on city council and staff to be key drivers in establishing policies and programs that ensure Pleasanton's high quality of life and its dedication to excellence. Part of this approach to improving customer service is managing with an eye

for the rainy day, spending smarter and opening procurement policies to alternate materials like PVC pipe. As well, reserves were set aside in good times, allowing the city to continue investing in its infrastructure today.

Ten years ago, we initiated programs to improve how Pleasanton manages its work, including sewer and water systems, to upgrade our services and expand opportunities for our population. Pleasanton's demonstrated progress and outside recognition have come from being adaptive, flexible and open to better technologies such as PVC pipe, and other infrastructure materials and ways of doing city business. This is all part of good-government and smart-government.

While traditional modes of doing business may be the best way, it is always fair to challenge the status quo, especially if a more efficient and sustainable approach is available. From service delivery to procurement practices it makes sense to keep an open mind from staff to council to mayor.

(Endnotes)

- 1 U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Association of Corrosion Engineers: *Corrosion Costs and Preventative Strategies in the United States*, March 2002.
- 2 *Water Infrastructure Network, Clean & Safe Water for the 21st Century: A Renewed National Commitment to Water and Wastewater Infrastructure*, April 2000.



Mayors are invited to submit the "Best Practices" of their cities to U.S. MAYOR. Contact Public Affairs at 202-293-7330 or send e-mail to [info@usmayors.org](mailto:info@usmayors.org)

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**– Pleasanton (CA) Mayor Jennifer Hosterman**