

## What's New in Government Affairs

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### LOCAL

**SAVE THE DATE:** Mark your calendars for the **2010 Annual City Managers Breakfast**, on Thursday, March 11. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet city managers from all around the South Bay, and get great, local information on your areas that you can't get anywhere else! Watch this space for more information.

**COME MEET HAWTHORNE'S NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS** and find out about local services, including police, fire, utilities, as well as volunteer and small business opportunities. Join Councilwoman Angie English, Councilmember Alex Vargas, and City Clerk Norb Huber at Hawthorne's Meet & Greet and Resource Fair: Saturday, January 30, 2010, 10:30-2:00pm, at Hawthorne Memorial Center, Sun Room, 3901 W. El Segundo (at Prairie) in Hawthorne.

### STATE

**NEW REBATES FOR SOLAR WATER HEATERS:** The Public Utilities Commission established the California Solar Initiative (CSI) Thermal Program to provide incentives to promote installation of solar water heating systems. Incentives start at \$1,500 and go down to \$500. The CSI Thermal Program will be funded by \$250 million in collections from natural gas ratepayers, under Assembly Bill (AB) 1470, as well as up to \$100.8 million currently being collected under in Senate Bill 1 for solar thermal projects such as solar water heating.

Funds collected under AB 1470 from natural gas ratepayers will fund incentives to solar water heating systems that displace natural gas usage, while funds collected through CSI from electric ratepayers will fund electric displacing solar water heating systems. For more information, go to [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov). For the South Bay, check out the Southern California Gas Company at [www.SoCalGas.com](http://www.SoCalGas.com).

### FEDERAL

**HELP FOR HAITI:** Every day we continue to see pictures of unbelievable devastation following the earthquake in Haiti. In order to help recovery efforts, NAR is pitching in, by contributing \$550,000 to charities that will help bring supplies and care to the people of Haiti. Included in that sum is \$100,000 donated by NAR's REALTOR Benefits® Program partner, Lowe's®, which NAR has matched at \$100,000. NAR is also contributing \$500,000 to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, which is supporting earthquake recovery efforts with immediate relief and long-term support to earthquake survivors. NAR to accept donations from REALTORS® at go to [www.REALTOR.org/relief](http://www.REALTOR.org/relief).

**IT CAN HAPPEN HERE TOO:** Are your family and home prepared for a major earthquake in Southern California? Is your listing prepared? For tips and information on preparing for an earthquake and what to do when it actually happens, check out [www.daretoprepare.org](http://www.daretoprepare.org).

#### Why Government Affairs?

Every city makes decisions on taxes, point-of-sale, signs, rent control, property rights, and more. This impacts your client's ability to buy, sell, or develop their properties and your ability to do business. The South Bay Association of REALTORS® Government Affairs Program protects and advocates for you. For more information, call SBAOR Government Affairs at (310)326-3010 ext. 715