

What's New in Government Affairs

November 18, 2008

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LOCAL

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HAWTHORNE: The non-profit agency Moneta Gardens Improvement is implementing an ECHO (Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity) housing program, which involves a small modular house brought to an existing home site to enhance the care of older or disabled family members. ECHO is new to Hawthorne; therefore the City is soliciting interest in the program. Please contact Moneta Gardens Improvement, Inc. at (310) 978-4357. <http://www.cityofhawthorne.com/>

RANCHO PALOS VERDES: The city's landslide moratorium was overturned in a recent state court ruling. The Daily Breeze reported on 11/17 that the Superior Court ruling which upheld the city's landslide moratorium "amounts to an unconstitutional 'taking' of someone's property." Under this new judicial finding, the City may now need to prove that a construction is a landslide threat in order to halt it.

LOS ANGELES: The City Council is considering whether to place a \$3 billion solar energy bond on the March 3 ballot. The Green Energy-Good Jobs Initiative raise funds to install and operate municipally-owned solar power facilities to relieve the existing burden on the city's power grid.

STATE

Mortgage Market: C.A.R. and the California Association of Mortgage Brokers call on Congress to implement key provisions to the economic stimulus, including: extend the current federal loan limits at 2008 levels; crack down on unscrupulous "foreclosure consultants" who prey on vulnerable homeowners; and ensure that federal funds in the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) are circulated into the mortgage market. Go to www.car.org to see the joint letter sent to Congress.

FEDERAL

ACTION ALERT! With Congress in a "lame duck" session this month for another economic stimulus effort, NAR has put forth a Four-Point Plan that must be included in order to boost the economy and calm jittery real estate markets. If you haven't done so yet, please respond to the Member Call For Action at www.REALTOR.org today.

Housing has always lifted our economy out of past economic downturns. Immediate action is imperative to foster a housing recovery that historically leads any overall economic recovery.

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