

What's New in Government Affairs
September 4, 2009
End-of-Summer Labor Day Edition!
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LOCAL

CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

- **Hermosa Beach:** Mark your calendars for the Candidates Forum on October 15, 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chamber. This is a great opportunity to meet the eight candidates, including two incumbents, who are running for three available seats on the city council.
- **Hawthorne:** The incumbent and one challenger are running for mayor, while six candidates are running for two available seats on the city council.
- **Lomita:** Seven candidates, including one incumbent, are running for three available seats on the city council.

Watch this space for more on the candidates and the races in each city. Call SBAOR Government Affairs for more information.

STATE

ALERT! STOP THE COASTAL COMMISSION POWER GRAB: AB 226 (Ruskin) and AB 291 (Saldana), give the California Coastal Commission judicial powers and unprecedented authority to stop permit applications. AB 226 would allow the Commission to act as both prosecutor and judge and impose penalties and then keep the paid fines for its own budget. Meanwhile, under AB 291, Commission staff can halt permit applications without any basis other than an assertion of a violation. **Stop Coastal Commission's power grab and keep our due process rights intact – If you received an Action Alert email from C.A.R., please respond right away!**

SBAOR CONGRATULATES STEVE BRADFORD, NEWLY ELECTED TO THE STATE ASSEMBLY on September 1 in a special election. Bradford was supported in his bid by C.A.R.'s California Real Estate Political Action Committee (CREPAC). His new seat in the 51st Assembly District includes Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena and Lawndale. Bradford is currently a Gardena City Councilmember, and his departure from that post will lead to either an appointment or special election to complete the last three years of his council term.

FEDERAL

REMINDER! TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR \$8,000 HOME BUYER TAX CREDIT: First-time buyers who purchase between January 1, 2009 and December 1, 2009 may qualify. The 2009 First-Time Home Buyer Tax Credit may be applied to primary residences including single-family homes, condos, townhomes, and co-ops. The maximum allowable credit is \$8,000, and is determined by the home price and buyer's income. This tax credit only applies to purchases that **close** before December 1, 2009, so don't delay! For more information, go to www.REALTOR.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