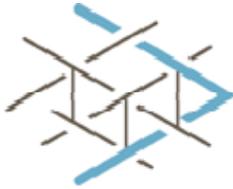


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 44, December 12, 2011

# eRegions

### NARC LEADERSHIP

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Mayor,  
National City, CA  
Chair Mark Policinski,  
Executive Directors  
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Executive Director,  
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Governments

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Congress is set to pass a spending bill before the end of the week – hopefully avoiding a government shutdown and funding federal programs through 2012. This is good news given that we've been to the brink of a

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#)  
[ASSISTANCEREQUEST](#) [PARTNERUPDATE](#)  
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2012 NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS  
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2012  
THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC  
**REGISTER TODAY!**

**Draft Agenda Available:** click [HERE](#) to access the draft agenda.

**Registration:** click [HERE](#) to register.

**Interested in Congressional Guides?:** If you are interested in ordering copies of the Congressional Guides for your organization, contact [Lindsey Riley](#). As in past conferences, one copy of the Guide will be provided to each registered conference attendee. *Additional copies are available at \$7.75/copy. Orders must be received no later than December 31, 2011.*

## PROGRAMUPDATE

**Open Comment Period for Proposed EDA Regulations:** *Comment Period Closes February 6, 2012.* Last week, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) published its [proposed](#)

shutdown imperiling federal funding for critical programs twice. If Congress achieves their goal of passing funding and payroll tax bills, they will recess until late January.

Good news related to the upcoming 2012 National Conference of Regions (NCR) - we've exceeded registration for this month over the same time last year. If you have not yet registered please do so. 2012 will be an important year for policy and program discussions, which we'll start at the NCR.

Best,  
Fred

**NARCSTAFF**

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**Mia Colson**

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Community

Development Manager

**Lindsey Riley**

Deputy of  
Communications

**revised regulations** based on external and internal feedback gathered through a public comment period earlier this year. Stakeholders may now provide comments on the proposed revised EDA regulations through February 6, 2012. Please click **HERE** to learn more or provide comments, and please provide copies of any comments you plan to submit to **Jenee Kresge**.

**EPA to Hold Regional Public Meetings on Integrated Municipal**

**Stormwater and Wastewater Plans Framework:** Last week, the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Office of Water indicated that EPA intends to hold public meetings early in the new year in five regional offices to present and discuss their **framework for integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater plans**. The specific dates and locations of these public meetings will be announced in the Federal Register later in December. NARC's Environment Committee will conduct a discussion on this topic at the upcoming 2012 **National Conference of Regions** in February. Click **HERE** to access the agenda.

**DOE and EPA 2012 Fuel Economy Guide:** Published by the U.S.

Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Fuel Economy Guide includes information about alternative fueled vehicles, the range of fuel economy for different classes of vehicles, a list of fuel economy leaders and tips for improving fuel economy. The guide and supporting material is available by clicking **HERE**.

**Call for Applications:** The American Architectural Foundation announces the call for applications for its 2012 Sustainable Cities Design Academy (SCDA). SCDA connects project teams and multi-disciplinary sustainable design experts through highly interactive design workshops that help project teams advance their green infrastructure and community development goals.

To support a diverse portfolio of SCDA projects, **United Technologies Corporation** generously underwrites participants' attendance costs. Applications are due Friday, December 30, 2011. Application materials and instructions are available **HERE**.

**Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities Report Released:** The Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities with the U.S. Department of Agriculture released **a report** this fall featuring case studies, programmatic information and a framework for supporting sustainable rural communities.

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**POLICYUPDATE**

**Erika Young**

Transportation Director

To access past issues of *eRegions*, **visit our website.**

Make NARC your homepage — **click here to learn how.**

*Congress is in session.*

**Federal Budget Update:** An omnibus appropriations bill, which includes the remaining nine FY12 spending bills, is expected to be released today. The bill is expected to contain \$1.043 trillion in discretionary funds as required under the cap set in August; an almost 10 percent reduction in nondefense domestic spending; and some \$300 million in cuts to the EPA. Congress needs to clear this or another continuing resolution by Friday in order to keep certain government agencies and programs funded. Some of the remaining spending bills are bogged down with policy issues being debated by Congress, and could potentially require a continuing resolution until next year if differences cannot be resolved.

**Senators Introduce New Jobs Bill:** Last week, Senators Collins (R-ME) and McCaskill (D-MO) introduced **S1960**, the Bipartisan Jobs Creation Act, which would extend the 2 percent payroll tax holiday for employees; expand the payroll tax holiday to employers; extend three other expiring tax credits (research and development credit, 100 percent bonus depreciation and 15 year restaurant and retail depreciation); provide a tax credit to American high-tech small businesses less than five years old; provide an additional \$35.8 billion for infrastructure spending to states (\$10 billion for state infrastructure banks, \$25 billion for highway infrastructure, \$800 million for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds); reduce and reform some regulations; and, consolidate and reform federal jobs-training programs.

**Federal Transportation Authorization Update:** While Chairman John Mica (R-FL) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has publicly stated that the House of Representatives will not introduce their version of the federal surface transportation reauthorization until Members of Congress return in 2012; the Senate Banking and Commerce Committees are moving ahead with writing their respective portions of the federal transportation authorization. The Senate Banking and Commerce Committees anticipate their committees will consider their legislation next week, before the Senate adjourns for the holidays.

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## **ASSISTANCEREQUEST**

**Performance Audit Scope of Work:** The Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) is looking for an example of scope of work (SOW) for a Council of Government performance audit. Specifically, they are looking for a performance audit SOW for the organization itself, rather than for a specific

program. Has your organization completed a performance audit and could share your SOW? Please contact Michael Cavallaro, RVCOG Executive Director, at [mcavallaro@rvcog.org](mailto:mcavallaro@rvcog.org).

**SOLAR CASE STUDIES:** As part of NARC's work with the [SunShot Initiative](#), NARC is developing case studies of regional councils who have done work in the field of solar energy. The goal is to include a variety of examples to be highlighted in a publication. We would love to hear about your experience working to promote solar energy in your region. CONTACT: Kristin Heery, [kristin@narc.org](mailto:kristin@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x225

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**Regional Excellence: *Chinese Style*.** Former NARC Executive Director Bill Dodge authors this column and can be reached at [WilliamRDodge@aol.com](mailto:WilliamRDodge@aol.com). Click [HERE](#) to access the column.

***Confessions of a Messy Regionalist*.** Bill Barnes, Director of *Emerging Issues* at the National League of Cities (NLC), publishes his latest column on Citiwire.net. Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

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## GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

### **Community Planning Assistance Team Initiative**

*Deadline: December 13, 2011*

The American Planning Association is seeking applications from local communities for the Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) initiative. The CPAT gives communities an opportunity to engage, educate, and empower its citizens in order to accomplish a planning goal related to social equity and affordability, economic development, sustainability, consensus building, or urban design. The CPAT program is open to local jurisdictions, regional planning organizations and non-profit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

### **2012 IBM Grants Available for Cities**

*Deadline: December 16, 2011*

IBM will award \$50 million in grants and expert advice to cities that want to solve their problems using data-based solutions. One hundred cities worldwide will have the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to becoming a "[smarter city](#)"-- using data to study local urban issues like high

crime and food deserts, and come up with solutions based on scientific, systematic observations. IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge, embarking on its second year, provides winning cities with free consulting services from urban and technology experts, who will study each city and offer tailored recommendations for improving their services (approximately a \$400,000 value). Last year, 24 grants were given out and [U.S. cities](#) nabbed eight of them. Applications can be found [HERE](#).

### **2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program**

*January 2012*

Preliminary information regarding the 2012 National Spatial Data Information (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program has been released. A full grant announcement will be posted by the end of October. Click [HERE](#) to access the information that is available now.

### **FHWA Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program**

*Deadline: January 6, 2012*

The Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program provides funding for a comprehensive initiative including planning grants, implementation grants, and research to investigate and address the relationships among transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices and identify private-sector-based initiatives to improve those relationships. Grants may be used to plan and implement strategies that improve the efficiency of the transportation system; reduce environmental impacts of transportation; reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure investments; ensure efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade; and examine development patterns and identify strategies to encourage private sector development patterns that achieve these goals. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### **EPA Requests Proposals for Urban Waters Small Grants**

*Deadline: January 16, 2012*

The U.S. EPA will award at least \$1.8 million in funding for projects across the country to help restore [urban waters](#) by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization. The goal of the urban waters small grants are to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities such as public health, social and economic opportunities, general livability and environmental justice for residents. Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- Education and training for water quality improvement or green infrastructure jobs
- Public education about ways to reduce water pollution
- Local water quality monitoring programs
- Engaging diverse stakeholders to develop local watershed plans
- Innovative projects that promote local water quality and community revitalization goals

Information about urban waters small grants including the Request for Proposal and registration links for the webinars is available [HERE](#). Questions can be submitted in writing via e-mail by clicking [HERE](#) and addressed to Ji-Sun Yi. EPA expects to award the grants in Summer 2012.

**DOI WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012**

*Application Due: January 19, 2012*

The Department of Interior (DOI) WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program establishes a framework to provide federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various DOI bureaus and offices. DOI invites eligible entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with the Bureau of Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, or carry out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict. More information is available [HERE](#).

**U.S. DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity – \$8 million**

*Application Due: March 1, 2012*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory is seeking applications aimed at empowering consumers to better manage their electricity use by enabling access to electricity consumption data by customers and their authorized third parties, and providing or supporting the use of third party tools and software products that use the available data to deliver a value-added service to the customer.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

***Got Broadband? Building Businesses on Rural Broadband Investments Webinar***

**December 14, 2011, 11:30am ET:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development will host a webinar for local elected officials, economic development specialists and rural entrepreneurs to learn more about opportunities presented by recent broadband investments made across the country. Click [HERE](#) for more information or click [HERE](#) register.

***Young Family Recruitment Webinar for Rural Communities***

**December 14, 2011, 1pm ET:** The Heartland Center for Leadership Development and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship will host a webinar offering strategies for rural communities to recruit young alumni and families to improve economic opportunity. Additional information and registration is available [HERE](#).

***2012 National Conference of Regions***

**February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC:** Register Today! NARC will host its 2012 National Conference of Regions, which will focus on Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. Click [HERE](#) to access registration and additional information.

***Green Infrastructure Workshop***

**March 5-9, 2012, Shepherdstown, WV:** The Conservation Fund's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV is hosting *Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach* on March 5-9, 2012. This workshop provides participants with a strategic approach for prioritizing conservation opportunities and a planning framework for conservation and development- integrating the green and the grey. For more information, click [HERE](#).

***46th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

**June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL:** Save the Date! Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's Annual Conference and Exhibition is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information will be available in early 2012.

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