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Guide to Local Government Finance in California

By Michael Multari, Michael Coleman, Kenneth Hampian and Bill Statler

“... most comprehensive treatment of local government finance in any state ...”

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The ***Guide to Local Government Finance in California*** is an essential resource for public agency managers and other staff, including planners and policy analysts, as well as appointed and elected public officials, teachers, students, and citizens at large who want to understand and improve California’s complex system of local government finance. It provides a unique look at the distinctive and complicated nature of local government finance in California, covering not only the vital fundamentals – like budgeting, accounting and investing – but also lesser known, equally powerful forces that affect the ability of cities, counties, and special districts to deliver essential services.

What others are saying about this essential resource in understanding the unique and complex topic of local government finance in California:

“This is the most comprehensive treatment of local government finance in any state that I have ever seen ... This guide will prove useful to elected and appointed local government officials, business leaders, reporters, students, faculty, and others who are struggling to understand the highly complex world of local government finance in California.”

Chris McKenzie, Executive Director, League of California Cities

“Over the course of my 27 years as a city manager, I would have loved to have had a resource like the *Guide to Local Government Finance in California* to provide to my council members and staff. It uniquely covers all of the ground that encompasses the complexities of local government finance in California –and in an easy-to-read way.”

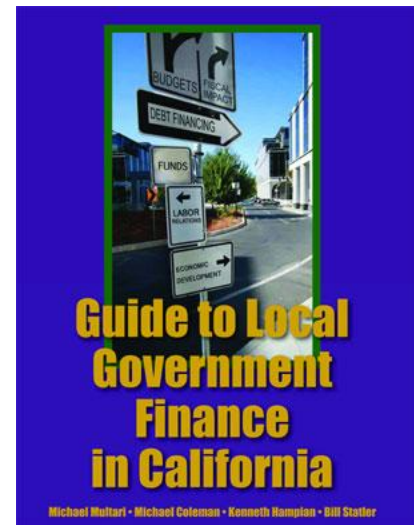
Kevin Duggan, Western Regional Director, International City and County Management Association

“The *Guide to Local Government Finance in California* has been written by four of the state's most respected leaders and authorities in the local government finance. It’s an essential, “reader-friendly” reference for elected officials, staff, advisory body members, teachers, students – and anyone else who is interested in understanding the deeper financial story of our cities, counties and special districts.”

Mary Bradley, retired Finance Director, Sunnyvale; Past President, California Society of Municipal Finance Officers

“For local elected officials, there has been no place to look for a detailed analysis and careful evaluation of local finances. There is now. The *Guide to Local Government Finance in California* offers the best information on California local finances that I have read.”

Ronald O. Loveridge, Mayor of Riverside; Professor of Political Science, University of California, Riverside



About the Authors

Guide to Local Government Finance in California

Michael Multari. Mike served as the Community Development Director in the cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay before co-founding Crawford, Multari & Clark Associates (CMCA), a highly-regarded consulting firm that provided planning, economic, fiscal policy and community participation services to public agencies throughout California. Several projects won American Planning Association awards at the regional, state and national levels. After leaving CMCA in 2000, he served as the Executive Director of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, one of only 28 such programs in the nation created by Congress. He later worked as Campus Planner and Sustainability Coordinator at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Mike has also been a member of the Cal Poly adjunct faculty in the City and Regional Planning Department for over twenty years. He is currently on the City of San Luis Obispo Planning Commission and Economic Development Task Force. He has written several articles on planning and fiscal issues. Mike recently assisted the City of Bell on a pro-bono basis with their organizational evaluation and community engagement processes.

Michael Coleman. Michael is the foremost expert on California local government revenues, spending and financing. He is an experienced city fiscal officer, having previously worked for the cities of San Mateo, Milpitas, Daly City and Sacramento. Michael is the principal fiscal policy advisor both to the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) and, for over fifteen years, to the League of California Cities. He is the creator of CaliforniaCityFinance.com California Local Government Finance Almanac, a comprehensive, online resource of data, analyses and articles on California municipal finance and budgeting. He is a popular presenter at graduate schools and conferences, and is the author of numerous articles and references, including the indispensable *California Municipal Revenue Sources Handbook*.

Kenneth Hampian. During his thirty-five year public sector career, Ken served at the county, federal and city levels of government, including twenty years with the City of San Luis Obispo where he retired as City Manager in 2010. In Summer 2011, he served without compensation as the Interim City Manager of the beleaguered City of Bell in the aftermath of well-publicized scandals. His service there has been recognized by a variety of professional associations, including the Cal-ICMA Ethical Hero award and PublicCEO.Com City Employee of the Year. Along with his service to Bell, Ken has stayed involved in local government, including as a trainer with the Police Officers Standards and Training Commission and the San Mateo County Leadership Academy. He lectures at the college level, consults for public agencies and serves on the advisory boards of the Davenport Institute and the Cal-ICMA Next Generation Committee. He has also written numerous articles for *Public Management* and *Western City* magazines.

Bill Statler. Bill served as the Director of Finance & Information Technology for the City of San Luis Obispo for twenty-two years and for ten years as finance officer for the City of Simi Valley before that. Under his leadership, San Luis Obispo received national recognition for excellence for its financial planning and reporting systems. He has also played a significant leadership role in the municipal finance profession, including serving on the Board of Directors of the League of California Cities, President of the League's Fiscal Officer Department, CSMFO President and member of the California Committee on Municipal Accounting. Bill has written extensively on municipal finance issues, including articles for *Western City* and *Government Finance Review*. He received the Cal-ICMA Ethical Hero Award in 2012 for his service to the City of Bell; and in 2011 he was awarded the CSMFO's Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the municipal finance profession. Bill continues to be deeply involved in the field as a consultant and trainer.