



**TO: SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**FROM: JEFF KIERNAN, REGIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER, LEAGUE OF CA CITIES**  
**RE: UPDATE FOR FEB 25<sup>TH</sup> BOARD MEETING (as prepared 2/16/2021)**

**Upcoming Events**

- **February 26: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual South Bay Legislative Meet & Greet** from 8:30 – 10 AM
  - Legislators Confirmed:
    - Congress Members Nanette Barragan & Ted Lieu;
    - State Senator Ben Allen;
    - Assembly Members Autumn Burke, Mike Gipson & Al Muratsuchi;
    - LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn
  - [Event Flyer](#) & [Registration](#)

**Federal Advocacy**

- The Biden Administration announced in late January that the FEMA reimbursement rate for COVID expenditures would be increased from 75% to 100% and that this change would be retroactive to the beginning of the declared federal emergency in 2020. See the revised White House [memorandum](#) for additional details.
- On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> the House Oversight Committee approved a critical component of the President’s American Rescue Plan that calls for \$350 billion in aid for State and Local governments to respond to COVID-19. Under the draft package, California cities would receive \$14 billion in direct aid that can be used for COVID response and to replace the revenues lost as a result of the pandemic.

If the allocation estimates remain unchanged, South Bay cities should expect this amount to come directly from the US Treasury:

Carson:	\$ 18,461,480	Los Angeles:	\$ 1,247,837,768
El Segundo:	\$ 3,089,328	Manhattan Beach:	\$ 6,565,585
Gardena:	\$ 14,462,803	Palos Verdes Estates:	\$ 2,476,784
Hawthorne:	\$ 30,118,859	Rancho Palos Verdes:	\$ 7,747,434
Hermosa Beach:	\$ 3,596,733	Redondo Beach:	\$ 6,573,985
Inglewood:	\$ 32,305,517	Rolling Hills:	\$ 344,983
Lawndale:	\$ 6,052,267	Rolling Hills Estates:	\$ 1,504,290
Lomita:	\$ 3,791,860	Torrance:	\$ TBA

Cities are encouraged to support this effort as it moves through Congress and join the Support Local Recovery coalition for updates on how you can help: <https://www.cacities.org/Policy-Advocacy/Hot-Issues/Support-Local-Recovery>.

**State Advocacy**

- On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, Cal Cities issued an ACTION ALERT on [SB 9 \(Atkins\) Increased Density in Single Family Zones/Duplexes/Lot Splits](#) recommending our members send in letters in line with our [oppose unless amended position](#).

This bill is a reintroduction of SB 1120 from last year and although our list of amendments is long, our Board and our lobbyists prefer to engage with the author, where we can, to improve this bill. You can find our sample oppose unless amended letter [HERE](#) for your use or you can contact me if you need additional information.

- **[SB 55 \(Stern\)](#) Very high fire hazard severity zone: state responsibility area: development prohibition.**

The Cal Cities Board also approved the recommendation of our HCED policy committee to *oppose* SB 55 that would prohibit future commercial & residential development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs).

Our concerns include that the bill is silent on a jurisdiction's obligation to zone and plan for housing as required by RHNA, which means that a city could still face state penalties, but not have any remedy under the law to get out of those obligations. Also if a city isn't totally within a VHFHSZ, a jurisdiction would be obligated to zone for their entire RHNA allocation in the portion that falls outside the VHFHSZ. There are additional concerns that this bill would prevent a local government from approving any new housing, commercial or industrial development, which would stymie any future expansion of a jurisdiction's sales tax, TOT, & property tax.

Our HCED committee also directed Cal Cities staff to bring back a recommendation on [SB 12 \(McGuire\)](#) to their next meeting, since that bill requires a local jurisdiction's housing element to include wildfire mitigation & preparation elements.

- **[SB 5 \(Portantino\)](#) Housing development: incentives: rezoning of idle retail sites.**

The Los Angeles County Division has become a co-sponsor of SB 5, this bill is a reintroduction of last year's SB 1299, and would enable cities that rezone, build, and certify new occupancy of idle big box retail sites or commercial shopping centers into workforce multi-family housing to receive the average of the annual amount of sales tax revenue generated by that site for the last seven (7) years. The program would be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development and requires annual appropriation by the legislature.

- Cal Cities is already tracking more than 650 bills that could impact local control and local agencies. You can access lists of these bills via the links below, but please let me know if you have questions about legislation or if you need some additional information.

- [Community Services Tracked Bills](#)
- [Environmental Quality Tracked Bills](#)
- [Governance, Transparency & Labor Relations Tracked Bills](#)
- [Housing, Community & Economic Development Tracked Bills](#)
- [Public Safety Tracked Bills](#)
- [Revenue & Taxation Tracked Bills](#)
- [Transportation, Communications & Public Works Tracked Bills](#)