



TO: South Bay Cities COG Board of Directors
FR: Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities
RE: Cal Cities Update for 11/18/2021 Meeting *(as prepared NOV 10)*

GUIDE TO LOCAL RECOVERY – INFRASTRUCTURE & JOBS ACT

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed by President Biden seeks to:

- Repair and rebuild roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians;
- Improve and expand healthy, sustainable transportation, such as passenger rail or buses, for millions of Americans;
- Build a network of electric vehicle (EV) chargers to facilitate long-distance travel and provide convenient charging options;
- Help connect every American to reliable high-speed internet;
- Prepare infrastructure for the impacts of climate change, cyber-attacks, and extreme weather events;
- Deliver clean drinking water to every American and eliminate the nation's lead service lines and pipes; and
- Improve the nation's airports.

California expects to receive:

- \$25.3 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs and \$4.2 billion for bridge replacement and repairs over five years;
- \$9.45 billion over five years to improve public transportation options across the state;
- \$384 million over five years to support the expansion of an electric vehicle charging network in the state and the opportunity to apply for \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging;
- A minimum of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state;
- \$84 million over five years to protect against wildfires and \$40 million to protect against cyberattacks;
- \$3.5 billion over five years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure clean, safe drinking water for California communities; and
- \$1.5 billion for infrastructure development for airports over five years.

Robust detailed section by section information is [HERE](#) and the details of the expected California impacts are [HERE](#).

END OF YEAR LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

As part of the Los Angeles County Division's ongoing advocacy strategy, the Division has recently distributed the 2021 Mid-Session Legislative Overview to legislators and city officials in Los Angeles County. The abbreviated letter below should be used as you meet with your legislators to discuss ongoing legislative priorities.

Dear Legislator:

The Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities (Division), representing 86 cities in the county, is the largest of Cal Cities' regional divisions and is responsible for advocacy and education to promote local control and enhance the quality of life for all residents in Los Angeles County. Our priority is to consistently and effectively communicate with the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation

(Legislative Delegation) about regional issues and legislation. This letter provides our annual review on some of the key legislation delivered to the Governor directly impacting the Division's membership.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to challenge both state government and local governments, yet our member cities remain agile in responding to community health and safety, providing essential services, and supporting our business communities. At the same time, the legislative process remained a top focus for local governments this year as legislation affecting everything from public meetings, waste diversion, policing, and housing and land-use continued to move through the Legislature despite limited access to hearings and in-person meetings with Legislators. Our top legislative priorities this year included:

Housing – Division Opposed SB 9 (Atkins) By-Right Housing Development. Undoubtedly, the passage of SB 9 was a significant disappointment for cities and local officials elected by their communities to make local land-use decisions. SB 9's 'by right' or mandatory approval scheme for duplexes and lot splits circumvents an important local government review process that includes extensive public engagement. Moreover, it does not guarantee the construction of affordable housing; it is simply a sweetheart deal for developers that silences local communities.

Despite its signature by the Governor, we want to thank our legislative partners that heard community concerns. **Thanks to those who voted No: Asm. Bloom, Asm. Friedman, Asm. Gabriel, Asm. Muratsuchi, Asm. Nazarian, Asm. O'Donnell; Sen. Wilk.** In addition, thanks to those who at least abstained: **Sen. Allen, Sen. Kamlager, Sen. Newman, Sen. Stern, Asm. Bryan, Asm. Burke, Asm. Chau, Asm Chen, Asm. L. Rivas, Asm. Rubio, Asm. Santiago.**

We also must express our displeasure with those legislators who **supported SB 9 with Aye votes: Sen. Archuleta, Sen. Bradford, Sen. Durazo, Sen. Gonzalez, Sen. Hertzberg, Sen. Leyva, Sen. Portantino, Sen. Rubio, Asm. Calderon, Asm. Carrillo, Asm. C. Garcia, Asm. Gipson, Asm. Holden, Asm. Jones-Sawyer, Asm. Lackey, Asm. Rendon, Asm. Rodriguez, Asm. Valladares.**

The Division also opposed AB 215 (Chiu), which was significantly amended late in the session and lacked a transparent policy debate but now allows for an increase in third-party litigation under the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Unfortunately, the Legislature's addition of more "sticks" than "carrots" for cities does not provide for any tools to build new housing.

Local officials understand the hyper-local complexities of this housing crisis which is why the Division is an active stakeholder in developing flexible solutions that all cities can utilize. Last session, our leadership presented the Division's housing proposal directly to the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation and this year we engaged in months-long dialogue with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles regarding the creation of a countywide affordable housing agency through SB 679 (Kamlager), which ultimately failed to pass in the Legislature. The Division is clearly engaged in addressing affordability issues in our county by advocating for funding and resources for new housing, but also will continue to remain steadfastly opposed to punitive legislation that fails to engage community participation and violates local decision-making.

Broadband – Division Supported Efforts to Bridge the Digital Divide and Protect Local Control of Critical Infrastructure. Even in the most densely populated county in the state, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the dismal access and quality of broadband that became a fundamental need over the last 19 months. The Division and its members met with Legislators to advocate for SB 4 (Gonzales) which

prioritizes the broadband needs of California's unserved and underserved communities while providing local governments the flexibility and funding to expand deployment. SB 4, along with the \$6 billion legislative package will enable the Division's member cities to take an active role in last-mile deployment and, in doing so, drive competition and increase access throughout Los Angeles County. We appreciate our Legislative Delegation's support for this critical infrastructure.

While we strongly support broadband access and affordability in all our communities, this year we opposed efforts like SB 556 (Dodd), which attempted to undermine local authority in broadband permitting while making no meaningful progress or requirements towards closing the digital divide in California's unserved and underserved communities. Thankfully, this bill was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

Solid Waste – Division Supported Funding and Assistance with Implementation of Statewide Organic Waste Regulations. Solid Waste and Recycling rates are a discussion in almost every city as the January 2022 deadline created by SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) looms. The law requires local governments to implement new collection, enforcement, and education programs to help the state divert 50% of organic waste from landfills below 2014 levels by 2020 and 75% by 2025.

The costs for these new programs are significant. In early 2021, the League of California Cities released results from a membership survey indicating that 92 percent of cities anticipate that solid waste rates will increase in the next three years due to SB 1383 and the overall cost of recycling. Additionally, the complex logistics of implementing a new program during a pandemic has been a challenge for city staff that is already spread thin. We appreciate our Legislative Delegation passing SB 619 (Laird) enabling cities to work with CalRecycle to identify the steps towards compliance in exchange for penalty relief in the 2022 calendar year. We also applaud our legislators for supporting \$60 million for SB 1383 implementation assistance and we urge the state to continue to make these investments next year.

Looking Ahead - 2022 Priorities for Los Angeles County Cities

The Division's Board of Directors will meet in December to discuss strategic priorities for 2022. Housing, Homelessness, Pandemic Economic Recovery and Brown Act Modernization are likely to remain top priorities for our members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1 from 9 – 10:30 AM: 2021 Legislative Report & New Laws Impacting Cities Webinar. Join the Cal Cities' advocacy team to learn about the most significant legislation signed into law this year. Register [HERE](#).

December 9 from 6 - 8:30 PM: All Cities Holiday Reception (with CA Contract Cities Assn. & Independent Cities Assn.) at the California Club in downtown Los Angeles. Register [HERE](#) or at LACities.org.

January 20 – 21 & 27 -28: [New Mayors & Council Members Academy \(virtual\)](#)

February 2 – 4: [City Managers Conference \(Monterey\)](#)