



TO: SOUTH BAY CITIES COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FR: JEFF KIERNAN, LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
RE: CAL CITIES UPDATE FOR 5/26/2022 MEETING (AS PREPARED MAY 18)

Cal Cities members gathered in Sacramento for the City Leaders Summit on May 11-13 to lobby legislators at the Capitol and to get additional information on some of the biggest issues facing cities today. The Summit attendees were provided with the following information on the biggest priorities as we approach the home stretch of the legislative session:

1. **2022-23 State Budget Request:** Cal Cities is calling on lawmakers to draw on the state's estimated \$97 billion surplus and allocate \$1.6 billion for programs that achieve shared city and state goals, as well as reimburse cities for state unfunded mandates.
 - **\$500 million for the creation of the Housing and Economic Development Program.**
 - i. What California needs now is a funding commitment to housing that matches the scale of this crisis. Cities urge the Governor and lawmakers to allocate \$500 million to create a state-local partnership to help finance housing projects, incentivize development, and kick start real progress toward housing production goals.
 - ii. This program would encourage partnerships between state and local agencies by providing matching funds to cities that adopt local tax increment financing tools to support affordable housing, upgrade essential infrastructure, and spur economic development.
 - iii. Existing tax increment financing tools help stimulate housing production and address important infrastructure needs, however they lack sufficient financial capacity — due in part to the absence of state participation — and are underutilized.
 - **\$933.5 million for unfunded state mandates.**
 - i. The state owes more than \$933.5 million to cities, counties, and special districts for costs related to state mandates incurred after 2004. Of that amount, \$466.6 million — not counting interest — is owed to cities.
 - ii. The pandemic demonstrated the vital role that cities play in California's economy and the important services they provide to the public.
 - iii. A strong city budget creates strong, resilient communities and this allocation would help ensure that cities can continue to meet shared local and state priorities.
 - **\$180 million for organic waste recycling.**
 - i. As a key player in the state's ability to achieve its solid waste management and recycling roles, cities are urging the state include \$180 million in the 2022-23 State Budget to help cities develop and implement SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) organic waste recycling programs.
 - ii. This funding will help local governments implement collection, education, outreach, edible food recovery, procurement activities, and capacity planning, and minimize the financial burden the cost of implementing these regulations could have on taxpayers.

2. **Housing:** Cal Cities is calling on lawmakers to oppose SB 897 (Wieckowski), AB 2011 (Wicks), and AB 2097 (Friedman). These bills disregard local zoning and development standards, restrict local decision-making, and eliminate community input.
3. **Infrastructure:** Cal Cities is urging lawmakers to support AB 2120 (Ward), which would ensure 55% of the bridge funds headed to California through the federal infrastructure package are allocated to local projects through a needs-based allocation. This change would nearly double federal funding available to local bridges to an estimated \$800 million annually.
4. **Homelessness:** Cal Cities is calling on lawmakers to support AB 2547 (Nazarian), SB 929 (Eggman), and SB 1154 (Eggman), which would increase data to improve access to behavioral health services — especially for unhoused residents — and provide housing subsidies for vulnerable populations who are either experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.
5. **Climate Resiliency:** Cal Cities is a proud co-sponsor of AB 1985 (R. Rivas), which would create an online database of organic waste products on the market so local governments can connect with local farmers and community members seeking their organic waste products and continue to explore needed changes to the procurement requirement in the SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) regulations.

Additional Legislation:

[AB 2011 \(Wicks\) Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022](#). **OPPOSE – Action Alert**

This measure would require nearly all cities to ministerially approve, without condition or discretion, certain affordable and mixed-use housing developments in areas of a city where office, retail, or parking are principally allowed regardless of any inconsistency with a local government's general plan, specific plan, zoning ordinance, or regulation.

UPCOMING EVENTS & LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

May 27: Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house

June 2 at 6 PM: [Los Angeles County Division General Membership Meeting](#) (USC Hotel, Los Angeles)

August 4 at 6 PM: [Los Angeles County Division Annual Installation Ceremony and Dinner](#) (Diamond Bar Center, Diamond Bar)

September 7 – 9: [Annual Conference & Expo](#) (Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach)
– Registration will open in early June; book early if you intend to get a hotel room in Long Beach.