



TO: SOUTH BAY CITIES COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FR: JEFF KIERNAN, LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
RE: CAL CITIES UPDATE FOR 7/24/2025 MEETING

ADVOCACY UPDATE + NEW LEGISLATIVE WEBINAR

The legislature began their summer recess on July 18 and will likely be back in their districts until August 18. Once legislators return to the Capitol in August they will have about 4 weeks of the legislative session left before adjourning for the year. Now is the time to make sure that your city is advocating for all of your priorities and Cal Cities is hosting another legislative webinar to maximize your advocacy during the summer recess. That webinar will be on **Tuesday, July 29 from 1:30 – 3 PM** and you can register for that event [HERE](#).

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DIVISION ADVOCACY UPDATE

The Los Angeles County Division has directly engaged on 5 bills this year. Two of the bills we are supporting—**AB 1 and AB 888**—are focused on wildfire resilience and insurance affordability. Both of these bills are now in Senate Appropriations and will be heard there on August 18.

- [AB 1](#) would require the Department of Insurance to regularly update the *Safer from Wildfire* regulations, with the goal of helping stabilize—and ultimately reduce—the cost of fire insurance.
- [AB 888](#) would establish the *California Safe Homes Grant Program*, offering funding to property owners to harden their homes against wildfire threats.

The Division is also opposing [AB 470](#), Assembly Member McKinnor's second attempt to allow AT&T and other telecom companies to relinquish their responsibility as the carrier of last resort. In our opposition letter, we emphasized the need for greater investment in landline infrastructure, particularly in fire-prone communities that rely on landlines for emergency communications during power outages. This bill advanced from the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications committee on July 15 and will likely now advance to Senate Appropriations committee for consideration. Please continue to speak with your legislators and ask for their NO vote on AB 470.

The Division is closely monitoring [SB 220 \(Allen\)](#), a bill proposing to expand the LA County Metro Transit Board in response to the expansion of the LA County Board of Supervisors under Measure G. Senator Allen has made this a two-year bill in order to assess the implications of an expanded Board of Supervisors and Metro Board. The Division is engaged with the Senator to ensure that city voices are not diluted in whatever form the expanded Metro Board takes.

In June, the Division also took a position to support the expansion of the California Film Tax Credit, since the expansion of the tax credit had already appeared in the budget the Division took a support in concept position on [AB 1138 \(Zbur\)](#), a bill that implemented and modernized the Film Tax Credit expansion from \$330 million to \$750 million per year.

AB 1138 passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor on July 2nd, going into effect immediately. You can learn more about AB 1138, the expanded Film Tax Credit, and the economic development expected to follow on Assembly Member Zbur's website [HERE](#).

UPDATE ON CAL CITIES ACTION ALERTS

Cal Cities issued Action Alerts requesting urgent action from our members on several pieces of legislation, including:

1. **Cap and Trade Reauthorization – SUPPORT**

Cap and Trade has generated roughly \$30 billion over the last decade, resulting in grants to cities and others for transit, rail, transportation, air quality, affordable housing, safe drinking water, and organic waste programs. The Legislature is moving forward to reauthorize the state's Cap-and-Trade Program, which is set to expire in 2030. Cities are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of support to their legislators as well as Senator Monique Limón and Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin — the two lawmakers leading the negotiations.

Supporting documents: [coalition priorities](#); [sample city letter](#)

2. **SB 445 (Wiener) Transportation Projects: Permitting High-speed rail: third-party permits and approvals: regulations – OPPOSE**

SB 445 has been substantially amended with more amendments coming next week. This bill now only applies to the high speed rail project and although this will not impact cities any longer it does establish a horrible precedent by allowing the High Speed Rail Authority the ability to develop regulations to expedite utility facility relocations. Due to these factors, Cal Cities remains opposed.

Status: Assembly Appropriations

3. **AB 339 (Ortega) Local public employee organizations: notice requirements. - OPPOSE**

Requires the governing body of a public agency, board, or commission to give a recognized employee organization written notice of at least ~~120~~ 60 days regarding contracts to perform services that are within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization.

Status: Senate Appropriations. AB 339 was amended on June 18 to shift from requiring 120 days notice to just 60 days notice; although this is an improvement, Cal Cities remains opposed. Consider resubmitting any previous opposition letters to note the new 'amended on' date.

4. **SB 79 (Wiener) Transit Orientated Development - OPPOSE**

This measure would require cities to approve higher-density residential projects up to 7 stories near public transit stops ministerially regardless of local zoning codes, limit the use of local development standards on the proposed project, and allow transit agencies full land authority over residential and commercial development on property they own or lease with no requirement for affordable housing built in.

Status: Assembly Appropriations. This bill was amended *again* on July 16 as it was approved by the Assembly Local Government committee – please resubmit your letter if it was on a previous version of the bill. In case you missed it, [check out this video of Kristine Guerrero talking SB 79 on NBC4 with Conan Nolan](#).

5. **AB 650 (Papan) Planning and Zoning: Housing Element: RHNA – SPONSOR / SUPPORT**

This bill would allow local governments to begin the housing element update process six months earlier, provide greater certainty and reduce ambiguity in the housing element review process, and ensure that local governments have adequate time to respond to the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) review letters.

Status: Senate Appropriations, suspense file.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Registration is now open for the **Cal Cities 2025 Annual Conference and Expo at the Long Beach Convention Center this October 8 – 10**. There will also be an opportunity to start off the conference by connecting with your regional colleagues at the Los Angeles County Division meeting luncheon on October 8 from 11:30 AM – 1 PM (registration for that lunch will open soon).

[Registration and Details HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [July 29 from 1:30 – 3 PM: Crunch Time at the Capitol: Key Bills for Cities After Summer Recess](#)
- [August 7 from 6 – 8:30 PM: Los Angeles County Division Installation & Dinner \(Palos Verdes Estates\)](#). Join the LA County Division as we install and celebrate our Los Angeles County Division Board of Directors. The nominating committee has recommended Britt Huff from Rolling Hills Estates to be installed as President, Ana Maria Quintana from Bell as Vice President, Bill Uphoff from Lomita as Secretary/Treasurer, and James Bozajian from Calabasas as State Director. South Bay Cities COG representative Barry Waite from Lomita and our other COG representatives will also be installed.
- [Registration Now Open! October 8 – 10 in Long Beach: The League of California Cities Annual Conference and Expo. \(Long Beach Convention Center\)](#)