

**TO: SOUTH BAY CITIES COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**FR: JEFF KIERNAN, LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES**  
**RE: CAL CITIES UPDATE FOR 9/25/2025 MEETING**

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## END OF THE CA LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR 2025 EXTENDS PAST USUAL DEADLINES

The legislature was originally scheduled to adjourn for the year on Friday, September 12, but negotiations on late amendments for 6 bills went past the Tuesday deadline and into Wednesday morning. This meant that the legislature had to amend the calendar and extend the session for one day; finishing up on Saturday about 3 PM. Due to the late adjournment, the Governor's deadline to sign or veto bills is also extended by another day and is now October 13.

Last week, Cal Cities lobbyists hosted a webinar to discuss priority bills on the Governor's desk Cal Cities is recommending cities advocate for Governor Newsom to sign or veto. Our priority bills include:

**Veto [AB 339 \(Ortega\)](#)** Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.  
**Veto [SB 79 \(Wiener\)](#)** Transit-oriented Development: [sample letter](#)  
**Veto [SB 707 \(Durazo\)](#)** Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.

**Sign [AB 650 \(Papan\)](#)** Planning and Zoning: Housing Element: RHNA.  
**Sign [AB 424 \(Davies\)](#)** Alcohol and other drug programs: complaints.  
**Sign [AB 476 \(Gonzalez\)](#)** Metal Theft.  
**Sign [AB 492 \(Valencia\)](#)** Alcohol and drug programs: licensing.  
**Sign [AB 620 \(Jackson\)](#)** Zero Emission Vehicles: Rentals  
**Sign [SB 456 \(Ashby\)](#)** Community Beautification Act.  
**Sign [SB 346 \(Durazo\)](#)** Transient Occupancy Taxes: Short-term Rental Facilitator.  
**Sign [SB 454 \(McNerney\)](#)** PFAS mitigation fund.  
**Sign [AB 1 \(Connolly\)](#)** Residential property insurance: wildfire risk

## UPDATE ON CAL CITIES ACTION ALERTS

### 1. **[SB 364 \(Strickland\)](#) Billboards: maintenance: permits – NEUTRAL**

SB 364 expands the definitions of "customary maintenance provisions" of an outdoor advertising display under the Outdoor Advertising Act to include replacing or eliminating structural members, posts, and internal bracing of billboards.

**UPDATE:** Due to amendments, Cal Cities removed our opposition on SEPT 2, 2025.

### 2. **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.

**UPDATE:** The legislature passed the Cap & Trade reauthorization in AB 1207 (Irwin) & SB 840 (Limon). Although Cal Cities is still supportive of reauthorizing the Cap & Trade program – now rebranded as Cap & Invest – this year, the proposed rules for how those funds are divvyed up would change significantly under the new plan. The new framework does include specific funding for affordable housing, wildfire resilience, and sustainable communities, but local clean

transportation, organic waste infrastructure and climate adaptation efforts are not explicitly included. This means that local governments and Cal Cities would need to advocate for an allocation from the legislature during the annual budget process for these unmet priorities. More on the Cap & Trade reauthorization can be found [HERE](#).

**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 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:** On the Governor's Desk. Cal Cities is seeking a veto from the Governor.

**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:** On the Governor's Desk. Cal Cities is seeking a veto from the Governor.

**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:** On the Governor's Desk, please request a signature from the Governor.

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY DIVISION ADVOCACY UPDATE

The Los Angeles County Division supported [AB 1](#) and [AB 888](#). These bills are focused on wildfire resilience and insurance affordability. Both of these bills are on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature.

The Division opposed **AB 470** related to the Carrier of Last Resort for telecom companies, but that bill was held in Senate Appropriations and is now a two-year bill. Although the legislature announced that bills held in appropriations this year would be dead and ineligible to continue in 2026, that action is unprecedented, so the Division will continue to watch for AB 470's revival.

### CAL CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The 2025 Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo in Long Beach on October 8 - 10 is just a couple weeks away. Since no general assembly resolutions were received by the July deadline, the general assembly on Friday, OCT 10 will be cancelled unless a petitioned resolution qualifies at the conference. Because of this possibility, cities are still encouraged to select a [voting delegate and alternate](#).

Please also plan to join the LA County Division on Wednesday, October 8 for our Annual Conference Division lunch from 11:30 AM – 1 PM with special guest speaker Lieutenant Governor of California Eleni Kounalakis. Registration for this event should be completed in advance using the [link on our Division website](#).