

TO: SOUTH BAY CITIES COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FR: JEFF KIERNAN, LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
RE: CAL CITIES UPDATE FOR 8/28/2025 MEETING

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY INSTALLED 2025-26 LOS ANGELES COUNTY DIVISION BOARD!

On Thursday, August 7th the LA County Division leadership was installed before a packed house at the Palos Verdes Golf Club in the City of Palos Verdes Estates.

Please welcome your new 2025-26 Board of Directors!

President: Britt Huff, Ph.D., Council Member, Rolling Hills Estates

Vice President: Ana Maria Quintana, Council Member, Bell

Secretary/Treasurer: William Uphoff, Council Member, Lomita

Board Director: James R. Bozajian, Mayor Pro Tem, Calabasas

Past President: Dr. Michael Cao, M.D., Council Member, Arcadia

Regional Director – Arroyo Verdugo JPA: Konstantine Anthony, Council Member, Burbank

Regional Director – Gateway Cities COG: David Arellano, Council Member, Lakewood

Regional Director – Las Virgenes-Malibu COG: Laura McCorkindale, Council Member, Hidden Hills

Regional Director – San Fernando Valley COG: Mary Mendoza, Mayor, San Fernando

Regional Director – San Gabriel Valley COG: Margaret Clark, Mayor, Rosemead

Regional Director – South Bay Cities COG: Barry Waite, Council Member, Lomita

Regional Director – Westside Cities COG: Natalya Zernitskaya, Council Member, Santa Monica

Regional Director – City of Los Angeles: Steve Luu, Legislative Analyst, Los Angeles

UPDATE ON CAL CITIES ACTION ALERTS

Cal Cities issued Action Alerts requesting urgent action from our members on several pieces of legislation, including a new late breaking alert for SB 364 (Strickland):

1. *NEW* SB 364 (Strickland) Billboards: maintenance: permits – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

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. These changes would effectively allow reconstruction of billboards without requiring the necessary permits and are in direct conflict with decades of California case law and local permitting authority.

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. 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](#)

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 Suspense File. 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. Cal Cities updated sample letter can be found [HERE](#).

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 is scheduled to be heard on Monday, August 18 when the legislature returns from recess. Cal Cities has also recently published a newsletter article that lays out all the changes SB 79 has gone through as it has worked its way through the legislature.

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.

LEGISLATURE PASSES CEQA REFORM IN BUDGET TRAILER BILLS

Signed by Governor Newsom as part of the 2025 Budget Package, [AB 130 \(Wicks\)](#) and [SB 131 \(Wiener\)](#) took effect immediately on June 30 and made some big changes to CEQA.

Cal Cities has now released a [primer document](#) and highlighted these changes in a recent Cal Cities Advocate article: [Do you have questions about the recent CEQA reform? We have answers](#). Cities are encouraged to review this information and work with your city attorney to determine how these laws might impact projects in your community.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DIVISION ADVOCACY UPDATE

The Los Angeles County Division has engaged on 5 bills this session. Two of the bills we are *supporting*—**AB 1** and **AB 888**—are focused on wildfire resilience and insurance affordability. Both of these bills await a vote on the suspense file in Senate Appropriations.

- [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. AB 470 is on suspense in Senate Appropriations and will need a final vote on the Floor of both houses before the legislature adjourns on September 12.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The **Cal Cities 2025 Annual Conference and Expo at the Long Beach Convention Center** is less than two months away. Details on the conference can be found [HERE](#).

Please also remember to agendaize the selection of your city's voting delegates for an upcoming council meeting. No resolutions were received before the August 9 deadline so unless a qualified petitioned resolution is submitted by 8:30 AM on OCT 9 there will be no general assembly. Action by the city council is recommended by September 24 in case there is an emergent resolution at the conference. All the details on the General Assembly and any resolutions that are submitted in advance can be found [HERE](#) along with the [voting delegate designation packet](#).

Like in years past, the Los Angeles County Division will be hosting a lunch on Wednesday, October 8 – the first day of the conference – at the Hyatt Regency from 11:30 AM – 1 PM. The Division will be announcing our luncheon speaker in the coming weeks, but you won't want to miss this opportunity to connect with local officials from all over LA County, so you can register for that lunch event [HERE](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [September 15 at 11 AM: Legislative Call to Action – Sign & Veto Requests](#)
- [October 8 – 10 in Long Beach: The League of California Cities Annual Conference and Expo. \(Long Beach Convention Center\)](#)
- [October 8 from 11:30 AM – 1 PM: Los Angeles County Division Annual Conference Lunch \(Long Beach Hyatt Regency\)](#)