



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, April 29, 2022

[Presentation Slides](#)

ATTENDANCE

Members: Jennifer Cavanaugh (Vice Chair); Teresa Acosta; Paul Akinjo; Paolo Beltran; Rene Bobadilla; Bob Branstrom; Illece Buckley Weber; Tom Butt; Anna Chouteau; Anna Chouteau; Margaret Clark; Denise Diaz; Pat Eklund; Erik Friedman; Eric Friedman; Nicholas Ghirelli; Marvin Heinze; Richard Hurt; Jean Josey; Derrek Kaff; Mollie Kortsen; Marla Livengood; Julie Lucido; Julio Martinez; Jenny McAdams; Margie Mohler; Kitty Moore; Cynthia Moran; Melissa Morgan; Kalish Morrow; Eric Nelson; Richard O'Brien; Brenda Olmos; Randall Putz; Karina Quintanilla; Gabriel Quinto; Julie Ryan; Nick Schultz; Kristine Scott; Jesus Silva; Niroop Srivatsa; Jain Sudhanshu; Teresa Vargas; Arwen Wacht; Kevin Wilk; Bryce Wilson; Jamie Wood; Frank Yokoyama

Staff: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist, ddolfie@calcities.org

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their involvement in the Cal Cities policy committee process. She reminded them of the important work the committees do and how their voices carry weight with the Board members.

Vice Chair Jen Cavanaugh also welcomed committee members and provided an introduction. Chair David Pollock could not attend the meeting, so Vice Chair Cavanaugh chaired the meeting.

II. **Public Comment**

Vice Chair Cavanaugh asked if there was any public comment. There was one comment from a committee member about wildfire mitigation.

III. **General Briefing**

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a [general briefing](#) prior to the start of policy committee meetings, the Cal Cities advocacy team compiled a General Briefing Document, which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities. Cal Cities Environmental Quality lobbyist, Derek Dolfie, gave an overview of this document and answered questions from the committee.

IV. **State of the Drought Update**

Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Manager, California Department of Water Resources, gave a robust presentation to the committee on the state of the drought in California. She provided some bleak facts and figures around the severity of the drought in California and discussed some ways cities can help in the effort to conserve water. After her presentation, Ms. Jones took a number of

questions from the committee members, including questions about desalinization, water conservation mandates, and effects to mitigate against climate change.

V. **[“California Recycling and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act of 2020”](#) Ballot Measure Presentation**

Derek Dolfie provided the committee with the ground rules for the presentation. Proponents and opponents were both given an opportunity to present. He also gave an overview of the ballot measure.

Michael Kahoe, a consultant with the California Business Roundtable, presented for the opponents. Mr. Kahoe said this measure would be the largest tax increase in California history, with a total cost \$8.9 billion annually in new taxes and more costs associated with compliance anticipated. He suggested that the measure will only increase the diversion rate by 4% and that more focus should be on recycling not new taxes.

Adam Regele, Senior Policy Advocate, California Chamber of Commerce, also presented for the opponents. He insisted that recycling and recycling infrastructure are missing from the ballot measure. He argued that there was too much focus on source reduction and creating new taxes. The committee members then had an opportunity to ask clarifying questions.

After the opponents, the supporters of the ballot measure gave a presentation. First was Amy Wolfrum, Senior Manager for California Ocean Policy, Monterey Bay Aquarium. During her presentation she stressed that the ballot measure is not a mandate on local governments. She acknowledged local leadership on removing single-use plastics and stressed that the fee in the measure will be on producers and avoidable if plastics are not used. The new fee would generate \$1.5 - \$4.5 billion per year with 20 percent of those funds going directly to local governments. She indicated that polling shows the public supports the measure 2:1.

Next was Paul Krekorian, Council Member, City of Los Angeles presented for the proponents. Council Member Krekorian discussed how single-use plastics dominate the waste stream and the plastics industry needs to help solve the problem. He stressed that this ballot measure is the only way to effect change, as the plastics industry is too powerful in the State Capitol.

After the presentations, the committee members raised a number of questions and provided significant comment. Members highlighted the following:

- The ballot measure will not solve the problem;
- Source reduction is essential;
- The ballot measure is consistent with existing Cal Cities policy;
- New funding for cities is important; and
- This is a worldwide issue.

A motion was made to support. A substitute motion was then made to oppose the ballot measure. The motion to oppose failed 14 - 23. The committee then went back to the original motion to support. The motion passed 22 – 17.

VI. Legislative Agenda

[AB 2878 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) Forest Biomass Waste Utilization Program

Derek Dolfie presented AB 2878 to the committee and gave a brief overview of what the bill would do. After this brief overview, there was a motion and a second to support the bill. There were a couple questions from the committee. The motion to support passed 36 – 1.

VII. Legislative and Budget Update

Due to time constraints, Mr. Dolfie was unable to provide a legislative and budget update. However, he encouraged the committee to email him any questions and to review the general briefing document.

VIII. Adjourn

Vice Chair Cavanaugh thanked the committee for their hard work this year, said some closing remarks, and adjourned the meeting.

Next Virtual Meeting: Friday, June 10, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.