



**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Friday, February 11, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members: David Pollock (Chair); Jennifer Cavanaugh (V. Chair); Teresa Acosta; Paul Akinjo; Tess Albin-Smith; Melanie Bagby; Paolo Beltran; Bob Branstrom; Illece Buckley Weber; Tom Butt; Anna Chouteau; Margaret Clark; Denise Diaz; Pat Eklund; Giovanna Erkanat; Eric Friedman; Nicholas Ghirelli; Marvin Heinze; Richard Hurt; Jean Josey; Derrek Kaff; Mollie Kortsen; Marla Livengood; Julie Lucido; Diana Mahmud; Julio Martinez; Justin Massey; Margie Mohler; Kitty Moore; Cynthia Moran; Melissa Morgan; Kalish Morrow; Eric Nelson; Richard O'Brien; Brenda Olmos; Andy Pease; Randall Putz; Karina Quintanilla; Gabriel Quinto; Julie Ryan; Nick Schultz; Kristine Scott; Jesus Silva; Niroop Srivatsa; Mireya Turner; Jarrod Vanlandingham; Teresa Vargas; Arwen Wacht; Kevin Wilk; Bryce Wilson; Jamie Wood; Frank Yokoyama

League Partners: Rod Brewer

Staff: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, welcomed everyone to the first policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. She explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

President Silva explained that while policy discussions can be lively and members may not always agree, Cal Cities derives its strength as a member-driven organization from this deliberative debate and recommendation process.

President Silva then introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director, and CEO. Ms. Coleman welcomed committee members and thanked them for their service to their cities and Cal Cities. She explained that the policy committee process is central to Cal Cities advocacy, ensuring it is member-driven and represents the interests of cities across California.

Ms. Coleman thanked committee members again for serving on the committees and wished them a great meeting.

Chair David Pollock, Councilmember, Moorpark and Vice Chair Jen Cavanaugh, Vice Mayor, Piedmont welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. Public Comment

Chair Pollock asked if there was any public comment. There was one public comment from South Pasadena Councilmember Diana Mahmud. Ms. Mahmud mentioned how there are some outdated Cal Cities existing policies, and recommend a working group be formed to streamlining and updating policies. Diana also mentioned a Los Angeles County BizFed meeting on green hydrogen and suggested to committee members to learn more.

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. Mr. Dolfie went over this document and took questions from the committee.

IV. Legislative Agenda

Derek Dolfie gave a brief presentation to the committee about ACA 7 (Muratsuchi) and the Local Land-Use Ballot Measure. This presentation included explaining the action the Cal Cities Housing, Community, and Economic Development and Environmental Quality (EQ) policy committees took on these items in June 2021, the creation of an ACA 7 working group, and the action taken by the Cal Cities Board of Directors at the December 2021 meeting.

After this presentation, Mr. Dolfie proposed to the committee a statement to the Cal Cities Board of Directors expressing the EQ Committee's desire to have any actions taken by the Board to not conflict with existing environmental laws. The committee members then asked Mr. Dolfie questions and proposed several word changes to the proposed statement.

Ultimately, a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed amended statement, which passed with 40 ayes, one nay, and three abstentions.

The adopted statement is below:

"The Cal Cities Environmental Quality policy committee, in accordance with our League of California Cities mission to protect and expand local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians, wants to ensure that any actions Cal Cities takes to uphold local control and land use does not conflict with existing state environmental laws, such as the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Coastal Act."

V. Existing Policy and Guiding Principles

Derek Dolfie explained the importance of the guiding principles. This document contains Cal Cities policies that reflect positions taken by the policy committee and the Cal Cities Board of Directors and is used as a reference tool for Cal Cities staff when reviewing legislation. Members were directed to their agenda packet to review proposed changes to the document. Mr. Dolfie then took questions from the committee.

Ultimately, a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed Existing Policy and Guiding Principles document, which passed unanimously.

VI. Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda

The Environmental Quality Committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda. Derek Dolfie discussed the virtual League Leaders workshop and explained the process by which these priorities are established. The Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda is as follows:

- 1. Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and reform state housing laws to retain local authority.** Secure adequate and sustainable funding for cities to increase construction of housing at all income levels, particularly affordable housing and workforce housing. Reform state housing laws to ensure cities retain local decision-making to meet the needs of their communities.
- 2. Attain investments to strengthen and sustain critical infrastructure.** Advocate for policies that strengthen the conditions of local streets, highways, bridges, public transit, and broadband to improve workforce and economic development. Secure support for the modernization and expansion of the statewide water grid, including infrastructure, storage, and conveyance. Work with stakeholders to provide cities with access to the tools needed to ensure projects are delivered efficiently and cost-effectively to meet current and future needs.
- 3. Secure increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.** Secure additional ongoing, flexible resources to provide navigation assistance, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing. Enhance city and county coordination and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders to ensure adequate wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk of, or already experiencing, homelessness in our communities, and effectively address mental health and substance use disorders.
- 4. Strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery from climate change impacts through improved collaboration and resources.** Secure additional resources and support to mitigate the effects of climate change, including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and sea level rise. Promote collaboration with other city, state, and federal governments, to strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.

VII. Adoption of 2022 Work Program

Derek Dolfie gave a brief presentation to the committee on the results of a survey he conducted before the meeting, asking the committee members what their top three priorities were for the committee this year. He explained four items were selected the most in the survey. After explaining the survey results, Mr. Dolfie took some clarifying questions from the committee.

Ultimately, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the staff proposed work plan. This motion was followed by a substitute motion and seconded to adopt the staff proposed work plan, but with amendments to specify certain points on emphasis in each item. The substitute motion passed with 25 ayes, 21 noes, and 1 abstention.

Below is the adopted work plan:

- Climate change and resiliency including accessibility of infrastructure/programs, microgrids, and fire prevention.
- Water issues including drought and water reuse.
- Energy and utilities including net energy metering.
- Solid waste and recycling including circular economy.

VIII. Legislative and Budget Update

Derek Dolfie gave a legislative and budget update to the committee. He explained some of the major funding proposals in the Governor's proposed 2022-23 Budget. Mr. Dolfie also discussed with the committee legislation from last legislative year that are still alive and moving, as well as his thoughts on some of the big issues that would be introduced this legislative year. He reminded the committee that February 18 is the bill introduction deadline and many more bills would be introduced in the coming weeks. Mr. Dolfie then took questions from the committee. Lists of relevant bills to the EQ committee can be found [here](#).

IX. Adjourn

Chair Pollock thanked the committee for their hard work this year and said some closing remarks. Chair Pollock then adjourned the meeting.

Next Virtual Meeting: Friday, April 29, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.