



**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
Friday, June 10, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: David Pollock (Chair); Jennifer Cavanaugh (Vice Chair); Teresa Acosta; Paul Akinjo; Paolo Beltran; Rene Bobadilla; Bob Branstrom; Illece Buckley Weber; Anna Chouteau; Erik Friedman; Eric Friedman; Nicholas Ghirelli; Jean Josey; Marla Livengood; Diana Mahmud; Justin Massey; Margie Mohler; Kitty Moore; Cynthia Moran; Melissa Morgan; Kalish Morrow; Eric Nelson; Richard O'Brien; David Pollock; Randall Putz; Karina Quintanilla; Jeff Rosaler; Julie Ryan; Nick Schultz; Kristine Scott; Niroop Srivatsa; Mireya Turner; Arwen Wacht; Kevin Wilk; Jamie Wood; Frank Yokoyama

League Partners: Rod Brewer

Staff: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist, [ddolfie@calcities.org](mailto:ddolfie@calcities.org)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, and Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their service on the committee.

Then, Chair David Pollock, and Vice Chair Jen Cavanaugh, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

**II. Public Comment**

Chair Pollock asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

**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. Building Electrification Presentation**

Committee members heard an update from the City of Emeryville Mayor John J. Bauters, whose city recently went through the process of updating their electric reach codes to move towards going all electric for residential construction. Mayor Bauters noted that Emeryville is now one of 46 cities who has considered this process.

Abby Young from Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) gave a presentation on the federal rules for appliance standards and building codes. She explained that for appliances, the federal government sets standards for

energy efficiency, not emissions. On the state level, the California Energy Commission can also set efficiency standards and California Air Resources Board (CARB) can adopt standards for emissions. CARB is also considering a zero-greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standard, but it is early yet in this process. Local Air Districts set rules and regulations that limit regional air quality pollutants from certain appliances. They have the authority to regulate emissions, not energy efficiency standards. She further explained that cities and counties have no authority over setting standards for appliances, but they do have authority over local building codes. This would include setting standards for the types of appliances to be put into a new or remodeled building.

Mayor Bauters explained that the city of Emeryville has an adopted climate action plan and how that informs the climate work for the city. He explained that cities can have a reach code for health and safety, this includes setting electrification standards. There are three types of findings that cities have to evaluate, 1) Climactic findings – meaning things exacerbated by climate change, and how the city will adapt, 2) Geologic findings – for example, in the Bay Area, there are lots of fault lines and earthquakes pose a threat to natural gas lines, and 3) Topological findings, meaning findings related to sea level rise, topography, etc. He further explained that after these findings are made, a cost effectiveness study should be conducted. Emeryville banned all-natural gas in new residential building, except for in minimal situations and those exceptions must be designed and built so that the buildings could be converted later if necessary. Mayor Bauters finally noted the negative health effects from gas emissions inside homes from their gas stoves.

After the presentation, Mayor Bauters and Ms. Young took several questions from the committee.

#### **V. Climate Funding and Recognition Presentation**

Karalee Browne, Assistant Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG) updated members on ILG's BEACON program and the experience of the cities in the program. Ms. Browne also talked about the BOOST program and the recent release of the planning commissioner's handbook and related trainings that are now being held around the state.

#### **VI. Regional Advance Mitigation Planning Task Force Presentation**

Kome Ajise, Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), presented on how SCAG is working with local, state, and the federal government to build new infrastructure and mitigate the effects on the environment.

After the presentation Mr. Ajise took several questions from the committee.

#### **VII. Legislative and Budget Update**

Derek Dolfie, Cal Cities, Environmental Quality Lobbyist, gave a presentation on a litany of environmental quality related bills and provided an update on Cal Cities' \$180 million organic waste budget ask.

After the presentation, Mr. Dolfie took a number of questions from the committee.

**VIII. Legislative and Budgetary Proposals for Next Year Discussion**

Derek Dolfie, Cal Cities, Environmental Quality Lobbyist, asked members to discuss potential environmental quality related legislative and budgetary proposals for the next legislative cycle.

Committee members shared some ideas about potential budget asks and bill ideas for next year. Some ideas included continuing discussions around the nexus between affordable housing and the reduction of GHGs; continuing to support the deployment of microgrids; and making more investments in hardening our electricity conveyance infrastructure.

**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:** Staff will notify committee members after July 15 if the policy committee will need to meet prior at the Annual Conference to consider a resolution. If you have any questions, please contact Meg Desmond, Cal Cities Associate Manager, Legislative Administration.