



**HOUSING, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
February 11, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Marshall Goodman (Chair); Dan Wright (V. Chair); Denise Athas; Ken Berkman; Art Bishop; Harry Black; Gary Boyer; Ulises Cabrera; Ben Cantu; Ray Casey; Leslie Castellano; Debbie Chamberlin; Liang Chao; Holly Charley; Ross Chun; Susan Cola; Eleassia Davis; Matthew Downing; Helen Dyda; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Will Fuentes; PJ Gagajena; Kelly Gordon; Afshan Hamid; Christy Holstege; Cecilia Hupp; Dan Kalb; Shawn Kumagai; Paul Leon; Adam Loeser; Elyse Lowe; Joy Lyndes; Tony Madrigal; Stacey Mattina; Laura McCorkindale; Thaddeus McCormack; John McKay; Lisa Motoyama; Vong Mouanoutoua; Trish Munro; Scott Nassif; Ian Ogelsby; Beth Painter; Ray Pearl; Erin Resner; Victor Sanchez; Joan Freeman; Sharon Springer; John Taylor; Brett Taylor; Julie Testa; Maureen Toms; Anna Velazquez; Barbara Whitehorn; Tyller Williamson; Amy Worth

League Partners: Alyssa Stinson

Staff: Jason Rhine, Assistant Legislative Director

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 Marshall Goodman, and Vice Chair Dan Wright welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. **Public Comment**

Chair Marshall Goodman asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

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.

IV. **Existing Policy and Guiding Principles**

Cal Cities staff 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.

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

V. **Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda**

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda. Cal Cities staff 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.

VI. Adoption of 2022 Work Program

Jason Rhine discussed with the committee the development of the Housing, Community and Economic Development (HCED) 2022 Work Program. Based off the introductory comments made by the committee members, Mr. Rhine laid out several items for the committee to consider for the work plan. The committee had a robust discussion on which items they wanted to focus on for the work plan.

A motion to adopt the following work plan was made and the motion carried unanimously.

The HCED 2022 Work Plan is as follows:

- Permanent source of funding from the state to address housing and homelessness (Including a first-time homeowner program).
- Economic development (tax increment tools).
- Regulations and CEQA reform.

VII. Discuss Strategies to Reform State Housing Laws and Increase Funding for Affordable Housing

Jason Rhine discussed with the committee some background about recent work conducted by the HCED and Environmental Quality committees, the ACA 7 working group, and the Board of Directors to consider ACA 7 and the Local Land-Use ballot measure. He also briefly discussed what ACA 7 and the Local Land-Use ballot measure would do. Then Mr. Rhine presented several potential strategies the committee could take in line with the Board's direction to develop near, medium-, and long-term strategies to reform housing laws and protect local control. These included legislative, legal, election, and ballot measure options.

After the potential strategies were presented, the committee had a robust discussion about what each strategy would mean and how it could achieve the Board's goal. In particular, committee members raised concerns over what reforming CEQA would mean and expressing support for legislation similar to SB 5 (Beall, 2019). A committee member brought up the concept that the committee may need to further examine about what local control means and how it will inform the committee's work.

VIII. Adjourn

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

Next Virtual Meeting: Friday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.