



**TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS
POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, February 10th, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Members: Veronica Vargas (Chair); Priya Bhat-Patel (V.Chair); Jan Arbuckle; Greg Barton; John Bauters; Liz Becerra; Debra Black; Marc Boomgaarden; Arthur Brown; Russ Brown; Cal Campbell; Omar Dadabhoy; Kathryn Downs; Robert Engler; John Erikson; Paul Fadelli; Ben Fine; Martha Flores; Alice Fredericks; Teresa Gerring; Marvin Heinze; Alma Hernandez; Colin Heyne; Kelly Honig; Peggy Huang; Mike Johnson; Fred Jung; Lynne Kennedy; Peter Kraut; Jeffrey Maloney; Yvonne Martinez-Beltran; Tim McGallian; John McKay; Jennifer Mendoza; Linda Molina; Bynette Mote; Izzy Murguia; Jenelle Osborne; Gina Papan; Kristen Petersen; Sandy Rains; Ed Reece; Steve Sanchez; Kelli Tunnicliff; John Valdivia; Steven Vargas; Veronica Vargas; Colleen Wallace; Mark Waronek; Dennis Wilberg; Scott Wolfe; Rita Xavier

League Partners: Alicia Berhow; John Burdette

Staff: Damon Conklin, 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 Veronica Vargas, and Vice Chair Priya Bhat-Patel, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. Public Comment

Chair Vargas asked if there was any public comment. None were provided.

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**

Mr. Conklin 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.

Committee members discussed active transportation, electric vehicle charging station logo program implemented by Caltrans and asked Mr. Conklin to provide the committee members with additional details related to Rule 20 program (tariff program for a utility transition from aerial to undergrounding of lines). Mr. Conklin noted a typo existed in the Guiding Principles document that would be reflected in the final adopted iteration (inclusion of "Commission" for the California Public Utilities Commission).

Ultimately, a motion was made to approve the Existing Policy and Guiding Principles document, which passed. Final vote was 39 ayes, 1 nay, and 5 abstention.

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

The committee discussed the inclusion of additional activities for the “committee to evaluate and support policies related to active transportation, public rail, transit and zero emission vehicles that benefit our communities.”

Ultimately, a motion was made to approve the Adoption of the 2022 Work Plan, which passed. Final vote was 38 ayes, no nays, and 4 abstentions.

VII. Legislative Agenda

No action items were taken up.

VIII. Legislative and Budget Update

Mr. Conklin provided an overview of the Governor’s proposed 2022-23 Budget as it relates to TCPW issues. Mr. Conklin provided a summary of legislative measures introduced thus far and asked the committee for their feedback on a few legislative items, including Assembly Bill 1717 (Aguiar-Curry) that would seek to require prevailing wage for wildfire mitigation projects paid for with public funds.

The committee received an update on the advanced clean fleets by Veronica Pardo from the Resource Recovery Coalition of California. Both Mr. Conklin and Ms. Pardo discussed the implications for local agencies of California Air Resource Board’s proposed regulations related to zero emission vehicle fleet vehicles acquisitions and to consider alternate compliance options to provide more time and greater flexibility to cities.

IX. Adjourn

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

Next Virtual Meeting: Thursday, April 28, 2022, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.