



**TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS (TCPW) POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
Thursday, April 28, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Veronica Vargas (Chair); Priya Bhat-Patel (Vice Chair); Jan Arbuckle; Greg Barton; Liz Becerra; Debra Black; Marc Boomgaarden; Kristen Brown; Russ Brown; Amanda Carter; Omar Dadabhoy; Kathryn Downs; Dionne Early; Robert Engler; John Erikson; Edelia Eveland; Paul Fadelli; Ben Fine; Martha Flores; Alice Fredericks; Marvin Heinze; Colin Heyne; Lynne Kennedy; Peter Kraut; Jeffrey Maloney; Tim McGallian; John McKay; Linda Molina; Bynette Mote; Jenelle Osborne; Gina Papan; Kelli Pickler; Steve Sanchez; Steven Vargas; Colleen Wallace; Mark Waronek; Dennis Wilberg; Scott Wolfe; Rita Xavier

League Partners: Alicia Berhow

Staff: Damon Conklin, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Vargas welcomed and introduced President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek. President Cindy Silva welcomed everyone to the second 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.

Chair Vargas and Vice Chair 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**

Cal Cities staff indicated that 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. Guest Speaker**

Chair Vargas introduced Brian Annis, Chief Financial Officer, California High Speed Rail (HSR) Authority, who provided a summary and answered questions from committee members of recent actions and updates by the HSR authority.

**V. State of Hydrogen**

Cal Cities staff introduced Teresa Cooke, Executive Director, California Hydrogen Coalition and Jennifer Hamilton with the California Fuel Cell Partnership to the committee. Both provided an update on the number of fuel stations in the California and what the goals are for the next few years. Mrs. Cooke summarized recent hydrogen-related policies pending before the legislature and both answered questions from the committee members.

**VI. Reactivating Tracks**

Cal Cities staff introduced Francisco Castillo, Public Affairs Director with Union Pacific Railroad, who discussed homeless encampments, rail theft and supply-chain congestions that are inter-related to railways. Mr. Castillo highlighted pending legislation to address interruptions to the supply chain and to increase penalties with rail theft, as well as answered questions from the committee.

**VII. Microtrenching**

Cal Cities staff introduced Jim O'Kane and Todd Bloomstein representing the Southern California Contractors Association; and Doug Patterson, Regional VP for Network Construction with Crown Castle. Mr. Bloomstein shared a one-page flyer to the committee members to provide a visual illustration of communication lines installed in no more than three inches of engineered material of cover. The committee discussed PUC GO 128 and SB 378 provisions related to microtrenching. Mr. Patterson provided an overview of the various methods of trenching for electrical and communication lines and answered questions from committee members.

**VIII. Legislative Agenda**

Cal Cities staff provided a summary of AB 2419 (Byran), which seeks to mandate that a minimum of 40% of those funds to projects that provide a direct benefit to disadvantaged communities and an additional 10% to projects that provide direct benefits to low-income households. The committee discussed how the white House Executive Order is a goal and that this measure codified it as a requirement. Also, provisions in the bill would exclude many low-income communities in California, particularly in Northern California, that have historically been prioritized for water and wastewater funding. Additionally, the committee discussed how current language in the measures would define a disadvantaged community as those communities identified in the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen). Meanwhile, the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board use the definition of "disadvantaged community" as defined in Section 75005 of the Public Resources Code, which defines disadvantaged community as a community with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average. The committee instructed staff

to offer amendments to the author's office and the sponsors that would address these three points.

**IX. Legislative and Budget Update**

Cal Cities staff provided an update on pending legislation with positions related to TCPW. These measures include issues related to broadband, transportation planning and funding to local streets and roads, bridge investments and active transportation.

**X. 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, June 9, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.