



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

Friday, March 17, 2023

### ATTENDANCE

Members: Priya Bhat-Patel (Chair); Colleen Wallace (Vice Chair); Holly Andreatta; Newell Arnerich; Vida Barone; Greg Barton; Liz Becerra; Mateo Bedolla; Brigit Bennington; Daniel Bobadilla; Kristen Brown; Omar Dadabhoy; Robert Engler; Paul Fadelli; Ben Fine; Christopher Freeland; Lucy Garcia; Garg Gaurav; Teresa Gerringer; Jan Harnik; Alma Hernandez; Kelly Honig; Elaine Jeng; Mike Johnson; Fred Jung; Chris Kelley; Lynne Kennedy; Peter Kraut; Linda Krupa; Jeffrey Maloney; Elmer Martinez Saballos; Patricia Matthews; Jennifer Mendoza; Linda Molina; Jenelle Osborne; Alexander Pedersen Kelli Pickler; Rachel Radell-Harris; Ann Schneider; Alexander Trinidad; Miki Tsubota; Dennis Wilberg; Scott Wolfe; Brian Wright-Bushman; Aaron Zavala; Yan Zhao; Brianne Zorn

League Partners: Rodney Brewer

Staff: Damon Conklin, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

### I. **Welcome and Introductions**

President Ali Sajjad Taj, Council Member, Artesia, welcomed everyone to the second policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. He explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

President Taj 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 Bhat-Patel, and Vice Chair Wallace, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

### II. **Public Comment**

Chair Bhat-Patel asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

### III. **General Briefing**

Cal Cities staff provided a General Briefing of all policy areas, which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities, as detailed below. The Advocacy team's complete analysis of the [Governor's proposed](#)

[budget for 2023-24](#) and the [2023 Advocacy Priorities](#) are available on the Cal Cities' website.

- **Community Services:** Securing ongoing funding to support cities' efforts to reduce homelessness continues to be a top priority for Cal Cities. This spring, the Legislature is hyper-focused on local "accountability" for state homelessness funding. Cal Cities is working diligently to ensure any new accountability measures do not limit local flexibility to address this critical issue. Cal Cities is also in strong support of Senator Eggman's [SB 43](#) and [SB 363](#), which would improve the state's behavioral health care system.
  - [Caroline Cirrincione](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Environmental Quality:** Cal Cities continues to promote the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the natural environment, public health, and quality of life for all residents. Cal Cities is engaging with the author and affected stakeholders of [AB 1000 \(Reyes\)](#), which would require minimum setbacks and additional requirements for logistic centers, warehouses, and related infrastructure. Cal Cities is also working with our Coastal Cities Working Group on [SB 272 \(Laird\)](#).
  - [Nick Romo](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations:** Cal Cities is sponsoring two measures that aim to modernize the Brown Act: [AB 817 \(Pacheco\)](#) and [AB 557 \(Hart\)](#); and a measure that would reform council member pay: [SB 329 \(Dodd\)](#). Cal Cities is also opposing [SB 251 \(Newman\)](#), which would limit an elected officer from employment with another elected officer with the same constituencies.
  - [Johnnie Ping](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Housing, Community, and Economic Development:** Cal Cities continues to focus on our advocacy priority to increase the supply of and affordability of housing, while also maintaining local decision-making. Cal Cities opposes [SB 423 \(Wiener\)](#), which would expand SB 35 (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017) provisions and eliminate the January 1, 2026 sunset date.
  - [Jason Rhine](#), *Assistant Director, Legislative Affairs*
- **Public Safety:** As concerns about repeated retail theft continue to grow, Cal cities is sponsoring [AB 1708 \(Murtsuchi\)](#), which would increase accountability or repeat offenders and offer pathways for pre-plea diversion programming. During the February Board meeting, the Cal Cities Board of Directors approved a resolution to address the fentanyl overdose crisis in California. Cal Cities will support bills [AB 367 \(Mainschein\)](#) and [SB 44 \(Umberg\)](#), which would have great impacts on cities' ability to mitigate the fentanyl crisis.
  - [Elisa Arcidiacono](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Revenue and Taxation:** Cal Cities is committing to preserving existing local revenue streams and bolstering local fiscal sustainability. Cal Cities is sponsoring [AB 972 \(Maienschein\)](#), which would streamline the state grant application process for local governments so every community has the

same opportunity to compete for funding. Cal Cities continues to strongly oppose the [California Business Roundtable ballot measure](#) that would restrict new or increased taxes and jeopardize local fiscal sustainability and is actively monitoring introduced legislation that would create new tax exemption programs that would reduce local tax revenues.

- [Ben Triffo](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*

- **Transportation, Communications, and Public Works:** Cal Cities is working with the Office of Broadband and digital Literacy within the California Department of Technology, to provide input towards the development of the State Digital Equity Plan to promote the Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool for organizations throughout the state. Cal Cities is co-sponsoring [AB 400 \(Rubio\)](#) and [SB 706 \(Caballero\)](#). These measures are both related to the expanded use of design build and progressive design build delivery methods for public works projects.

- [Damon Conklin](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*

#### IV. **Coalition Against Bigger Trucks**

Josh Collins, Assistant Vice President at Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT), shared with the committee how heavier and longer trucks endanger motorists, weaken roads and bridges, and cost taxpayers. Mr. Collins discussed how CABT engages and advocates with all levels of government opposing heavier and longer trucks. Mr. Collins discussed CABT's concerns of safety with a recent congressional proposal, H.R. 471, Safer Highways and Increased Performance for Interstate Trucking (SHIP IT) Act, that would add five feet to truck trailers and what potential impacts to local streets and roads the proposal would have. Other concerns that were raised included the absence of funding to repair bridges, streets, and roads and potential costs estimated at \$1.1 billion needed to repair just streets and roads.

Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

#### V. **Community Water Projects**

Jennifer Burke, Director of Santa Rosa Water, City of Santa Rosa, shared with the committee how the city provides water and sewer for the district and a few neighboring jurisdictions, producing 17 million gallons of recycled water each day without any connection to state or federal water systems. Additionally, Ms. Burke indicated that Santa Rosa Water provides recycled water to 6,400 acres of farmland, 95% of their water that comes from the Russian River, and that they use local ground water in the summer. Ms. Burke discussed the many challenges during a drought with limited water supplies being derived from the Russian River, Lake Sonoma, Lake Mendocino—all bodies of water that were at all-time lows. It was also shared that PG&E may no longer transfer water from the Eel River to Lake Mendocino which would result in not enough water in 8 out of 10 years. It was shared that climate change is a major factor to water storage and that there is a greater need for more funding for infrastructure and that staff retention a significant problem.

Brian Sanders, Policy & Legislative Specialist, City of Sacramento, discussed two diversions plants, one on the American River and one on the Sacramento River. Mr. Sanders indicated that there were over 30 groundwater wells, and that the city treats and serves 37 billion gallons per year and has a combined storm/sewer system. Mr. Sanders indicated that climate change has significantly impacted their system and storage capacity requiring the city to use ground water when stream flows are low. Additionally, Mr. Sanders noted that during high flows, the city of Roseville diverts water on behalf of the city of Sacramento to recharge groundwater for later use.

Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

## VI. Legislative Update

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the following three measures

- [SB 638 \(Eggman\)](#) Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024.
- [AB 1567 \(Garcia\)](#) Safe Drinking Water Bond Act.
- [SB 867 \(Allen\)](#) Drought and Resiliency Bond Act.

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of each of the three water bonds. Collectively, these measures would put forward \$20 billion in bond funding. These bills were also heard in the Environmental Quality Policy Committee (EQ). EQ supported these bonds with amendments.

Committee members asked questions and provided comments.

Members of the committee discussed potential amendments to potentially support each of the measures. Potential amendments included increased funding for water conveyance, connectivity of conveyance projects, water redundancy, and that each measure provided additional funding for water recycling projects. The committee discussed the need for enhanced groundwater recharge, surface water storage, and for increased dam and reservoir safety. The committee highlighted the need for greater watershed management, expanded local water conservation programs, and the need to ensure small cities have equal access to funding. Members of the committee shared that Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals are a major concern, and that any proposal should include provisions for the testing and monitoring of PFAS.

The committee directed staff to engage authors of each measure to advocate for the policy priorities that were highlighted, and that SB 867 needed more clarity and that the measure fund fewer targeted programs at higher levels and voted accordingly.

Motion to Support SB 638 if amended. Passed 36-2 4 abstained  
Motion to Support AB 1567 if amended. Passed 40-0 2 abstained  
Motion to Support SB 867 if amended. Passed 37-3 1 abstained

Cal Cities staff provided an extensive overview of the major bills within the TCPW portfolio.

**VII. Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** Friday, June 23, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Pomona (in-person)