

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Room 203, Sacramento CA 95814

ATTENDANCE

Members: Mireya Turner (Chair), Allan “Doc” Bernstein (V.Chair), Emily Beach, Kristi Becker, Anna Brown, Thomas Butt, Catherine Carlton, Jennifer Cavenaugh, Teresa Chen, Robert Collacott, Jim Diaz, Amanda Folendorf, Debra Garnes, Daryl Grigsby, Clay Holstine, Dan Kalb, Mina Layba, Rey Leon, Jesse Loren, Diana Mahmud, Lawrence Mainez, Julio Martinez, Marjorie Mohler, Cynthia Moran, Richard O’Brien, Oley Olsen, Kimberly Petersen, Nick Pilch, David Pollock, Randall Putz, Jason Pyle, Gabe Quinto, Joel Rojas, Robert Schultz, Mario Sierra, George Spurr, Tom Stallard, Matthew Summers, Russ Utz, Gillian van Muyden, Arwen Wacht, Kerri Warren, Kevin Wilk, James Wood

League Partners: Tim James

Staff: Erin Evans-Fudem

I. State Budget and General Briefing

The January 2019 Policy Committee meetings began with a General Session briefing. Stacey Mattina, League Housing, Community and Economic Development policy committee chair, welcomed the attendees. She then introduced League President Jan Arbuckle, Council Member, Grass Valley, who thanked them for their efforts and summarized recent meetings by League officers in the Capitol. Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director also provided brief remarks. The rest of the briefing was then given by the League’s legislative team.

Deputy Executive Director/Legislative Director, Dan Carrigg, gave a brief overview that highlighted the importance of the League’s 2019 Strategic Goals and discussed both the state budget and legislative issues. Mr. Carrigg then introduced Michael Coleman, the League’s Fiscal Policy Advisor, to discuss the Governor’s January budget.

Mr. Coleman gave a short PowerPoint presentation on the 2019-20 January Governor’s budget. Governor Newsom’s proposed state budget includes \$144 billion in General Fund spending and when combined with proposed special fund and bond proceed allocations, totals \$209 billion. Mr. Carrigg explained that while general fund expending has increased, Governor Newsom was being fiscally prudent. The budget proposal increased the Rainy Day Reserve to \$15.3 billion, paying down a total of \$4.1 billion state pension liabilities, allocating an additional \$700 million to a social safety net reserves and \$2.3 billion in general reserves. Mr. Coleman warned that former Governor Brown warned of a looming recession and that the state needs to be prepared for a downturn. Also discussed was the makeup of the current state Legislature, including the fact that the Democrats now have a “super-duper” majority in both legislative houses. For more information about the impacts of the budget on cities, please review the [League’s analysis](#), and information on Mr. Coleman’s website [here](#). Mr. Coleman then gave Dan Carrigg the floor.

Mr. Carrigg elaborated on some of the line items included in Governor Newsom proposed budget. This included homelessness funding, mental health, and disaster recovery. Mr. Carrigg also explained the new ballot initiative process where ballot measure sponsors can now pull measures from the ballot in exchange for legislative deals. Then Mr. Carrigg introduced the League’s lobbyists to discuss their respective issue areas.

Jason Rhine, League Assistant Legislative Director, focused on the housing affordability and availability challenges throughout the state. Mr. Rhine noted that housing legislation is a high priority for the Governor, Legislature, and the League this year. He noted that if achieved, Governor Newsom's goal of producing 3.5 million housing units by 2025 would create an unprecedented level of housing production in the state. Additionally, Mr. Rhine encouraged members to be active in advocating for legislation that will help local governments address their housing challenges while preserving appropriate local control functions.

Dane Hutchings, League Legislative Representative, briefed members on issues related to governance, transparency, and labor relations. He briefly discussed sexual harassment prevention legislation that would provide rebuttable presumptions and joint-several liability with contractors. Mr. Hutchings also mentioned divestment measures, the Governor's plan to extend paid family leave, and the pending outcome of the "Cal-Fire" case. He stressed that cities are struggling with increasing costs, and securing additional flexibility for cities is a priority.

Charles Harvey, League Legislative Representative, gave an update on various public safety related issues including cannabis and cannabis deliveries, drones, police use of force, and gun legislation. On the topic of cannabis, Mr. Harvey noted that the recently authorized Bureau of Cannabis Control regulations authorizing cannabis deliveries in any jurisdiction in the state would be harmful to cities and will take effect in the spring. In addition, Mr. Harvey discussed the topic of police use of force and the likely re-introduction of a police use of force bill from last year, which was authored by Assemblymember Weber.

Erin Evans-Fudem, League Legislative Representative, highlighted evolving environmental and community issues that will be big in 2019. Ms. Evans-Fudem discussed the programs and proposed funding allocations in the cap-and-trade program. She explained how those programs would continue to be a priority for cities. In addition, Ms. Evans-Fudem discussed the importance for cities to engage in discussions about organic waste recycling regulations, disaster relief and wildfire response legislation, the ramifications of the PG&E declared forthcoming bankruptcy, and clean drinking water legislation.

Rony Berdugo, League Legislative Representative, discussed transportation, communications, and public works. Chief among them was the concept Governor Newsom proposed to tie transportation dollars from Senate Bill 1 (Beall, 2017) to housing production. Mr. Berdugo also summarized the recent Federal Communication Commission's ruling that preempts cities' ability to site telecommunications infrastructure. This proposal is similar to SB 649 (Hueso, 2017) that was vetoed by Governor Brown in 2017 and garnered over 320 opposition letters from cities.

Lastly, Dan Carrigg briefly talked about issues related to revenue and taxation. Mr. Carrigg informed the general session about the Wayfair court case and bills that could affect city sales tax. Mr. Carrigg then adjourned the general session and policy committees commenced.

Friday Special Presentation and Discussion with Governor's Representatives:

Ms. Matosantos and Mr. Elliott spoke to the general session about Governor Newsom's budgetary and legislative priorities this year. Some of these items included, housing, transportation, and healthcare. Ms. Matosanto stressed that the administration wants to work with the League and local governments on a variety of issues. Mr. Elliot talked about his decade of city service in San Francisco and how he wants to work with local governments to implement Governor Newsom's agenda. Then Ms. Matosantos and Mr. Elliott took questions from the general membership. The questions from the general session ranged, but included disaster and

emergency response, implementation of the Wayfair decision, addressing homelessness, and tying transportation dollars to housing production. It was encouraging to hear Ms. Monasatnos say that cities should not be blamed or punished for things they do not control when it comes to the production of housing. After they took numerous questions, the general session was adjourned and policy committees commenced.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Turner began introductions of herself, followed by Vice-Chair Bernstein, and League Staff. This was followed by introductions from each committee member, where each member stated their name, city, title, and their top environmental quality priority for 2019.

III. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

IV. Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Roberts Rules

This was an informational item presented by the Chair as an agenda attachment. Staff highlighted some of the key provisions and procedures the committee will follow.

V. Committee Orientation

This was an informational item presented by the Chair as an agenda attachment. Staff highlighted some of the items such as the role of staff and the importance of Committee member involvement.

VI. League Strategic Goals for 2019

The Committee reviewed the League's 2019 Strategic Goals. The goals are as follows:

1. Provide Cities Additional Funding and Tools and Preserve Local Authority to Address Housing Production, Affordability and Homelessness Challenges;
2. Improve Disaster Preparedness, Recovery and Climate Resiliency;
3. Promote Sustainability of Public Pension and Retirement Health Benefits; and
4. Address Public Safety Concerns of California Cities.

VII. Review of Existing Policy & Guiding Principles

League staff briefed committee members on the League's publication of Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles, specifically the sections relating to Environmental Quality. League staff then went on to explain the process of updating the policy including the timeline, methods, history, and how the policy shapes the decisions lobbyists make in regard to legislative positions.

VIII. 2019 Draft Work Program

Following the comments made during introductions regarding members' top environmental quality priorities, the committee deliberated the 2019 work plan which will set the course for committee actions and League staff work. After a thoughtful discussion about the committee's priorities, the work program was unanimously approved after a few changes. The 2019 Environmental Quality policy committee's priorities are as follows:

1. Storm water and water quality;
2. Solid waste and recycling markets;
3. Disaster prevention. preparedness, and resiliency; and
4. CEQA.

League staff mentioned that the language and scope of each of the four priorities has been intentionally left broad to accommodate the flux of policy as the League heads into a new legislative cycle.

IX. California Department of Conservation

David Bunn, Director, and Sarah Rubin, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator at the Department of Conservation presented to the committee a demonstration of the Department's mapping technology, which serves as a valuable tool available to cities for disaster preparation, planning, and response. The maps feature active data regarding the presence of potential hazards such as landslides, earthquake-prone areas, tsunami inundation zones, and identification of areas with certain minerals, wells, mines, and toxic substances. All of these maps have the potential to be overlaid to display desired data sets with specific areas. A link to the data mapping technology can be found [here](#).

X. Institute for Local Government

Karalee Brown, Manager, and Christal Love Lazard, Manager, from the Institute for Local Government (ILG) presented to the committee an overview of the Institute's Beacon Program, which serves as a framework for local governments to share best practices in order to accomplish their goals in improving sustainability. By participating in the Beacon Program, local governments that make important strides in reducing things like greenhouse gas emissions, saving energy, and adopting policies and programs that promote sustainability can win awards, be connected to a network of similarly-motivated communities, and can even receive grant money for certain projects. ILG staff highlighted the presence of newly available funds from the passage of SB 856 of 2018, \$1 million of which will be provided to disadvantaged communities seeking to address climate change issues. For any questions regarding ILG's Beacon Program, cities can contact [Karalee Brown](#) or [Christal Love Lazard](#).

XI. Legislative Update

Erin Evans-Fudem briefed committee members on introduced legislation as well as what to expect in the coming year, including a brief description on how the legislative process operates. Ms. Evans-Fudem highlighted a few recently introduced bills related to environmental quality issues. Of note were bills related to issues like zero-emissions vehicles, recycling, and a proposal to establish a statewide central electricity procurement entity (AB 56, E. Garcia).

In addition to the staff legislative update, Tim James, League Partner and Committee Member with the California Grocers Association, gave an update regarding the regulation of food packaging. Mr. James mentioned that over 120 cities throughout the state have established local ordinances to reduce single-use plastics, particularly plastic shopping bags prior to the passage of Proposition 67 (2016) which instated a state-wide plastic bag ban.

Next Meeting: March 28, Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa, 3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa