

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
July 30, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City
Council Members

FROM: Lisa Kim
City Manager

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. COMMUNITY SERVICES

A memo is attached to provide information about the H. Louis Lake Senior Center's 50th anniversary celebration.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Attached is a memo providing a recap of the USA 250 Movie Night at Edgar Park, and providing information on the upcoming Car Show and Movie Night on Main Street.

• **OTHER ITEMS**

– SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



Lisa Kim
City Manager

City of Garden Grove
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa L. Kim
Dept.: City Manager
Subject: H. Louis Lake Senior Center's
50th Anniversary

From: John Montanez
Dept.: Community Services
Date: July 30, 2026

OBJECTIVE

To inform the City Council about the H. Louis Lake Senior Center's 50th anniversary celebration, including a weeklong Spirit Week taking place August 3–7, 2026, and the 50th anniversary party on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

BACKGROUND

The H. Louis Lake Senior Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a week of commemorative activities recognizing five decades of service to Garden Grove's older adult community. The celebration will include a themed Spirit Week, encouraging participants to dress up each day, along with a special anniversary party on Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

DISCUSSION

Throughout the week of August 3 through August 7, participants will be invited to take part in Spirit Week by dressing according to a different daily theme, including Crazy Hat Day, Western Day, Red Carpet Day, Throwback Thursday, and Pajama Day. The highlight of the week's celebration will be the 50th Anniversary Party on Wednesday, August 5, 2026. Participants will enjoy small bites, music provided by a DJ, dancing, a craft station where attendees can create party accessories, and photo backdrops. The celebration will conclude with a toast honoring the Center's 50 years of service. Please see the attached flyers for additional event details.

SUMMARY

The H. Louis Lake Senior Center's 50th anniversary celebration commemorates five decades of serving Garden Grove's older adult community. A highlight of the weeklong celebration will be the 50th Anniversary Party on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the H. Louis Lake Senior Center.



JOHN MONTANCHEZ
Community Services Director



By: Amanda Cross
Human Services Assistant Supervisor

Attachments: 50th Anniversary Party Flyer, 50th Anniversary Spirit Week Flyer



H. LOUIS LAKE
SENIOR CENTER

50th

Anniversary Party

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 50
YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP,
COMMUNITY, AND MEMORIES.
THERE WILL BE DESSERT, MUSIC,
AND CRAFTS FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

LOCATION: H. LOUIS LAKE SENIOR
CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP,
PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

(714) 741-5253

H. Louis Lake
SENIOR CENTER

H. LOUIS LAKE 50th ANNIVERSARY SPIRIT WEEK

AUGUST 3-7

**MONDAY
AUG 3**



CRAZY HAT DAY

Wear the craziest hat you own.

AUG 4



WESTERN DAY

Wear your favorite western attire.

**WEDNESDAY
AUG 5**



RED CARPET DAY

Bring the glamour, wear black or gold.

**THURSDAY
AUG 6**



THROWBACK THURSDAY

Wear attire from your favorite decade.

**FRIDAY
AUG 7**



PJ/COMFY DAY

Wear pajamas or lounge clothing.

City of Garden Grove
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa L. Kim From: John Montanez
Dept.: City Manager Dept.: Community Services
Subject: USA 250 Movie Night Recap and Date: July 30, 2026
Car Show and Movie Night on Main St.

OBJECTIVE

To inform the City Council about the USA 250 Movie Night that took place on Friday, July 3, 2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Edgar Park and the upcoming third annual Car Show and Movie on Main St. event taking place on Friday, August 7, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in Downtown Garden Grove.

BACKGROUND

City staff planned an additional outdoor movie night this summer to celebrate USA's 250th birthday. Participants were treated to patriotic feature film under the stars. The event also included family friendly activities, trivia, and USA 250 themed giveaways.

City staff is collaborating with the Garden Grove Main St. Car Show organizers and the Garden Grove Downtown Business owners for the third year to put on a great family event and cap off the summer season. This event provides participants the opportunity to take in the beauty of vintage cars, socialize, and enjoy a feature film under the stars. The event also helps bolster foot traffic for local businesses in the downtown Garden Grove area.

DISCUSSION

On Friday, July 3, 2026, participants enjoyed the night celebrating USA's 250 birthday with family friendly activities, United States history trivia, and socializing with other community members at this special outdoor movie night, which took place from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. About 150 participants were also treated to themed giveaways, a photo op, free bags of kettle corn, and a special screening of *Captain America: The First Avenger*.

The final outdoor summer movie night will take place on Friday, August 7, 2026, where participants will get the opportunity to enjoy a late afternoon walking through downtown Main St., taking in the beauty of classical cars and socializing with other community members at the Garden Grove Main St. Car Show, which will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. During this time, participants will also be treated to music, local vendors, a screening of *Wicked: For Good*, free LED light up foam sticks, and a free bag of kettle corn. The collaboration between the Garden Grove Main St.

USA 250 Movie Night Recap and
Car Show and Movie Night on Main St.
July 30, 2026
Page 2

Car Show organizers, downtown business owners, and the City of Garden Grove continues to be a fruitful partnership that allows the City to provide quality events that enhance the quality of life for all participants.

SUMMARY

The USA 250 Movie Night and the upcoming Car Show and Movie on Main St. continue the City's commitment to providing high quality, family friendly community events that bring residents together while celebrating local traditions and national milestones. Through partnerships with community organizations, downtown businesses, and volunteers, these events create opportunities for recreation, strengthen community connections, support local businesses, and enhance the overall quality of life for Garden Grove residents.



JOHN MONTANCHEZ
Community Services Director



By: Rene Camarena
Recreation Supervisor

Attachment: Movie Night on Main St. Flyer

FREE

GARDEN GROVE PRESENTS

OUTDOOR *Movie Series*

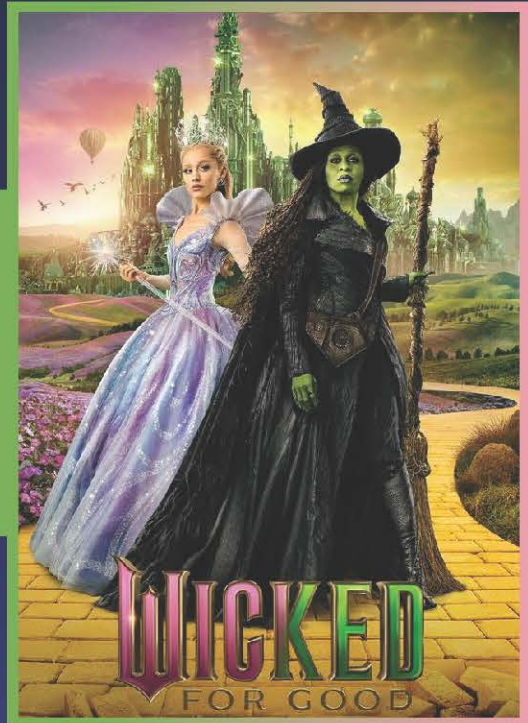
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

**MAIN STREET CAR SHOW
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**WICKED: FOR GOOD
(2025) PG**

MOVIE START TIME: 8:30 PM

**HISTORIC MAIN STREET
GARDEN GROVE, CA, 92840**



- ★ Event attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.
- ★ Stop by the City of Garden Grove tent for a FREE bag of kettle corn from C&M Ohana, while supplies last!



ggcity.org/outdoormovieseries

WEEKLY MEMO 07-30-2026

NEWS ARTICLES

The Tribune

July 29, 2026

Hazmat incident is ‘mitigated’

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON JULY 29, 2026 • ([LEAVE A COMMENT](#))



FIREFIGHTERS from the Huntington Beach Fire Department and Anaheim Fire and Rescue at the scene of a hazmat incident in Huntington Beach (HBFD).

A hazardous materials incident that led to a limited evacuation of an area in an industrial zone in Huntington Beach today (Wednesday) has been “mitigated,” according to authorities.

The incident was in the 15200 block of Newsboy Circle between Graham Street and Bolsa Chica Street.

At about 9:30 a.m. the alert was sounded because an employee of TS Conductor accidentally mixed chemicals in a 55-gallon drum, according to the Huntington Beach Fire Department.

The mixture began to “self-heat,” which led to employees being evacuated from the building and workers in nearby businesses being told to “shelter in place.”

With the assistance of the Anaheim Fire and Rescue, the HBFD was able to “safely resolve the incident.”



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: Mark Ladney
Garden Grove Public Works
(714) 741-5372/markla@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Thursday, July 9, 2026



CITY TO HOST COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAY ON JULY 18

The City of Garden Grove and Garden Grove Sanitary District, in partnership with Republic Services, will host a Community Cleanup Day on Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Garden Grove Unified School District Main Office, located at 10331 Stanford Ave.

The event is part of a series of community cleanup days offered bimonthly, that give residents an opportunity to properly dispose of bulky items including non-refrigerant appliances, furniture and electronic waste. Residents may also recycle household and power tool batteries.

Paper shredding services will be available on a first-come, first-served basis to help safely dispose of personal documents. A limit of four boxes per vehicle applies. Only paper will be accepted. Three-ring binders, file folders with metal, and other non-paper materials will not be allowed.

Items not accepted include hazardous waste, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units, concrete, dirt, tires, construction debris and automotive batteries.

Residents who are unable to attend are encouraged to use Republic Services' free bulky item collection service. Single and multi-family households receives up to

three bulky item pickups per calendar year, with a limit of 10 items per pickup. To schedule a pickup, call (714) 238-3300.

For more information, visit ggcity.org/cleanup-days.

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CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: Johnathan Garcia
Public Information Officer
(714) 741-5283/johnathang@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Thursday, July 23, 2026



GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO OFFER HYBRID PARTICIPATION

Beginning with the Tuesday, August 11 meeting, community members will have new options to participate in Garden Grove City Council meetings remotely and access meeting information in additional languages. The changes follow Senate Bill 707, the Brown Act Modernization Act, which took effect July 1, and expands public access to local government meetings.

City Council meetings will continue to be held in person at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, located at 11300 Stanford Avenue. Community members will also be able to join through Zoom or by telephone to listen and provide live public comment. Remote speakers will be accommodated during the same public comment periods as those attending in person.

The new options supplement existing ways to participate. Community members may continue to attend meetings in person or submit written comments by 3 p.m. on the meeting date by emailing cityclerk@ggcity.org. Instructions for submitting comments by in-person, virtually, e-mail or mail are also available at ggcity.org/city-council/meetings-participation.

-more-

GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO OFFER HYBRID PARTICIPATION 2-2-2

The City Council remains on its scheduled summer recess, with no meeting on Tuesday, July 28. Regular meetings will resume Tuesday, August 11, at 6:30 p.m. Meeting agendas are posted at least 72 hours in advance at ggcity.org/city-clerk.

For more information, contact the Garden Grove City Clerk's Office at (714) 741-5043 or cityclerk@ggcity.org.



WEEKLY MEMO 07-30-2026

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

July 23, 2026 – July 30, 2026

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

X @CityGardenGrove

f Garden Grove City Hall

ig gardengrovecityhall





gardengrovecityhall
Thu 7/23/2026 9:20 am PDT



Beat the heat, Garden Grove! The Cooling Center is Now Open!

...





COOLING CENTER NOW OPEN
THURSDAY, JULY 23 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center
13641 Deodara Drive

YA ESTA ABIERTO EL CENTRO PARA REFRESCARSE
Jueves, 23 de Julio, de 11:00 A.M. a 5:00 P.M.
Centro de Deportes y Recreación de Garden Grove
13641 Deodara Drive

Views11,258





Garden Grove City Hall
Thu 7/23/2026 9:19 am PDT



Beat the heat, Garden Grove! The Cooling Center is Now Open!

...





Views10,868





gardengrovecityhall
Fri 7/24/2026 3:15 pm PDT



Can you spot the mistake in this organics bin?



...





Views5,230



gardengrovecityhall

Thu 7/23/2026 5:23 pm PDT

Joining Garden Grove City Council meetings just got easier!

...



Views

3,593



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 7/24/2026 3:15 pm PDT

Can you spot the mistake in this organics bin?

...



Views

3,220



Garden Grove City Hall

Wed 7/29/2026 6:30 pm PDT

The U.S. National Weather Service has declared an Extreme Heat Warning beginning on Friday, July 31 at 10:00 a.m. and continuing until Sunday,...



Views

2,106





Garden Grove City Hall

Thu 7/23/2026 5:19 pm PDT

 Joining Garden Grove City Council meetings just got easier!

...



Views

1,966





gardengrovecityhall

Tue 7/28/2026 4:02 pm PDT

Join us for the spellbinding conclusion next Friday, August 7!! 🎬🔪 Tap for all the details!



Views

1,641





gardengrovecityhall

Wed 7/29/2026 1:08 pm PDT

Are you interested in building your career, starting a business, or sharpening your professional skills? Now's your chance to participate in the FREE...



Views

1,611

FREE TO ATTEND!

lunch and learn

PROGRAM INFO

MON, WEDS, THURS
12 - 1:30 PM
JULY 29 - AUGUST 13

* Lunch will be provided

DATE	TOPIC
29, 2026	Credit and Loans/Interview Prep
30, 2026	Budgets/Trades Panel Outlining info on skills, opportunities, influence and construction professions
1, 2026	Immigration/90 Days at Work
5, 2026	Transa/Health Care Panel featuring information nursing, certified nurse assistants, pharmaceutical technicians and their respective professions
9, 2026	Retirement/Overseas for Success including a clothing showcase
10, 2026	Marketing & Investments/Non-Profit Panel
12, 2026	Entrepreneurship Panel/Government Panel featuring practices, the public works and financial professions
13, 2026	Job Fair/Financial Aid & Tuition



gardengrovecityhall

Fri 7/24/2026 3:17 pm PDT



Views

1,517



gardengrovecityhall

Mon 7/27/2026 10:43 am PDT

Last week to view the display!



Views

1,277



Garden Grove City Hall

Wed 7/29/2026 1:08 pm PDT

Are you interested in building your career, starting a business, or sharpening your professional skills? Now's your chance to participate in the FREE...



Views

981





gardengrovecityhall

Thu 7/23/2026 9:43 am PDT

It's going to be a fun night!



Views

905





gardengrovecityhall

Thu 7/23/2026 11:32 am PDT



Views

759





gardengrovecityhall

Wed 7/29/2026 6:30 pm PDT

The U.S. National Weather Service has declared an Extreme Heat Warning beginning on Friday, July 31 at 10:00 a.m. and continuing until Sunday, August...



Views

706



@CityGardenGrove

Thu 7/23/2026 9:23 am PDT

☀️ Beat the heat, Garden Grove! The Cooling Center is Now Open!

...

**COOLING CENTER
NOW OPEN**

THURSDAY, JULY 23 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Garden Grove Sports and
Recreation Center**

13641 Deodara Drive



Impressions

322



@CityGardenGrove

Wed 7/29/2026 1:08 pm PDT

Are you interested in building your career, starting a business, or sharpening your professional skills? Now's your chance to participate in the FREE...



Impressions

151



@CityGardenGrove

Thu 7/23/2026 9:23 am PDT

Combate el calor, Garden Grove! Ya esta abierto el centro para refrescarse!

...

**YA ESTA ABIERTO EL
CENTRO PARA
REFRESCARSE**

Jueves, 23 de Julio, de 11:00 A.M. a 5:00 P.M.

**Centro de Deportes y
Recreación de Garden Grove**

13641 Deodara Drive



Impressions

117



@CityGardenGrove

Thu 7/23/2026 9:24 am PDT

Trung tâm tránh nóng hiện đã mở cửa!

Trung tâm H. Louis Lake Senior Center, 11300...

TRUNG TAM
TRÁNH NẮNG HIỆN
ĐANG MỞ CỬA

THỨ NĂM, 23 THÁNG BẢY
11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Garden Grove Sports and
Recreation Center
13641 Deodara Drive

Impressions

115



@CityGardenGrove

Thu 7/23/2026 9:25 am PDT

가든그로브 주민 여러분, 더위를 이겨내세요! 쿨링 센터가 이제 문을 열었습니다!

...

쿨링 센터가 문을 열었습니다

7월 23일 목요일 오전 11:00 – 오후 5:00

가든그로브 스포츠 및 레크리에이션 센터
Garden Grove Sports and
Recreation Center
13641 Deodara Drive

Impressions

71



@CityGardenGrove

Wed 7/29/2026 1:08 pm PDT

July 29 through August 13 | Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

12PM-1:30PM...

Lunch and Learn

PROGRAM INFO

MON, WEDS, THURS
12 - 1:30 PM
JULY 29 - AUGUST 13

Lunch will be provided.

DATE	TOPIC
Jul 29, 2026	Credit and Loans/Interview Prep
Jul 30, 2026	Budgets/Trades Panel featuring info on auto, cosmetology, influencer and construction professions.
2026	Insurance/1st 90 Days at Work
Aug 5, 2026	Taxes/Health Care Panel featuring info on nursing,

Impressions

46



@CityGardenGrove

Wed 7/29/2026 1:08 pm PDT

Enjoy a free lunch while learning about budgeting, interviewing, entrepreneurship, financial wellness, and more! Plus. connect with local professionals and explore resources to help you achieve your goals.

**#GG1956 #GardenGrove
#WorkforceDevelopment
#CareerReadiness**



Impressions

40



Garden Grove City Hall

Thu 7/23/2026 5:03 pm PDT

Can you spot the mistake in this organics bin?



...

Garden Grove City Hall



Views

0



Post Performance

July 23, 2026 – July 30, 2026

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

 Garden Grove Police Department





Garden Grove Police Department

Wed 7/29/2026 1:26 pm PDT

Yesterday, members of our Special Investigations Unit (SIU) served a search warrant at a residence, resulting in the seizure of methamphetamine,...



Engagements	850
Views	11,819
Reach	7,153
Engagement Rate (per View)	7.2%



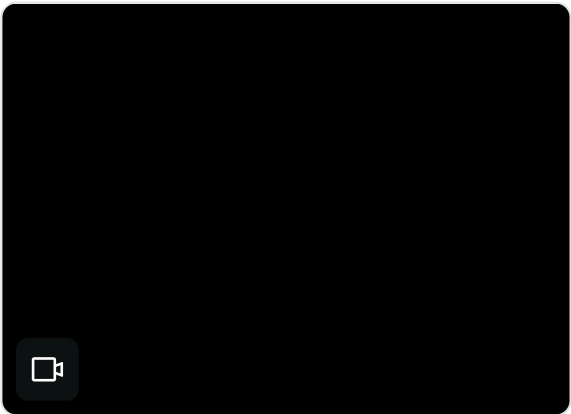


Garden Grove Police Department

Tue 7/28/2026 8:19 pm PDT

 National Night Out is Back! 

Get ready for an action-packed evening at the...



Engagements	155
Views	2,455
Reach	1,929
Engagement Rate (per View)	6.3%
Video Views	831





Garden Grove Police Department

Mon 7/27/2026 7:06 pm PDT

Day shift conducted a traffic stop on a U-Haul cargo van for vehicle code violations. During the investigation, it was determined that the driver ha...



Engagements	1,518
Views	11,197
Reach	8,097
Engagement Rate (per View)	13.6%
Video Views	5,911

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
July 30, 2026

1. Calendar of Events
2. Notice of Cancellation of the August 6, 2026 Garden Grove Planning Commission meeting.
3. Agenda for the July 23, 2026 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator meeting.
4. League of California Cities articles from July 24, 2026 to July 30, 2026



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 30, 2026 – August 25, 2026

Thursday	July 30		Holiday Drive \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day Casual Dress **RESCHEDULED/TBD**
Thursday	July 30	9:00 a.m.	Downtown Commission Special Meeting, CMC
Thursday	July 30	6:30 p.m.	Free Summer Concert – Bee Gees Fever, Eastgate Park
Friday	July 31	10:00 p.m.	Purcell Parking Lot Re-Striping **Please remember to move any cars by 9pm
Tuesday	August 5	5:00 p.m.	Garden Grove Police Department - National Night Out 2026, Police Station
Thursday	August 6		Holiday Drive \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day Casual Dress **RESCHEDULED/TBD**
Thursday	August 6	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	August 7		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Friday	August 7	8:30 p.m.	Outdoor Movie Series- Wicked: For Good
Tuesday	August 11	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	August 13	9:00 p.m.	Zoning Administration, CMC
Thursday	August 20	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Tuesday	August 25	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority Meeting, CMC Sanitary District Meeting, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION
AUGUST 6, 2026
REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: July 30, 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bert Ashland', written in a cursive style.

BERT ASHLAND
CHAIR



AGENDA

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR MEETING

JULY 23, 2026 – 9:00 am

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER
11300 STANFORD AVENUE

Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Zoning Administrator, in lieu of doing so in person, may submit comments by emailing public-comment@ggcity.org no later than 3:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Zoning Administrator as part of the meeting record.

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except public hearings, must do so during Comments by the Public. Each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Meeting Assistance: Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services, due to a disability, should contact the Community Development Department at (714) 741-5312 or email planning@ggcity.org 72 hours prior to the meeting to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2).

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to the Zoning Administrator within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Planning Services Division during normal business hours; and (2) at the Community Meeting Center at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Zoning Administrator may take legislative action deemed appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC

2. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM(S):

a. [CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-184-2020 \(REV. 2026\)](#)

APPLICANT: North Fontana Petro Inc.
LOCATION: 10602 Westminster Avenue

REQUEST: A request to modify the Conditions of Approval for Conditional Use Permit No. CUP-184-2020 to extend the hours of operation for an existing gas station convenience store. In conjunction with the request, the Zoning Administrator will also consider a determination that the

project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a Decision approving Conditional Use Permit No. CUP-184-2020 (REV. 2026) pursuant to the recommended Conditions of Approval.

3. ADJOURNMENT



Cal Cities bill would help maintain funding for local roads and services

Jul 29, 2026

By Belinda Torres, 2026 Ronald O. Loveridge Summer Fellow, and Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor

Assembly lawmakers are poised to send a bill that clarifies cities may recover the cost of street maintenance and repair caused by public service operations through existing public service fees to Gov. Gavin Newsom for approval. Sponsored by Cal Cities, lawmakers in both parties have supported [SB 922 \(Laird\)](#). The bill could be voted on by the Assembly when legislators return from summer recess on Aug. 3. Essential public services rely on the regular use of local streets by heavy vehicles, such as garbage and recycling trucks. Historically, cities accounted for these impacts by incorporating the cost of repairs into rates, fees, or franchise arrangements tied to providing those services, along with local General Fund revenues, local voter-approved sales taxes, or limited state transportation funds.

However, that longstanding practice was disrupted by *Rogers vs. The City of Redlands*, when a judge ordered the city to stop collecting a portion of its solid waste rates. Chris Huot, Paso Robles city manager, notes that the broad decision may have far-reaching consequences for how public agencies recover their full costs of providing vital public services, including costs for associated roadway impacts. "SB 922 provides much-needed clarity for local governments," said Huot. "It helps ensure cities can continue responsibly recovering roadway maintenance costs associated with providing public services, allowing us to protect critical infrastructure while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars."

The decision came at a particularly challenging time for cities. California's streets are already in [poor condition](#), and analysts have warned that [transportation revenues](#) will decline sharply as electric vehicle (EV) adoption increases. EVs are also often heavier than traditional vehicles and can contribute to even greater pavement damage.

"Providing public services, including solid waste collection, creates real costs on local infrastructure, particularly local roads," said Lutfi Kharuf, a partner at Best Best & Krieger who has litigated several related cases for cities. "SB 922 does not create new fee authority — it clarifies that agencies may recover the full, reasonable costs of providing those services, consistent with existing constitutional limits."

By reaffirming existing practices, SB 922 would restore legal clarity, reduce unnecessary litigation, and provide greater certainty for local agencies and service providers alike. To learn how your city can make its voice heard, contact your [regional public affairs manager](#).



Last bite at the plastic apple: Single-use plastics cost recovery comments due Aug. 14

Jul 29, 2026

Draft program plan open for public comment until Aug. 14

By Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative advocate (environmental quality)

The state is seeking final input from cities and other stakeholders on its [draft plastic pollution prevention plan](#) — including how to compensate local governments and recycling and waste haulers. Cities can provide feedback via a public comment [portal](#) and by submitting a letter until Aug. 14.

The regulations are the result of a 2022 landmark law [authored by Sen. Ben Allen](#) that requires plastic producers to ensure all packaging is either recyclable or compostable by 2032 and to reimburse local governments for any related costs.

What do the regulations say (or not say)?

In a rare move last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom told CalRecycle to redo the regulations to address “affordability concerns.” Cal Cities [expressed deep concerns](#) about these changes, which exclude bioplastics from the overall costs and design of recyclable and compostable products. This will create new costs for local governments, which must separate recyclable and non-recyclable materials in the waste stream.

Cal Cities and others also urged CalRecycle to explicitly outline how manufacturers reimburse cities and recyclers. CalRecycle did not fully clarify the repayment process, punting the conversation to the draft program plan.

What can my city do?

The Circular Action Alliance, a state-appointed nonprofit, is responsible for developing and implementing the program plan. This plan must meet statutory and regulatory requirements under state oversight, which includes a five-year budget, funded by producers, to implement the program.

Cal Cities encourages cities to use this [customizable letter](#) when submitting public comments. Cal Cities is specifically asking for:

- Clearer definitions of eligible costs.
- Specific reimbursement schedules.
- Clearer payment process and mechanisms.
- A universal verification and payment portal for all cities, instead of individual contractual agreements that drive up costs for cities.
- Coordination among eligible applicants to prevent duplicative payments.

Comments to the Circular Action Alliance must be submitted via this [portal](#).

What's next?

SB 54 has come under increasing scrutiny since it passed four years ago. Earlier this year, [environmentalists sued the state](#), arguing the [new regulations](#) gutted the law, and [17 other states filed a federal complaint](#), asking the court to block the law immediately. Federal lawmakers are also weighing [changes to the federal definition of bioplastics](#). Cal Cities opposes the change, as it could undermine SB 54. Despite these challenges, regulators are still marching forward with implementation. Cal Cities will work to ensure cities are fully reimbursed for the costs associated with the program, as required by law.

For more information about the Circular Action Alliance, please visit circularactionalliance.org/california. For information about CalRecycle's oversight and SB 54 in general, go to calrecycle.ca.gov/packaging/packaging-epr/.



Cal Cities Board votes on ballot measures, expands member group

Jul 22, 2026

By Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor

The Cal Cities Board of Directors met last week in Redondo Beach to vote on several November ballot measures, review Cal Cities' legislative progress, and expand a member group.

The two-day meeting started with an update on Cal Cities' legislative agenda. State lawmakers will return to Sacramento on Aug. 3 for a compressed, 30-day sprint to the end of the session. Legislators have a slew of high-profile issues to work through, including potential changes to [Cap-and-Invest](#), [wildlife liability](#), [tort law](#), the [California Voting Rights Act](#), and [CalPERS](#).

Cal Cities lobbyists are providing in-depth breakdowns of each issue area in [Cal Cities Advocate](#) over the summer recess.

Board members also received an update on federal-level advocacy from Irma Esparza Diggs, senior executive and director of federal advocacy for the National League of Cities. Diggs warned the Board about two proposals that would establish [new rules for mail-in/absentee ballots](#) and allow [political appointees to terminate federal grants mid-award](#).

The Board also took action on three November ballot measures: Propositions 1, 43, and 45.

The Board voted to support Prop. 1, an \$11.25 billion affordable housing bond that supports key state housing programs. If approved by voters, it could jumpstart the construction of 135,000 housing units. It also allocates funding for housing preservation and ownership.

Prop. 43 raises the threshold for approval for citizen-initiated special taxes from a simple majority to two-thirds, starting on Jan. 1, 2027. Legislators agreed to place the measure on the ballot after the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association [pulled a property transfer tax initiative](#). The Board voted to oppose Prop. 43.

After a robust debate, the Board took no position on Prop. 45. Sponsored by the California Chamber of Commerce, the measure seeks to expedite certain water, wildfire, multifamily housing, and transportation by streamlining parts of the state's environmental review law, [CEQA](#).

The Board also approved an expansion to the Rural Cities Information Exchange, now known as the Small and Rural Cities Member Group, and learned about the Advancing Equity Advisory Committee's long-term efforts to help cities build more equitable communities.

The member group provides a forum for members to exchange best practices, discuss common challenges, elevate small and rural cities' perspectives, and coordinate advocacy efforts. The advancing equity committee is looking at ways to provide free resources to cities.

The next Board meeting is Sept. 23-25 in Anaheim at the [Annual Conference and Expo](#).



Final month of session packed with AI, pension, liability, and records request act bills

Jul 22, 2026

By Johnnie Piña, legislative advocate (Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations)

Lawmakers will have just one month to get their bills to the Governor's desk when they return from summer recess on Aug. 3. Legislators will consider several major pension, public liability, open meetings, artificial intelligence, and public records laws proposals — all of which could have big impacts on cities.

Bill erases key pension reforms

One of Cal Cities' top priorities is [AB 1383 \(McKinnor\)](#), which expands pension benefits for public safety employees and rolls back key provisions of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA). Specifically, it increases the pensionable compensation cap, lowers the retirement age from 57 to 55, establishes a new retirement tier, and allows local agencies to negotiate enhanced pension formulas for public safety employees.

Cal Cities opposes the measure, as it would increase long-term pension costs and undermine reforms that have helped cities better manage retirement costs. At a time when cities are facing budget pressures and increasing service demands, higher pension obligations could divert resources from employee compensation, infrastructure, and essential community services.

Coalition continues push for liability reform

Another priority for Cal Cities is finding a solution to California's [growing public liability crisis](#). Public entity liability exposure has tripled over the past seven years and now exceeds \$7 billion. These costs, which are expected to increase, can divert funding away from public safety, road maintenance, parks, and other local services. [Cal Cities and a coalition](#) of cities, counties, school districts, and joint powers authorities are urging lawmakers to enact meaningful reforms — including proportional liability standards, damage limits, and stronger evidentiary requirements in cases involving decades-old allegations. These changes would protect survivors' access to justice while ensuring taxpayer dollars go toward critical public services.

Brown Act cleanup could into effect immediately

Lawmakers are also advancing changes to [SB 707 \(Durazo, 2025\)](#), which became fully operative on July 1. The new law imposes extensive new remote participation,

website accessibility, public outreach, internet disruptions, agenda translations, and language access requirements for public meetings. Many local agencies have raised concerns about the costs and operational challenges associated with these mandates.

[SB 1187 \(Durazo\)](#), supported by Cal Cities, revises several of SB 707's language-access requirements. The bill contains an urgency clause, allowing it to take effect immediately if signed by the Governor.

Public Records Act update moves forward

Cal Cities' co-sponsored Public Records Act measure, [AB 1821 \(Pacheco\)](#), is still advancing through the Legislature. The bill would change California Public Records Act response deadlines from calendar days to business days — a practical update that preserves public access while better aligning compliance timelines with agency operations. Local agencies across California have seen a sharp rise in both the volume and complexity of record requests, reporting a 73% increase over five years.

AI proposals could create new mandates

Cal Cities opposes several artificial intelligence and workplace surveillance measures, including [AB 1883 \(Bryan\)](#), [SB 947 \(McNerney\)](#), and [AB 2656 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#). Cal Cities is also oppose unless amended on [SB 951 \(Reyes\)](#), a bill that responds to AI workforce disruptions.

While Cal Cities supports responsible AI use, these proposals impose significant new compliance requirements, administrative burdens, and liability risks on local agencies. Cal Cities is urging lawmakers to avoid imposing AI mandates that disrupt established public-sector labor and personnel systems or interfere with cities' ability to provide essential services. Cal Cities is urging legislators to pass targeted exemptions or modifications that recognize the unique legal, operational, and fiscal realities of public-sector employers.

However, Cal Cities does support [SB 1159 \(Cabaldon\)](#), which clarifies that AI systems, autonomous agents, robots, and other nonhuman entities are not persons, participants, or members of the public under state governance and transparency laws. Automated AI tools can crowd out the voices of actual members of the public and undermine California's transparent governance laws at [an alarming scale](#). This clarification is an important step toward protecting meaningful public participation, open governance, and critical staff resources.

What's next?

The Legislature returns from summer recess on Aug. 3 for the final weeks of the 2026 session. To learn how you can make your city's voice heard on these critical local government finance, operations, transparency, and workforce management measures, contact your [regional public affairs manager](#).



Cal Cities-sponsored recovery housing bills advance

Jul 22, 2026

By Caroline Grinder, legislative advocate (community services)

Two recovery housing bills sponsored by Cal Cities, [SB 329 \(Blakespear\)](#) and [SB 490 \(Umberg\)](#), are set to advance through the Legislature after summer recess. The measures respond to a [state audit](#) that found the state failed to thoroughly investigate complaints against residential alcohol and drug treatment facilities. Among other things, the 2024 audit [found](#) that it takes the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) over six months just to assign complaints to analysts, and over a year to conclude investigative reports. Common complaints include sexual misconduct, poor medication management, and the use of unlicensed counselors. Since 2023, Cal Cities has sponsored nine bills seeking to establish reasonable state oversight over the facilities. Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed four of the measures. Lawmakers held SB 329 and a version of SB 490 in the Assembly Appropriations Committee last year. However, both bills can still advance to the Governor's desk because the Legislature is in the second year of a two-year session.

What do these bills do?

SB 329 requires DHCS to assign complaints against licensed facilities to an investigator within 10 days and to complete investigations within 120 days. The bill also requires DHCS to publish an annual report detailing the number of investigations conducted and how many exceed the 120-day timeline.

"Good government means acting quickly and decisively to protect the health and safety of the community," said Sen. Catherine Blakespear in a [press release last year](#). "If an alcohol or drug treatment facility is not following state regulations and jeopardizing the health or safety of its residents or neighbors, the state should act promptly."

SB 490 applies similar timelines to complaints involving unlicensed sober living homes, while also allowing counties to partner with DHCS to conduct site visits and take a more active role in ensuring compliance. The bill also requires follow-up visits to confirm that violations have been addressed.

"Undermining recovery in one case undermines treatment and supportive recovery as a whole," Anaheim Council Member Kristen Maahs told the Assembly Health Committee in June. "It is critical for all of us to ensure that recovery meets the highest standards, brings better outcomes and supports healthier communities."

What can my city do?

Cities should submit support letters on both measures. Both must pass out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee by Aug. 14 to continue advancing this year. To learn how to make your voice heard, contact your [regional public affairs manager](#).



Local agencies face an \$82.1 billion transportation funding shortfall

Jul 22, 2026

By Damon Conklin, legislative advocate (transportation)

A recent statewide survey of local streets and roads confirms that the bulk of the state's transportation network remains under increasing financial pressure.

Although the statewide average Pavement Condition Index has remained stable at 65 ("At Risk"), it is expected to decrease to 60 by 2035, with the percentage of poor/failed pavements increasing to over 26%. The report concludes that rising construction and labor costs, coupled with an aging infrastructure, will outpace available revenues, resulting in an *estimated \$82.1 billion in deferred maintenance* over the next decade.

Conducted every two years, the [California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment](#) evaluates cities and counties' transportation networks, which represent over 83% of the state's public road system. Seventy-five percent of all cities and counties participated in the survey this year.

The report comes amid [increased scrutiny](#) of the state's gas tax, which directly funds local road repairs through [SB 1 \(Beall\)](#). The report notes that the rise in alternative modes of transportation, such as biking, and [reduced gas tax revenues](#) are contributing to the shortfall as well. Studies by the [American Society of Civil Engineers](#) and the [California Transportation Commission](#) are also predicting long-term fiscal challenges for the state's transportation network.

Beyond serving as a valuable benchmarking resource for city managers and public works departments, this new report is one of Cal Cities' principal advocacy tools for educating the Legislature, Governor, and state agencies on the transportation funding needs of local governments. Cal Cities provides the report to the California Transportation Commission to support its statewide transportation needs analysis and long-range funding discussions.

The 2026 Local Streets and Roads executive summary and final report are [available online](#).