

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
August 20, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City
Council Members

FROM: Matt West
Assistant City Manager

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

A memo is attached to highlight Vy Ho, Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator for the Garden Grove Housing Authority (GGHA), who was recently awarded the Unsung Hero of the Year.

B. LETTER OF OPPOSITION

A copy of the Mayor's letter of opposition to SB1117 (Cervantes) Accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units.

B. LETTER OF OPPOSITION

A copy of the Mayor's letter of opposition to AB 1751 (Quirk-Silva) Missing Middle Townhome Ownership Act.

• **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.



Matt West
Assistant City Manager

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:	Lisa L. Kim	From:	Ursula Luna-Reynosa
Dept:	City Manager	Dept:	Economic Development and Housing
Subject:	Unsung Hero of the Year Recognition	Date:	08/20/2026

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this memorandum is to highlight Vy Ho, Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator for the Garden Grove Housing Authority (GGHA), who was recently awarded the Unsung Hero of the Year for her dedication and contributions to serving individuals and families in the Garden Grove community.

BACKGROUND

United to End Homelessness ("Initiative") is a movement led by Orange County United Way that brings together business, philanthropic, governmental, faith-based, and nonprofit leaders from our community who are committed to ending homelessness in Orange County. Each year, the Initiative recognizes outstanding individuals—from frontline staff and nonprofit leaders to volunteers and advocates—whose dedication and service go beyond expectations as Unsung Heroes.

DISCUSSION

On August 1, the Initiative gathered at Championship Stadium at the Great Park in the City of Irvine to celebrate this year's Unsung Heroes during an Orange County Soccer Club game. More than 30 nominated individuals were recognized for their contributions and given the opportunity to participate in a special halftime parade on the field.

Vy Ho was recognized for her administration of the GGHA's FSS Program, where she consistently went above and beyond her regular responsibilities to support FSS participants in achieving greater economic independence and long-term stability. Her extra effort, creativity, and initiative strengthened the program and expanded the resources and opportunities available to participating families.

Vy took a thoughtful and resourceful approach to identifying opportunities, developing partnerships, and connecting participants with services and resources that supported their individual goals. She continually looked for creative ways to enhance the FSS Program and provided meaningful benefits to participants. Her willingness to

take initiative beyond her regular responsibilities demonstrated her genuine commitment to the families she served and to the success of the program.

CONCLUSION

This recognition is a well-deserved acknowledgment of Vy's commitment to public service and the positive impact of her work. Her dedication, initiative, and compassion reflect positively on the Economic Development and Housing Department. I am proud to recognize her for this accomplishment and grateful for her continued commitment to helping FSS participants achieve greater self-sufficiency.

For more information, please visit:

<https://unitedtoendhomelessness.org/unsung-heroes>



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ursula Luna-Reynosa". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ursula Luna-Reynosa
Assistant City Manager
Economic Development and Housing Director

By: Thyana Phi, Housing Authority Manager

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

Stephanie Klopfenstein
Mayor

George S. Brietigam
Mayor Pro Tem - District 1

Phillip Nguyen
Council Member - District 2

Cindy Ngoc Tran
Council Member - District 3

Joe DoVinh
Council Member - District 4

Yesenia Muñeton
Council Member - District 5

Ariana Arestegui
Council Member - District 6

August 17, 2026

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1117 (Cervantes) Accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units. Notice of OPPOSITION (As of 7/8/2026)

Dear Senator Cervantes,

The City of Garden Grove respectfully opposes SB 1117 (Cervantes), which would limit the amount of impact fees a local government could charge on an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) larger than 750 square feet for up to two ADUs on a lot.

Cities understand the importance of increasing housing opportunities and recognize the role ADUs play in helping address California's housing shortage. However, local governments are also responsible for ensuring that communities have the infrastructure and public services necessary to support additional residential development. Roads, water and sewer systems, parks, fire protection, and other essential public facilities must be adequately funded to serve both existing and future residents.

Under existing law, the Mitigation Fee Act already strictly regulates development impact fees by requiring local agencies to demonstrate a clear nexus between the fee charged and the impacts created by development. These fees are not arbitrary and may only cover the reasonable cost of providing necessary public infrastructure and services. SB 1117 would undermine this framework by imposing an artificial cap on fees regardless of actual infrastructure costs or local community needs. The on-the-ground reality is that the need for infrastructure and public services does not go away if fees are reduced, and local governments have limited general fund cash to cover upfront costs of these essential public goods to support livable, equitable, and thriving communities

For the City of Garden Grove, this measure could significantly reduce funding available for critical public improvements and services needed to accommodate additional housing growth. Reduced fee revenue may limit the City's ability to maintain infrastructure, expand public safety services, improve parks, and address increased demand on local utilities. This is particularly concerning as cities continue working to meet ambitious state housing production goals while balancing the fiscal realities of maintaining safe and livable communities.

AB 1751 (Quirk-Silva) Missing Middle Townhome Ownership Act.
Notice of OPPOSITION (As of 8/4/26)

August 17, 2026

Page 2

Additionally, limiting local governments' ability to collect appropriate mitigation fees may create challenges in addressing environmental impacts associated with new development and could expose local agencies to increased legal and fiscal uncertainty. Effectively addressing California's housing crisis requires aligning housing production with investments in infrastructure, since communities cannot be healthy, equitable, or livable without the facilities these fees support.

For these reasons, the City of Garden Grove respectfully opposes SB 1117 (Cervantes).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Klopfenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Stephanie Klopfenstein
Mayor

Senator Tom Umberg, 34th District, (Emily.Rodriguez@sen.ca.gov)
Senator Tony Strickland, 36th District, (Zechariah.Jauregui@sen.ca.gov)
Assembly Member Tri Ta, 70th District, (Colin.Edwards@asm.ca.gov)
Connor Medina, League of California Cities, (cmedina@calcities.org)
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, (cityletters@calcities.org)
Lauren Kline, ACCOC, (lkline@accoc.org)

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Council Member - District 2

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Council Member - District 3

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Council Member - District 4

Yesenia Muñeton
Council Member - District 5

Ariana Arestegui
Council Member - District 6

August 17, 2026

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O St., Room 4210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1751 (Quirk-Silva) Missing Middle Townhome Ownership Act.
Notice of OPPOSITION (As of 8/4/26)

Dear Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva,

The City of Garden Grove respectfully opposes AB 1751 (Quirk-Silva), which would require local agencies to ministerially approve both the application for a townhome development project and the parcel map or tentative and final map in multifamily residential zones or underutilized single-family zones.

The City of Garden Grove supports efforts to increase housing production and expand homeownership opportunities. However, AB 1751 would bypass important local review processes that help ensure new subdivisions are supported by adequate infrastructure, public services, and orderly development. Under the Subdivision Map Act, local agencies review and approve proposed subdivisions, including parcel maps for four or fewer parcels and tentative and final maps for subdivisions of five or more parcels. This process is essential to ensure that new housing can be served by roads, utilities, water, sewer, emergency response, and other local services.

AB 1751 bypasses the state-mandated local planning effort and forces cities to approve all maps for a townhome development project, even if it would exceed the residential capacity and infrastructure assumptions evaluated and certified by the state, creating potential unintended consequences for infrastructure and public services. AB 1751 disregards state-approved housing plans and zoning requirements, despite the multi-year effort to identify sites suitable for new housing development in coordination with smart residential growth.

Additionally, the measure may require a city to approve a townhome development at a lower density than the amount of planned density in that multifamily zone. Specifically, AB 1751 allows projects that are three stories or fewer and meet at least 75 percent of the state's minimum density standards to qualify for by-right approval. In jurisdictions that planned for higher densities on specific sites, this could result in fewer units being built than planned for, requiring cities to identify

AB 1751 (Quirk-Silva) Missing Middle Townhome Ownership Act.
Notice of OPPOSITION (As of 8/4/26)

August 17, 2026

Page 2

additional sites to remain compliant with state Housing Element Law and “no net loss” requirements.

For these reasons, the City of Garden Grove respectfully opposes AB 1751 (Quirk-Silva).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Klopfenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephanie Klopfenstein
Mayor

Senator Tom Umberg, 34th District, (Emily.Rodriguez@sen.ca.gov)
Senator Tony Strickland, 36th District, (Zechariah.Jauregui@sen.ca.gov)
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Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, (cityletters@calcities.org)
Lauren Kline, ACCOC, (lkline@accoc.org)

WEEKLY MEMO 08-20-2026

NEWS ARTICLES

GGUSD high schools score big in latest U.S. News rankings

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON AUGUST 19, 2026 • ([LEAVE A COMMENT](#))



GGUSD grads have reached some heights (GGUSD photo).

It was a clean sweep.

Each year U.S. News & World Report releases its rankings of what it considers to be “America’s Best High Schools” and the outcome shined glory on the Garden Grove Unified School District.

Evaluated based on college readiness, graduation rates and other factors, the nation’s 18,000 high schools – public and private – were rated and all seven of the GGUSD comprehensive high schools ranked in the top 20 percent of the nation.

La Quinta High School ranked 30th in the Los Angeles metro area, 75th in California and 512th in the nation.

Also, four of the six high schools – Bolsa Grande, Garden Grove, La Quinta and Pacifica – ranked in the top 10 percent in California.

“This national recognition reflects the extraordinary commitment of our teachers and staff to preparing every student for success in college, career and beyond,” said Board of Education President Bob Harden.

“The continued recognition of our high schools affirms the strength of our academic programs, the quality of instruction across our district and the outstanding opportunities available to GGUSD students.”

Garden Grove's Gem Theatre stays alive with musicals, intimate performances



Damien Lorton, co-founder of One More Productions, which is housed at the historic Gem Theater in Garden Grove, directs actors as they rehearse for the upcoming production of Sweeney Todd on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. (Photo by Jeff Antenore, Orange County Register/SCNG)

By **LOU PONSI** | Correspondent / Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: August 20, 2026 at 8:57 AM PDT | UPDATED: August 20, 2026 at 9:02 AM PDT

Editor's Note: This is part of a monthly feature on arts and culture offerings in Orange County, which is rich with indoor and outdoor, often inexpensive or even free, options that you might not know about.

Since staging their first production at the GEM Theatre more than 20 years ago, Nicole Cassesso, the theater's chief executive director, and Damien Lorton, its chief artistic director, have committed themselves completely to providing patrons with top-tier productions in a polished space.

Through their production company, One More Productions, Cassesso and Lorton offer patrons several first-rate musicals a season on the main stage of the 158-seat theater, each running for about five weeks.

The GEM also presents a “Black Box Series,” offering more simplified, short-run productions that allow for more intimate, cabaret-style performances.

“You’re not going to find theater like this,” said Lorton, who first met Cassesso when he directed a performance at Newport Harbor High School, where Cassesso performed. “We have live musicians for every show. It’s amazing to see what we do.”

With balcony seating, private suites and an upstairs performance lounge, online influencers have given the GEM stellar reviews.

Some have described the theater as an intimate space with a “vintage charm” vibe.

“My new favorite playhouse,” said a recent Google review. “Hairspray 2026 rocked the house. One of the best performances that I’ve ever seen live. The acting was superb, professional and captivating.”

Upcoming productions include Sweeney Todd, which is scheduled to run through Sept. 27, followed by Bat Boy (Oct. 9–25) and Fiddler on the Roof (Nov. 12 to Dec. 20).

Past productions include Footloose, Grease, Hairspray and Damn Yankees.

“You’re very welcomed,” Cassesso said of the theater’s atmosphere. “And on top of that, you’re getting a Broadway performance.”

But the journey hasn’t always been smooth for Cassesso and Lorton — or for the theater itself.

The GEM opened in 1923 as a venue for vaudeville acts before becoming one of the first American theaters to transition to a movie house in 1932, capitalizing on the growing popularity of motion pictures.

From the 1930s to the 1960s, the GEM operated solely as a movie theater.

Falling on hard times, the movie theater closed in 1971 and remained shuttered until the city purchased the local landmark in 1979.

The city renovated the theater, transforming it back into a venue for live performances.

Multiple issues, including a lack of stable leadership and low attendance, once again forced the theater’s closure.

Cassesso and Lorton, both longtime professionals in live theater — on stage and behind the scenes — saw plenty of potential in the local landmark and rented the theater from the city in 2005.

When the city planned to demolish the building and replace it with a parking lot, Lorton and Cassesso fought successfully to save it from the wrecking ball.

“We felt like regardless of whether you give it to us, you can’t tear down this piece of history,” Cassesso said.

Lorton and Cassesso became permanent managers in 2008 when the City Council voted unanimously to award One More Productions a 10-year contract to operate the theater.

With scant funding and no staff, the pair set out to rebuild the GEM.

They undid years of neglect, repairing vandalized infrastructure and replacing stolen fixtures.

Lorton and Cassesso did the directing and marketing, ran the box office and managed the sets, props and costumes. They also overcame a 2011 fire.

“We have scrubbed every toilet. We would bake the cakes for the snack shack,” Cassesso said. “We would direct all the shows, do all the costumes, all the props, run the box office, answer the phones, do all the marketing. ... I mean, everything.”

Aside from musical theater, the GEM functions today as a community hub, hosting boutiques, pet adoption events, Rotary fundraisers, weddings, funerals, cabarets and school visits.

Affordability is a core value, Cassesso said, and the GEM has a variety of ticket packages, offering discounts for seniors, veterans and educators, and discounted tickets on specific nights for Garden Grove residents, students, employees and Disney cast members.



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT: Dana Saucedo
Community Services Department
(714) 741-5200/danam@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Thursday, August 13, 2026



GARDEN GROVE'S PARKS AND RECREATION GUIDE OFFERS FALL PROGRAMS, CLASSES, AND EVENTS

The Fall 2026 Garden Grove Parks and Recreation Guide is now available, and registration for fall classes begins today at gg.city/classes.

The interactive digital guide features a wide variety of programs, classes, activities and special events running from September through December 30. Offerings include youth sports, creative arts, adult activities, fitness classes and more. Registration and payment can be completed online

Residents and visitors are encouraged to register early to help secure a spot in their preferred classes.

Follow the Community Services Department on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) at @gardengrovecparksandrec to see announcements on programs, services, events and job opportunities.

For more information, visit ggparksandrec.com or call (714) 741-5200.

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Garden Grove

PARKS & RECREATION GUIDE

FALL 2026
September - December

JARDIN DE LOS NIÑOS



WOODBURY PARK

Parks
Make
Life
Better!

www.ggparksandrec.com





CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT: Johnathan Garcia
City Manager's Office
(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, August 20, 2026



FOODS OF GARDEN GROVE LIVE TASTING TICKETS ON SALE ***ADDITIONAL EATERY SPACES AVAILABLE***

Tasting packages are now on sale for the third annual Foods of Garden Grove Live, returning Friday, Sept. 25, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Village Green Park, 12732 Main St., in Downtown Garden Grove. The event will feature food and drinks from popular Garden Grove eateries, live music at the Garden Amp, interactive neon glow-art installations and family-friendly activities. Admission to the event and concert is free. Tasting packages are available for purchase by visiting the event website at fogg.live.

Guests can choose from several tasting options, with each ticket valid for one tasting or \$3 off a favorite drink. Choices include the Fun Pack with 5 tastings for \$15, the Foodie Pack with 10 tastings for \$30, and the Family Pack with 20 tastings for \$45. The VIP Lounge Pack offers 15 tastings, 2 VIP drink tickets, VIP exclusive merch, and lounge access for \$75. Guests must be at least 21 years of age to redeem alcoholic beverage tickets, specialty non-alcoholic drinks will also be available.

Participating eateries announced to date include Barrio, Carolina's Italian Restaurant, Fast-N-Fresh Burger, Firefly Burger, Henry's Bar and Grill, Jack's Bakery, Jerusalem Roastery, Junbi Matcha & Tea, Kitchen in the Park, Luv Fish & Thai Food, Mornings Coffee GG, NOVA Kitchen & Bar, Shawarma House, Smoke Queen BBQ and

Tsun Scoops. Additional participating eateries and tasting items will be announced in the coming weeks

The City is seeking local food and beverage businesses to participate and the first 25 eligible businesses to register will receive a \$1,000 stipend after the event. The application deadline is Thursday, September 3, 2026, and participation is limited to establishments that are part of the Foods of Garden Grove program. For more information, interested vendors can email foodies@ggcity.org or call 714-315-3069.

Foods of Garden Grove Live is part of the City's Foods of Garden Grove initiative, which showcases more than 100 local restaurants and beverage establishments. Designed to support small businesses, the initiative highlights Garden Grove's varied dining scene, including longtime local favorites, distinctive culinary districts and Michelin Guide-recognized establishments.



WEEKLY MEMO 08-20-2026

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

August 13, 2026 – August 19, 2026

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



Included in this Report

X @CityGardenGrove

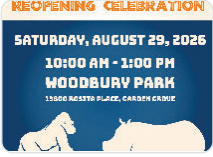
Facebook Garden Grove City Hall

Instagram gardengrovecityhall

 **gardengrovecityhall**
Thu 8/13/2026 2:43 pm PDT

🎉 You're invited to the Woodbury Park Reopening Celebration! 🦒 🗣️ 🗓️

...



Views

43,951

 **gardengrovecityhall**
Wed 8/19/2026 5:19 pm PDT

Recently, the Garden Grove Animal Care Services Department teamed up with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) to rescue a four-legged...



Views

33,517

 **Garden Grove City Hall**
Thu 8/13/2026 2:43 pm PDT

🎉 You're invited to the Woodbury Park Reopening Celebration! 🦒 🗣️ 🗓️

...



Views

31,374



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Fri 8/14/2026 12:00 pm PDT

Looking for a career change?  Your next opportunity could be right here in Garden Grove!

...

FULL-TIME

Accounting Technician
Application Deadline:
August 27

Clerical Series
Application Deadline:
August 25

APPLY AT [GGCITY.ORG/JOBS](https://ggcity.org/jobs)



Views

29,199



**gardengrovecityhall**

Fri 8/14/2026 12:00 pm PDT

Looking for a career change?  Your next opportunity could be right here in Garden Grove!

...

FULL-TIME

Accounting Technician
Application Deadline:
August 27

Clerical Series
Application Deadline:
August 25

APPLY AT [GGCITY.ORG/JOBS](https://ggcity.org/jobs)



Views

16,932



**gardengrovecityhall**

Tue 8/18/2026 8:31 am PDT

50 years of memories, friendships and community!



...



Views

3,843



**gardengrovecityhall**

Mon 8/17/2026 8:41 am PDT

Don't miss this opportunity!



Views

2,621



**gardengrovecityhall**

Tue 8/18/2026 4:07 pm PDT

👉 The Fall Parks & Recreation Guide is LIVE and its your sign to try something new!

...



Views

2,365



**gardengrovecityhall**

Wed 8/19/2026 12:24 pm PDT

Last week, we had the honor of celebrating some incredible community leaders during our Community Spotlight! 🌟...



Views

2,269

**Garden Grove City Hall**
Mon 8/17/2026 3:35 pm PDT

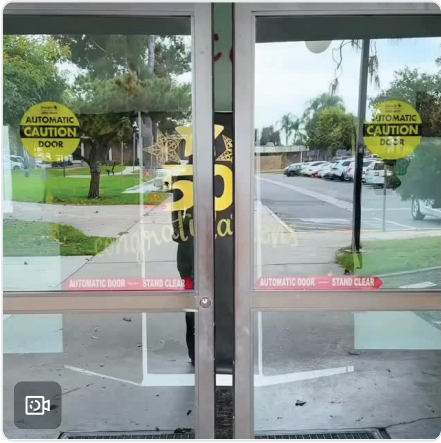
50 years of memories, friendships and community!

...



Views1,740

**gardengrovecityhall**
Tue 8/18/2026 8:41 am PDT



Views1,557

**gardengrovecityhall**
Fri 8/14/2026 6:21 pm PDT

🐾 This sweet husky mix has been patiently waiting for her forever home, could it be yours?

...



Views1,514



**Garden Grove City Hall**
Fri 8/14/2026 6:21 pm PDT

🐾 This sweet husky mix has been patiently waiting for her furever home, could it be yours?

...



Views

1,463



**gardengrovecityhall**
Thu 8/13/2026 2:49 pm PDT



Views

1,103



**gardengrovecityhall**
Thu 8/13/2026 2:51 pm PDT



Views

958



**Garden Grove City Hall**
[Thu 8/13/2026 9:33 am PDT](#)



WOODBURY PARK
OPENING CELEBRATION
DAY, AUGUST 29
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
WOODBURY PARK
13800 ROSITA PLACE, GARDEN GROVE

Views

927



**Garden Grove City Hall**
[Tue 8/18/2026 4:07 pm PDT](#)

🔥 The Fall Parks & Recreation Guide is LIVE and its your sign to try something new!

...



Views

838



**@CityGardenGrove**
[Fri 8/14/2026 12:00 pm PDT](#)

The City of Garden Grove is hiring in the Clerical Series positions and an Accounting Technician. These openings offer opportunities to work with...



Impressions

505


@CityGardenGrove

Wed 8/19/2026 12:24 pm PDT

Last week, we had the honor of celebrating some incredible community leaders during our Community Spotlight! 🍷🍷...



Impressions

131


Garden Grove City Hall

Wed 8/19/2026 12:24 pm PDT

Last week, we had the honor of celebrating some incredible community leaders during our Community Spotlight! ☀️...



Views

—



Post Performance

August 13, 2026 – August 19, 2026

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



Included in this Report

 Garden Grove Police Department



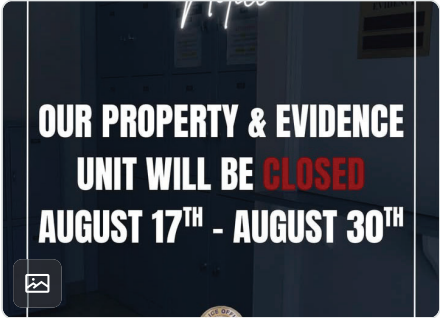


Garden Grove Police Department

Tue 8/18/2026 7:37 pm PDT

 PROPERTY & EVIDENCE UNIT CLOSURE 

Please be advised that our Property & Evidence...



Engagements	143
Views	4,216
Reach	2,678
Engagement Rate (per View)	3.4%

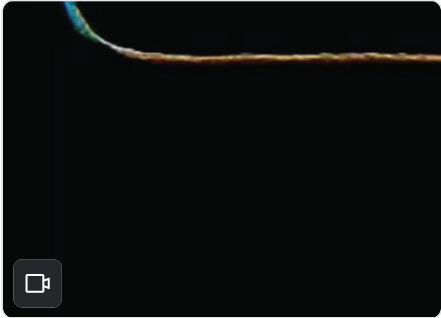




Garden Grove Police Department

Fri 8/14/2026 1:11 pm PDT

On Wednesday, Garden Grove PD had the incredible honor of participating in the Motorhome Madness Derby at the OC Fair, all while raising...



Engagements	338
Views	4,762
Reach	3,476
Engagement Rate (per View)	7.1%
Video Views	1,570

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
August 20, 2026

1. Calendar of Events
2. Notice and Call of a Special Meeting of the Administrative Board of Appeals on August 26, 2026.
3. Notice of Cancellation of the August 27, 2026 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator meeting.
4. League of California Cities articles from August 14, 2026 to August 20, 2026



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 20, 2026 – September 10, 2026

Thursday - Sunday	August 20 - September 27		One More Production presents... "Sweeney Todd," Gem Theatre
Thursday	August 20	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	August 21		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
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
Thursday	August 27	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administration Meeting, CMC
Tuesday	September 1	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Garden Grove Public Safety Facility Ribbon Cutting, 11201 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840
Tuesday	September 1	6:00 p.m.	Traffic Commission Meeting, CMC
Thursday	September 3	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	September 4		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Monday	September 7		City Hall Closed – Labor Day
Monday	September 7	8:00 a.m.	Garden Grove Elk Lodge 68 th Annual Labor Day Family Fun Festival, 11551 Trask Ave
Tuesday	September 8	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	September 10		\$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Thursday	September 10	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administration Meeting, CMC



NOTICE AND CALL OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the Garden Grove Administrative Board of Appeals is hereby called to be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue.

Said Special Meeting shall be held to discuss the attached Agenda.

Dated: August 20, 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David Dent', written in a cursive style.

David Dent
Deputy Director of Community Development
Chief Building Official
Executive Secretary to the Board



AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF APPEALS (ABOA)

SPECIAL MEETING
COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER
11300 STANFORD AVENUE
AUGUST 26, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Assistance: Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services, due to a disability, to address the Administrative Board of Appeals, should contact the City Clerk's office at (714) 741-5040 72 hours prior to the meeting to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2).

Agenda Item Descriptions: Are intended to give a brief, general description of the item. The Administrative Board of Appeals 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.

Documents/Writings: Any revised or additional documents/writings related to an item on the agenda distributed to all or a majority of the Administrative Board of Appeals within 72 hours of a meeting, are made available for public inspection at the same time (1) in the Building and Safety Division at 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840, during normal business hours; and (1) at the Community Meeting Center at the time of the meeting.

Public Comments: Members of the public who attend the meeting in-person and would like to address the Administrative Board of Appeals are requested to complete a yellow speaker card indicating their name and address, and identifying the subject matter they wish to address. This card should be given to the Recording Secretary before the meeting begins. General comments are made during "Oral Communications" and are limited to three (3) minutes and to matters the Administrative Board of Appeals has jurisdiction over. Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Board, in lieu of doing so in person, may submit comments by emailing building@ggcity.org no later than 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Board as part of the meeting record.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING

ROLL CALL: MEMBERS BUI, LADD, NGUYEN, TRAN, VAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- A. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
- B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
- C. RECEIVE AND FILE MINUTES – [JUNE 24, 2026](#)
- D. HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)

D.1. WATER BILLING APPEAL FROM THUY LINH LAM – 10471 HAZARD AVENUE

E. MATTERS FROM BOARD

F. MATTERS FROM STAFF

G. ADJOURNMENT



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: August 20, 2026

DAVID DENT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



‘I don’t trust it, and I won’t support it.’ Opposition mounts to Newsom-backed bailout for private electric utilities

Aug 19, 2026

By Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor, and Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative advocate

Over 130 cities, counties, and local leaders have signed a [Cal Cities letter](#) urging lawmakers to reject a Newsom-backed bailout for private electric utility giants that cause wildfires. The letter is part of a broader opposition campaign from local government, wildfire survivors, insurance, and consumer groups.

“I don’t trust it, and I won’t support it,” Steve “Woody” Culleton, the vice mayor of Paradise, told *Cal Cities Advocate*. “[PG&E] destroyed our entire town.”

In 2018, the Camp Fire burned down Paradise and several nearby communities after poorly maintained hardware on a transmission line snapped. The fire killed 85 people and caused an estimated \$15 billion in damages, making it the state’s deadliest and most destructive wildfire.

The proposal is not yet in print — even though the last day to introduce new measures is Aug. 28, three days before the session ends. However, some details that would have consequential impacts on the cities, counties, and public agencies tasked with rebuilding their communities after these catastrophic wildfires are being floated through the Capitol.

1. The proposal caps infrastructure repairs at depreciated value

First, the proposal could limit damage claims on public property and infrastructure to the depreciated value of the asset. This change alone would create a cascading, multimillion-dollar impact. For example, Paradise’s water system had a depreciated value of \$31.6 million in 2017. The total cost to repair it after the Camp Fire exceeded \$130 million.

The change would affect not just basic infrastructure, but parks, libraries, schools, and fire stations — the things that make communities, communities. (Cal Cities and its partners in the public sector made that message clear in a [separate letter](#).) The average cost to build a new high school is \$125 million. Nearly half of the state’s schools are over 70 years old.

2. The proposal disincentivizes emergency response and mutual aid

Eliminating emergency response and mutual aid as recoverable costs from the negligent utilities would also be included in the proposal. This would completely disincentivize local agencies,

which are typically the first responders, from participating in mutual aid and emergency response.

Mutual aid is a vital but costly part of the state's wildfire response strategy that isn't always eligible for federal reimbursement. Roseville spent over \$630,000 to send a fire engine and firefighters to combat the 2021 Dixie Fire. Ventura spent over \$1 million responding to the 2017 Thomas Fire, another large and destructive wildfire.

In theory, the Federal Emergency Management Agency could reimburse cities for mutual aid costs. However, FEMA is [far from a reliable source of funding](#); multiyear delays and disputes are common. In fact, the Governor has asked the federal government to provide recovery funding for the 2025 Eaton Fire at least 15 times. The federal government has still not approved over half of the Eaton Fire requests for support.

3. The proposal eliminates property tax loss revenue claims

The package could also eliminate lost property tax revenue as a recoverable cost. This loss is typically baked into any claims that a city brings forward and would impact cities' bottom line until new homes are built, which could take years.

The Camp Fire destroyed more than 10,000 homes in Paradise — over 80% of the town's property tax base. The estimated cost to repair the town was \$15 billion. Insurance has paid about \$13 million. The rest of the loss was partially addressed through the 3-year backfill by the state and a \$13.5 billion settlement, but there was no backfill for the lost sales tax.

"We still have not yet been paid out completely," said Culleton, noting that slow settlement payouts have delayed rebuilding efforts. "When it's all said and done, maybe this year, 8 years after the fire, we will be compensated for 70% of our claims."

Bottom line: The proposal leaves everyone but private utilities holding the bag

Losing this money — 4% of the total wildfire claims that utilities paid from 2017 to 2024 — would make it hard, if not impossible, for communities to recover. When asked if his town would be able to rebuild if a second fire happened and these changes went there, Culleton offered a simple answer: No.

If public agencies cannot recover costs from negligent utilities, the very survivors whose community burned will likely foot the bill instead. Cal Cities is urging all city officials and cities to call or text their [assembly member](#) and [senator](#) to express their opposition to the bailout. To learn more, contact your [regional public affairs manager](#).



Bill Talk: Which city bills survived the annual fiscal culling?

Aug 19, 2026

By Cal Cities Staff

Last week, the appropriations committees in both houses met for their twice-yearly bill buzzsaw. The opaque suspense file process is a chance for lawmakers to consider the fiscal weight of financially significant bills — and arguably the political ramifications of bringing politically contentious issues to the floor for a full vote.

For cities at least, August's results left little in the way of actual suspense. Several of Cal Cities' priority bills were either [held in May](#) or have already [advanced to a final floor vote](#). But the day did see some high-profile data center, pension, and e-bike bills continue their journey to the floor.

Bills that make it to the floor [typically advance to the Governor's desk](#). But that doesn't mean that everything is settled. A few bills do die on the floor, and there's a good chance that we could see some new proposals introduced in the final weeks of session — including a [bailout for private utilities](#) that would leave cities and wildfire survivors footing the bill.

One bit of housekeeping: This is the last Bill Talk for 2026. For the latest legislative news, subscribe to [Cal Cities Advocate](#) or contact your [regional public affairs manager](#).

-Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor

Environmental Quality

The appropriations committees quietly held several environmental quality bills for the week, including [SB 1326 \(Wahab\)](#). The bill would have expanded CEQA tribal consultation, increasing cities' litigation risk and delaying development projects. Cal Cities opposed the measure unless amended.

However, two other tribal bills made it through. [AB 2218 \(Kalra\)](#) creates a statewide water tribal policy; [AB 1881 \(Ramos\)](#) allows tribes or tribal members to sue the state and any state actions on public lands that impact their religious freedom. It also sets the standard that a tribe can veto those actions. Cal Cities opposes the measures; state policy implementation impacts cities that coordinate, receive funding, and are permitted by the state.

Several Cal Cities supported bills did make it through the suspense buzzsaw, including two bills that would help cities with landfill fires from vapes — [AB 762 \(Irwin\)](#) and [AB 2667 \(Hadwick\)](#). [AB 2739 \(Soria\)](#) also sailed through. Cal Cities supports the bill, as it seeks to improve safe drinking water and system financing.

Most of Cal Cities' priority data center bills also made it through suspense day. Cal Cities supports [AB 1577 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#), a bill that provides more energy usage information to cities when siting data centers. [AB 2469 \(Papan\)](#), which would stop cities from approving data centers unless the applicant includes specific water supply information, also passed off suspense. This information is helpful, but conditioning permits like this will create new challenges for cities. Cal Cities is opposed unless amended on AB 2469.

Now that the suspense is over, Cal Cities' top environmental issue for the end of session is a forthcoming wildfire package from the Governor that will likely limit cities' ability to recover from utility-caused wildfires. Cal Cities is asking its members to weigh in with [strong opposition](#). Other priority bills include:

- [AB 1642 \(Harabedian\)](#) Wildfires: contamination standards
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [AB 1761 \(Rogers\)](#) Electricity: calculation methodology: data disclosure
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [AB 1812 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) Solid waste: compostable products
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [AB 2385 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#) Local reconstruction agencies
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)

- [Melissa Sparks-Kranz](#), *legislative advocate*

Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations

[AB 1383 \(McKinnor\)](#) passed off the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file. The bill — opposed by Cal Cities due to its long-term costs — expands pension benefits and [rolls back crucial provisions](#) of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act.

In contrast, [AB 1961 \(Ahrens\)](#), which also passed, could create a meaningful benefit for cities. The bill strengthens tools to prevent and respond to workplace violence without imposing new mandates or costly programs. As cities struggle to manage increasing hostility and threats directed at public employees, AB 1961 would provide practical support to help them keep their workers safe.

In more good news for cities, Senate Appropriations held [AB 1564 \(Ahrens\)](#). Cal Cities opposed the bill because it would have restricted employers' ability to conduct internal investigations, making it harder for cities to address misconduct, protect employees, and maintain safe workplaces.

Other priority bills include:

- [AB 1883 \(Bryan\)](#) Workplace surveillance tools
Cal Cities Position: Oppose unless amended (Status: Passed with amendments)
- [AB 2656 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#) Public employees: notice: artificial intelligence performing service within scope of work
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Status: Passed)
- [SB 947 \(McNerney\)](#) Employment: automated decision systems.
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Status: Passed)
- [SB 951 \(Reyes\)](#) Employment: technological displacement: notice.
Cal Cities Position: Oppose unless Amended (Status: Passed with Amendments)

- [Johnnie Piña](#), *legislative advocate*

Housing, Community, and Economic Development

The Cal Cities housing portfolio had mixed results in the final suspense hearing of the year. Most of Cal Cities' priority measures — supported and opposed — passed off suspense.

The committee held [AB 906 \(Gonzalez, M.\)](#), a bill that would have required cities to dramatically expand the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) section of their housing elements and potentially plan for more housing beyond their Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) number. Cal Cities supports the goals of AFFH, but increasing the complexity of an already complex process will not provide the clarity and certainty that cities need in the housing element review process.

Unfortunately, the Assembly Appropriations Committee held [AB 2002 \(Solache\)](#), a bill that would have created a fund to help local governments with various housing element planning activities. Cal Cities supported the measure, as it would have provided much-needed resources to cities. The 7th RHNA Cycle begins in the next couple of years for vast swaths of the state. [AB 1621 \(Wilson\)](#) also passed out of committee. Opposed by Cal Cities, the measure generally prohibits local governments from requiring more than two rounds of review for a housing project's building permit application. This could increase litigation and appeals by applicants challenging permit denials, especially if the denial is based on non-health and safety issues — including environmental regulations that cities must enforce under state and local law. Other priority bills include:

- [AB 2166 \(Carrillo\)](#) Multifamily housing development: offsite housing factories: backstop financing
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [SB 750 \(Cortese\)](#) California Housing Finance and Credit Act
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed with Amendments)

- [Brady Guertin](#), legislative advocate

Community Services

Cal Cities' Community Services portfolio fared well overall this week in appropriations committees. The Cal Cities-sponsored [SB 490 \(Umberg\)](#) and [SB 329 \(Blakespear\)](#) are both moving forward after passing off the suspense file. The [measures](#) respond to a state audit that found the state failed to thoroughly investigate complaints against residential alcohol and drug treatment facilities.

Cal Cities supported two homelessness prevention measures, and one of those, [AB 1924 \(Gabriel\)](#), advanced. The measure requires the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to develop a statewide homelessness prevention strategy with guidance for local agencies. Unfortunately, [AB 1899 \(Caloza\)](#), which would have created an Office of Youth Homelessness Prevention, was held.

Lawmakers also held [SB 866 \(Blakespear\)](#), a homelessness reporting bill that Cal Cities opposed for most of the year. Although the bill was [amended at the end of June](#) to address significant city concerns, it still would have imposed new reporting requirements on cities without providing additional funding to address significant city concerns.

Other priority bills include:

- [SB 1314 \(Menjivar\)](#) Smoke shops: locations and sale of nitrous oxide
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [AB 2007 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#) Youth programs: identifying information of youth
Cal Cities Position: Concerns (Status: Passed)
- [AB 2344 \(Haney\)](#) Animal abuse: forfeiture
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Status: Passed)
- [AB 1914 \(Schiavo\)](#) General plan elements: child care
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Status: Held)

- [Caroline Grinder](#), legislative advocate

Revenue and Taxation

It was a relatively uneventful day in the appropriations committees for Cal Cities' Revenue and Taxation portfolio. However, a notable bill, [AB 2640 \(Hadwick\)](#), unanimously passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Supported by Cal Cities, AB 2640 prevents the state from clawing back reimbursement funds from a city while still owing that same city money for other state-mandated costs. This is a common-sense fix that protects local budgets and gives cities

more flexibility over how state reimbursement disputes are resolved. (A previous iteration of the bill did not fare as well in 2025.)

Two other Cal Cities-supported bills have already made their way to the Assembly Floor: [SB 1005 \(Caballero\)](#), a bill that provides guidance for local agencies impacted by the end of penny production, and [SB 1172 \(Hurtado\)](#), which places guardrails around consultant compensation in tax-sharing agreements. The Cal Cities-sponsored [SB 922 \(Laird\)](#) is already on the Governor's Desk. The bill helps [maintain funding](#) for local roads and services.

Other priority bills include:

- [AB 1294 \(Haney\)](#)
Cal Cities Position: Neutral (Status: Passed)

- [Ben Triffo](#), legislative advocate

Public Safety

Most of Cal Cities' major public safety and fire measures survived the suspense file, including two Cal Cities-sponsored bills: [AB 1941 \(González, M.\)](#) and [SB 758 \(Umberg\)](#). AB 1941 strengthens penalties for organized metal theft. SB 758 bans the sale of nitrous oxide (laughing gas) at tobacco retailers — excluding grocery stores — to combat the illegal use of this popular and dangerous product.

[SB 1013 \(Cervantes\)](#), which would restrict the use of automatic license plate readers, passed with technical amendments. Cal Cities still opposes the bill unless amended to address the data retention timelines that threaten criminal investigations.

Other priority bills include:

- [AB 1934 \(Bennett\)](#) State Fire Marshall: home hardening certification program implementation plan
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed as amended)
- [AB 2076 \(Lowenthal\)](#) The Parent's Accountability and Child Protection Act: online marketplaces: nitrous oxide
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [SB 747 \(Wiener\)](#) Civil rights: deprivation of federal constitutional rights, privileges, and immunities
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Status: Passed as amended)
- [SB 936 \(Blakespear\)](#) Nitrous oxide: sales
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [SB 1157 \(Archuleta\)](#) Juveniles: secure youth treatment facilities: less restrictive programs
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [SB 1266 \(Stern\)](#) Crimes: theft
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [SB 1301 \(Allen\)](#) Residential property insurance: nonrenewal
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed as amended)

- [Jolena Voorhis](#), legislative advocate

Transportation, Communications, and Public Works

A key Cal Cities-supported e-bike bill, [SB 1167 \(Blakespear\)](#), advanced out of appropriations and onto the Assembly floor. The measure strengthens e-bike labeling and advertising requirements, updates classifications, improves consumer disclosure requirements, and ensures higher-powered vehicles are appropriately regulated.

Senate Appropriations reviewed both [AB 1859 \(Ortega\)](#) and [AB 1198 \(Haney\)](#) — a public works proposal previously vetoed by both Governors Jerry Brown and Gavin Newsom. This year, the proposal returned as separate bills. The committee held AB 1859, but approved AB 1198.

AB 1859 would have granted joint labor-management committees' access to public works job sites and imposed legal penalties for noncompliance, increasing cities' litigation exposure and project costs. Cal Cities had an oppose unless amended position on the measure.

AB 1198 retroactively applies new prevailing wage determinations to public works contracts. This would create unpredictable costs that could force agencies to reduce project scope, delay construction, or cancel projects. Cal Cities, which opposes the measure unless amended, is urging the author to narrow the bill's scope to specific long-term projects and preserve public contracting stability.

In non-appropriations news, [AB 1786 \(Harabedian\)](#), which provides cities with an alternative, more holistic evaluation method for public works contracts, advanced to the Senate floor. Cal Cities supports the measure. Cal Cities remains opposed to the [Governor's Sustainable Aviation Fuel tax credit proposal](#). The tax credit could increase fuel costs while diverting significant revenues meant for local and state transportation infrastructure. The proposal has not yet manifested into a bill.

Other priority bills include:

- [SB 222 \(Wiener\)](#) HVAC Permitting
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Passed)
- [SB 1246 \(Cortese\)](#) Autonomous Vehicles
Cal Cities Position: Support (Passed)
- [AB 2679 \(Hadwick\)](#) Highways
Cal Cities Position: Neutral (Held)

- [Damon Conklin](#), *legislative advocate*

Next steps

There are just two weeks left in the legislative session, which ends on Aug. 31. To learn how you can make your voice heard on these bills before and after they head to the Governor's desk for approval, contact your [regional public affairs manager](#).



Take your local advocacy to the national level with an NLC leadership position

Aug 19, 2026

Cal Cities endorsement requests are due by Sept. 9

By Zach Seals, governance and leadership support manager

The National League of Cities (NLC) is accepting [applications](#) for leadership positions on its [board of directors](#), federal advocacy committees, member councils, and constituency groups. Each position allows city leaders to bring their expertise to the national level and shape the direction of NLC and its policies. Applicants must be from an NLC direct member city and a current NLC member with up-to-date and paid membership dues and activity fees when applicable at the time of application. City officials can apply for up to three different groups.

City officials applying for the board of directors or second vice president position may [request an endorsement](#) from Cal Cities. All requests are due before midnight on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026. Please email all questions to [Zach Seals](#).

Founded 100 years ago, the National League of Cities is comprised of city, town, and village leaders focused on improving the quality of life for their current and future constituents. With a successful track record of strengthening local leadership, influencing federal policy, and driving innovative solutions, NLC has gained the trust and support of over 2,600 cities.

More information about NLC and its programs is available [online](#).



East Bay officials lobby lawmakers in Sacramento

Aug 19, 2026

By Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor. Additional contributions by Samantha Brightman, regional public affairs manager (East Bay Division)

The Cal Cities [East Bay Division](#) Board of Directors traveled to Sacramento last Wednesday to advocate on top city issues, including changes to wildfire liability and key public safety bills. “It’s important for legislators to hear how our residents are impacted by decisions they make in Sacramento and to urge them to do the right thing on behalf of our cities,” said Holly Tillman, Clayton council member and the board’s first vice president. “It’s also an opportunity to hear what keeps them up at night and how we can help them in the district.”

[Proposed changes to wildfire liability](#) were a prominent part of the meetings. The Governor is backing a last-minute bailout for private utility giants PG&E, SCE, and SDGE. The yet-unveiled proposal is expected to dramatically limit how much money local governments and individuals can recover from utility companies after fires caused by investor-owned utilities. The group urged lawmakers to reject these changes outright.

City officials expressed their thanks for passing [SB 922 \(Laird\)](#), a bill sponsored by Cal Cities. The measure, pending Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signature, would help [maintain funding](#) for local roads and services. Local officials encouraged legislators to pass another Cal Cities’ measure, [AB 2296 \(Papan\)](#), as well. The measure allows cities to begin the housing element update process six months earlier than existing law.

Public safety was another major topic. City officials asked legislators to approve two measures co-sponsored by Cal Cities: [AB 1941 \(González, M.\)](#) and [SB 758 \(Umberg\)](#). AB 1941 strengthens penalties for organized metal theft. SB 758 bans the sale of nitrous oxide at tobacco retailers (excluding grocery stores) to combat the illegal use of this popular and dangerous product.

The delegation also spoke about the importance of property transfer taxes. One-third of East Bay cities use property transfer taxes to maintain police, fire, infrastructure, and homelessness services. The taxes were the target of [a pulled ballot measure](#) opposed by Cal Cities. The division met with Senators Jesse Arreguín and Tim Grayson and Assembly Members Anamarie Avila Farias, Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Buffy Wicks, and Lori Wilson, as well as staff from Assembly Member Mia Bonta’s office.



Robotaxi bill strengthens emergency responses, empowers cities

Aug 19, 2026

By Damon Conklin, legislative advocate (transportation)

A bill that establishes statewide emergency response standards for autonomous vehicle (AV) remote operators and local incident technicians is awaiting action on the Assembly Floor. Supported by Cal Cities, [SB 1246 \(Cortese\)](#) would make it easier for first responders to address AV-related emergencies.

More cities are confronting situations where driverless [vehicles stall, obstruct traffic, or interfere with emergency operations](#). Under existing law, AV companies are not required to provide on-scene assistance when their vehicles are involved in accidents or create obstructions, potentially leaving local emergency personnel responsible for resolving the situation. SB 1246 would address these challenges by requiring AV companies to notify local jurisdictions during systemwide failures, provide an on-site contact to help with accidents and obstructions, and ensure vehicles can be manually or remotely disabled at the request of first responders.

The bill also establishes penalties when an AV blocks first responders during an emergency for over 30 minutes. These provisions would strengthen local emergency response and accountability while ensuring that taxpayers do not bear the costs of moving AVs that stall or obstruct emergency operations.

During a December 2025 San Francisco power outage, AVs reportedly stalled across the city over 1,500 times, disrupting [emergency response and transit operations](#). Dispatchers faced waits of [up to 53 minutes](#) for company assistance. Over 60 stalled vehicles were moved, including twice by first responders.