

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
September 4, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City
Council Members

FROM: Lisa Kim
City Manager

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. NOTICE OF SUPPORT

A copy of the Mayor's letter of support for SB 35 (Umberg) Alcohol and drug programs.

• **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

Stephanie Klopfenstein
Mayor

Joe DoVinh
Mayor Pro Tem - District 4

George S. Brietigam
Council Member - District 1

Phillip Nguyen
Council Member - District 2

Cindy Ngoc Tran
Council Member - District 3

Yesenia Muñeton
Council Member - District 5

Ariana Arestegui
Council Member - District 6

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Thomas Umberg
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 35 (Umberg) Alcohol and drug programs.
Notice of SUPPORT

Dear Senator Umberg,

The City of Garden Grove is pleased to support **SB 35 (Umberg)**, which would enhance the oversight and enforcement of existing state licensing laws for alcohol and drug treatment facilities.

Residential recovery housing provides a range of benefits to some of California's most vulnerable residents, and it is critical their needs are prioritized over profits. Compliance with state licensing laws administered through the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is essential to safeguarding residents' well-being and maintaining quality care.

Existing state law prohibits any drug and alcohol treatment facility that provides recovery, treatment, or detoxification services from operating without first obtaining a valid license from DHCS. Compliance with state licensing laws is essential to safeguard the well-being of residents in sober living homes.

A recent state audit revealed that DHCS has not consistently investigated allegations of unlicensed facilities providing or advertising treatment services. The department has often failed to conduct site visits and follow-ups to ensure illegal operations have stopped.

In one example highlighted in the audit, DHCS substantiated an allegation that an unlicensed facility was unlawfully providing services. However, the audit found no indication the department followed up to verify the facility's claim that it had ceased operations — nor did it conduct a site visit to confirm compliance.

To address these gaps, the auditor recommended that DHCS improve the timeliness of inspections and complaint investigations, conduct more site visits, and establish follow-up procedures to ensure unlicensed facilities cease unlawful operations.

SB 35 (Umberg) Alcohol and drug programs.

Notice of SUPPORT

September 3, 2025

Page 2

SB 35 would implement these recommendations by requiring DHCS to meet specific timelines for investigating allegations of unlicensed treatment services. If the department fails to meet these deadlines, cities and counties could seek approval to conduct site visits and enforce licensure laws themselves. SB 35 also requires DHCS to conduct follow-up site visits to ensure unlawful activity has stopped.

By collaborating with cities, the state can leverage local resources to supplement its regulatory efforts. Cities are positioned to respond promptly to emerging issues or changes in their communities. Allowing them to partner with the state to conduct site inspections and enforce licensing laws enables swift action to address violations, ensure compliance, and protect public health and safety.

SB 35 would help meet our shared goals of ensuring recovery housing meets standards for patient care, which is central to effective treatment outcomes and community well-being. For these reasons, the City of Garden Grove is pleased to support **SB 35 (Umberg)**.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Klopfenstein
Mayor

c: 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, (Hauwie.Tieu@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)

WEEKLY MEMO 09-04-2025

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS




Post Performance


August 28, 2025 – September 3, 2025

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

Included in this Report

 Garden Grove Police Department






Garden Grove Police De...

Tue 9/2/2025 12:22 pm PDT

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Biola University Campus Safety Chief and retired Garden Grove...





Impressions11,252

Reach10,908

Engagements1,535

Engagement Rate (per Impression)13.6%






Garden Grove Police De...

Tue 9/2/2025 8:04 am PDT

Over the weekend, the #GardenGrovePD Neighborhood Traffic Unit conducted two DUI checkpoints screening more than 1,90...





Impressions5,694

Reach5,347

Engagements1,213

Engagement Rate (per Impression)21.3%






Garden Grove Police De...

Mon 9/1/2025 8:19 pm PDT

Weekend recap 8/28/2025 - 8/31/2025
#GardenGrovePD #GGPD32 #GGPD
#SafeStreetsGG




Video Views2,303


Impressions3,682

Reach3,319


Engagements338

Engagement Rate (per Impression)9.2%




 **Garden Grove Police De...**


Mon 9/1/2025 8:04 am PDT




Happy Labor Day from all of us at #GardenGrovePD! 🇺🇸 Today we celebrate the hardworking men and women in our...




Impressions	36,177
Reach	34,993
Engagements	725
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2%




 **Garden Grove Police De...**

Thu 8/28/2025 9:16 am PDT



🚔DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint Notification🚔 #GardenGrovePD will be conducting #DUICheckpoints this Friday a...



Impressions	21,202
Reach	19,266
Engagements	1,553
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	7.3%



Post Performance

August 28, 2025 – September 3, 2025


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



@CityGardenGrove

Mon 9/1/2025 11:46 am PDT

Happy Labor Day, [#GardenGrove!](#) 🌞 Join us in celebrating the hard working individuals whose dedicated efforts help...




Impressions	81
Potential Reach	4,762
Engagements	3
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.7%




gardengrovecityhall

Mon 9/1/2025 11:46 am PDT

Happy Labor Day, #GardenGrove! 🌞 Join us in celebrating the hard working individuals whose dedicated efforts help enhance the...




Views	631
Reach	277
Engagements	8
Engagement Rate (per View)	1.3%




Garden Grove City Hall

Mon 9/1/2025 11:46 am PDT

Happy Labor Day, #GardenGrove! 🌞 Join us in celebrating the hard working individuals whose dedicated efforts help enhance the...



Impressions	3,561
Reach	3,350
Engagements	53
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.5%




@CityGardenGrove

Fri 8/29/2025 3:10 pm PDT

Summer's not over yet, [#GardenGrove!](#)
Starting from today, August 29 through approximately Wednesday, September 3,...


EXPECTED WEATHER FORECAST


AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 3





ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN
85-95°F

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY COOL!

 DRINK WATER & STAY HYDRATED

 WEAR LIGHT & LOOSE CLOTHING

 TURN OFF UNUSED ELECTRONICS


 PLACE ICE IN FRONT OF A

Impressions104

Potential Reach4,762

Engagements5

Engagement Rate (per Impression)4.8%




gardengrovecityhall

Fri 8/29/2025 3:08 pm PDT

Summer's not over yet, [#GardenGrove!](#)
Starting from today, August 29 through approximately Wednesday, September 3,...


EXPECTED WEATHER FORECAST


AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 3





ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN
85-95°F

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY COOL!

 DRINK WATER & STAY HYDRATED

 WEAR LIGHT & LOOSE CLOTHING

 TURN OFF UNUSED ELECTRONICS


 PLACE ICE IN FRONT OF A

Views2,287

Reach1,046

Engagements34

Engagement Rate (per View)1.5%




Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 8/29/2025 3:08 pm PDT

Summer's not over yet, [#GardenGrove!](#)
Starting from today, August 29 through approximately Wednesday, September 3,...


EXPECTED WEATHER FORECAST


AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 3





ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN
85-95°F

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY COOL!

 DRINK WATER & STAY HYDRATED

 WEAR LIGHT & LOOSE CLOTHING

 TURN OFF UNUSED ELECTRONICS


 PLACE ICE IN FRONT OF A


Impressions1,615

Reach1,565

Engagements38

Engagement Rate (per Impression)2.4%







Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 8/29/2025 3:01 pm PDT

☀️ Summer's not over yet, #GardenGrove! Starting from today, August 29 through approximately Wednesday, September 3,...





Impressions

0

Reach


0


Engagements

0

Engagement Rate (per Impression)

0%







Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 8/29/2025 9:10 am PDT

Taste your way through Garden Grove! 🍴 Tickets on sale now for FOGG Live Sept 26.

Savor the Flavors of Garden Grove





Post Link Clicks

—

Impressions

0

Reach


0


Engagements

0

Engagement Rate (per Impression)

0%







Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 8/29/2025 9:10 am PDT

Thousands of foodies. Dozens of eateries. One epic night. Join us Sept 26! ☀️

Garden Grove's Biggest Night Out





Post Link Clicks

—

Impressions

0

Reach

0

Engagements

0

Engagement Rate (per Impression)

0%



gardengrovecityhall
Thu 8/28/2025 4:04 pm PDT

DUI Checkpoints from August 29 to 30 !!



Views	1,542
Reach	1,166
Comments	0
Story Taps Back	17

WEEKLY MEMO 09-04-2025

NEWS ARTICLES

13 DUI arrests made by GGPD

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 • ([LEAVE A COMMENT](#))



GGPD made 13 DUI arrests at checkpoints (Shutterstock).

You might not think that the weekend leading up to Labor Day would especially be a time for drinking and driving, but checkpoints in Garden Grove resulted in a significant haul of arrests, tows and tickets.

The Garden Grove Police Department conducted checkpoints on Friday and Saturday evenings (and into the early hours of the following days) looking at over more than 1,900 vehicles.

During that time, police made 13 arrests for driving under the influence (of alcohol and/or drugs). Sixteen cars were towed and impounded and 30 tickets were written for various vehicle code violations.

Also, officers visited neighborhood as restaurants and bars to educate the community on the dangers of impaired driving and to test their knowledge by guessing their own blood alcohol content after consuming some liquor.

11 Distinguished Schools in GGUSD honored by board

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 • ([LEAVE A COMMENT](#))



GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED School District Board of Education (OC Tribune photo).

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

Celebrations were the order of business at Tuesday night's meeting of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education.

Eleven elementary schools in the GGUSD have been declared California Distinguished School for showing exceptional academic outcomes or great success in closing the achievement gap.

That's the most in Orange County and topped only by the huge Los Angeles Unified School District, which is 14 times larger than the GGUSD.

The board presented framed certificates to representatives – principals, teachers and other staff – from Anthony, Barker, Brookhurst, Cook, Eisenhower, Excelsior, Hill, Patton, Peters K-3 and 4-6 and Zeyen schools.

Also on Tuesday the board approved by a 4-0 vote – with Trustee Dina Nguyen absent – acceptance of a bid from The Wooden Floor to expand after-school modern dance offerings in concert with the Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove. Funding comes from the State of California.

Also the board accepted a bid for cybersecurity services from Nth Generation Computing Inc. to strengthen protection for data and “safeguarding” the GGUSD’s “digital environment.”

The bid is for \$1,259,277 and funding comes from the Federal Communications Commission.

GGUSD serves most of Garden Grove and parts of Anaheim, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Stanton and Westminster.

Another chicken in the race

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 • ([LEAVE A COMMENT](#))



THE POLLO CAMPERO at Chapman and Harbor in Garden Grove (Tribune photo).

Here and Then Dept.: Chickens may not find this to be good news, but there's a new entry in the poultry-peddling business and it's pretty tasty.

It's called Pollo Campero, and the latest local location is at Chapman Avenue and Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove, at the same corner with Target.

Born in Guatemala years ago, it's now booming across Orange County, with eateries also in Stanton (10551 Beach Blvd., south of Cerritos Avenue), Anaheim and Santa Ana (two locations).

You have a choice of grilled (my favorite) and fried chicken along with a variety of sides. On top of that, you get a real metal fork and a real plate to eat from. A nice worker bee buses your table, too.

It's a pretty good option ...

On another point, I have been touched by the number of people who are grieving the imminent departure of the JC Penney store from Westminster Mall.

They recall memories of buying prom dresses and other nostalgic connections to what was once one of America's largest – and now shrinking – retail operations.

Long-time Garden Grovers may remember a JC Penney in the center of the old Orange County Plaza (now The Promenade). That's where my brother and I got our Boy Scout uniforms and accessories.

(Girl Scouts went to SQR in Anaheim).

It had its fans, but it was fairly small by department store standards (just 40,000 square feet) and was originally planned for a two-story facility.

But for reasons that elude logic, they decided to build the second story underground and use that for storage instead of selling.

The City of Garden Grove tried to talk them into making more use of the subterranean real estate, but no luck. It eventually became an outlet store as a new two-story (all above-ground) store was built at The City (later The Block, now the Outlets in Orange).

So, mixed feelings about the departure of JC Penney. But I have to admit ... I've still got that Boy Scout uniform in a closet.



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: Johnathan Garcia (714) 741-5280
Public Information Officer

Charles Barfield (714) 835-3355
General Manager, OCEA

Friday, August 29, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE REACHES TENTATIVE LABOR AGREEMENT WITH GARDEN GROVE EMPLOYEE LEAGUE

The City of Garden Grove and the Garden Grove Employees League (GGEL) have reached a tentative labor agreement. GGEL represents 88 City workers who provide frontline and support services to the community.

After jointly declaring impasse on July 21, 2025, the parties agreed to mediation and eventually reached an agreement which reflects shared priorities and supports the long-term interests of employees, the City, and the community.

GGEL members voted to ratify the tentative agreement earlier this week. The agreement will now be considered for adoption by the Garden Grove City Council on September 9, 2025.

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CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: Deanna Chumacero
Community Services Department
(714) 741-5360/ deannac@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Thursday, September 4, 2025



LOCAL TEENS INVITED TO JOIN TEEN ACTION COLLABORATIVE APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW

The City of Garden Grove invites local teens, ages 13 to 17, to join Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative (GGTAC). Coordinated by the Community Services Department, in collaboration with local organizations, GGTAC is designed to provide teens with experiences, activities and resources that support their wellness and future success.

Participants of the program will have the opportunity to serve their community, gain career development skills, create new friendships, and receive college readiness guidance. Interested teens are encouraged to attend the kick-off meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025, to learn about the program, including goals and responsibilities, volunteer opportunities, scholarship opportunities, and more. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Parents are welcome to attend.

The GGTAC will meet every third Thursday of the month, beginning Thursday, September 18, 2025, through Tuesday, April 28, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Meetings will be held at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue.

For more information and to register, visit www.ggcity.org/ggtac or contact the Community Services Department at (714) 741-5360.

###

11222 Acacia Parkway • P.O.Box 3070 • Garden Grove, CA 92842
ggcity.org

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
August 28, 2025

1. Calendar of Events
2. Notice of cancellation of the September 11, 2025 Zoning Administrator meeting.
3. League of California Cities articles from August 29, 2025 to September 4, 2025.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 4, 2025 – October 2, 2025

Thursday	September 4	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Friday	September 5		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Monday	September 8	6:30 p.m.	Neighborhood Improvement And Conservation Commission Meeting, CMC
Tuesday	September 9	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Wednesday	September 10	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Employee Appreciation Luncheon, CMC, AB Room
Thursday	September 11	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Thursday	September 11	9:00 a.m.	Downtown Commission Meeting, CMC
Thursday	September 18		\$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Thursday	September 18	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	September 19		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	September 23	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	September 25	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Friday	September 26	5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Foods of Garden Grove Live Village Green Park, 12732 Main Street
Thursday	October 2		\$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Thursday	October 2	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: September 4, 2025

DAVID DENT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



Governor creates new task force to address encampments

Sep 3, 2025

By Caroline Grinder, legislative advocate (community services)

Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom [announced](#) a new task force dedicated to addressing encampments on state properties. The group — which will focus on California’s ten largest cities — is comprised of six different state agencies and departments. It will begin operations within the next 30 days.

Cal Cities has been calling on the state to do more to address encampments on state properties. These efforts include co-sponsoring [SB 569 \(Blakespear\)](#), which aimed to improve coordination between cities and the California Department of Transportation to better address homeless encampments on state-owned land. Unfortunately, the bill [was held](#) after the administration proposed last-minute changes that weakened the bill.

“We know that addressing dangerous homeless encampments on state-owned land is an essential part [of addressing homelessness],” said Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman in response to the Governor’s announcement. “That’s why I’m glad to see this announcement that brings together state agencies to better support city efforts to clear them quickly and humanely.”

The state’s announcement about the task force was vague on details: It is too early to know how this task force will work with local governments to ensure those living in encampments are connected to local services and housing.

California’s largest cities are already grappling with the impacts of recent cuts to state homelessness funding, which could impact the very programs intended to serve individuals transitioning out of encampments.

Just three months ago, lawmakers and Gov. Gavin Newsom zeroed out funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Grant Program — the main source of homelessness funding for many communities — for the current fiscal year. For FY 2026-27, lawmakers set aside \$500 million — [half the level of previous years](#).

“While we continue to call on the state to restore funding, we also urge them to distribute the funds that are available quickly so cities can continue to support their unhoused residents without disruption,” [Coleman said recently](#).

According to the Governor’s [press release](#), the new task force will prioritize larger encampments on state rights-of-ways, such as along highways, medians, on and off ramps, and under overpasses. The group includes representatives from the California Highway Patrol, Office of Emergency Services, Department of Housing and Community Development, Interagency Council on Homelessness, Health and Human Services, and the California Department of Transportation.

Cal Cities is urging the state to ensure that best practices and lessons learned from the newly created task force translate into real solutions for small and medium-sized cities grappling with encampments on state property.



Hone your leadership skills at the 2025 Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar

Sep 3, 2025

Register online through Dec. 3

By Cal Cities Education Staff

Join Cal Cities in Palm Springs this Dec. 10-11 for the [Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar](#). Designed for fire service leaders — fire chiefs, battalion chiefs, senior command staff, and union leadership — the seminar provides new approaches to everyday challenges and chances to connect with peers in the industry. This year's sessions will cover topics such as leadership, employee safety, legislative updates, and the best metrics to track.

Registration and hotel information

Registration for the full seminar starts at \$500 for city officials from any Cal Cities member city. Registration includes admission to all educational sessions, seminar meals, and admission to the evening reception. The deadline to register online is Wednesday, Dec. 3. After that, officials may register on-site if space is available.

The 2025 Fire Chiefs Seminar will be at the Renaissance Palm Springs. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a reduced rate for conference attendees who register before Tuesday, Nov. 18. Discounted hotel rooms often sell out early, so advance registration is encouraged.

[Sponsorship](#) opportunities are available. For questions, please contact Exposition Sales and Event Sponsorship Manager [Amy Wade](#). For registration questions, please contact Registrar [Megan Dunn](#). For program questions, please contact Event Program Manager [Erin Wylder](#).

In advance of the seminar, [please review](#) Cal Cities' event and meeting policies. For more information, including registration details, visit the Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar webpage.



Make cents out of city budgets at the Municipal Finance Institute

Sep 3, 2025

The Municipal Finance Institute is open for registration through Dec 3

By Cal Cities Education Staff

Even without volatile markets and policies, managing city budgets can be challenging. Join other finance directors and municipal finance professionals to get the essential information you need at the [2025 Municipal Finance Institute](#), taking place in Palm Springs, Dec. 10-11.

Topics for this year's institute include cybersecurity and incident response plans, artificial intelligence, legislative updates, and tips for improving your city's credit rating. Plus, swing by the Listserv Live breakfast roundtables for timely tips and connections. It's all the support of the Fiscal Officers Listserv, with the added bonus of putting faces to email addresses.

Registration and hotel information

Registration for the full conference starts at \$500 for city officials from any Cal Cities member city. Registration includes admission to all educational sessions, institute meals, and admission to the evening reception. The deadline to register online is Wednesday, Dec. 3. After that, officials may register on-site if space is available.

The 2025 Municipal Finance Institute will be at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a reduced rate for conference attendees who register before Tuesday, Nov. 18. Discounted hotel rooms often sell out early, so advance registration is encouraged.

[Sponsorship](#) opportunities are available. For questions, please contact Exposition Sales and Event Sponsorship Manager [Amy Wade](#). For registration questions, please contact Registrar [Megan Dunn](#). For program questions, please contact Event Program Manager [Erin Wylder](#).

In advance of the seminar, [please review](#) Cal Cities' event and meeting policies. For more information, including registration details, visit the [Municipal Finance Institute](#) webpage.



Bill Talk: Cities notch big suspense file wins, despite budget crunch

Sep 3, 2025

By Cal Cities Staff

Last Friday's [final fiscal slashing](#) of the year contained some big wins for cities — not least of all the survival of several sponsored measures. Out of the 15 introduced this year, eight have made it to the floor for a final vote.

Lawmakers also held several bills that would have created new costs and legal liabilities for cities. Of course, some measures supported by Cal Cities failed to advance, mostly those in the environmental quality portfolio. Those measures tend to command higher price tags, making them prime targets for legislators looking to shore up a shaky state budget.

The Assembly and Senate appropriations committees meet twice a year to review the impact of hundreds of measures on the state's coffers. The Senate and Assembly this time took the unusual move of declaring that any bill that died in appropriations without being turned into a two-year bill cannot come back next year.

This (somewhat) surprising outcome means that Bill Talk will continue until the end of session. But with around 850 measures left to vote on (and no committee hearings), legislators and city leaders will need to act fast. Lawmakers have until Sept. 12 to pass any remaining measures. The last day for lawmakers to get any changes in print — and thus eligible for consideration — is Sept. 9.

Below is a round-up of the major remaining bills, victories, and losses in each portfolio.

-Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor

Environmental Quality

The appropriations committees' actions last week yielded mixed results for Cal Cities' environmental quality bills. Most environmental-related measures create additional implementation costs, either at the local or state level, making them challenging to pass in a budget deficit.

Unsurprisingly, each appropriations committee held quite a few bills supported by Cal Cities, including its sponsored [AB 846 \(Connolly\)](#). That measure would have created a voluntary streamlined path for local agencies to consult with the California Fish and Wildlife Department on vegetation management projects in fire-prone areas.

Notably, [legislation](#) passed earlier this year as part of the budget clarified that environmental review is waived and consultation with the state is only required for [certain types of wildfire prevention projects](#). (See page four in Cal Cities' [CEQA reform primer](#) for eligible wildfire risk reduction projects). While not the same streamlined pathway envisioned in AB 846, the [exemption and environmental](#)

[consultation](#) can serve as a helpful tool for cities looking to expedite wildfire prevention projects.

On a positive note, two Cal Cities' sponsored bills survived the appropriations cuts: [SB 454 \(McNerney\)](#) and [AB 996 \(Pellerin\)](#). SB 454 would create a PFAS Mitigation Fund to help cities and water agencies remove forever chemicals from their water supplies. It moved forward to the Assembly Floor, along with a second PFAS bill supported by Cal Cities, [SB 682 \(Allen\)](#). That measure would prohibit the distribution or sale of certain products that contain PFAS.

The other sponsored measure, AB 996, would provide [tools for coastal and bay cities](#) to meet sea level rise planning requirements. A coalition of coastal and bay local governments has proved instrumental in advancing this measure.

Other priority bills include:

- [AB 261 \(Quirk-Silva\)](#): Fire safety: fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [AB 300 \(Lackey\)](#): Fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [AB 986 \(Muratsuchi\)](#): State of emergency and local emergency: landslides
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [AB 222 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#): Data centers: power usage effectiveness: cost shifts
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [SB 601 \(Allen\)](#): Water: waste discharge
Cal Cities Position: Oppose Unless Amended (Status: Held as two-year bill)
- [SB 72 \(Caballero\)](#): The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)

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

Community Services

Cal Cities' recovery housing bill package faced its toughest test yet in appropriations, where three of the four measures were sent to the suspense file. The Department of Health Care Services assigned all three high cost estimates, making it difficult for lawmakers to move them forward. That left two options: Risk the bills dying in appropriations or regroup and try again next year. Sen. Catherine Blakespear chose the latter, designating [SB 329](#) as a two-year bill with plans to return next year.

Fortunately, [AB 424 \(Davies\)](#) advanced off the suspense file. The bill would strengthen communication between the department and cities when processing complaints against licensed alcohol and drug treatment facilities. Unfortunately, [SB 35 \(Umberg\)](#) was held in committee and cannot return next year. The measure would have improved oversight of unlicensed sober living homes.

AB 424 now joins [AB 492 \(Valencia\)](#) on the Senate Floor, awaiting a vote before advancing to the Governor's desk. AB 492 would require the department to notify cities whenever it issues a new license for an alcohol or drug treatment center within their jurisdiction.

Other priority bills include:

- [SB 748 \(Richardson\)](#) Encampment Resolution Funding program: safe parking sites: reporting
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [SB 83 \(Umberg\)](#) State Department of Health Care Services: substance abuse treatment: disclosures
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [AB 543 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Medi-Cal: street medicine
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)

- [Caroline Grinder](#), legislative advocate

Housing, Community, and Economic Development

Lawmakers approved two closely watched bills, [AB 650 \(Papan\)](#) and [SB 79 \(Wiener\)](#), which had received oddly [different costs](#) despite similar requirements for the state. Sponsored by Cal Cities, AB 650 passed with unanimous bipartisan support, as has been the case all year. The measure would improve the housing element review process by allowing cities to begin their housing element drafts earlier than existing law and provide more clarity in the review process.

Also [staying on trend](#), SB 79 passed off the suspense file with several changes and the bare minimum of votes, 8-6. The measure would force cities to approve residential projects near specific transit stops with limited environmental review and public engagement. Both Republicans and Democrats were split, as each party had at least one vote in support of it and one against it. As one of the few bills to receive a roll call vote on Friday, it shows just how divided the Legislature is on the issue.

Significant amendments are forthcoming this week that will likely further narrow the measure. Assembly Appropriations Chair Buffy Wicks already [announced](#) that a provision looping in all areas near specific transit stops to follow statewide height and density standards for residential development will be removed. She also said there would be modifications to the bill's definitions and many clarifying and technical amendments, along with changes to projects inside fire hazard severity zones and historic districts.

Other priority bills include:

- [AB 507 \(Haney\)](#) Adaptive reuse: streamlining: incentives
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Status: Passed)
- [AB 660 \(Wilson\)](#) Planning and zoning law: postentitlement phase permits: housing accountability act
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Status: Held)
- [AB 670 \(Quirk-Silva\)](#) Planning and zoning: housing element: converted affordable housing units
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [AB 726 \(Avila Farias\)](#) Planning and zoning: annual report: rehabilitated units
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [AB 1131 \(Ta\)](#) General plan: annual report congregate care for the elderly
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [AB 1445 \(Haney\)](#) Downtown revitalization and economic recovery financing districts
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [SB 750 \(Cortese\)](#) California Housing Finance and Credit Act
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)

- *Brady Guertin, legislative advocate*

Transportation, Communications, and Public Works

Thanks to strong member engagement, Friday's appropriations committee actions resulted in a relatively positive outcome for infrastructure-related bills. Cal Cities' sponsored [AB 476 \(Gonzalez\)](#) advanced out of committee, sans provisions that would have created a new crime for organized and repeated metal theft. The bill still includes [reporting and licensing requirements](#) for scrap metal sellers and now advances to the Senate Floor.

After receiving letters from Cal Cities members, the author removed provisions from an outdoor billboard permitting bill, [SB 364 \(Strickland\)](#), that created significant safety concerns. Assembly Appropriations held [SB 445 \(Wiener\)](#), which took [several forms this year](#) — all usurping local permitting review and inspection. City letters in both cases strengthened Cal Cities' efforts to preserve local control.

Notably, legislators also held [AB 470 \(McKinnor\)](#) for the year. The measure would have created an off-ramp for telecommunication providers from [carrier of last resort obligations](#). Cal Cities had voiced concerns about the bill, which has drawn [considerable attention](#).

Other key bills include:

- [AB 620 \(Jackson\)](#): Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Fleet Purchasing Assistance Program: rental vehicles
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [SB 431 \(Arreguin\)](#): Assault and battery: Public works employees
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [SB 283 \(Laird\)](#): Battery Energy Storage Systems
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [SB 74 \(Seyarto\)](#): Infrastructure Gap Funding
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [SB 78 \(Seyarto\)](#): Highway System: Safety Enhancements
Cal Cities Position: Support (Passed)

- *Damon Conklin, legislative advocate*

Public Safety

Most of Cal Cities' priority policing bills passed off the suspense files with minor amendments. Several Cal Cities-supported bills related to fire insurance and wildfire mitigation also passed out of the Appropriations Committees. But lawmakers did hold a few major bills, such as [AB 75 \(Calderon\)](#). Supported by Cal Cities, the bill would have required insurance companies to provide notice to homeowners before taking aerial footage of their property.

Other priority bills include:

- [AB 1 \(Connolly\)](#) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [AB 888 \(Calderon\)](#) California Safe Homes grant program
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [AB 8 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) Cannabis: Industrial Hemp
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed as amended)
- [AB 992 \(Irwin\)](#) Peace Officers
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [SB 6 \(Ashby\)](#) Controlled substances: xylazine
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)
- [SB 701 \(Wahab\)](#) Signal Jammers
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Passed)
- [SB 759 \(Archuleta\)](#) Crimes: supervised release
Cal Cities Position: Support (Status: Held)

- *Jolena Voorhis, legislative advocate*

Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations

In a win for cities, Senate Appropriations held [AB 340 \(Ahrens\)](#) and [AB 1109 \(Kalra\)](#) on the suspense file. These bills would have effectively created new privileges between employees and unions. In doing so, the bills would have restricted employer investigations and added new costs and liability for cities.

[AB 339 \(Ortega\)](#), however, passed with amendments. This bill, like previous unsuccessful proposals, would undermine local agencies' ability to contract for public services. The amendments removed the bill's meet and confer provisions and shortened the notice requirements from 60 days to 45 days. The amendments also

expand the exemption for public works projects. Cal Cities remains opposed to the measure.

Other bills include:

- [AB 1331 \(Elhawary\)](#) Workplace Surveillance
Cal Cities Position: Oppose (Status: Passed with amendments)
- [SB 707 \(Durazo\)](#) Open Meetings: Meeting and Teleconference Requirements
Cal Cities Position: Oppose Unless Amended (Status: Passed with amendments)
- [SB 827 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Local Agency Officials: Training
Cal Cities Position: Oppose Unless Amended (Status: Passed with amendments)

- *Johnnie Pina, legislative advocate*

Revenue and Taxation

There was an odd lack of suspense for the Revenue and Taxation portfolio on Friday, as most of Cal Cities' tracked bills were already on the floors of the Assembly and Senate. However, legislators did act on some notable bills.

The Senate Appropriations Committee narrowed the scope of [AB 265 \(Caloza\)](#), a measure supported by Cal Cities. It would, upon appropriation of the Legislature, establish a grant program for small businesses and nonprofits impacted by a state of emergency. The Assembly Appropriations Committee made further changes to [SB 710 \(Blakespear\)](#), a bill previously amended to address Cal Cities' cost concerns. The measure sought to extend property tax exemptions for solar energy systems.

Other priority bills include:

- [AB 564 \(Haney\)](#) Cannabis: excise tax: rate increase repeal
Cal Cities Position: Watch (Status: Passed as amended)
- [AB 699 \(Stefani\)](#) Elections: local tax measures
Cal Cities Position: Watch (Status: Passed)

- *Ben Triffo, legislative advocate*

A quick reminder

Bill Talk is a weekly breakdown of the biggest bills, policy committee hearings, and legislative deadlines that city leaders need to know about. To get this list on Monday morning, contact your [regional public affairs manager](#). To access old Bill Talks, visit the [archive page](#). Cal Cities also maintains a live [list of all sponsored/hot measures](#). Lists of all tracked bills are available on [individual policy pages](#).



Activist Erin Brockovich to give Friday keynote at Annual Conference! Full conference schedule online

Sep 3, 2025

Erin Brockovich's "stick-to-it-iveness" will leave you inspired and empowered

By Cal Cities Education Staff

Environmental activist and consumer advocate Erin Brockovich will give the Friday keynote for the [Annual Conference and Expo](#) in Long Beach, Oct. 8-10. Whether you know her as a longtime activist or from the 2000 namesake film, Brockovich is a powerful voice for those who cannot be heard.

Brockovich's tenacity in the early 1990s uncovered a 30-year toxic chemical leak into the groundwater around Hinkley, California. Because of the work of Brockovich and other advocates, Pacific Gas & Electric was forced to pay out \$333 million, the largest class action settlement in U.S. history at the time, to Hinkley residents.

Today, the self-described "gutsy broad" still goes head-to-head with the "Goliaths" on environmental issues worldwide, including here in California. She has written multiple books and hosted TV shows, using her notoriety to spread messages of personal empowerment and encourage others to stand up and make a difference.

Full conference schedule posted

The full conference schedule is now on the [Annual Conference and Expo webpage](#). Scroll down to the "Program" tab and select "View Detailed Program" to look through the current details for each session, including times, speakers, and session descriptions. Check back often, as details are subject to change.

Registration closes Sept. 26

Full conference registration for [member city](#) officials is \$725 and includes admission to general and concurrent sessions, the expo hall, the Wednesday host city reception, the CitiPAC and diversity caucus receptions, and conference meals.

Cal Cities strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage fully. For accommodation or accessibility inquiries, please contact [Conference Registrar Megan Dunn](#). Every effort will be made to honor requests submitted.

Scammers may contact you claiming to be the housing bureau/service for the conference. Cal Cities has not contracted with a housing bureau/service for the 2025 Annual Conference and Expo. Official conference emails will come from addresses ending in @calcities.org.