

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
February 2, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council FROM: Scott Stiles, City Manager
Members

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. FY 2022-2023 ACTION PLAN UPDATE (CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES)

The FY 2022-23 Action Plan to implement the City Council's priorities is attached. Updates will be provided quarterly to inform you of progress related to various action plan items.

II. ITEMS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

A. LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

Memorandum from League of California Cities: 2023 Garden Grove membership dues invoice, 2022 annual report, Return on Investment, and membership benefits.

B. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS

High winter bills information from SoCal Gas: Market conditions caused natural gas rates to increase 128% since December.

• **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.



Scott Stiles
City Manager

**FY 2022-23 ACTION PLAN
(City Council Priorities)**

Updated 2/1/23

Action Item	Implementation Steps	Lead Dept.	Estimated Completion Date
Economic Development			
1. Use economic development to grow revenues			
a. Continue current development activities:			
- Site C (Investal Garden Resorts, LLC)	Project ground breaking (<i>permanent power design in progress</i>)	CED	Q4 2023
	Monitor Project Construction	CED	Ongoing
- Site B2 (Kam Sang Companies)	Implement exclusive negotiation agreement thru 12/22	CED	Complete
	Disposition of 12311 Thackery property (<i>litigation</i>)		Pending
	Development Agreement Approved		Complete
- Brookhurst Triangle (Brookhurst Place)	Facilitate Phase II development (<i>grading/bldg permits in prog.</i>)	CED	Q1 2023
	Groundbreaking	CED	Q2 2023
- Garden Brook Senior Village (Former Galleria)	Monitor project construction (<i>50% residential leased</i>)	CED	Ongoing
	Project completion (<i>ground level progressing</i>)	CED	Summer-23
- 13650 Harbor Blvd. (BN Group Hotel Dev.)	Project completion (<i>Edison power complete; soft opening upcoming</i>)	CED	March-23
	Monitor construction and completion of Home2Suites project	CED	Ongoing
- Implement west-side development opportunities	Facilitate bowling alley development Phase 2 -- <i>pending Edison</i>	CED	Q2 2023
	Conduct development efforts for Munson Center*	CED	In Progress
	<i>*See update under Ri:Imagine Initiatives Section</i>		
b. Facilitate OC Street Car project	Monitor & support project initiatives (Proj. completion 2024)	PW	Ongoing
c. Willowick RFP	Complete Final Surplus Land Act Initiatives/Proposal Eval.	CED	Q2 2023
2. Continue Re:Imagine Downtown Initiatives			
a. Civic Center Adaptive Reuse	Project construction for Phase 1 (Farm Block)-- <i>in progress</i> *	CED	Spring-23
(Cottage Industries Project)	Project construction for Phase 2 (Art Block) - COVID delay	CED	TBD
	<i>*Smoke Queen BBQ, White Elephant Thai, Boba Guys, Spotless Burger, Brewery</i>		
c. Drive Art In Community (expand mural concept)	Update fee schedule related to public art & improvements*	CS, FIN, CED	May-23
	<i>*to be included w/comprehensive bldg/planning fee study update</i>		
	<i>** utility boxes and art in the park</i>	CS	Ongoing
d. Expand Re:Imagine concept to other areas	Conduct development efforts for Coco's property/Munson center	CED	Near Complete
of the City	<i>Marley's Preschool, Estrad's Grill, Pro Athletics, Titanium Healthcare</i>		
	Facilitate development of Pavillons Plaza West	CED	In progress
	<i>(Sprouts, The Habit, Mattress Firm, Crimson Cowards, Jersey</i>		thru Q1 2023
	<i>Mike's open; Ulta, Moge Tee, Humus Republic progressing)</i>		

**FY 2022-23 ACTION PLAN
(City Council Priorities)**

Updated 2/1/23

Action Item	Implementation Steps	Lead Dept.	Estimated Completion Date
3. Business redevelopment/revitalization			
a. Facilitate beautification of businesses	Implement Main Street Beautification Project	CED	Complete
	(i.e., lighting, dining parklets, utility box art, dedication plaque)		
b. Provide support for new businesses	Implement microgrant and loan programs for small business	CED	Ongoing
	Promote SCORE/SBDC small business training & workshops	CED	Ongoing
c. Promote business attraction opportunities	Conduct broker outreach and property marketing	CED	Ongoing
Public Safety			
4. Maintain staffing and strong response	Maintain Measure O Public Safety Staffing Plan	PD, HR	Ongoing
5. Plan for HQ facility improvements	Implement Civic Center community engagement plan	PD, CED	In progress
	<i>(1/24/23-Council Approvals: PFAL Phase 2&3; Placeworks addit. community engagement)</i> Acquire 11277 GG Blvd for interim public safety use	PD, FIN, CM	Complete
	Transition PD functions to new bldg	PD, FIN, CM	Q2 2023
6. Implement new strategies to reduce crime and improve quality of life	Refine and evaluate Mobile Mental Health Pilot Program	PD, CEDD	Complete
	Form internal committee to review/respond to crime stats	PD	Ongoing
	<i>National Incident Based Reporting System</i> Provide update to Council re:transition to NIBRS	PD	March-23
7. Increase basic building security at City Hall	Complete security enhancement construction	CMO, PD, PW	Winter 2023
Community Engagement/Outreach			
8. Update the community regarding news & resources	Effectively disseminate important city information via all City communication mediums	CM, IT	Ongoing
	Promote resources to help businesses	CEDD, CM	Ongoing
9. Maintain Strong Communication	Utilize multi-language communication strategies	CM	Ongoing
	Utilize local TV resources	CM, Multi	Ongoing
	Provide updates from staff regarding key issues/programs	CM	Ongoing
	Enhance City website and app	IT,CM	Ongoing
	Market the City's assets and programs	CM, Multi	Ongoing
	Engage the community on essential services	CM, Multi	Ongoing
Financial Sustainability			
10. Balanced Budget			
a. Maintain and enhance priority city services	Develop and implement FY 2023-24 & 2024-25 biennial budget	FIN, CM	June-23
	Central Management Meeting to Prepare for Council Workshop	ALL	March 1, 2023
	City Council Workshop	ALL	March 17, 2023
b. Implement City's infrastructure funding policy	Enhance street maintenance & capital asset funding	FIN, CM	June-23
11. Refine ERP financial system	Implement Phase II Payroll & HR functions	FIN, HR, IT	Complete

**FY 2022-23 ACTION PLAN
(City Council Priorities)**

Updated 2/1/23

Action Item	Implementation Steps	Lead Dept.	Estimated Completion Date
12. Establish ongoing funding source for existing City buildings and facilities	Continue Implementation of Capital Asset Renewal & Replacement Reserves Policy	FIN	June-23
Effective Transparent Government			
13. Complete and Implement Parks Master Plan	Implement \$6M Grant Award for Woodbruy Park improvements Award Design Contract	CS CS	In progress Complete
	Implement \$1M Grant Award for Jardin De Los Ninos, Haster Basin Park, & Westhaven Park for Playground/Restrooms	CS, PW, CMO	In progress
	Submit federal grant application paperwork	CS	Complete
	Begin renovation of Magnolia Park playground & shelter improvements	CS	Q4-2023
	Pursue grant opportunities for GGPDHQ/Civic Center	CS, CMO	Q1-2 2023
14. Improve financial transparency	Provide informative reports/analytics via new ERP capabilities <i>(reports to be timed with 1 full fiscal year ERP data)</i>	FIN	Fall 2023
Other Community Issues			
15. Infrastructure			
a. Address road pavement	Implement pavement management priorities	PW	Complete
b. Improve West Main Street Parking Lot	Evaluate timeline for improvements due to deferred construction	PW	TBD
c. Implement infrastrusture funding plan	Address in FY 2021-23 Biennial Budget	FIN	Complete
d. Evaluate park sprinkler systems	Implement automation of Woodbury Park sprinkler system in conjunction with Prop 68 grant award; <i>planning in progress</i>	PW	Q4 2025
e. Implement PFAS improvements	Complete construction of 2nd filtration system (Haster Well 30)	PW	Complete
	Initiate construction of 3rd filtration system (<i>Lampson Reservoir</i>)	PW	Q1 2023
16. Quality of Life			
a. Code Enforcement	Promote neighborhood pride and reinvestment	CED	Ongoing
- Empty lot maintenance	Continue property maintenance education and outreach	CED	Ongoing
b. Parking on local streets	Implement SCAG grant to conduct comprehensive curb analysis	PW	Complete
c. Trash (community/business centers)	Address via Code, PD, PW, and Republic Services	CED, PW	Ongoing
	Implement and monitor Trash Contract re SB 1383 compliance	CMO, PW	Ongoing
	Update Council on Implementation of new trash contract	CMO, PW	February-23
	Assign Contract Administrator	PW	Complete
d. Homelessness	Implement 5yr Comprehensive Strategic Plan to address homelessness	CED, PD	Ongoing
	Pursue partnerships for navigation center	CED	Complete
	RFP for navigaton center service provider	CED	February-23

**FY 2022-23 ACTION PLAN
(City Council Priorities)**

Updated 2/1/23

Action Item	Implementation Steps	Lead Dept.	Estimated Completion Date
	RFP for navigation center construction	CED	March-23
	implement permanent supportive housing (Stuart Drive)	CED, CMO	Complete
e. Sign Replacement	Replace signs in poor condition in the City (60% complete)	PW	In Progress
-	Prioritize reflectivity deficiencies	PW	In Progress

January 25, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: City Managers and City Clerks
From: League of California Cities Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman
Subject: 2023 League of California Cities Membership Dues Invoice

Thank you for your city's membership in the League of California Cities (Cal Cities). We achieved so much together in 2022 by partnering to ensure the strength and resiliency of our diverse cities in the face of global economic uncertainty. I know your city's financial resources are not unlimited, and value your city's ongoing commitment to ensuring California city leaders and cities are strong today, tomorrow, and into the future by belonging to Cal Cities.

Achieving Strong Results

Accompanying your city's 2023 membership dues invoice is the League of California Cities 2022 Annual Report. Together we proactively advocated at the state and federal levels of government for resources and drove policy that was member-informed and grounded in the voices and experiences of cities.

The value and benefits your city gains from belonging to Cal Cities makes supporting Cal Cities a wise investment. Enclosed for your review is a customized "Return on Investment" report for your city. This report summarizes the significant financial benefits your city receives as a direct result of Cal Cities' advocacy.

Advancing the Mission

Equally important, your valued membership provides elected and appointed officials in your city the ability to engage in meaningful policy development discussions, pertinent educational workshops, and relevant networking opportunities. Working in concert with our 478 member cities, partners, and coalition supporters, protecting and expanding local authority through advocacy and education remains the cornerstone of Cal Cities' activities.

In 2022, Cal Cities [secured funding](#) to help cities spur the construction of affordable housing, prevent and reduce homelessness, and implement organic waste recycling programs. Cal Cities also protected [local transportation projects](#), [safeguarded funding streams](#) used for critical services, and fought back against regulations that would have added [unnecessary bureaucracy](#). In the courts, Cal Cities defended cities on a wide range of issues, notably their ability to [interpret their land use plans](#).

Cal Cities also expanded its online educational programming and launched the City Leaders Summit, which combines in-person advocacy at the Capitol with educational sessions on the most pressing issues facing cities.

In 2023, Cal Cities will again be a vital resource for your community. We look forward to working with you to amplify the voice of city leaders with state and federal policymakers on the priority issues identified by our members: homelessness, housing, public safety, and fiscal sustainability for cities.

Membership Remains Affordable

Under the Cal Cities bylaws, annual membership dues are determined using a city's population as set forth by the California Department of Finance.

Balancing the fiscal impact on cities with the key role membership dues play in sustaining Cal Cities' strong operations, the Cal Cities Board authorized a 3% adjustment to the dues schedule for 2023. This decision reflects the Board's commitment to membership while ensuring adequate funding to support Cal Cities' advocacy and program activities.

In addition, consistent with Board policy, Cal Cities maintains a Litigation Contingency Reserve Account (LCRA) funded through an optional voluntary surcharge set as a percentage of dues. Reviewed annually by the Board, the LCRA is intended to (1) cover expenses incurred from board-approved litigation within a single budget year; and (2) maintain sufficient set-asides to cover expenses Cal Cities would incur if the organization becomes, or remains involved in, board-approved litigation during the following year. Fully funded for 2023, contributions to the optional voluntary litigation surcharge are not required and are shown as a zero on the enclosed invoice.

California Cities Are Stronger Together

Through Cal Cities, all cities and all city officials have the opportunity to help shape vital solutions to the issues of greatest importance to our cities and the state of California.

On behalf of Cal Cities Officers and Board, I encourage your enthusiastic support of and participation in the League of California Cities during 2023 and beyond. Together, we build even stronger cities and a more vibrant California.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Jennifer Whiting, Director, Education and Member Services at jwhiting@calcities.org or 916-658-8249.

Enclosures: Dues invoice
Dues schedule
Return on Investment Report
Membership Benefits
2022 Annual Report



LEAGUE OF
**CALIFORNIA
CITIES**

INVOICE

To: City Manager
City of Garden Grove
P.O. Box 3070
Garden Grove, CA 92842

Invoice: 643323

Terms: Feb. 28, 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/2023	Membership dues for calendar year 2023	\$37,603.00
	Optional litigation surcharge	\$0.00
	Total Amount	\$37,603.00
	City of Garden Grove	
	Official Population 170,526	

2023 Advocacy Priorities

- Protect and expand investments to prevent and reduce homelessness.
- Increase the supply and affordability of housing while retaining local decision-making.
- Improve public safety in California communities.
- Safeguard essential local revenues and support fiscal sustainability.

Our mission is to expand and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

Cal Cities Membership - Your Best Investment

www.calcities.org

**Please make checks payable to
LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES
1400 K Street, 4th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814-3916**



League of California Cities 2023 Dues Schedule

For cities having a population of:				2022 Dues	2023 Increase	2023 Dues
1	to	500	...	\$83	\$3	\$86
501	to	600	...	220	7	227
601	to	700	...	440	13	453
701	to	800	...	481	15	496
801	to	900	...	577	17	594
901	to	1,000	...	676	21	697
1,001	to	1,250	...	845	25	870
1,251	to	1,500	...	1,014	31	1,045
1,501	to	1,750	...	1,183	35	1,218
1,751	to	2,000	...	1,352	41	1,393
2,001	to	2,250	...	1,521	46	1,567
2,251	to	2,500	...	1,692	51	1,743
2,501	to	2,750	...	1,859	56	1,915
2,751	to	3,000	...	2,029	61	2,090
3,001	to	4,000	...	2,705	81	2,786
4,001	to	5,000	...	3,380	101	3,481
5,001	to	7,500	...	4,562	137	4,699
7,501	to	10,000	...	5,264	158	5,422
10,001	to	15,000	...	6,355	191	6,546
15,001	to	20,000	...	7,319	219	7,538
20,001	to	25,000	...	9,163	274	9,437
25,001	to	30,000	...	11,002	330	11,332
30,001	to	40,000	...	13,543	406	13,949
40,001	to	50,000	...	16,477	494	16,971
50,001	to	60,000	...	18,980	569	19,549
60,001	to	70,000	...	20,859	626	21,485
70,001	to	80,000	...	21,912	657	22,569
80,001	to	90,000	...	23,357	700	24,057
90,001	to	100,000	...	25,586	768	26,354
100,001	to	125,000	...	29,182	875	30,057
125,001	to	150,000	...	32,122	964	33,086
150,001	to	200,000	...	36,507	1,096	37,603
200,001	to	500,000	...	38,335	1,150	39,485
			<i>Plus</i>	1,829	55	1,884
			<i>per each full 10,000 of population over 200,001</i>			
500,001	to	640,000		93,054	2,791	95,845
			<i>Plus</i>	1,691	50	1,741
			<i>per each full 10,000 of population over 500,001</i>			
	Over	640,000		115,947	3,479	119,426

A bylaws provision states that no city's dues may increase by more than \$5,000.



Cal Cities Membership — A Great Investment

Membership in Cal Cities is an invaluable investment. The fiscal benefit to cities outweighs the annual dues, providing members with unique opportunities to advocate for the state-wide interests of cities and learn from each other. Investing in Cal Cities strengthens the collective power of local communities.

Customized Return on Investment Report — December 2022

GARDEN GROVE	FY2017-18	FY2018-19	FY2019-20	FY2020-21	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	Total
Dues	33,572	34,412	35,444	35,444	36,507	37,603	212,982
VLF/PropertyTax Swap ⁽¹⁾	6,329,006	6,808,151	7,742,088	7,666,661	8,178,023	8,553,797	45,277,726
Local Revenues Protected by Prop. 22 ⁽²⁾	3,644,947	3,567,746	4,442,220	3,504,553	4,239,428	4,696,949	24,095,844
SB 89 VLF Shift	-830,143	-868,238	-908,082	-946,221	-985,962	-1,027,373	-5,566,019
SB 1 - Local Streets and Roads Funds	1,228,801	2,997,544	3,116,837	3,246,742	3,467,853	4,276,850	18,334,626
CARES Act				2,158,291			2,158,291
American Rescue Plan Act ⁽³⁾					48,374,570		48,374,570
Total Return	10,372,610	12,505,203	14,393,063	15,630,026	63,273,912	16,500,224	132,675,037
Rate of Return	309:1	363:1	406:1	441:1	1733:1	439:1	623:1

1. Net gain in revenues by virtue of the VLF/Property Tax Swap. Growth in PropTax in Lieu of VLF versus estimated growth in VLF had it remained.

2. Prop. 22 ended the Legislature's ability to borrow or delay HUTA and Prop. 42 gas tax funds.

3. American Rescue Plan Act allocations were allocated in FY2021-22 and distributed as two tranches of funding over two years (2021-22 and 2022-23).

Our mission is to expand and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

Membership with Cal Cities comes with a wide range of benefits for elected city officials and city staff — from insider opportunities to help shape statewide policies of importance to your city, to unique networking and learning experiences that make our collective work more powerful and effective.

	Members	Non-members
Engage in statewide advocacy campaigns to safeguard local control and secure resources for cities.	✓	
Engage in one of Cal Cities' 16 Regional Divisions. Work closely with Regional Public Affairs Managers and other local elected officials to develop region-specific programs, carry out grassroots activities, and share best practices.	✓	
Access Cal Cities' robust advocacy and public affairs resources and engage in actions and events to collectively advocate for the issues that matter most to cities.	✓	
Receive timely updates, action alerts, and in-depth analyses on priority legislation impacting cities from subject-matter experts.	✓	
Serve on Cal Cities Policy Committees and help shape state and federal policy on issues affecting cities.	✓	
Serve in leadership positions that help drive Cal Cities' priorities and policy.	✓	
Attend statewide Cal Cities conferences and events providing a wide range of learning opportunities for new and experienced city officials.	✓	✓*
Engage in one of Cal Cities' ten Municipal Departments where you can participate in educational and networking opportunities with your colleagues in similar city positions from across the state.	✓	
Subscribe to the <i>Cal Cities Advocate</i> newsletter for breaking stories on legislative developments, as well as updates on conferences and education events, grant opportunities for cities, and more.	✓	✓
Attend Webinars to learn about the most pressing issues of the day as they develop — from broadband deployment and wildfires to rental assistance, and more.	✓	✓*
Participate in virtual Roundtable Discussions with colleagues from across the state in member-driven conversations on key issues of shared concern.	✓	
Participate in policy briefings with state leaders.	✓	
Join a Cal Cities Diversity Caucus and connect with city officials who share common interests, issues, and identity.	✓	
Access the legal advocacy program that protects the interests of cities in matters before state and federal appellate courts by filing "friend-of-the-court" briefs.	✓	
City attorneys are eligible to participate in the Legal Advocacy Committee and work closely with attorneys from across the state.	✓	
Receive recognition through one of many awards programs, including the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, the Mayors and City Council Members Torch Program, Local Streets and Roads, and Division and Department awards.	✓	
Share your knowledge of complex municipal issues or projects with other Cal Cities members by proposing sessions and presenting at conferences and events.	✓	
Participate on planning committees for conferences and events: Help plan and support conferences specific to your department.	✓	
Subscribe to <i>Western City</i> magazine, a monthly publication that analyzes broader statewide policy issues and highlights the innovative work of city officials from across the state.	✓	✓
Elevate your city's visibility: Be highlighted in <i>Western City</i> magazine, #LocalWorks, and on social media.	✓	
Join Listservs to exchange information with other Cal Cities members interested in a specific subject area.	✓	
Participate in Issue Groups such as the Rural City Information Exchange and Coastal Cities Group.	✓	
Participate in online communities: Post questions, provide resources to other cities, or poll colleagues on current issues in your field.	✓	

*Available at an additional cost for nonmembers.

Cal Cities Mission, Vision, and Core Beliefs

Mission

To expand and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

Vision

To be recognized and respected as the leading advocate for the common interests of California's cities.

We Believe

- Local self-governance is the cornerstone of democracy.
- Our strength lies in the unity of our diverse communities of interest.
- In the involvement of all stakeholders in establishing goals and in solving problems.
- In conducting the business of government with transparency, openness, respect, and civility.
- The spirit of honest public service is what builds communities.
- Open decision-making that is of the highest ethical standards honors the public trust.
- Cities are vital to the strength of the California economy.
- The vitality of cities is dependent upon their fiscal stability and local autonomy.
- The active participation of all city officials increases Cal Cities' effectiveness.
- Partnerships and collaborations are essential elements of focused advocacy and lobbying.
- Ethical and well-informed city officials are essential for responsive, visionary leadership and effective and efficient city operations.

CAL CITIES DELIVERS

The League of California Cities is the unifying voice of cities in the Golden State. Together, with our members, Cal Cities delivers major victories for cities year after year — protecting local control, securing billions of dollars in the new funding, and preserving existing city resources.

100+

bills/ballot measures passed or defeated to retain local control

\$7+ Billion

in Federal recovery funding

\$13 Billion

in new funding for cities in the past five years

Dozens

of lawsuits won protecting local control and city interests



League of California Cities

2022

Annual Report



Message from Executive Director and CEO

The key to progress is partnership, and for the League of California Cities, 2022 was a year full of collective action and success on behalf of California's cities and towns.

In 2022, Cal Cities delivered yet again for our members, advancing critical advocacy priorities in the Legislature and the courts, and offering exceptional education opportunities.

Working together with our local leaders and partners, we secured significant funding for cities that will help spur affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and implement organic waste regulations. We protected local transportation projects, safeguarded current funding streams that cities use for critical services, and fought back against regulations that add an extra layer of unnecessary bureaucracy.

We diversified and expanded on the success of our online educational programming and launched a new, in-person conference for city leaders to advocate at the Capitol and learn from peers and experts alike. We also strengthened Cal Cities' technology infrastructure to increase member engagement and better serve city officials.

Cal Cities is a strong, effective organization because we are member-informed and grounded in the voices and experiences of cities throughout the state. Together, we are strengthening local decision-making, driving state policy, and crafting solutions to everyday challenges.

I'd like to express my gratitude to the 2021-22 Cal Cities Officers and Board members for their leadership and guidance. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the talented and dedicated Cal Cities staff. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of people who call our cities home.

I am proud to present the Cal Cities 2022 Annual Report, which captures our collective achievements in support of California cities over the past year. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2023.

Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director and CEO
League of California Cities

Mission

To expand and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

Vision

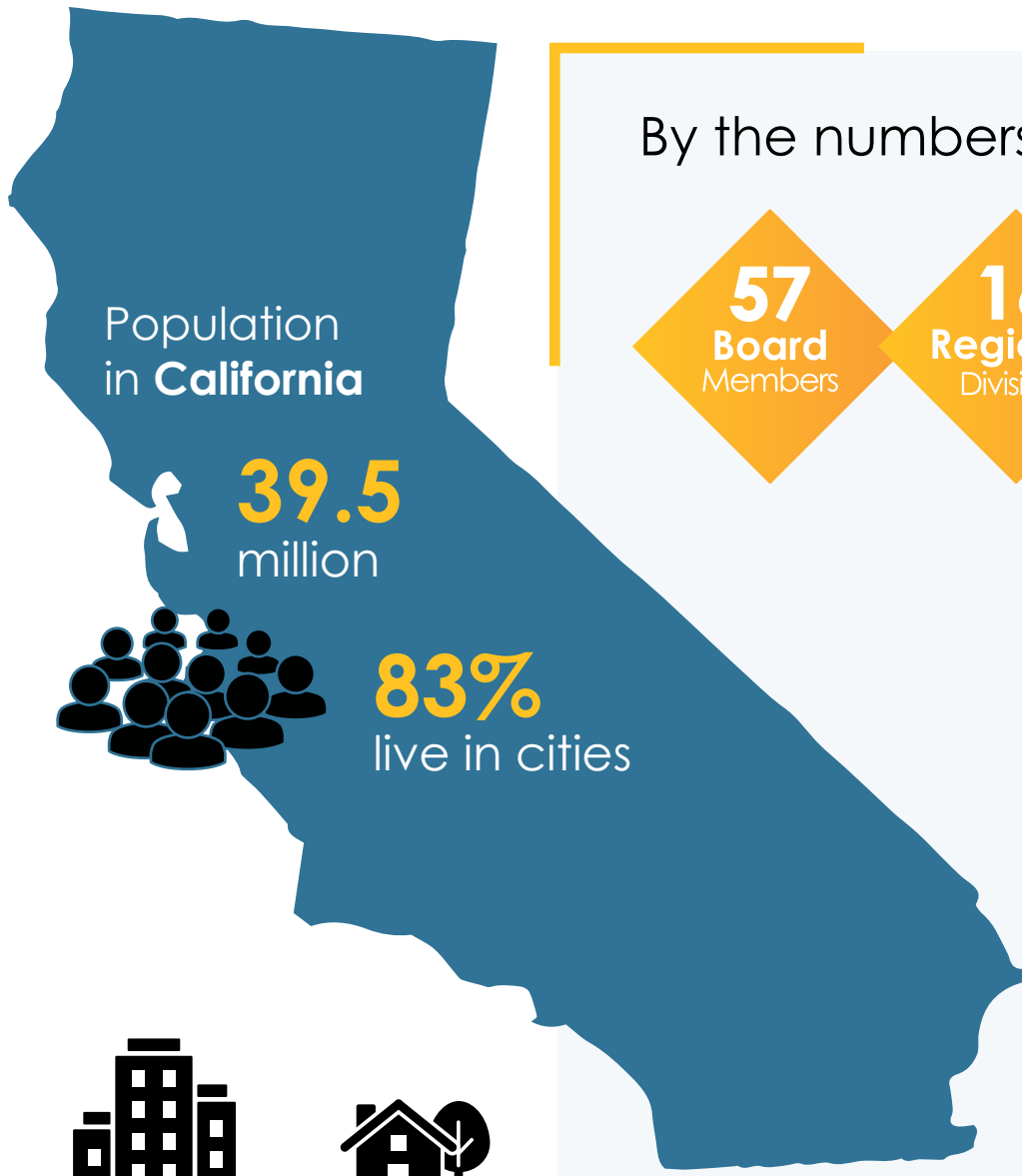
To be recognized and respected as the leading advocate for the common interests of California's cities.

“California is a state rich with diversity, but it is the commonality of our interests that bring us together and makes Cal Cities so powerful as an organization. I'm proud of our collective work over the last year to recognize the challenges cities face and advance solutions that improve the quality of life for all Californians.

*Cindy Silva
Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek
2021-22 Cal Cities President*



2021-22 Cal Cities Board of Directors



By the numbers...



Cal Cities serves thousands of city officials and staff...

- Mayors and Council Members
- City Managers
- City Attorneys
- City Clerks
- Fire Chiefs
- Fiscal Officers
- Human Resources Directors
- Planning Commissioners
- Public Works Officers
- Public Safety Officers



Largest city
Los Angeles
3.8 million



Smallest city
Amador City
201

Legislative Advocacy

Cal Cities works directly with members of the Legislature, Governor's administration, and other organizations to advocate on behalf of California cities and towns. In 2022, Cal Cities and the powerful voices of city officials it represents advanced the member-driven and board-approved 2022 Action Agenda.



Homelessness and community wellness

Cal Cities supported and improved a landmark law that creates a first-of-its-kind civil court process known as the Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court program. This program connects individuals experiencing acute mental illnesses with a court-ordered care plan managed by a care team in the community. Cal Cities also proudly sponsored a new law that creates a peer-to-peer suicide prevention curriculum for firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.



Housing

Cal Cities secured \$1 billion in the state budget to support cities' efforts to tackle the housing supply and affordability crisis in their communities. Cal Cities also secured critical amendments to housing bills that are now law to prevent the further erosion of local zoning and land use authority.



Infrastructure

Cal Cities led a broad coalition against a large, unfunded transportation measure that would have required cities to adopt significant and costly changes to their general plans. Cal Cities secured amendments that removed the worst parts of the bill, and it now respects local decision-making and flexibility. Cal Cities also stopped transportation bills that would have restricted local decision-making and the use of funding sources for local transportation initiatives.



Climate resiliency

Cal Cities' advocacy yielded results to help cities implement the state's new organic waste recycling programs and advance shared state and local goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Cal Cities secured an additional \$180 million for cities this year, as well as greater local flexibility for achieving compliance with state regulation procurement requirements. Cal Cities also played a critical role in the passage of a landmark single-use plastics and packaging recycling law, ensuring that new costs will not be borne by cities or their residents.

Other Legislative Achievements

Cal Cities' advocacy efforts spurred state action on a wide range of top concerns for cities and pushed back on state regulations that add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.



Crime



Catalytic converter theft is rising throughout the state and driving up insurance costs for residents. Cal Cities supported two new laws designed to disincentivize black market operations and dissuade further theft.

Protecting local revenues



Cal Cities successfully pushed back against legislation that threatened local revenues that cities need to fund essential services. One proposed measure, which was defeated, would have provided manufacturing companies a full sales tax break for the next five years – with an estimated revenue loss to local governments over \$2.5 billion.

Cal Cities also stopped two measures that would have required state and local pension systems to withdraw high-performing investments, leading to a negative impact on the pension fund system and employer costs.

By the numbers...

This year Cal Cities tracked and engaged on

1,430 bills,
two-thirds

of all bills introduced.



Cal Cities staff held
100+ meetings
with state lawmakers
and legislative staff.



More than
400 local leaders
engaged in Cal Cities
committees to shape policy
positions central to our advocacy.

Protected more than
\$3 billion
in local revenues

By the numbers...

35

Friend-of-the-court
briefs filed.



3 Updates to legal publications



“

We are one small city, and when we join together with all the other cities in the state of California, our collective voice is so strong. We can't do it alone. Joining the League of California Cities has been very important for us to strengthen our voice, especially in advocacy.

Teresa Acosta,
Council Member, Carlsbad,
Cal Cities Board Member

Legal Advocacy

One of the unique services available to Cal Cities members is the robust legal advocacy program that protects the interests of cities in matters before the courts. State and federal appellate courts issued favorable decisions for cities in several cases in which Cal Cities filed an amicus, or “friend-of-the-court,” brief. A few highlights include:



In ***Old East Davis Neighborhood Association v. City of Davis***, a California Court of Appeal confirmed a longstanding legal presumption in favor of cities' determinations of general plan consistency. Upon request by Cal Cities, the court published the case so that it can now be cited as favorable precedent by cities in other cases.



In ***California River Watch v. City of Vacaville***, Cal Cities successfully urged the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to withdraw an earlier, unfavorable opinion finding that a city could be held liable for coincidental contamination of water moving through its water system, even when the city did not directly cause the contamination. The withdrawn opinion decreases the liability for cities that operate public water systems.



A California Court of Appeal answered Cal Cities' request to publish a favorable opinion for cities regarding ***Hobbs v. City of Pacific Grove***, a case concerning cities' short-term rental ordinances. The published case can now be used by other cities as precedent to oppose legal challenges to short-term rental ordinances.

Education and Events

Cal Cities offers unmatched learning opportunities for city leaders. Its conferences and events provide local officials with a chance to hear from experts and explore new solutions to the everyday challenges cities face.

Cal Cities launched the inaugural City Leaders Summit in 2022, a new event for city officials to advocate on state policy decisions that impact cities and gain top-notch leadership skills. During the event, more than 200 city leaders met with legislators to discuss the most pertinent issues affecting their cities and attended in-depth educational sessions to explore local solutions to statewide problems.

In 2022, eight of Cal Cities' flagship conferences returned to in-person offerings, and the Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo welcomed the largest number of attendees since 2014. Cal Cities built on the success of the previous year's online programming and offered several highly engaging virtual educational opportunities, including the Speaker Series and webinars.



By the numbers...

17 Webinars and Speaker Series with **5,476** attendees



10 Conferences with **4,037** attendees

42 Department roundtables with **3,224** attendees



133 Division events with **4,370** attendees

“Cal Cities, especially at the division level, provides a lot of great training for staff members and newly elected council members. When I was first elected in 2018, I had the benefit of attending a series of orientations where Cal Cities really laid the groundwork for how to be an effective council member. That was an incredibly helpful resource to me.

Andrew Chou,
Mayor, Diamond Bar,
Los Angeles County Division President



Our strength is our membership

In 2022, thousands of city officials attended virtual and in-person events through Cal Cities' divisions, departments, and caucuses to share best practices and advocate for top city priorities. Cal Cities' advocacy efforts help strengthen the entire organization and create a stronger, unified voice when representing local interests in the state Capitol.



Cal Cities' strength is in its diversity, and the power of the organization is demonstrated in the work we do together. As several educational opportunities returned to in-person events, Cal Cities held on to the success of virtual convenings as a forum for city officials to collaborate and share new ideas for serving their residents. Thousands of city officials participated in member-driven department and issue-based roundtables.



In 2022, Cal Cities also launched the online Advancing Equity Community, where city leaders can connect, share information, and discover resources on diversity, equity, and inclusion matters for cities.

Visibility

Cities and towns in California are deeply committed to making their communities healthy and vibrant places to live, work, and play. Cal Cities shares best practices employed by cities for creatively tackling some of California's biggest challenges because we believe that cities learning from each other is part of what makes us all stronger.

Bringing greater visibility to the work of cities and amplifying the voices of city leadership is integral to what Cal Cities does every day. This work is key to advancing the collective power of cities, ensuring that our members can share the experiences of cities in the state Legislature and Congress, and shape important conversations in the media on issues of critical importance to our cities.

This past year, the voices of Cal Cities members were in highly respected state and national media, advocating for the needs of cities. They were featured in Cal Cities' *Western City* magazine, #LocalWorks video stories and through our social media storytelling, and in our weekly *Cal Cities Advocate* newsletter that goes directly to the inboxes of more than 12,000 readers. The 12 winning cities of the esteemed Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, chosen for their outstanding efforts to improve the quality of life and delivery of services in their communities, were also featured in *Western City* magazine and social media channels throughout the year.



By the numbers...

Cal Cities was mentioned in **1,800** news stories



132 million estimated reach



26 #LocalWorks stories of local actions that are making a difference to California communities.

Follow us on social media!

12 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence winners featured in *Western City* magazine

- City of Eureka
- City of Buellton
- City of Lakewood
- City of Montebello
- City of Redondo Beach
- 19 Cities and Towns in Contra Costa County
- City of Modesto
- City of Placentia
- Town of Paradise
- City of Laguna Niguel
- City of Pismo Beach
- City of Gonzales



50 Cal Cities Advocate newsletters with **12,583** subscribers

“ I think at the end of the day, we are all advocates for our cities. We're all champions. And the League of California Cities helps us be more effective champions...

*Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft,
Mayor, Alameda,
Cal Cities Board Member*



@calcities



City Solutions

Cal Cities is committed to connecting cities to services and solutions, and that commitment was stronger than ever in 2022.

In addition to the California Statewide Communities Development Authority, a joint powers authority which enables local governments to access low-cost, tax-exempt financing for community-based public benefit projects, Cal Cities expanded its financial solutions for cities in 2022. Cal Cities launched California CLASS, a local government investment pool that provides public agencies with an additional diversification option for their daily liquidity and strategic reserve investments.



CAL CITIES PARTNER Through the Cal Cities Partner Program, business partners supported the work of city officials by connecting them with services to help support their residents. Cal Cities Partners also engaged in educational activities, policy development, conferences, regional meetings, and networking events throughout the year.

By the numbers... **81** Cal Cities Partners

The Cal Cities Team

Supported by a staff of about 70, Cal Cities is the leading advocate and premier educational resource for California cities and their leaders.



The Cal Cities 2021-22 Board of Directors

The Cal Cities Board of Directors provides leadership and guidance, shaping state policy and the actions of the organization.

Officers

Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, President
Ali Sajjad Taj, Council Member, Artesia, First Vice President
Dan Parra, Council Member, Fowler, Second Vice President
Cheryl Viegas Walker, Council Member, El Centro, Immediate Past President
Carolyn M. Coleman, Executive Director and CEO

Directors

Walt Allen, Mayor Pro Tem, Covina, African American Caucus
Jan Arbuckle, Vice Mayor, Grass Valley, At-large
Dan Arriola, Council Member, Tracy, LGBTQ Caucus
Denise Athas, Council Member, Novato, At-large
Al Austin, Council Member, Long Beach, Large City Representative
Emily Beach, Council Member, Burlingame, Peninsula Division
LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager, Berkeley, Personnel and Employee Relations Department
John Binaski, Fire Chief, Clovis, Fire Chiefs Department
London Breed, Mayor, San Francisco, Large City
Joe Buscaino, Council Member, President Pro Tem, Los Angeles, Large City Representative
Ken Carlson, Council Member, Pleasant Hill, East Bay Division
David Cohen, Council Member, San Jose, Large City Representative
Michael Colantuono, City Attorney, Grass Valley, City Attorneys Department
Pippin Dew, Council Member, Vallejo, North Bay Division
Phill Dupper, Mayor, Loma Linda, Inland Empire Division
Jerry Dyer, Mayor, Fresno, Large City
Edgard Garcia, Council Member, El Centro, Imperial County Division
Todd Gloria, Mayor, San Diego, Large City
Karen Goh, Mayor, Bakersfield, Large City
Eric Guerra, Council Member, Sacramento, Large City Representative
Rene Guerrero, Director of Public Works, Pomona, Public Works Department
Gene Hernandez, Mayor Pro Tem, Yorba Linda, Orange County Division
Steve Hofbauer, Mayor, Palmdale, Desert Mountain Division
Lindsey Horvath, Council Member, West Hollywood, NLC Board of Directors

Britt Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, Rolling Hills Estates, At-large
Randi Johl, Legislative Director/City Clerk, Temecula City, Clerks Department
Dan Kalb, Council Member, Oakland, Large City Representative
Ellen Kamei, Council Member, Mountain View, Women's Caucus
Lynne Kennedy, Mayor Pro Tem, Rancho Cucamonga, At-large
Jim Lewis, City Manager, Pismo Beach, City Managers Department
Corina Lopez, Council Member, San Leandro, NLC Board of Directors
Gloria Ma'ae, Council Member, Anaheim, Large City Representative
Tony Madrigal, Council Member, Modesto, Central Valley Division
Juslyn Manalo, Council Member, Daly City, API Caucus
Ray Marquez, Mayor, Chino Hills, At-large
Lisa Middleton, Mayor, Palm Springs, At-large
Porsche Middleton, Mayor, Citrus Heights, At-large
John Minto, Mayor, Santee, San Diego County Division
Richard Montgomery, Mayor Pro Tem, Manhattan Beach, At-large
Eric Nelson, Planning Commissioner, Dana Point, Planning and Community Development Department
Lori Ogorchock, Council Member, Antioch, Mayors and Council Members Department
Blanca Pacheco, Mayor, Downey, At-large
David Pollock, Council Member, Moorpark, Channel Counties Division
Dave Potter, Mayor, Carmel, Monterey Bay Division
Ana Maria Quintana, Vice Mayor, Bell, Los Angeles County Division
Gabe Quinto, Mayor, El Cerrito At-large
Roberta Raper, Dir. of Finance & Technology, West Sacramento, Fiscal Officers Department
Dana Reed, Mayor, Indian Wells, Riverside County Division
David Sander, Council Member, Rancho Cordova, At-large
Jeff Smith, Police Chief, Pismo Beach, Police Chiefs Department
Joan Smith Freeman, Mayor, Yreka, Sacramento Valley Division
Esmeralda Soria, Council Member, Fresno, Latino Caucus
Kuldip Thusu, Council Member, Dinuba, South San Joaquin Valley Division
Mireya Turner, Mayor Pro Tem, Lakeport, Redwood Empire Division
Nancy Young, Mayor, Tracy, At-large



Strengthening cities through **advocacy** and **education**

1400 K Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814 • 916.658.8200 • calcities.org



Save Money, Save Energy

Unprecedented cold weather across the nation in part has caused natural gas market prices in the West to more than double between December and January – to the tune of 128% since December. According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), several factors are contributing to higher natural gas commodity prices.

- Widespread, below-normal temperatures on much of the West Coast, including Washington and Oregon;
- High natural gas demand for heating by customers in areas with below normal temperatures;
- Reduced natural gas supplies to the West Coast from Canada and the Rocky Mountains;
- Reduced interstate pipeline capacity to the West Coast because of pipeline maintenance activities in West Texas; and
- Low natural gas storage levels on the West Coast.

SoCalGas does not set the price for natural gas. Instead, natural gas prices are determined by national and regional markets. SoCalGas buys natural gas in those markets on behalf of residential and small business customers, and the cost of buying that gas is billed to those customers with no markup, meaning SoCalGas does not profit from the movement of gas commodity prices. Residents can prepare for higher than average energy bills this winter by taking a few steps.

- Lower your thermostat three to five degrees – if health permits. It can save up to 10 percent on heating costs.
- Install proper caulking and weather-stripping and save roughly 10 to 15 percent on heating and cooling bills.
- Wash clothes in cold water and save up to 10 percent on water heating costs.
- Consider turning down the temperature on your water heater.
- Limit the use of non-essential natural gas appliances such as spas, pool heaters, and fireplaces.
- Sign up for Bill Tracker Alerts to monitor natural gas consumption, take steps to reduce usage, and avoid bill surprises. Alerts will be sent through email or text and include a bill-to-date and projected next bill amount to help you manage your energy bills as easily as possible. Visit www.socalgas.com/MyAccount.
- Sign up for the level pay program at socalgas.com/LevelPayPlan which helps level the ups and downs of your monthly natural gas bill.

SoCalGas also has several income-qualified programs that can provide a monthly bill discount, help with energy-efficiency, award a one-time grant, or help those with medical conditions. For more information about these programs, visit socalgas.com/Assistance.

For residents who might not have internet access, they can call 800-427-2200 to sign up for various programs.

WEEKLY MEMO 2-02-2023

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

January 26, 2023 - February 1, 2023


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

Included in this Report


 @CityGardenGrove

 Garden Grove City Hall

 gardengrovecityhall

 **Garden Grove City Hall**
Wed 2/1/2023 4:29 pm PST

⚠ Please see the 405 Improvement Project notice regarding the southbound (SB) I-405 off-ramp to Springdale Street...



Impressions	558
Reach	548
Engagements	14
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.5%

 **@CityGardenGrove**
Wed 2/1/2023 1:01 pm PST

Today marks the start of Black History Month! ❤️ Let's honor and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black...



Impressions	—
Potential Reach	4,631
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—

 **gardengrovecityhall**
Wed 2/1/2023 1:00 pm PST

Today marks the start of Black History Month! ❤️ Let's honor and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black...



Impressions	368
Reach	330
Engagements	11
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3%



Garden Grove City Hall

Wed 2/1/2023 1:00 pm PST

Today marks the start of Black History Month! ❤️ Let's honor and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black...



Impressions	134
Reach	134
Engagements	0
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	0%



@CityGardenGrove

Tue 1/31/2023 12:39 pm PST

👉 Stay in-the-know with **#GardenGrove!**
We've made it even easier for you to learn about current & future news & informati...



Impressions	149
Potential Reach	4,630
Engagements	3
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2%



gardengrovecityhall

Tue 1/31/2023 12:36 pm PST

👉 Stay in-the-know with **#GardenGrove!**
We've made it even easier for you to learn about Garden Grove's current and future...



Impressions	695
Reach	619
Engagements	10
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.4%



Garden Grove City Hall

Tue 1/31/2023 12:33 pm PST

👉 Stay in-the-know with #GardenGrove! We've made it even easier for you to learn about Garden Grove's current and future...



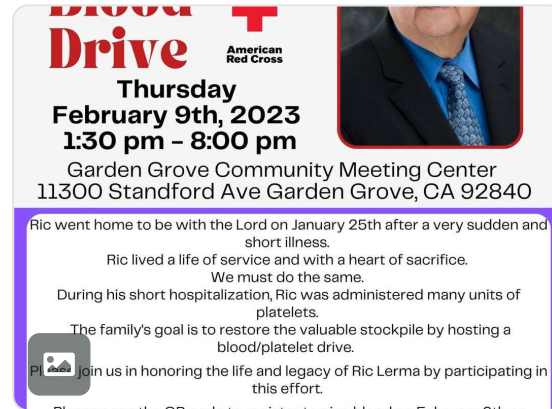
Impressions	832
Reach	822
Engagements	16
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.9%



gardengrovecityhall

Mon 1/30/2023 4:41 pm PST

♥ Give the gift of life in honor of Ric Lerma. The American Red Cross will host a blood drive on Thursday, February 9, fro...



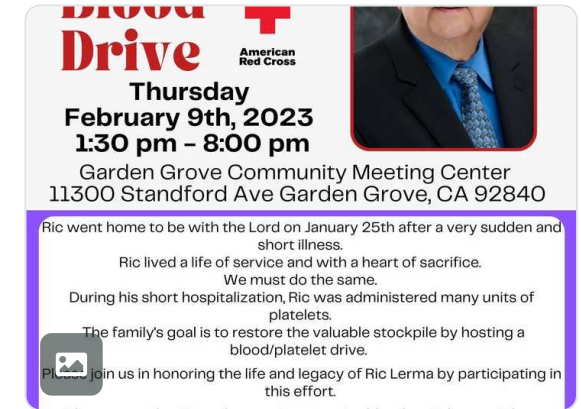
Impressions	1,946
Reach	1,732
Engagements	68
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.5%



Garden Grove City Hall

Mon 1/30/2023 4:39 pm PST

♥ Give the gift of life in honor of Ric Lerma. The American Red Cross will host a blood drive on Thursday, February 9, fro...



Impressions	1,322
Reach	1,305
Engagements	99
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	7.5%



@CityGardenGrove

Mon 1/30/2023 10:11 am PST

📄 We want your input on public safety, homelessness and affordable housing! ➡
Take this online survey, available in...



Impressions	241
Potential Reach	4,628
Engagements	17
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	7.1%



gardengrovecityhall

Mon 1/30/2023 10:09 am PST

📄 We want your input on public safety, homelessness and affordable housing! ➡
Take the online survey, available in...



Impressions	3,121
Reach	2,823
Engagements	103
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.3%



Garden Grove City Hall

Mon 1/30/2023 10:06 am PST

📄 We want your input on public safety, homelessness and affordable housing! ➡
Take this online survey, available in...



Impressions	361
Reach	360
Engagements	16
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	4.4%



@CityGardenGrove

Thu 1/26/2023 5:24 pm PST

🏗️ City Partners with Fountain Valley, Westminster to Open Navigation Center in Garden Grove The Central Cities...



Impressions	316
Potential Reach	4,647
Engagements	52
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	16.5%



gardengrovecityhall

Thu 1/26/2023 5:20 pm PST

🏗️ City Partners with Fountain Valley, Westminster to Open Navigation Center in Garden Grove In partnership with the...



Impressions	4,076
Reach	3,482
Engagements	236
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	5.8%



Garden Grove City Hall

Thu 1/26/2023 5:20 pm PST

🏗️ City Partners with Fountain Valley, Westminster to Open Navigation Center in Garden Grove In partnership with the...



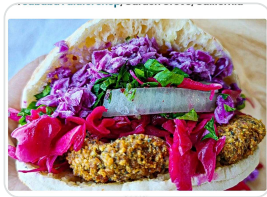
Impressions	774
Reach	747
Engagements	82
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	10.6%



@CityGardenGrove

Thu 1/26/2023 10:26 am PST

🍴👤 Are you looking for the next great meal? Well, look no further, because Yelp has released its Top 100 Places to Eat in...



...e to the best places to eat in America this year
<https://www.yelp.com/top-100-us-restaurants>

Impressions	477
Potential Reach	4,969
Engagements	29
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	6.1%



gardengrovecityhall

Thu 1/26/2023 10:14 am PST

70. Thanh Do Restaurant, Garden Grove, California



Canh Khoai Mỡ



Impressions	407
Reach	400
Comments	0
Story Taps Back	30



gardengrovecityhall

Thu 1/26/2023 10:14 am PST


10. Sababa Falafel Shop, Garden Grove, California



Falafel Pita



Impressions	441
Reach	431
Comments	0
Story Taps Back	17

G  **gardengrovecityhall**
Thu 1/26/2023 10:14 am PST





Your guide to the best places to eat in America this year

Visit yelp.com/article/yelps-top-100-us-restaurants-2023



Impressions	502
Reach	497
Comments	0
Story Taps Back	10

  **gardengrovecityhall**
Thu 1/26/2023 10:13 am PST


  Are you looking for the next great meal? Well, look no further, because Yelp has released its Top 100 Places to Eat in...





le to the best places to eat in America this year

m/ar yelps-top-100-us-restaurants

Impressions	2,246
Reach	1,582
Engagements	80
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.6%

  **Garden Grove City Hall**
Thu 1/26/2023 10:07 am PST

  Are you looking for the next great meal? Well, look no further, because Yelp has released its Top 100 Places to Eat in...



Your guide to the best places to eat in America this year

Visit

Impressions	2,268
Reach	2,175
Engagements	134
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	5.9%



Post Performance

January 26, 2023 - February 1, 2023

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

Included in this Report

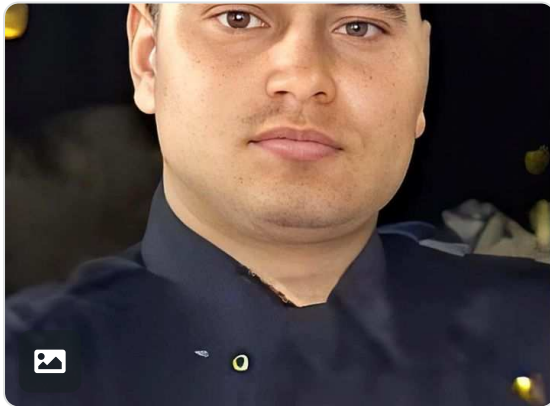
 Garden Grove Police Department



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Wed 2/1/2023 1:05 pm PST

Yesterday, Selma Police Department Officer Gonzalo Carrasco was shot while investigating a report of a suspicious...



Impressions	9,879
Reach	9,879
Engagements	2,160
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	21.9%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Sat 1/28/2023 12:00 pm PST

SRT Outreach & Cleanup Recap: this week, #GardenGrovePD's Special Resource Team (SRT) conducted outreach and clean-up ...



Impressions	4,679
Reach	4,514
Engagements	866
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	18.5%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 1/27/2023 12:00 pm PST

Choose a career of courage, courtesy and commitment. If you think you've got what it takes to wear the #GardenGrovePD...



Impressions	1,058
Reach	1,008
Engagements	68
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	6.4%

WEEKLY MEMO 2-02-2023

NEWS ARTICLES



Contact: Teresa Pomeroy (714) 741-5035
City Clerk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Wednesday, February 1, 2023



CITY EXTENDS APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR CITY COMMISSIONS

The City of Garden Grove has extended the application deadline through Thursday, February 9, 2023, for candidates to serve as non-compensated commissioners. Applicants must be Garden Grove residents and registered voters, be able to serve a two-year term of office, and be available to attend regularly scheduled meetings. Commissioners serve as advisors to the Garden Grove City Council, providing recommendations that become part of the City's decision-making process.

Applications must be submitted by 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2023 and may be submitted online at ggcity.org/commissions/applications or mailed to Garden Grove City Hall, City Clerk's Office, at 11222 Acacia Parkway 92840. For paper applications, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 741-5040. Commissioner appointments will be scheduled at the Tuesday, February 14, 2023 regular City Council meeting.

The following briefly describes each of the City's commissions:

Administrative Board of Appeals (5 members) – Conducts hearings, on an on-call basis, on the suitability of building and construction materials; interprets building codes and ordinances; and reviews water billing disputes.

-more-

CITY EXTENDS APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR CITY COMMISSIONS
2-2-2

Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission (7 members) –

Recommends programs to improve and preserve neighborhoods through zoning enforcement, housing rehabilitation, street improvement, Community Development Block Grant, and other programs.

Downtown Commission (7 members) – Oversees Historic Main Street Garden Grove.

Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission (7 members) – Reviews and makes recommendations on the status of City parks and recreation programs, capital improvement plans, proposes amendments to the General Plan Parks and Recreation Element, and existing and potential City arts programs.

Planning Commission (7 members) – Studies proposed development projects that may impact community's growth and environment.

Traffic Commission (7 members) – Reviews requests for traffic safety devices, investigates unsafe and/or malfunctioning traffic conditions, conducts public hearings, and assists in transportation planning.

Measure O Citizens' Oversight Committee (7 members) - Provides citizen oversight of Measure O funds to ensure all funds are properly spent; reviews the City's annual general fund budget, mid-year budget, and year end audited financial information in regards to the receipt and expenditure of the fiscal year's one-cent transactions and use (sales) tax revenue.

For more information, visit ggcity.org/commissions or call the City Clerk's Office at (714) 741-5040.

###



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: Maria Stipe (714) 741-5100
Assistant City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Sunday, January 29, 2023



GARDEN GROVE LAUNCHES ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY ***Accessible through social media ads and website link***

Garden Grove residents are encouraged to take the City of Garden Grove's community survey to provide input on key city services, such as public safety, homelessness, and affordable housing. The online survey is available now until Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at <https://surveys.zencity.io/garden-grove/Ynb18H/?s=sd> or by clickable digital ads on social media feeds.

The survey will enable the City to better understand local priorities and enhance responsiveness to community needs. Residents will be asked to rate their experiences on different aspects of life in Garden Grove and provide feedback.

The survey, available in multiple languages, is distributed by Zencity, a community platform used by local governments to get meaningful and actionable insights from residents.

For more information, visit www.ggcity.org.

###



Zencity

Sponsored · 



Community survey for residents



surveys.zencity.io

**Garden Grove
Survey**

[Learn more](#)



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: Lisa Kim (714) 741-5140
Assistant City Manager /
Community & Economic Dev Director

Omar Dadabhoy (714) 593-4426
Deputy City Manager, City of Fountain Valley

Adolfo Ozaeta (714) 548-3462
Assistant City Manager, City of Westminster

Thursday, January 26, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



CITY PARTNERS WITH FOUNTAIN VALLEY, WESTMINSTER TO OPEN NAVIGATION CENTER IN GARDEN GROVE

In an effort to address homelessness in the Central Service Planning Area, established by the County of Orange Continuum of Care, the City of Garden Grove, in partnership with the Cities of Fountain Valley and Westminster, will open a local navigation center for emergency shelter rehabilitation and operations to serve individuals experiencing homelessness. The Central Cities Navigation Center, anticipated to open this fall, will be located at 13871 West Street in Garden Grove.

“Ending homelessness is one of the greatest challenges of our times, but with the efforts of our city and the valuable support of Fountain Valley and Westminster, I’m confident the navigation center will offer new beginnings for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. This important project is a big step in the right direction,” said Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones.

-more-

CITY PARTNERS WITH FOUNTAIN VALLEY, WESTMINSTER TO OPEN NAVIGATION
CENTER IN GARDEN GROVE
2-2-2

“Fountain Valley is excited to collaborate with Garden Grove and Westminster on the development of the navigation center. Homelessness is an issue affecting all of our communities and requires our shared resources. It is our hope that with the services and caring staff provided by the navigation center, that we will be able to positively impact the lives of unhoused residents,” stated Fountain Valley Mayor Kim Constantine.

“The City of Westminster is committed to taking a proactive approach to combatting homelessness and being a part of the solution. Homelessness affects our community’s most vulnerable residents, and we are proud of the collaboration among Westminster, Fountain Valley, and Garden Grove in developing this navigation center. With the staff and resources available through the navigation center, we hope we can provide the much-needed services to help our homeless become successful in self-sufficiency,” said Westminster Mayor Chi Charlie Nguyen.

The upcoming navigation center includes: dormitory areas to accommodate up to 85 beds for men, women, and couples; full-service commercial kitchen, restroom, and shower facilities; laundry room; dining and outdoor areas; lockers for personal items; and staff support areas.

-more-

CITY PARTNERS WITH FOUNTAIN VALLEY, WESTMINSTER TO OPEN NAVIGATION CENTER IN GARDEN GROVE
3-3-3

Clients to the navigation center will be accepted on a referral-only basis. Anticipated supportive services to be offered are: 1-on-1 case management; mental health and stabilization services and resources; outpatient health services; education services; employment assistance and job training; life skills development; and transportation.

Last year, the City of Garden Grove entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cities of Fountain Valley and Westminster to establish joint financing, operations, and provision of services of the Central Cities Navigation Center. Earlier this year, the County of Orange unanimously approved to contribute \$5.3 million for the renovation/construction and an annual amount of \$625,000 towards operations and services of the navigation center for the next 10 years. The estimated construction cost for the Central Cities Navigation Center is \$8.3 million.

For more information on the Central Cities Navigation Center, visit www.ggcity.org/navigation-center, www.fountainvalley.org/1441/central-cities-navigation-center, or www.westminster-ca.gov/departments/city-manager/navigation-center.

To learn about the City of Garden Grove's current and future efforts directed to homelessness, visit www.ggcity.org/endhomelessness.

###

OC Register
February 1, 2023

Christ Cathedral starts work on chapel and crypts in project honoring St. Callistus parish, bishops



A rendering shows what the St Callistus Chapel and Crypts that look like. It will sit beneath the Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove. Construction will begin in March. (Photo by Mindy Schauer, Orange County Register/SCNG)

By [LOU PONSI](#) |

PUBLISHED: February 1, 2023 at 5:37 p.m. | UPDATED: February 2, 2023 at 9:28 a.m.

When the Diocese of Orange closed the St. Callistus Parish property in Garden Grove in 2013 as part of the acquisition of the Crystal Cathedral, the Catholics who called the 50-year-old parish their place of worship were asked to join the now Christ Cathedral.

But the diocese's bishop, the Most Rev. Kevin Vann, has said he hasn't forgotten the sacrifice made by the St. Callistus parishioners when they left their church, and during a media day on Wednesday he shared plans for the St. Callistus Chapel and Crypts, an 11,500-square-foot project the diocese will soon break ground on underneath the Christ Cathedral. It will house a chapel, 40 burial spaces for diocese bishops and a columbarium with about 1,000 niches for funeral urns.

Vann said the addition of the chapel and crypts is the last major project to be completed in the transformation of the 34-acre campus.

“Having studied in Rome for four years, I had the chance to visit many churches and their crypt chapels and see the mosaics and pictures of all the saints of all the ages, giving us a sense of eternity, and so that is what we hope to do here with our St. Callistus Chapel,” Vann said. “And to honor, as well, the parishioners at St. Callistus Church.”

Construction on the \$13 million project is scheduled to begin in March and be completed in early 2024.

“If you have been to different parts of the world and have seen the magnificent cathedrals all around the world, most cathedrals have a chapel and a crypt where there is space for their bishops’ resting place,” Fr. Angelos Sebastian, vicar general of the diocese, said. “This is a way of thanking them and honoring them for the service they have done in our church. This is, I think, the most appropriate thing to do as a diocese.”

Deceased Diocese of Orange bishops and auxiliary bishops will be entombed in the crypts.

The chapel will be built in a modern Byzantine architectural style, with gold colors similar to those common in European churches.

Devotional shrines will grace both sides, with one being a “legacy chapel” detailing the history of the Diocese of Orange, and another a shrine to St. Callistus, who served as pope from approximately 218 to 223 A.D.

Its artwork, a mix of statues, mosaics, paintings and tapestry, is still being selected and will be installed in phases, even after the chapel opens to the public, said Bradley Zint, diocese spokesperson.

The chapel will accommodate up to 250 people and up to 15 at its marble altar. It has been designed also with music in mind. Masses, weddings, funerals and baptisms will be able to take place in the chapel.

“It will be lovely because it is a smaller space so it will give a more intimate feel,” said Fr. Christopher Smith, rector emeritus of Christ Cathedral. “It is so fitting to honor the legacy of the faithful people of St. Callistus who courageously followed the promptings of the Holy Spirit in moving everything, literally to become the parish of Christ Cathedral. This is not a journey that many parishes ever take.”

After St. Callistus closed, Crystal Cathedral Ministries rented the site before moving to Irvine, Smith said. Shea Homes then purchased the property, he said. There is housing there now.

The diocese’s new OLLV Foundation is managing the chapel and crypt project’s fundraising and construction. For information, go to stcallistuschapel.org.

OC Register
February 1, 2023

Transit projects in San Fernando Valley, Inglewood, OC, IE, win state grants

Though pushed by LA Metro, the L (Gold) Line extension from Pomona into Claremont and Montclair wasn't funded



Construction project on the L Line (formerly known as the Gold Line) where it passes through San Dimas on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. The project is funded through to Pomona. However, hopes were dashed once again on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023 when the state transportation agency did not fund the extension to Claremont and Montclair in San Bernardino County. (Photo by Dean Musgrove, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

By [STEVE SCAUZILLO](#) | sscauzillo@scng.com | Daily News

PUBLISHED: January 31, 2023 at 5:49 p.m. | UPDATED: February 1, 2023 at 2:02 p.m.

A first-ever light-rail line for the San Fernando Valley, a streetcar in central Orange County, a people-mover in Inglewood and a dedicated bus project serving Ontario International Airport were all winners in a major grant allocation from the state's transportation agency on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

However, an extension of the L (formerly Gold) Line from Pomona into Montclair in San Bernardino County was left off the list, causing waves of disappointment from representatives of the San Gabriel Valley cities and cities in the Inland Empire, [who have tried several times and failed to secure gap funding for the project.](#)

"This is very disappointing news, as we believe the shovel-ready project was very competitive and could have utilized the funding quickly to create jobs and economic output for our region," wrote

Habib Balian, CEO of the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, in a statement released Tuesday.

The California State Transportation Agency awarded more than \$2.5 billion to 16 transit projects in the state, with the money coming from last year's state surplus.

A \$600,000 million grant — the largest awarded to a single project — went to LA Metro's proposed East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor, the first light-rail project for the Valley.

The list of Southern California projects includes:

- **The Inglewood Transit Connector** (\$407.4 million): This would complete full funding for the project, a 1.6-mile people mover connecting the Metro K Line, its newest light-rail/subway, to nearby sports and entertainment venues including the Kia Forum, SoFi Stadium, Intuit Dome (the Clippers future home), and residential and commercial centers. The people mover will have three stations and travel along an elevated guideway. The route will use Market Street, Manchester Boulevard and Prairie Avenue. It is slated to break ground in 2024, with completion expected in 2028.

- **East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor** (\$600 million): The project would be the very first light-rail line in the Valley since the Red Car stopped operating in 1952. The first phase will travel 6.7 miles along the center median of Van Nuys Boulevard to San Fernando Road. A second phase would continue northwest another 2.5 miles along the Metrolink rail line. [This money is in addition to \\$909 million granted by Federal Transit Administration.](#) The first phase is expected to be built by 2030.

- **Lossan (Los Angeles-San Diego) Rail Corridor Agency** (\$6.6 million): The money is for completing repairs at the Ventura County Rincon Point Slope. An additional \$10.4 million is for the Santa Barbara County Ortega Hill Bluff and Pipe Repair project.

- **Orange County Transportation Authority** (\$150 million): To help fully fund construction of a 4.15-mile [new rail transit line in Santa Ana and Garden Grove.](#) The project is slated for completion in 2024.

- **San Bernardino County Transportation Authority** (\$15.8 million): To be used to convert diesel train vehicles to zero-emission hydrogen-powered train vehicles on the [Redlands Passenger Rail Project between San Bernardino and Redlands.](#) The new technology comes from Germany and will be delivered for testing this year, and revenue service is expected to start in 2024.

- **San Bernardino County Transportation Authority** (\$18.8 million): To build a 19-mile bus rapid transit project that connects Rancho Cucamonga, with Ontario, Montclair, Pomona and the Ontario International Airport. The project is slated for completion by 2025.

- **Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink)** (\$107 million): For these three projects: El Monte siding and station improvements; Fullerton Junction reconfiguration; Simi Valley double-tracking. These projects are scheduled for completion in 2027.

The Tribune
January 29, 2023

Take part in community survey

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON JANUARY 29, 2023 • (LEAVE A COMMENT)



MAIN STREET at Garden Grove Boulevard in the downtown area (OC Tribune photo).

Garden Grove residents are encouraged to take the City of Garden Grove's community survey to provide input on key city services, such as public safety, homelessness, and affordable housing. The online survey is available now until Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at <https://surveys.zencity.io/garden-grove/Ynb18H/?s=sd> or by clickable digital ads on social media feeds.



The survey will enable the city to better understand local priorities and enhance responsiveness to community needs. Residents will be asked to rate their experiences on different aspects of life in Garden Grove and provide feedback.

The survey, available in multiple languages, is distributed by Zencity, a community platform used by local governments to get meaningful and actionable insights from residents.

For more information, visit www.ggcity.org.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

February 2, 2023

1. Calendar of Events
2. Minutes from the January 26, 2023 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator meeting and Notice of Cancellation of the February 9, 2023 meeting.
3. League of California Cities from January 27, 2023 to February 2, 2023.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2, 2023 – March 23, 2023

Thursday	February 2	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Thursday	February 9	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Friday	February 10		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	February 14	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CM
Thursday	February 16	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
	February 16 – March 26		One More Productions presents “Oklahoma!” The Gem Theater
Monday	February 20		City Hall Closed – President’s Day
Thursday	February 23		\$2 Casual Dress Day
Friday	February 24		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	February 28	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	March 2	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	March 10		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	March 14	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CM
Thursday	March 16	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Saturday	March 18	11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.	5 th Annual Art in the Park Village Green Park, 12732 Main Street
Thursday	March 23		\$2 Casual Dress Day

GARDEN GROVE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR MEETING
Garden Grove Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-232-2023

Applicant: Toby Nguyen
Location: 8762 Garden Grove Boulevard #102
Date: January 26, 2023

Request: Conditional Use Permit approval to operate a new 3,748 square foot preschool/daycare, Dragonfly Academy, for 54 children, aged 2 to 5 years old, along with a 2,025 square foot outdoor playground. Upon approval of the subject request, the Conditional Use permit previously governing the tenant space, CUP-047-2015, which allowed an after-school program, shall be revoked and become null and void. The site is in the GGMU-2 (Garden Grove Boulevard Mixed Use 2) zone. In conjunction with the request, the Zoning Administrator will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301 – Existing Facilities – of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Action: Public Hearing Held. Speaker(s): Toby Nguyen, Phong Chau, Steven Allen

Action: The Zoning Administrator re-opened the public hearing and continued the item to the Thursday, February 23rd meeting for staff to work with the applicant on a plan to mitigate concerns resulting from playground noise on the east side of the site. The mitigation measures may impact the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) State law waiver the applicant will request for the number of children allowed at the school per the minimum square footage of outdoor activity space required per child. The waiver would be contingent upon Conditional Use Permit approval.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-234-2023

Applicant: Kyunghee Choi Park
Location: 9836 Garden Grove Boulevard
Date: January 26, 2023

Request: Conditional Use Permit approval to operate a new cosmetology vocational trade school in an existing 3,081 square foot commercial tenant space. The school will be limited to a maximum of 36 students

Zoning Administrator Minutes

and three instructors at any one time. The site is in the GGMU-3 (Garden Grove Boulevard Mixed Use 3) zone. In conjunction with the request, the Zoning Administrator will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301 – Existing Facilities – of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Action: Public Hearing Held. Speaker(s): Hung Jin Seo

Action: The Zoning Administrator adopted Decision No. 1836-23.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The Zoning Administrator adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Judith Moore, Recording Secretary



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: February 2, 2023

DAVID DENT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



Educators, nurses, firefighters, local government, and infrastructure groups vow to protect voters and vital local services from deceptive corporate ballot measure

Feb 2, 2023

California Business Roundtable initiative steals voters' power to determine local priorities, lets corporations evade accountability

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sacramento – The Alliance for a Better California, League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, California Special Districts Association, California Alliance for Jobs, and the Contract Cities Association joined together to announce strong opposition to the deceptive ballot measure sponsored by the California Business Roundtable (CBRT), the lobbying arm of the largest and wealthiest corporations in California.

The coalition of public safety, education, labor, local government, and infrastructure groups are vocalizing their opposition as the California Secretary of State's office announced that the initiative has qualified for the November 2024 ballot.

"Educators, nurses and firefighters won't allow extreme, irresponsible corporations to threaten our democracy — there's just too much at stake, from the quality of our children's education to the air they breathe," said the **Alliance for a Better California**, an organization that includes SEIU California, the California Teachers' Association, California Professional Firefighters, California Federation of Teachers, California School Employees Association, California Faculty Association, California Labor Federation and the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees.

"This deceptive initiative eliminates corporate accountability for the damage they do to our environment, strips voters of the power to set funding priorities for our communities, and drains billions in funding from our schools, public safety, and homelessness response to name just a few. We are going to fight with everything we've got to protect our democracy and our children's future," the **Alliance** continued.

"This is the third attempt by deep-pocketed special interest groups to advance an initiative that undermines the rights of local voters to decide what their communities need and jeopardizes the ability of local governments to deliver essential services," said **League of California Cities**

Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman. “It was a bad idea in 2018, it was a bad idea again in 2022. And it will still be a bad idea in 2024.”

“Counties continue to oppose this deceptive initiative because it undermines the abilities of voters and locally elected officials to provide critical services. This measure obliterates the constitutional authority of locally elected local governments to determine the right balance between revenue and the degree of local services needed by their communities,” said **Graham Knaus, CEO, California State Association of Counties.**

“At this critical time in California’s history, our communities cannot afford to do even less than the status quo. Sadly, this initiative would lock us into a race-to-the-bottom. Overcoming challenges like drought, flooding, and wildfire will require all of us to work together and consider the real costs of undermining our future. When we think of the kind of communities we want to leave our children and grandchildren, we are not content to settle for the ‘minimum amount necessary’ and we are not willing to limit their voice at the ballot box,” said **Neil McCormick, Chief Executive Officer, California Special Districts Association.**

“The so-called Taxpayer Protection Act will damage our ability to fund and construct the infrastructure projects that support California’s economy. Passage of this measure will mean less safe roads, more congestion and fewer family supporting jobs across the state,” said **Michael Quigley, Executive Director, California Alliance for Jobs.**

“If passed, this measure could cause irreparable harm to a city’s ability to provide essential services to its residents. This measure is a wolf in sheep’s clothing,” said **Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director, California Contract Cities Association.**

The CBRT measure would create major new loopholes that allow wealthy corporations to avoid paying their fair share for the impacts they have on our communities, while allowing corporations to evade enforcement when they violate environmental, health, safety, and other state and local laws. It would also significantly restrict the ability of local voters, local governments, and state elected officials to fund critical services like public schools, fire and emergency response, public health, parks, libraries, affordable housing, homeless and mental health services, and public infrastructure. Some of the state’s biggest corporations, developers, mega-landlords, and their political committees spent millions of dollars to put the deceptive and self-interested measure before voters.

Steals power from voters

The initiative would steal power away from voters, prohibiting local advisory measures where voters provide direction to politicians on how they want their local tax dollars spent. The measure would make it harder for voters to pass measures needed to fund local services and local infrastructure. It would also retroactively cancel measures already passed by voters, stripping voters of a say in local decisions.

As [Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik explained](#), “The so-called Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act is just one more example of how special interests love to claim that they’re getting government off the backs of the people, when their real goal is to saddle up themselves.”

Eliminates corporate accountability

The initiative claims to be about accountability while actually eliminating corporations’ accountability for impacts they have on local infrastructure or damage they do to our air, water, or environment.

Threatens schools, vital services and disaster response

The initiative would force cuts to public schools, fire and emergency response, law enforcement, public health, parks, libraries, affordable housing, services to support homeless residents, mental health services, and more. It would also reduce funding for critical infrastructure like streets and roads, public transportation, drinking water, new schools, sanitation, and utilities. During a time when our children are still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, our state is experiencing a deluge of extreme weather disasters, and homeless residents are perishing on our streets, our communities cannot afford for these vital services to be eliminated.

Strong Voter Opposition

A statewide poll conducted last February found voters resoundingly rejected the measure, with 54% of voters opposed and only 25% in support. The remaining 21% were undecided.



Livermore ruling helps protect projects from meritless CEQA lawsuits

Feb 1, 2023

The California First District Court of Appeal has upheld a trial court ruling that rejected a lawsuit challenging an affordable housing project, *Save Livermore Downtown v. City of Livermore*. The opinion — published after a request from the city and the League of California Cities — will allow public agencies and housing developers to better defend themselves from baseless lawsuits while building affordable housing.

The case involved a 130-unit affordable housing development in downtown Livermore. After the city approved the project, a community group called Save Livermore Downtown filed a lawsuit claiming that the city's approval violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as state planning and zoning laws. The group specifically contested the city's determination that the project was exempt from CEQA and consistent with the city's downtown-specific plan.

Livermore argued that its determinations were supported by evidence and asked the court to order the plaintiffs to post a bond under Code of Civil Procedure section 529.2. This statute allows parties defending low or moderate-income housing development projects to request that the plaintiff post a bond for costs and damages that may result from a bad faith lawsuit or a lawsuit brought to delay a project. The bond must not cause undue economic hardship to the plaintiff.

The trial court ruled in favor of the city, stating that the plaintiff's CEQA arguments were "almost utterly without merit." The court also found that the lawsuit — which was filed close to the deadline — and the plaintiff's multiple extension requests delayed the project. The court then ordered a \$500,000 bond for costs and damages incurred by the project developer by these litigation-related delays. The plaintiffs appealed the decision.

The First District Court of Appeal expedited the case due to the city's arguments that the delays and uncertainty had already endangered the project's viability.

Cal Cities filed an [amicus brief](#) urging the appellate court to rule in favor of the city. The brief noted that the lawsuit's claims, "exemplify a trend by special interest groups to weaponize CEQA lawsuits in an attempt to delay or deter housing development" and do not accomplish CEQA's stated purposes.

The appellate court agreed that the CEQA arguments lacked merit, "so much so that the inherent weakness of these claims further supports the trial court's finding that [petitioners] brought this action to delay the project."

The appellate court also rejected arguments that the project was inconsistent with planning and zoning laws and that further review of environmental impacts was necessary. It upheld the trial court's order that petitioners post a bond, noting that since the plaintiffs were represented by a prominent private law firm, they would not suffer economic hardship.

Cities can now rely on the published opinion as precedent to urge the dismissal of meritless lawsuits brought to delay affordable housing production. The opinion also gives teeth to the Code of Civil Procedure Section 529.2's special protections for affordable housing development.

Local officials with questions about how the ruling impacts projects in their community should consult their city attorney.