

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
February 8, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members FROM: Lisa Kim, City Manager

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

A memo to provide an update on the California Automated Permit Processing Program (CalAPP) awarded to the City's Building & Safety Division and to outline the key steps and timeline for its implementation is attached.

• **OTHER ITEMS**

- SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.
- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
Items of interest are included.



Lisa Kim
City Manager

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:	Lisa L. Kim	From:	Niki Wetzel
Dept:	City Manager	Dept:	Community Development
Subject:	SOLAR PERMITTING GRANT AWARD PROGRAM	Date:	February 2, 2024

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the California Automated Permit Processing Program (CalAPP) awarded to the City's Building & Safety Division and to outline the key steps and timeline for its implementation.

BACKGROUND

In April 2023, the City's Building & Safety Division applied for the California Automated Permit Processing Program (CalAPP) grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC), utilizing funds authorized by Senate Bill 129 (SB129). The City successfully secured the CalAPP grant in June 2023, receiving a total of \$80,000.00. These funds, allocated from a \$20 million CEC grant program, will be distributed on an as-needed basis over a four-year period, from June 21, 2023, through May 31, 2027. The grant aims to enhance permit processing capabilities, supporting cities, counties, or city and county combinations across California.

DISCUSSION

The awarded funds will be directed towards the integration of online, automated solar permitting into the City's existing platform, GGReady. Administered by the Building & Safety Division, a third-party developer will be engaged to license and incorporate the solar permitting software. This initiative aligns with the goal of streamlining the review and approval process for solar permits, enhancing efficiency and service delivery.

FISCAL IMPACT

The CalAPP grant program does not necessitate any financial contribution from the City. All costs associated with the implementation, including software and licensing fees, will be covered by CalAPP. There will be no impact on the City's General Fund

CONCLUSION

SOLAR PERMITTING GRANT AWARD PROGRAM

February 1, 2024

Page 2 of 2

The City has signed an agreement with the California Energy Commission (CEC), and the next crucial step is finalizing a licensing agreement with a software developer. The proposed agreement is slated for review by the City Council during the first City Council Meeting of February 2024. Pending approval, the City will initiate the development and implementation process, with the goal of fully adopting the software by the second quarter of 2024.



Niki Wetzel, AICP

Community Development Director

By: Kenneth Le, Administrative Analyst

Attachment 1: California Energy Commission Grant Agreement.



RECIPIENT City of Garden Grove	AGREEMENT NUMBER APP-22-299
ADDRESS 11222 Acacia Pkwy Garden Grove, CA 92840	AGREEMENT TERM 06/21/2023 to 05/31/2027 The effective date of this Agreement is either the start date or the approval signature date by the California Energy Commission representative below, whichever is later. The California Energy Commission shall be the last party to sign. No work is authorized, nor shall any work begin, until on or after the effective date.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
 The parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the following Exhibits which are by this reference made a part of the agreement.

Exhibit A – Application with Scope of Work	Page(s): 4
Exhibit B – APP General Terms and Conditions	Page(s): 5
Exhibit C – Contact List	Page(s): 1

REIMBURSABLE AMOUNT \$80,000
MINIMUM MATCH SHARE REQUIRED \$0
TOTAL OF REIMBURSABLE AMOUNT AND MINIMUM MATCH \$80,000

The undersigned parties have read the attachments to this agreement and will comply with the standards and requirements contained therein.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION		CONTRACTOR	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE <i>Adrienne Winuk</i>	DATE 6/26/2023	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE <i>Lisa Kim</i>	DATE 6/23/2023
NAME Adrienne Winuk		NAME Lisa Kim	
TITLE Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office Manager		TITLE City Manager	
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION ADDRESS 715 P Street, MS 18, Sacramento, CA 95814			

Revision

**ATTACHMENT 01
Grant Application Form – EXHIBIT A**

California Automated Permit Processing (CalAPP) Program

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION (REQUIRED)

Jurisdiction Name (please use full legal name as it would appear on the executed grant): City of Garden Grove
Jurisdiction Type (select one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> City and County
Current Estimated Population State of California Department of Finance Demographics (https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/Demographics/): <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> From 100,000 to 200,000 <input type="checkbox"/> From 50,000 to 99,999 <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than 200,000

Project Manager (serves as point of contact for all communications)	Name	DAVID DENT/ CC: KENNETH LE
	Street Address	11222 Acacia Pkwy
	City and Zip Code	Garden Grove, 92840
	Phone Number	(714) 741-5343
	E-Mail Address	DDENT@GGCITY.ORG/ KENNETHL@GGCITY.ORG

2. FUNDING (REQUIRED)

Assigned Maximum Grant Amount (select <u>one</u>)
<input type="checkbox"/> Group 1 (\$40,000): Population less than 50,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Group 2 (\$60,000): Population from 50,000 to 99,999
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group 3 (\$80,000): Population from 100,000 to 200,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Group 4 (\$100,000): Population greater than 200,000

3. PROJECT INFORMATION (REQUIRED)

A. Online, automated solar permitting platform to be adopted:

SolarAPP+

Other (Symbium, in-house software, etc.). If selected, complete Section 4 ("Additional Information")

B. Please select allowable budget item(s) anticipated to be used (Select at least one):

Ongoing in-house staff labor costs associated directly with adoption and maintenance of the platform

Ongoing third-party or consultant time associated directly with adoption and maintenance of the platform

Ongoing staff training and education, specific to the platform

Ongoing training events for local installers, specific to the platform

Essential hardware or equipment necessary to support adoption of the platform

Maintenance, such as adding support for energy storage paired with solar energy system permitting, and subscription cost for permit tracking software in support of adopted permitting platform

C. Estimated Project Timeline*

*Enter actual dates if activities already began

Activity	Date (Month/Year)
Begin Development/Pilot	January 2024
Full Adoption	February 2024
Staff Training	March 2024
Training for Local Installers	April 2024

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (if applicable)

NOTE: Only complete this section if you implement a platform other than SolarAPP+

Please identify whether the following features are supported by the implemented platform. All features are required for the platform to qualify for funding. CEC staff will verify prior to payment approval.

<p>Performs an automated plan review for residential solar energy systems that completes automatic code compliance checks based on user inputs (such as a contractor), thereby enabling or otherwise issuing permits instantly when the project is confirmed as code compliant, without the need for human review</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Supports online, immediate fee payment once an application is complete, which may include auto-invoicing of permit fee costs</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Supports immediate generation of a permit job card following payment confirmation</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Blocks noncompliant applications from receiving a permit</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>EITHER: 1) Stand-alone permitting tool; OR 2) Integrates with current software and inspection platform already in use</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

5. REPORTING (REQUIRED)

<p>Following adoption and verification of a qualifying platform, the Energy Commission may request, and the Recipient will provide if requested, annual data on the number of permits issued for solar energy systems and a solar energy system paired with an energy storage system including relevant characteristics of those systems, such as system capacity.</p> <p>Please indicate your acceptance of these terms.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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6. CERTIFICATION (REQUIRED)

- I am authorized to complete and sign this form on behalf of the applicant.
- I authorize the California Energy Commission to make any inquiries necessary to verify the information presented in this application.
- I have read and understand the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation. I accept the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation on behalf of the applicant, and the applicant is willing to enter into an agreement with the Energy Commission to conduct the proposed project according to the terms and conditions without negotiation.
- I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Name of Authorized Representative:	Lisa Kim
Title:	City Manager
Phone Number:	(714) 741-5885
E-mail Address:	lisak@ggcity.org
Date:	1/10/24
Signature of Authorized Representative:	

NOTE: Do not overlap signature with surrounding border lines.

California Automated Permit Processing (CalAPP) Program ATTACHMENT 2 – Terms and Conditions

Added language appears in **bold underlined** font and deleted language appears in strikethrough and within square brackets.

1. **Background and Authority for this Grant**

California Senate Bill 129 (2021) included an appropriation to the California Energy Commission (CEC) to support a grant program for cities, counties, or cities and counties to establish online solar permitting.

2. **Documents Incorporated by Reference and Priority**

Incorporated by reference into this agreement are the following documents:

- A. Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) 21-402.
- B. Recipient's application to CalAPP.

As between and the incorporated documents and the remainder of this Agreement, the rest of this Agreement takes priority in case of a conflict.

3. **Budget, Invoices, and Payments**

- a) The CEC is only obligated to reimburse the Recipient for paid costs that are (1) incurred during the Agreement Term; (2) invoiced within the required timeframes of this Agreement; (3) not more than this Agreement's budget; and (4) reasonable, actual, and allowable expenses under this Agreement.
- b) Recipient acknowledges that the funds under this Agreement have a liquidation date of June 30, 2027, a legal timeframe after which the CEC has no authority to pay the funds. In addition, it takes the CEC administrative time to review, approve, work with the Recipient to correct any errors in, and request the State Controller's Office to pay invoices. Accordingly, Recipient acknowledges that if it does not submit accurate invoices by March 30, 2027, for all amounts due under the Agreement, it risks not receiving payment, and relinquishes all rights to such payments should the CEC not pay it by the liquidation date. Recipient acknowledges that time is of the essence in invoicing by March 30, 2027, for all amounts due under this Agreement.

The Recipient may request payment from the Energy Commission at any time during the term of this Agreement after successful adoption of a qualifying solar permitting platform as verified by the CEC, but no more frequently than monthly. Recipient must use the CAM provided template invoice spreadsheet.

- c) If invoicing for in-house staff time, the template invoice spreadsheet must identify the employee's name, hours worked, and billing rate to be included as a reimbursable expense.
- d) Unallowable costs include:
 - Software not related to the adoption of a qualifying online, automated permitting platform.

- Any costs incurred or activities conducted prior to entering into a grant agreement with the Energy Commission or incurred after the grant agreement has ended.
- Typically excluded items such as food and beverages.
- Advertising costs.
- Fines and penalties.
- Permit processing fees charged by operator of an online platform.
- All other costs not identified as allowable.
- Unreasonable amounts or rates.

4. Certification

By signing this Agreement, Recipient hereby certifies that all funds received pursuant to this Agreement shall be spent exclusively for its CalAPP project in compliance with this Agreement. The Recipient further certifies that it shall comply with all applicable laws in performing this Agreement.

5. Nondiscrimination Statement of Compliance

During the performance of this Agreement, the Recipient and its subcontractors will not unlawfully discriminate, harass, or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, physical disability (including HIV and AIDS), mental disability, medical condition, age, marital status, or denial of family care leave. The Recipient and its subcontractors will ensure that the evaluation and treatment of their employees and applicants for employment are free from such discrimination and harassment.

The Recipient and its subcontractors shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Government Code Sections 12990 et seq.) and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder (California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Section 11000 et seq.). The applicable regulations of the Fair Employment and Housing Commission implementing Government Code Section 12990 (a-f), set forth in Chapter 5 of Division 4.1 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, are incorporated into this Agreement by reference and made a part of it as if set forth in full. The Recipient and its subcontractors will give written notice of their obligations under this section to labor organizations with which they have a collective bargaining or other Agreement.

The Recipient shall include the nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this section in all subcontracts to perform work under this Agreement.

6. Drug-Free Workplace Certification

By signing this Agreement, the Recipient certifies under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that it will comply and will ensure its subcontractors will comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 (Government Code Section 8350 et seq.). In addition to any other rights and remedies available to the CEC, failure to comply with these requirements may result in suspension of payments under the Agreement or termination of the Agreement or both, and the Recipient may be ineligible for any future state awards if the CEC determines that any of the following

has occurred: (1) the Recipient has made false certification, or (2) violates the certification by failing to carry out the requirements of the Act.

[By signing this Agreement, the Recipient certifies under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that it will comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 (Government Code Section 8350 et seq.) and will provide a drug-free workplace by taking the following actions:

- ~~1) Publish a statement notifying employees that unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited, and specifying actions to be taken against employees for violations as required by Government Code Section 8355(a).~~
- ~~2) Establish a Drug-Free Awareness Program as required by Government Code Section 8355(b) to inform employees about all of the following:
 - ~~• The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;~~
 - ~~• The person's or organization's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;~~
 - ~~• Any available counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and~~
 - ~~• Penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.~~~~
- ~~3) Provide, as required by Government Code Section 8355(c), that every employee who works on the proposed project:
 - ~~• Will receive a copy of the company's drug-free policy statement; and~~
 - ~~• Will agree to abide by the terms of the company's statement as a condition of employment on the project.]~~~~

In addition to any other rights and remedies available to the CEC, failure to comply with these requirements may result in suspension of payments under the Agreement or termination of the Agreement or both, and the Recipient may be ineligible for any future state awards if the CEC determines that any of the following has occurred: (1) the Recipient has made false certification, or (2) violates the certification by failing to carry out the requirements as noted above.

7. Americans With Disabilities Act

By signing this Agreement, the Recipient assures the CEC that it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12101, et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as applicable regulations and guidelines issued pursuant to the ADA.

8. Accounting and Audit

The Recipient will keep separate, complete, and correct accounting of the costs involved in completing the Agreement. The Recipient agrees that the CEC, the Bureau of State Audits, or their designated representative shall have the right to review and to copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this Agreement. The Recipient agrees to maintain such records for possible audit for a minimum of three (3) years after the Agreement ends in any way. The Recipient

agrees to allow the auditor(s) access to such records during normal business hours and to allow interviews of any employees who might reasonably have information related to such records. Further, the Recipient agrees to include a similar right of the CEC, the Bureau of State Audits, or their designated representative, to audit records and interview staff in any subcontract related to performance of this Agreement. These rights and responsibilities are in addition to and not restrictive of those in Section 16. Access to Sites and Records.

9. Public Works

The Recipient is responsible for complying with all applicable laws, which can include public works requirements under the Labor Code. Recipient acknowledges acceptance of Agreement funds may trigger public works laws (Labor Code Section 1720 et seq.), a requirement of which is to pay prevailing wages, applying to its entire project. If the project is public works then it is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. By signing this Agreement, Recipient certifies that it shall comply with all applicable Public Works laws and requirements.

10. Intellectual Property

As between the Recipient and the CEC, the Recipient owns all intellectual property it or its subcontractors create under this Agreement. The CEC has a no-cost, non-exclusive, transferable, irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide, perpetual license to use, publish, translate, modify, and reproduce all intellectual property, such as the products identified in Section 2. above, for governmental purposes the Recipient or its subcontractors create under this agreement. The Recipient shall include a provision securing these rights for the CEC in all of its subcontractor agreements related to performance of this Agreement.

11. Amendment

No amendment or variation of this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by both the Recipient and CEC.

12. Governing Law

This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of California as to interpretation and performance.

13. Independent Capacity

In the performance of this Agreement, Recipient and its agents, subcontractors, and employees will act in an independent capacity and not as officers, employees, or agents of the CEC or the State of California.

14. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement is unenforceable or held to be unenforceable, all other provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect.

15. Waiver

No waiver of any breach of this Agreement constitutes waiver of any other breach. All remedies in this Agreement will be taken and construed as cumulative, meaning in addition to every other remedy provided in the Agreement or by law.

16. Access to Sites and Records

The Recipient shall provide during the Agreement and for at least 3 years after the Agreement ends in any way to the CEC or its representatives reasonable access to all project sites and to all records related to this Agreement. These rights and responsibilities are in addition to and not restrictive of those in Section 8. Accounting and Audit.

17. Termination Without Cause

The CEC may terminate this Agreement without cause upon giving written notice to the Recipient. In this event, the Recipient will use all reasonable efforts to mitigate its expenses and obligations.

18. Third-Party Beneficiary

The Recipient shall in every subcontract under this Agreement include a provision indicating the CEC is a third-party beneficiary to the agreement.

19. Survival of Terms

The following terms survive this Agreement no matter how the agreement ends, such as by its own terms or via termination:

- 8. Accounting and Audit
- 9. Public Works
- 10. Intellectual Property
- 12. Governing Law
- 14. Severability
- 15. Waiver
- 16. Access to Sites and Records
- 18. Third-Party Beneficiary

**Exhibit C
CONTACT LIST**

California Energy Commission	Recipient
<p>Commission Agreement Manager: Adam Van Winkle California Energy Commission 715 P Street, MS-45 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 891-9060 e-mail: Adam.Vanwinkle@energy.ca.gov</p>	<p>Project Manager: David Dent Chief Building Official 11222 Acacia Parkway Garden Grove, CA 92840 Phone: (714) 741-5343 e-mail: ddent@ggcity.org</p>
<p>Confidential Deliverables/Products California Energy Commission Contracts, Grants, and Loans Officer 715 P Street MS-18 Sacramento, CA 95814</p>	<p>Administrator: Alana Cheng Administrative Officer 11222 Acacia Parkway Garden Grove, CA 92840 Phone: (714) 741-5998 e-mail: alanac@ggcity.org</p>
<p>Invoices, Progress Reports and Non-Confidential Deliverables to: California Energy Commission Accounting Officer 715 P Street MS-2 Sacramento, CA 95814 Email PDF of Payment Request invoice packet to: invoices@energy.ca.gov</p>	<p>Accounting Officer: Nancy Ramos Accounting Supervisor 11222 Acacia Parkway Garden Grove, CA 92840 Phone: (714) 741-5055 e-mail: nancyr@ggcity.org</p>
<p>Legal Notices: Tatyana Yakshina Grants Manager 715 P Street MS-18 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: (916) 827-9294 e-mail: tatyana.yakshina@energy.ca.gov</p>	<p>Recipient Legal Notices: Liz Vasquez Deputy City Clerk 11222 Acacia Parkway Garden Grove, CA 92840 Phone: (714) 741-5043 e-mail: lizv@ggcity.org</p>

WEEKLY MEMO 02-08-2024

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

February 1, 2024 - February 7, 2024

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

Included in this Report

 Garden Grove City Hall



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 2/2/2024 11:30 am PST

⚠️ On Friday, February 9, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., Historic Main Street will close and remain closed through 9:00 a.m. on...



Reach

3,402



Garden Grove City Hall

Wed 2/7/2024 9:39 am PST

Embrace a healthier and more active YOU in 2024! The **Winter and Spring 2024 Parks and Recreation Guide** can help...



Reach

2,138



Garden Grove City Hall

Tue 2/6/2024 1:27 pm PST

Were you there!?! The January 27 community cleanup day, held at Pacifica High School, was a success! With the hel...



Reach

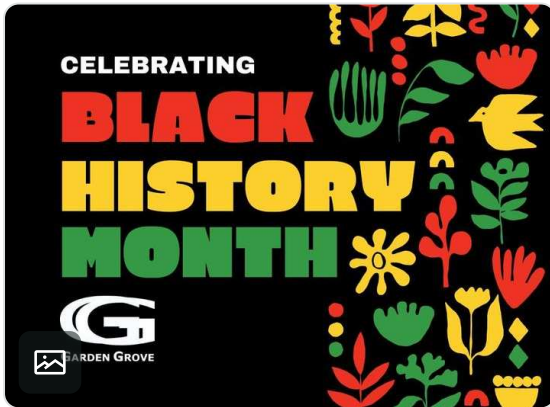
1,728



Garden Grove City Hall

Thu 2/1/2024 12:46 pm PST

February is Black History Month, a time to celebrate the rich heritage and remarkable achievements Black Americans have ma...



Reach

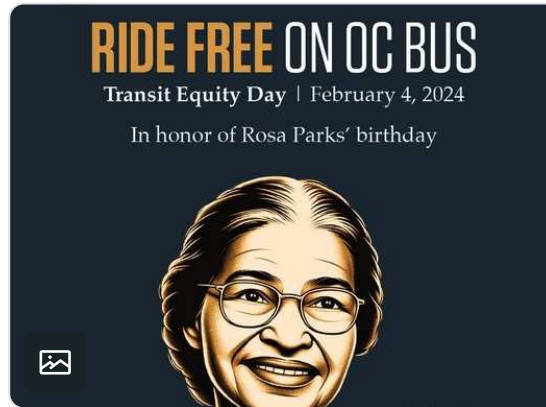
1,305



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 2/2/2024 8:06 am PST

On #TransitEquityDay, Sunday, February 4, OC Bus will offer free rides to all bus riders! Transit Equity Day commemorate...



Reach

1,175



Garden Grove City Hall

Mon 2/5/2024 4:04 pm PST



Reach

1,166



Garden Grove City Hall

Mon 2/5/2024 12:11 pm PST

Let your inner artist come out at the 6th Annual **Art in the Park!** Join us for an inspirational and interactive outdoor...



Reach

1,126



Garden Grove City Hall

Thu 2/1/2024 7:48 am PST

Looking for a change? #JoinGGPD and work for the best city in Orange County. #Officer \$6,839 - \$10,008 monthly...



Reach

1,105



Garden Grove City Hall

Thu 2/1/2024 3:35 pm PST

Yesterday afternoon, we hosted a delegation from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), who we...



Reach

1,085



Garden Grove City Hall

Tue 2/6/2024 4:00 pm PST

We L-O-V-E our #GardenGrove public libraries! 🍷 From 🌱 Lunar New Year festivities to 📧 Valentine's Day arts and...



Reach

1,079



Garden Grove City Hall

Sat 2/3/2024 9:00 am PST

UPDATE: 2/5/24 at 1:35 p.m. 🚫 Street sweeping will not take place tomorrow, Tuesday, February 6, 2024. -----...



Reach

775



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 2/2/2024 2:50 pm PST

Plan your vote for the 2024 primary election! 🗳️!👉 #DYK, your ballot can be mailed through the U.S. Postal Service,...

4 options to Vote.
ocvote.gov/voting

**VOTE EASY.
VOTE SECURE.**
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS


Reach


484

 **Garden Grove City Hall**
Thu 2/1/2024 7:51 am PST



Reach —

 **Garden Grove City Hall**
Thu 2/1/2024 7:48 am PST



Reach —



Post Performance

February 1, 2024 - February 7, 2024

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 2/7/2024 3:00 pm PST

Looking for a change? #JoinGGPD and work for the best city in Orange County. #GardenGrove has that perfect home-...



Video Views	52
Impressions	122
Reach	122
Engagements	12
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	9.8%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Tue 2/6/2024 11:00 am PST

Fire, floods and mudslides! Would you know what to do if you only had minutes to evacuate? #BePreparedNotScared, sign ...



Impressions	2,343
Reach	2,332
Engagements	79
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.4%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 2/2/2024 12:00 pm PST

#DidYouKnow, #GardenGrovePD actively investigates reports of false emergencies? One such type of call that has gained...



Impressions	2,150
Reach	1,982
Engagements	154
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	7.2%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Thu 2/1/2024 3:00 pm PST

Are you a multi-tasker with exceptional customer service skills, and want to play an integral role in officer and citizen...



Video Views	1,059
Impressions	2,311
Reach	2,222
Engagements	289
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	12.5%

WEEKLY MEMO 02-08-2024

NEWS ARTICLES



CONTACT: Mark Freeman
Community Services Department
(714) 741-5200/markf@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Monday, February 5, 2024



ART IN THE PARK RETURNS IN MARCH

On Saturday, March 9, 2024, Village Green Park will be transformed into an outdoor, interactive art festival for the 6th Annual Art in the Park. Hosted by the City of Garden Grove and Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD), the free event will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at 12732 Main Street.

Event activities include ceramics demonstrations, live graphic designing, ukulele lessons, do-it-yourself craft activities, and the Art Car, an opportunity to paint on a classic car.

Art in the Park will also feature live performances from Bryant Rock Band, Bell Intermediate choir, Lake Intermediate K-Pop dance group, La Quinta High School vocal ensemble and concert choir, and Pacifica High School commercial music.

Temporary art installations include a 50-foot "RE:IMAGINE" banner and 20 outdoor, oversized easels displaying GGUSD student artwork.

GGUSD's annual First Impressions Student Art Exhibit, showcasing artistic talents of GGUSD students, grades pre-K through 12th, will be located at the Garden Grove Courtyard Center, in Village Green Park.

Event activities will continue to be added. Follow the City's social platforms on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Nextdoor](#), and [X](#) (Twitter), to see event announcements.

For more information, visit ggcity.org/artinthepark or call (714) 741-5200.

###



CONTACT: Sgt. Lino Santana
Garden Grove Police Department
(714) 741-5704; linos@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Friday, February 2, 2023



MAIN STREET TO CLOSE FOR UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT

On Friday, February 9, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., Historic Main Street will close and remain closed through 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024, for the Flower Street event. Parking on Historic Main Street will be restricted during that time. Historic Main Street will be accessible to pedestrians, and businesses will remain open.

The Friday Night Car Show scheduled for Friday, February 9, has been canceled to allow for the set-up of the Flower Street event.

The Flower Street event will be held on Saturday, February 10 through Sunday, February 11.

For more information on the street closure, contact the Garden Grove Police Department at (714) 741-5704. For information on the Friday Night Car Show, visit facebook.com/mainstreetggcarshow. For information on the Flower Street event, visit facebook.com/Tetflowerstreet.

###

'Flower Street' back on Main St.

February 7



Traditional dress is part of the "Flower Street" event (Tribune photo)

By Jim Tortolano/Orange County Tribune

Garden Grove's historic Main Street will be transformed into a replica of the famous "Flower Streets" popular in Asia, complete with elaborate flower installations, unique artwork, lion dances, musical performances and more.

The event, held in conjunction with the celebration of the Tet lunar new year – "The Year of the Dragon" – will be held on Main Street between Garden Grove Boulevard and Acacia Parkway on Saturday and Sunday.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, followed by a lion dance and folk dance. Other activities planned for Saturday include a music show, dance performances and more.

On Sunday, there will be more lion dances, music and children's dance performances. Attendance is free and open to the public.

The event is organized by the Vietnamese Soccer Association of Southern California. Supporters include Little Saigon TV, Garden Grove Downtown Business Association, Phuc Long Coffee and Tea and more.

For more information, send an e-mail to flowerstreetvn@gmail.com.

'Art in Park' back on March 9

February 5



"ART IN THE PARK" in the Village Green in Garden Grove includes winners in the "First Impressions" exhibition (OCTribune).

The 6th Annual "Art in the Park" event will be held at the Village Green park and Courtyard Center at Euclid and Main streets in downtown Garden Grove on Saturday, March 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

An outdoor interactive art festival, it's hosted by the City of Garden Grove and Garden Grove Unified School District.

Event activities include ceramics demonstrations, live graphic designing, ukulele lessons, do-it-yourself craft activities, and the Art Car, an opportunity to paint on a classic car.

Art in the Park will also feature live performances from Bryant Rock Band, Bell Intermediate choir, Lake Intermediate K-Pop dance group, La Quinta High School vocal ensemble and concert choir, and Pacifica High School commercial music.

Temporary art installations include a 50-foot "RE:IMAGINE" banner and 20 outdoor, oversized easels displaying GGUSD student artwork.

GGUSD's annual First Impressions Student Art Exhibit, showcasing artistic talents of GGUSD students, grades pre-K through 12th, will be located at the Garden Grove Courtyard Center, in Village Green Park.

Event activities will continue to be added. Follow the city's social platforms on Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, and X (Twitter), to see for more information, visit ggcity.org/artinthepark or call (714) 741-5200.

Diversity not a new thing here

FEBRUARY 3



Fourth in a series celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 1874 founding of Garden Grove.

Much is made today of cultural diversity in Garden Grove, but it's really nothing new. Diverse communities of ethnicity and faith have long been part of The Big Strawberry's history.

In 1868, Japan loosened its emigration rules, and thousands of people from that island nation traveled to America, especially California where there was much agricultural employment available.

Many came to what's now Orange County and – in particular – Garden Grove. Gathering in family groups, by the start of the 1920s, Japanese became a substantial part of the community; they would come to make up about 20 percent of the student body at Garden Grove High School.

That all came to an end in 1941-2 when America went to war with Japan. Hysteria fueled by emotional press reports about "Japanese spies" led to the "relocation" of most Japanese and Japanese-Americans to spartan camps inland. Most lost their homes and businesses as they were forced to move quickly.

In 1944, those interned were beginning to be released, but few came back. Those that did maintained a Japanese language school that would be held on Saturdays, first in a private building and later on the campus of Bolsa Grande High School.

Employing Mexican immigrants for farm labor gave rise to a immigrant community – Colonia Manzanita – in the area of Euclid Street and Westminster Avenue, close to where Woodbury Park is now located.

One remnant of its heritage is the Bethany Evangelical Church at San Juan Place and La Bonita Street. Mexican pupils from there were required to attend a "Mexican" school until racial segregation in California was banned by the Mendez vs. Westminster case in 1947.

Hội Đồng Thành Phố Garden Grove Chúc Tết Giáp Thìn



Hình, từ trái: Kristy Thái , Hằng Nguyễn, Dina Nguyễn, Hòa Bình Lê, Đỗ Vinh, Stephanie Klopfenstein, Cinty Ngoc Trần và Lisa Kim.

Từ nhiều năm qua, mỗi khi Tết đến, các viên chức thành phố, tiểu bang và liên bang người Việt, người Mỹ đều giữ tục lệ đến thăm các tòa soạn và các công ty truyền thông để gửi lời chúc Tết đến độc giả, khán thính giả người Việt. Trong chuyến viếng thăm chúc Tết của hội đồng thành phố Garden Grove đến tòa soạn Việt Báo, phó thị trưởng thành phố Cindy Ngoc Tran đã gửi lời chúc mừng năm mới Giáp Thìn tốt đẹp, an vui đến độc giả Việt Báo, đồng thời tỏ lòng tri ân đến cộng đồng truyền thông Việt. Phái đoàn đi cùng bà còn có Ủy Viên Giáo Dục GGUSD Joe Đỗ Vinh và Dina Nguyễn, nghị viên Stephanie Klopfenstein, Tổng quản trị thành phố Lisa Kim và cô Kristy Thái, nhân viên truyền thông báo chí của thành phố.

Theo thống kê gần nhất từ ACS, thành phố Garden Grove có dân số đa dạng, với dân số người Á Châu dẫn đầu 44.66%, trong đó người Việt chiếm 27.7%, nhóm chủng tộc thứ nhì là nhóm người da trắng 31.92 và nhiều chủng tộc khác.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
February 8, 2024

1. Calendar of Events
2. Agenda for the February 15, 2024 Garden Grove Planning Commission Meeting.
3. Minutes from the December 21, 2023 Garden Grove Planning Commission Meeting.
4. League of California Cities articles from February 2, 2024 to February 8, 2024.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 8, 2024 – March 22, 2024

Thursday	February 8	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Friday	February 9		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	February 13	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	February 15	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Monday	February 19		City Hall Closed – President’s Day
Thursday	February 22	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	February 23		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	February 27	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 7	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	March 8		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	March 12	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	March 14	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Thursday	March 21	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	March 22		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure



A G E N D A

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 15, 2024 - 7:00 PM

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER
11300 STANFORD AVENUE

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

Agenda Item Descriptions: Are intended to give a brief, general description of the item. The Planning Commission may take legislative action deemed appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

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

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

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

ROLL CALL: CHAIR LINDSAY, VICE CHAIR CUNNINGHAM
COMMISSIONERS ARBGAST, CUEVA, LARICCHIA, PAREDES,
RAMIREZ

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

- A. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
- B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – [December 21, 2023](#)
- D. PUBLIC HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)

D.1. [SITE PLAN NO. SP-133-2024](#)
[VARIANCE NO. V-041-2024](#)

APPLICANT: PMDG, INC. (VANDANA KELKAR)

LOCATION: SOUTH SIDE OF CHAPMAN AVENUE, EAST OF HARBOR BOULEVARD, AT 12542 CHAPMAN AVENUE

REQUEST: A request for Site Plan approval to construct a 1,977 square foot restaurant pad building with a drive-thru lane, along with associated site improvements. Also, a request for Variance approval to deviate from the minimum 180'-0" lot frontage and 50,000 square foot lot size requirements for the Harbor Corridor Specific Plan – Tourist Commercial "B" (HCSP-TCB) zone. The existing 1,785 square foot building will be demolished to facilitate the proposed project. In conjunction with the request, the Planning Commission will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures – of the State CEQA Guidelines.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Site Plan No. SP-133-2024 and Variance No. V-041-2024, pursuant to the recommended Conditions of Approval.

D.2. [TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP NO. PM-2020-174 \(REINSTATEMENT 2024\)](#)

APPLICANT: SVAP II CHAPMAN, LLC

LOCATION: SOUTH SIDE OF CHAPMAN AVENUE, WEST OF BROOKHURST STREET, AT 9852 CHAPMAN AVENUE

REQUEST: A request to reinstate the approval of Tentative Parcel Map No. PM-2020-174 to subdivide a 7.03-acre (306,411 square feet) property into two (2) parcels to create a new 0.45-acre (19,459 square feet) parcel for a drive-thru restaurant pad building at the Pavilion Plaza West shopping center. The City of Garden Grove Planning Commission previously approved Tentative Parcel Map No. PM-2020-174 on February 18, 2021 in conjunction with Site Plan No. SP-096-2021, Conditional Use Permit No. CUP-200-2021, and Variance, No. V-032-2021, which facilitated the construction of the Pavilion Plaza West shopping center. The site is in the NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) zone. No changes to the previously approved project are proposed.

In conjunction with this request, the City of Garden Grove Planning Commission will also consider a

determination that the potential environmental impacts of the project were analyzed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project adopted by the Planning Commission on February 18, 2021 and that no further environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required pursuant to Section 21166 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Tentative Parcel Map No. PM-2020-174 (REINSTATEMENT 2024).

E. ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION

E.1. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE GENERAL PLAN AND HOUSING ELEMENT](#)

F. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

G. MATTERS FROM STAFF

H. ADJOURNMENT

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION
Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Arbgast
Commissioner Cueva
Commissioner Cunningham
Commissioner Laricchia
Commissioner Lindsay
Commissioner Paredes
Commissioner Ramirez

Absent: Cueva, Paredes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Arbgast.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC – None.

December 7, 2023 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Arbgast Second: Laricchia

Ayes: (5) Arbgast, Cunningham, Laricchia Lindsay, Ramirez

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (2) Cueva, Paredes

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2023 – SITE PLAN NO. SP-129-2023 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF BIXBY AVENUE, BETWEEN CARTHAY CIRCLE AND PEACOCK COURT, AT 9691 BIXBY AVENUE

Applicant: THE JAGER CO., LTD

Date: December 21, 2023

Request: A request for Site Plan approval to construct a three-story, 27-unit residential apartment complex and associated site improvements on a 0.83-acre lot. The proposal includes three (3) affordable housing units for "very-low income" households. Inclusion of the three (3) very low-income units qualifies the project for a density bonus, concessions, waivers, and reduced parking pursuant to the State Density Bonus Law,

and the project has been designed to incorporate certain concessions and waivers of development standards pursuant to the State Density Bonus Law. All existing on-site improvements will be demolished to accommodate the proposed development. The site is in the R-2 (Limited Multiple Residential) zone. In conjunction with the request, the Planning Commission will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15332 – In-Fill Development Projects – of the state CEQA guidelines.

Action: Resolution No. 6073-23 was approved with amendments to the conditions of approval to read as follows:

78. Each dwelling shall be provided at least one (1) parking space within the garage. However, no two (2) different dwelling units shall share any tandem parking spaces. At least two (2) non-tandem parking spaces shall be available for guest parking at all times. A placard shall be posed to identify each parking space as "Reserved" or as "Guest".
92. As proposed by the applicant, the applicant shall implement and maintain a pet waste management program for the life of the project, which requires each tenant to identify their pets and provide DNA samples of their dogs so that in the event that there is uncleaned dog waste, identification of the responsible dog's owner can be made. The program shall utilize "Poo Prints®" or a similar program. The program shall include standard lease provisions obligating tenants to identify their pets and to provide a DNA sample of each of their dogs, and providing a process pursuant to which tenants that fail to clean up their pets' waste may be subject to fines imposed by the Project's management company and the payment of the costs for lab analysis of the abandoned waste from their dogs and associated clean-up costs. The specific program provisions shall be reviewed and approved by the City and included in the management plan approved by the City as part of the affordable housing regulatory agreement for the Project.
93. At least two (2) pet waste stations shall be installed within the project site. The exact location of the pet waste stations shall be identified in the detailed plan submitted by the applicant as part of the Building and Safety Plan Check process.

94. As proposed by the applicant, the applicant shall installed a light fixture on the new relocated power pole in accordance with the Public Works Engineering Division and Southern California Edison required standards.

95. As offered and proposed by the applicant, prior to issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall contribute \$2,000.00 to the City to only be used towards implementing the Safe Route To School infrastructure recommendations for the Brookhurst Elementary School, as described in Section 6.8 and 6.9 of the Safe Routes to School Phase 1 Master Plan.

Also, staff confirmed that the site was not in a sewer deficient area; that a traffic study was conducted indicating the project site would incur less daily trips during peak hours than the previous pre-school; that police calls for service in the project area were a mixture of random incidents occurring at no particular time; that per Condition No. 16, the applicant would provide a sidewalk on the front of the property; and that the three-story height did not exceed the height limit in the zone.

Other than the applicant, three people spoke in favor of the project, while four spoke in opposition citing concerns for student safety around the school, traffic issues such as accidents, speeding, insufficient parking, double-parking, overcrowding, increased traffic, no sidewalks, and that the balcony could be a potential shooter location.

Three letters of support were submitted by Californians for Home Ownership, The Kennedy Commission, and People for Housing, while one letter of opposition was submitted by Michael Torres.

Staff mentioned they could work with the Police to monitor the area and paint certain curbs red to improve visibility.

Motion: Arbgast Second: Lindsay

Ayes: (5) Arbgast, Cunningham, Laricchia, Lindsay, Ramirez

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (2) Cueva, Paredes

Chair Lindsay called for a break at 8:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-250-2023, MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF ACACIA PARKWAY AND EUCLID STREET AT 11261-11301 ACACIA PARKWAY

Applicant: CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

Date: December 21, 2023

Request: The City of Garden Grove is requesting Conditional Use Permit approval authorizing the construction and operation of a new police headquarters, which includes demolition of the existing police headquarters, construction of a new police headquarters building of up to 104,400 square feet to accommodate up to 221 police officers, construction of a new parking structure with up to 448 spaces, and construction of a new approximately 2.8-acre park within the City's Civic Center Area. The site is in the CC-3 (Civic Center Core) & CC-OS (Civic Center Open Space) zones. The Planning Commission will also consider the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and an associated Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project.

Action: Resolution Nos. 6075-23 (CUP) and 6080-23 (MND-MMRP) were approved.

Staff stated that biological resources would be impacted at less than significant levels, adding that a nesting bird survey had been conducted and there were no protected birds in the existing park area. However, nesting birds would be protected during construction, and the Black Crowned Night Heron's eggs would be protected until fledged.

Three people spoke in opposition regarding the existing park's wildlife, especially the Black Crowned Night Herons losing their habitat. One person spoke in favor of a new police building.

Eleven letters were submitted with concerns for the disappearance of the park as a wetland habitat for various forms of wildlife, as well as being the home of the Black Crowned Night Heron.

Commissioners expressed that although the new park could enhance future Community Services programming, the park's amenities should differ from the Village Green Park's amenities, and possibly include a smaller version of the pond.

Motion: Arbcast Second: Lindsay

Ayes: (5) Arbcast, Cunningham, Laricchia, Lindsay, Ramirez

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (2) Cueva, Paredes

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioners wished staff a Merry Christmas.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff also wished Commissioners Happy Holidays and introduced new Senior Planner, Monica Mercado-Rodriguez. Staff then added that the January 4th meeting would be cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:08 p.m.

Judith Moore
Recording Secretary



Key takeaways from Cal Cities' meeting with Gov. Gavin Newsom

Feb 7, 2024

By Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor

Collaboration with cities, local solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis, and accountability were top of mind for Gov. Gavin Newsom during a Wednesday meeting with the [Cal Cities officers and executive director](#). The group met to discuss cities' priorities for 2024, as well as [shared goals](#) and challenges.

Both Cal Cities and the Governor are broadly aligned on several key issues, including the need to reduce [retail theft](#). Last month, Cal Cities urged lawmakers to pass bills that center [prevention, enforcement, and supervision](#) in equal measure.

Newsom has so far resisted calls to reform Proposition 47. The 2014 ballot initiative changed some nonviolent thefts to misdemeanors when the value does not exceed \$950. He has, however, put forth his own plan to [curb retail theft](#) and wants to clarify existing laws.

A key sticking point for the Governor and some policymakers is the lack of comprehensive data on retail theft and barriers to enforcing existing laws.

Cal Cities also emphasized the need for ongoing funding to help cities increase housing and reduce homelessness. [In January](#), Cal Cities once again called on lawmakers to create an ongoing, flexible funding stream to help cities jumpstart affordable housing and address the homelessness crisis.

Newsom did not immediately shut down the idea of ongoing funding. However, he did say that state funding is not limitless and should supplement local programs — not replace them.

The former San Francisco mayor also noted that cities make state and federal policies a reality: It will take collaborative efforts like CARE Court and Project Homekey to end the housing and homelessness crisis.

Looming over the conversation between Cal Cities leadership and the Governor was the state's budget deficit. The Governor projected a \$38 billion deficit in January. The Legislative Analyst's Office — which predicted a much [higher shortfall](#) — called that number “[optimistic but plausible](#).”

With January tax receipts [lower than expected](#), it's clear that more cuts are on the horizon. Newsom in the meeting reiterated many of his [January talking points](#), including the need to change how much the state [can legally save](#) during budget surpluses. Board officers also pressed Newsom to protect local revenue streams during budget negotiations, bolster workforce development programs, and speed up the state's climate resiliency and disaster preparedness efforts.



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Last chance: Registration for housing-focused law symposium ends Feb. 9

Feb 7, 2024

The one-day symposium is at the Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles on Feb. 16

By Cal Cities Legal Staff

[Online registration](#) for the annual Municipal Law Institute Symposium ends Feb. 9. The one-day educational event will provide an in-depth exploration of the changing legal framework surrounding homelessness, rent control, affordable housing, and housing construction.

This year's symposium is at the Southwestern School of Law in Los Angeles on Feb. 16. The symposium will include a keynote address by John Heilman, a professor of law at the Southwestern Law School and West Hollywood council member. The symposium also includes lunch and an informal reception after the program.

Attendees can earn five hours of MCLE credits through the symposium. [Registration](#) is \$75 for those who work for public agencies; general registration is \$130. Complimentary registration is available for law students.

The purpose of the annual symposium is to:

- Integrate the study of municipal law in law schools with the practice of municipal law to encourage and train students to work in municipal law.
- Promote an analysis of municipal law issues through research and scholarly exchange.
- Support the legislative and legal advocacy programs of the [City Attorneys Department](#) by acting as a resource to the state Legislature and judiciary in the development of municipal law.

The symposium is co-sponsored by Cal Cities, the Cal Cities City Attorneys Department, the Municipal Law Institute Committee, and Southwestern Law School. For questions, please contact [Lily Wong](#).



Workforce, public safety, and infrastructure top of list at federal meetings

Feb 7, 2024

By Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor, and Caroline Grinder, legislative affairs lobbyist

Cal Cities leadership took their advocacy directly to Washington last week as part of an [annual state league lobbying day](#) organized by the National League of Cities. Cal Cities President and Fowler Mayor Daniel Parra and Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman pressed Congressional committee staff and the White House on a range of critical issues.

At the top of the agenda for the Congressional meetings was increased funding for job training, the substance use crisis, railway safety, and expanded access to broadband internet.

All four issues are at the top of many local leaders' lists as well. Federal lawmakers have cut funding for workforce development by [nearly 40%](#) over the last two decades. Fentanyl kills [two to three times](#) as many people in California as car accidents and about [three trains derail every day](#) in the U.S. And a successful, pandemic-era [broadband connectivity program](#) will likely run out of funding this April.

City leaders also urged Congress to reach an agreement on the fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills by the new March deadline. A bipartisan Senate bill largely maintains existing funding, but a proposed short-term funding bill from the House could trigger automatic spending cuts to all federal programs.

At the White House, city leaders met with President Biden's team to discuss issues like clean energy, infrastructure, public safety, and cybersecurity. These meetings provided the opportunity to spotlight projects in cities, as well as the success and challenges cities face in implementing federal programs.

Cal Cities leadership team will be back in Washington in mid-March to advance Cal Cities' federal priorities in meetings with key members of the California Congressional delegation.