

Rural Cities: Challenges and Opportunities

Session Outcomes

- Determine rural cities' support for establishing a statewide Rural Working Group (RWG)
- Share preliminary rural issues
- Engage participants in fleshing out rural issues and next steps
- Enlist Participation

Session Agenda

- Rural Cities Overview
- Mission, Objectives, Rural Definition
- Next Steps Proposal
- Invite Comments from Floor: rural issues, next steps, successes
- Join the Movement:
 - ~ Formation Committee
 - ~ Stay informed

RURAL CITIES ISSUES/ RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY: JUNE 28, 2018 LOCC EXEC. FORUM

League of California Cities Policy Committees	Environmental Quality	Governance, Transparency & Labor Relations	Housing, Community & Economic Development	Revenue and Taxation	Transportation, Communication and Public Works Policy	Public Safety	ALL
	Regulations: held to same standard yet unfunded: e.g. Storm-water, Chromium 6,	Lack of equal representation compared to urban areas.	Funding models for transportation negatively impact housing.	Gas taxes not returned in kind to local communities	Funding models need to be adapted for small towns. e.g. SB375 unfairly excludes rural communities.	Homelessness: state/federal funding through Continuum of Care going to larger communities	Nuanced funding model or more block grant financing.
	Tree mortality now affecting quality of life for urban neighborhoods. Needs better articulation across state.	Compete with other small cities for employees; we train and they go elsewhere for more money.	Definition of affordable housing based on density, not income; need to push back on definition	State regulations killing off rural main street businesses ex: minimum wage laws and small business	Providing services over larger areas increases transportation costs	Employee retention/loss really hurts rural.	Mandates are tougher on rural communities
	Unfunded mandates are tougher on rural communities	Employee retention/loss really hurts rural.	Homelessness: state/federal funding thru Continuum of Care going to larger communities	Federal and state loan coverage rates (USDA RD) higher for small towns	Broadband: speeds and connectivity; need advocacy at state; rural. issue ripe in DC	Navigational devices compromise Public safety	

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		Workforce development help needed; broadband essential	Redevelopment needs: solutions harder in rural cities without state resources	Mandates are tougher on rural communities	Used as playground for state residents, our roads take a beating, but not reimbursed		
		Regulations: held to same standard yet unfunded:	Without jobs... residents leave and do not return. (human capital lost)	Access to funding	Wastewater and other water infrastructure issues: Fines 10K day.		
			Workforce development help needed; broadband essential	Provide train infrastructure yet receive no revenues from it.	Provide Train infrastructure without getting revenues from it.		
			State regulations killing off rural main street businesses. E.g. minimum wage increase; no allowance for small us.		Navigational devices complicate transportation and safety.. No rural towns without benefit, or local control		

Proposed RWG Mission:

The Rural Working Group serves to improve the quality of life on behalf of rural cities and develop an effective voice in the development of policies that affect our communities throughout the state.

Proposed RWG Goals:

- improving livability including, but not limited to housing, parks, water quality, sustainability;
- increasing funding for critical needs;
- gathering information, examining policy for rural communities;
- refining best and future practices to make changes to improve rural communities.

Proposed Rural City Definition:

The Rural Working Group is initially comprised of cities that consider themselves rural.

This definition will be developed further with assistance from the League of California Cities and the Rural Working Group.