

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Friday, April 3, 2020

WebEx

[Environmental Quality Policy Committee Slides](#)

Staff: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative
Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst

General Briefing:

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing prior to the start of policy committee meetings, the League advocacy team compiled a [General Briefing Update Document](#), which includes the latest on federal and state legislative matters affecting cities within their respective policy areas.

I. Welcome and Introductions

League President John Dunbar, Mayor, Yountville, welcomed everyone to the policy committee and thanked them all for joining the webinar. President Dunbar recognized the extraordinary action city leaders have taken since the beginning of the pandemic to lower the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 in our communities. President Dunbar stated while local officials are serving their residents and business owners, the League is working with federal, state, and county government officials, as well as health care experts, to ensure resources and financial support for cities. He emphasized the importance of policy committees to the League's core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities. President Dunbar closed by thanking policy committee members for all of the extra effort they put in on behalf of all California cities.

President Dunbar introduced Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked everyone for their continued leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic and for making time to participate in policy committee meetings through the new web-based platform. She explained the League would not be as effective if it were not for the collective efforts of policy committee members. Ms. Coleman concluded by emphasizing the League will continue its core mission of being an advocate for cities through this unprecedented time.

Chair Allan (Doc) Bernstein, Mayor, Tustin, and Vice Chair Chris Rogers, Council Member, Santa Rosa, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. Public Comment

Chair Bernstein asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

III. COVID-19 Update

League staff provided a COVID-19 update, which highlighted resources such as the League's COVID-19 dedicated [webpage](#), [email](#), and [webinar series](#). League staff also gave an overview of the potential impacts that COVID-19 may have on key state legislative and budget deadlines. Notably, COVID-19 response and recovery, along with issues such as housing, homelessness, and wildfires will likely continue to be legislative priorities for this session, while other legislative priorities may be delayed until next session. Additionally, League staff summarized the three federal relief and stimulus bills, highlighting the recently passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act is a historic \$2 trillion emergency package intended to

stave off economic collapse in the wake of COVID-19. Lastly, League staff mentioned the possibility of a fourth federal stimulus package. The League continues to work closely with its federal lobbying team and the National League of Cities on the fourth package.

IV. Legislative Update

Chair Bernstein introduced Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative, to provide a legislative update on bills of interest to the Environmental Quality Policy Committee. Mr. Dolfie reminded the committee that due to the impacts COVID-19 has had on legislative deadlines and the state budget, it is unclear what bills will move forward this session, and legislative priorities may have to be reassessed. For example, two climate change bond measures that the League has been monitoring, [AB 3256](#) and [SB 45](#), may not be moving this session due to the constraints on the state budget. Other topics covered in the legislative update included coastal issues; emergency and disaster preparedness and response; energy and utilities; solid waste and recycling; and water quality and supply. The committee had a lively discussion around [AB 2182](#) and [SB 1099](#) relating to emergency backup generators being exempt from air quality laws. There were several committee members that supported these measures and others who expressed concerns about the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, Mr. Dolfie covered the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) rulemaking to consider revisions to the Electric Rule 20 Undergrounding Program. The CPUC issued a staff proposal in February that recommends changing the Rule 20 Program to sunset the existing Rule 20A and Rule 20D programs over a 10-year period and include wildfire mitigation as an eligible project use for Rule 20A funds. The League is advocating for cities to become parties to this proceeding and submit comments to CPUC by April 21, 2020.

Mr. Dolfie concluded the legislative update by reviewing the Environmental Quality Committee's 2020 work plan. He assured the committee that despite the disruptions COVID-19 has had on the legislative process, the work plan will continue to play a critical role in the committee's work this year.

Next Meeting: Friday June 5, South San Francisco Conference Center, 255 S. Airport Blvd, South San Francisco*
(*subject to change)