



TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, April 16, 2021

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Register for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJ0lduqvqDgtG9cpdivk_OWG_5geCE6BZV6I

Immediately after registering, you will receive a link and confirmation email to join the meeting.

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions

Speakers: Chair: Christian Horvath, Council Member, Redondo Beach

Vice-Chair: Veronica Vargas, Mayor Pro Tempore, Tracy

II. Public Comment

III. General Briefing (Handout)

IV. Broadband Deployment Efforts in Your Community Discussion

Informational

Open forum and discussion opportunity for committee members to share ideas and strategies on how cities can close the digital divide.

V. Road Charge Update

Informational

Speaker: Lauren Prehoda, Road Charge Program Manager, California

Department of Transportation, Road Charge Program

VI. Broadband Update

Informational

Speaker: Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst, League of California Cities

VII. Legislative Agenda (Attachment A)

Action

Speaker: Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst, League of California Cities

- [AB 1060](#) (Rodriguez) Governor's Office of Emergency Services: California Alert.

VIII. Legislative Update

Informational

Speaker: Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst, League of California Cities

IX. Adjourn

Next Virtual Meeting: Friday, June 4, 2021, 9:30 pm – 12:30 pm

Brown Act Reminder: The League of California Cities' Board of Directors has a policy of complying with the spirit of open meeting laws. Generally, off-agenda items may be taken up only if:

- 1. Two-thirds of the policy committee members find a need for immediate action exists and the need to take action came to the attention of the policy committee after the agenda was prepared (Note: If fewer than two-thirds of policy committee members are present, taking up an off-agenda item requires a unanimous vote); or*
- 2. A majority of the policy committee finds an emergency (for example: work stoppage or disaster) exists.*

A majority of a city council may not, consistent with the Brown Act, discuss specific substantive issues among themselves at Cal Cities meetings. Any such discussion is subject to the Brown Act and must occur in a meeting that complies with its requirements.

**Transportation, Communications, and Public Works Policy Committee
Legislative Agenda**

Staff: Caroline Cirrincione, Policy Analyst, (916) 658-8250

1. [AB 1060 \(Rodriguez\)](#) Governor's Office of Emergency Services: California Alert.

Bill Summary:

This measure would require the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to establish a statewide emergency alert system called California Alert.

Bill Description:

Specifically, this measure would:

- Require California Alert to utilize Wireless Emergency Alerts authorized by the Integrated Public Alert Warning System, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency information to the public through mobile phones within a designated cell tower's coverage area;
- Require Cal OES to contract with a private vendor that provides alerting systems to send California Alerts to registered phone numbers that are not location-based;
- Require Cal OES to establish standards for issuing emergency alerts to California residents across local jurisdictional boundaries;
- Ensure primary responsibility for sending out emergency alerts to California residents remains in city-operated, county-operated, or city- and county-operated public emergency warning systems;
- Authorize California Alert to act as a backup to local alert systems; and
- Require Cal OES to assist local governments in sending out alerts when requested to do so.

Background:

FEMA's Integrated Public Alert Warning System:

According to FEMA, the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System was established in 2006 as the national system for local alerting, providing emergency information to the public. Through Wireless Emergency Alerts, cell phones and mobile devices receive alerts based on location. These are short emergency messages from authorized federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public alerting authorities that can be broadcast from cell towers to mobile devices in a locally targeted area. Wireless Emergency Alerts are made possible through a partnership between FEMA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and wireless providers. Wireless Emergency Alerts allows for notifications to be sent to your mobile device without the need to download an app or subscribe to a service.

Genesis of AB 1060:

According to the author of AB 1060, this measure intends to ensure uniform alerts are sent when emergencies or disasters affect multiple jurisdictions. Specifically, the author's office notes numerous mega-fires California experienced in 2020, which covered multiple jurisdictions as an example of why these types of emergency alerts would be effective. They explain that rather than each county and city trying to get contact information from service providers in their jurisdiction, California Alert could effectively obtain these numbers, potentially increasing the number of people who receive emergency alerts. Additionally, AB 1060 would enable local governments and Cal OES to work more closely in how alerts are sent and what information is communicated in the alert.

Fiscal Impact:

While this measure's fiscal impacts are unknown, there could be increased staff time spent coordinating with Cal OES on emergency alerts when disasters strike. Ensuring safe and timely emergency response could create cost savings.

Existing Cal Cities Policy:

Wireless Infrastructure

Cal Cities supports a requirement of telecommunications providers to notify the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) of 911 service or emergency warning outages to help ensure the most efficient deployment of emergency services in affected areas.

Natural Disaster Preparation

Cal Cities supports additional funding for local agencies to preposition "emergency response" personnel and equipment as well as coordinate notification systems with local and state agencies.

Emergency Services and Preparedness

Cal Cities supports activities to develop and implement statewide integrated public safety communication systems that facilitate interoperability and other shared uses of public safety spectrum with local, state and federal law enforcement, fire, emergency medical and other public safety agencies.

Cal Cities supports a single, efficient, performance-based state department (the California Emergency Management Agency) to be responsible for overseeing and coordinating emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and homeland security activities.

Cal Cities 2021 Strategic Priorities

Improve state-local coordination and planning to strengthen community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery. Pursue additional resources and support to mitigate the effects of climate change, sea level rise, catastrophic wildfires, and flooding in our communities. Promote community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and

recovery in collaboration with the state and federal governments. Increase availability and access to the National Flood Insurance Program to include other natural disasters.

Comments:

Over the past several years, Cal Cities has included some form of disaster preparedness and resiliency as a strategic priority. AB 1060 is one of many bills this legislative year that seeks to help make the state more prepared for a disaster or multiple simultaneous disasters. Given the increasing frequency of unprecedented disasters in California, it is essential for state and local governments to have the tools necessary to ensure all residents are receiving timely and potentially lifesaving information.

With a suite of bills on emergency management being contemplated this session, considering AB 1060 and further refining the Cal Cities position will be helpful in understanding the role of local alert systems in larger emergency management discussions. Additional work will be needed to continue to strengthen the state and local resources necessary to protect public welfare and safety from disasters.

Cal Cities supported SB 794 (Jackson), last year which would have authorized cities to enter into agreements to access the contact information of resident account holders through the records of a public utility, or from its own records, to enroll residents into a city, county, or city-county operated public emergency warning system. Cal Cities supported the measure to help cities enroll more residents in emergency alerts.

When considering AB 1060, committee members should contemplate how a statewide emergency warning system would impact existing local alert systems. Specifically:

- Would this measure allow for more people to receive emergency alerts?
- Is there concern about conflicting alerts coming from state and local sources, or would coordinated alerts across multiple jurisdictions prove beneficial?
- Are cities interested in working closely with Cal OES to issue emergency alerts?
- Would a statewide system prove beneficial for communities without existing emergency alert systems?
- Does AB 1060 solve existing issues in how emergency alerts are issued in California?

This measure will be heard in the Assembly Emergency Management Committee and has not yet been set for a hearing.

Support-Opposition:

Support

- California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA)
- Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC)

Opposition

- None listed at this time.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the committee support AB 1060 (Rodriguez).

Committee Recommendation:**Board Action:**