



TO: SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FROM: JEFF KIERNAN, REGIONAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER,
LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES®
RE: UPDATE FOR MEETING ON MAY 28, 2020 (prepared 5/20/2020)

Support Local Recovery: Vibrant Cities, Strong Economies

Cities are facing a loss of \$7 billion in revenues over the next two years and the shortfall will only grow larger now that the stay at home orders are likely to extend into June here in LA County. The League of California Cities has focused on advocating for funding for cities to address the impacts of COVID-19 on our community and the Support Local Recovery coalition is central to that effort. More than 200 business and labor organizations have joined this coalition are we encourage cities to join the effort too.

Please visit SupportLocalRecovery.org for more information and if your city council has already supported the League's latest Action Alert for funding then you are already supportive of the goals of this campaign, which are:

- **From the State Government: Secure \$7 billion in direct and flexible funding to support critical local services and secure CARES Act funding for all cities for COVID-19-related expenditures.**
 - **From the Federal Government: Secure \$500 billion in direct and flexible funding for all cities nationwide to support critical local services.**
- Please help these efforts by speaking with your legislators about the extraordinary actions your city has taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to continue to provide the everyday services in a safe way like police & fire protection, trash pick-up, your over-the-counter services for permitting, and all of the other activities cities do each day to maintain our communities.

Legislation, the May Revise and the State Budget

The Governor prepared an austere budget this month, dramatically scaling back spending from the \$222 billion he proposed in January to just \$203 billion. The League has a full analysis of the proposal [HERE](#), but overall there isn't much for cities to worry about in his proposal. Unfortunately, the budget allocates just \$1.7 billion of the State's nearly \$8 billion in unallocated CARES Act dollars, to aid cities and counties with \$450 million cities and \$1.3 billion going to counties.

On May 20, the League previewed the legislation that is still expected to move forward this year even after the total number of bills have been reduced from more than 2,200 at the beginning of the year to about 400 – 500 today. As I'm preparing this document the State Senate has just announced [the 5 housing bills](#) they are seeking this year, they are:

- [SB 902 \(Wiener\)](#): Allows local governments to pass a zoning ordinance that is not subject to CEQA for projects that allow up to 10 units, if they are located in a transit-rich area, jobs-rich area, or an urban infill site. *As proposed to be amended on May 20, 2020.
- [SB 995 \(Atkins\)](#): Expands the application of streamlining the CEQA process to smaller housing projects that include at least 15 percent affordable housing.
- [SB 1085 \(Skinner\)](#): Enhances existing Density Bonus Law by increasing the number of incentives provided to developers in exchange for providing more affordable housing units.
- [SB 1120 \(Atkins\)](#): Encourage small-scale neighborhood development by streamlining the process for a homeowner to create a duplex or subdivide an existing lot in all residential areas.
- [SB 1385 \(Caballero\)](#): Unlocks existing land zoned for office and retail use and allow housing to become an eligible use on those sites. It also would extend the state's streamlined ministerial housing approval process to office and retail sites that have been vacant or underutilized for at least three years.