



**DATE:** September 24, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Adopt a Resolution Supporting Two League of California Cities Policy Resolutions Being Considered at the 2019 League of California Cities Annual Business Meeting

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the City Council adopts a resolution (Attachment II) supporting two League of California Cities policy resolutions that will be considered at the 2019 League of California Cities Annual Business Meeting.

### **SUMMARY**

On July 9, 2019, the Council designated Mayor Barbara Halliday to be the City's voting delegate and Council Member Lamnin as the alternate voting delegate to the League of California Cities 2019 Annual Conference.<sup>1</sup> Mayor Halliday, Council Member Lamnin and Council Member Salinas are attending the League of California Cities (League) 2019 Annual Conference, scheduled for October 16-18, 2019 in Long Beach, California.

The League's Annual Business (General Assembly) Meeting will take place on October 18, 2019, where voting delegates from member municipalities vote on the League policy resolutions being considered.

Staff recommends that Council support the two resolutions identified by the League: a resolution calling on California Public Utilities Commission to amend Rule 20A to add projects in high fire hazard severity zones to the list of eligibility criteria and to increase funding allocations for Rule 20A projects, and a resolution calling upon the federal and state governments to address the impacts of international transboundary pollution flows into the southernmost regions of California and the pacific ocean.

### **BACKGROUND**

Policy development is a vital and ongoing process within the League of California Cities (League). The principal means for deciding policy on the important issues facing California cities is through the League's seven standing policy committees and the board of directors. The process allows for timely consideration of issues in a changing environment and assures

city officials the opportunity to both initiate and influence League policy decisions. Annual Conference resolutions are an additional way to develop League policy.

Two League policy resolutions have been introduced for consideration at the 2019 League of California Cities Annual Conference. The purpose of this report is to provide information about these two resolutions and to obtain direction from Council regarding the City's official position on each resolution.

## **DISCUSSION**

A summary of each of the two League policy resolutions being considered at the annual conference is provided below along with staff recommendations. A complete copy of both League resolutions, including background information and the League's staff analysis, is also available in the [2019 League of California Cities Annual Conference Resolutions Packet](#).<sup>2</sup>

### **League Policy Resolution No. 1:**

**Title:** A Resolution of the League of California Cities Calling on the California Public Utilities Commission to Amend Rule 20A to Add Projects in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to the List of Eligibility Criteria and to Increase Funding Allocations for Rule 20A Projects.

#### **Summary:**

This Resolution, in response to intensifying fire seasons and hazards associated with exposed energized utility lines, proposes that the League of California Cities (League) call upon the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to amend the Rule 20A program by expanding the criteria for undergrounding overhead utilities to include projects in Very High Fire Hazards Severity Zones (VHFHSZ). This Resolution also proposes that the League call upon the CPUC to increase utilities' funding allocations for Rule 20A projects.

This Resolution supports the League's 2019 Strategic Goal to Improve Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, and Climate Resiliency by:

- Providing resources to cities and expand partnerships to better prepare for and recover from wildfires, seismic events, erosion, mudslides and other disasters, and
- Improving community preparedness and resiliency to respond to climate-related, natural and man-made disasters.

**Staff Recommendation:** Support.

### **League Policy Resolution No. 2:**

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<sup>2</sup> League of CA Cities Annual Conference Resolutions Packet Link: <https://www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Policy-Advocacy-Section/Policy-Development/Annual-Conference-Resolutions/2019/2019-Annual-Conference-Resolutions-Packet>

Title: A Resolution Calling Upon the Federal and State Governments to Address the Devastating Impacts of International Transboundary Pollution Flows into the Southernmost Region of California and the Pacific Ocean.

Summary:

League Policy Resolution No. 2 states that the League of California Cities should call upon the State and Federal governments to restore and ensure proper funding for the U.S. – Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP) and work bi-nationally to address water quality issues resulting from transboundary flows from Mexico’s Tijuana River into the United States containing untreated sewage, polluted sediment, and trash.

This Resolution is consistent with the Leagues Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles 2018 related to water quality, and the League advocates for local, state and federal governments to work cooperatively to ensure that water quality is maintained. The following are guiding principles related to the issue of water quality:

- Surface and groundwater should be protected from contamination.
- Requirements for wastewater discharge into surface water and groundwater to safeguard public health and protect beneficial uses should be supported.
- When addressing contamination in a water body, water boards should place priority emphasis on clean-up strategies targeting sources of pollution, rather than in stream or end-of-pipe treatment.
- Water development projects must be economically, environmentally and scientifically sound.
- The viability of rivers and streams for instream uses such as fishery habitat, recreation and aesthetics must be protected.
- Protection, maintenance, and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat and resources.

Staff Recommendation: Support.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

There are no immediate fiscal or economic impacts to the City that are associated with this report or support of these resolutions.

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

This agenda item is a routine operational item and does not relate to one of the Council’s Strategic Initiatives.

**PUBLIC CONTACT**

The agenda for this item was posted in compliance with the California Brown Act and does not require additional public notice.

**NEXT STEPS**

Mayor Halliday, as the City's voting delegate, and/or Council member Lamnin, as the City's alternate, will represent the Council's vote at the 2019 League of California Cities Annual Business (General Assembly) Meeting on October 18, 2019.

*Prepared and Recommended by:* Maria A. Hurtado, Assistant City Manager

Approved by:



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Kelly McAdoo, City Manager