



CITY OF CLEARLAKE

City Council

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Discussion of the 2026 League of California Cities (Cal Cities) Annual Conference Resolution

MEETING DATE:

August 20, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Melissa Swanson, Administrative Services Director/City Clerk

PURPOSE OF REPORT: ☐ Information only ☒ Discussion ☒ Action Item

WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF THE CITY COUNCIL/BOARD:

The City Council is being asked to review and discuss Resolution No. 1 submitted by the City of Murrieta included in the Cal Cities 2026 Resolution Packet; and determine the City's position on the Resolution to direct the City's designated Voting Delegate, Mayor Slooten, and alternates, Council Members Hooten, and Wilson, for the Cal Cities General Assembly on Friday, September 25, 2026.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Cal Cities holds its Annual Conference and Expo each year, providing a General Assembly where member cities vote on major policy resolutions. Under Cal Cities bylaws, member cities may submit resolutions on matters of importance sixty days prior to the conference.

For the 2026 Annual Conference, Cal Cities received one official resolution by the July 25 deadline. The proposal, **Resolution No. 1**, was sponsored by the City of Murrieta and supported by concurrences from eight cities and city officials (including Banning, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Moreno Valley, Norco, Torrance, and the Mayors of San Jacinto and Temecula).

Cal Cities President Gabe Quinto has referred Resolution No. 1 to the **Housing, Community, and Economic Development Policy Committee**. The timeline for consideration is as follows:

- **September 17, 2026:** Policy Committee virtual review and recommendation.
- **September 24, 2026:** Resolutions Committee review at the conference in Anaheim.
- **September 25, 2026:** General Assembly vote at 8:30 a.m. at the Anaheim Convention Center.

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTION NO. 1

Resolution No. 1 calls upon Cal Cities to support and advance strategies—including a potential State Constitutional Amendment, legislative reforms, or ballot-based initiatives—that restore and strengthen local authority over municipal housing and land use decisions.

Specifically, the resolution requests that Cal Cities:

1. **Support Policy Strategies:** Support a constitutional amendment or policy initiatives that protect local control over general plans, housing elements, zoning, density, development standards, project siting, and local project approvals/denials.
2. **Preserve Baseline State Roles:** Maintain the State's authority to set broad statewide housing goals, enforce civil rights, fair housing, building/life-safety standards, and environmental protections.
3. **Establish a Statewide Working Group:** Direct Cal Cities to form a working group/committee to conduct legal, fiscal, and policy analyses, build statewide proponent coalitions, and prepare for potential action, targeting the **November 2030 General Election** or another reasonable timeframe.

Proponent Context (City of Murrieta & Concurring Cities)

The background materials provided by the City of Murrieta highlight that since 2010, the Legislature has enacted over 500 housing-related laws. Proponents contend that these statewide mandates increasingly bypass local general plans, force by-right approvals, and restrict local review through mechanisms like the "builder's remedy," a provision under California's Housing Accountability Act, that allows housing developers to bypass local zoning restrictions and general plans when a city or county does not have a legally compliant Housing Element, without delivering proportional housing affordability or providing infrastructure funding. Proponents argue that local land use authority is critical to balancing growth with wildfire risks, water availability, road capacity, and public safety needs.

CAL CITIES STAFF ANALYSIS & KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Cal Cities staff released an analysis of Resolution No. 1 (authored by Legislative Advocate Brady Guertin), highlighting key procedural and legal considerations for member cities:

- **Constitutional Framework:** Local land use authority originates from the "police power" granted in the California Constitution to protect public health, safety, and welfare. However, local ordinances are preempted if they conflict with state law in fields designated as "matters of statewide concern."
- **Ballot Initiative & Constitutional Amendment Costs:** Cal Cities staff noted that pursuing a statewide ballot initiative or constitutional amendment requires substantial resources. Qualification and campaign expenditures for statewide initiatives in California have historically ranged from millions to tens of millions of dollars. Furthermore, Cal Cities political advocacy on ballot measures requires a supermajority vote of the Cal Cities Board of Directors.
- **Alignment with Existing Policy:** Cal Cities' existing policy platform firmly supports local home rule, local zoning authority, and community-driven general planning, while opposing preemption of local land use and parking regulations.

OPTIONS:

1. Discuss and give direction by motion to Mayor Slooten and alternates Council Members Hooten and Wilson on the City's position on Resolution No. 1.
2. Other direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

☒ None ☐ \$ Budgeted Item? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Budget Adjustment Needed? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, amount of appropriation increase: \$

Affected fund(s): ☐ General Fund ☐ Measure P Fund ☐ Measure V Fund ☐ Other:

Comments: Adopting a position on this resolution has no direct fiscal impact on the City of Clearlake. Future financial commitments would depend on subsequent actions taken by Cal Cities or individual participating municipalities should a ballot measure campaign be pursued.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT:

- ☐ Goal #1: Economic Development
- ☐ Goal #2: Public Facilities and Infrastructure
- ☐ Goal #3: Celebrate Clearlake
- ☐ Goal #4: Clean
- ☒ Goal #5: Fiscal Sustainability
- ☐ Goal #6: Safe

SUGGESTED MOTIONS:

Motion to direct the City's Voting Delegates to vote yay, nay, or abstain on Resolution No. 1 at the Cal Cities Annual Conference General Assembly meeting.

- ☒ **Attachments:** 1) Cal Cities 2026 Resolution Packet (including Resolution No. 1, Background, Concurrence Letters, and Staff Analysis)