

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
CITY OF BEAUMONT  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY DIVISION  
JESSE RAMIREZ, DIVISION MANAGER  
7/15/202

**SB 79 (Wiener):** [SB 79 \(Wiener\)](#) is set for a hearing in Assembly Local Government on July 16. Opposed by Cal Cities, the bill would force cities to approve by-right tall, dense residential housing near specific transit stops without public engagement, environmental review, or consideration for state-certified housing elements.

The author accepted changes from the Assembly Housing Committee that revise how Density Bonus Law applies to SB 79 projects and provide clearer affordability requirements for the projects. Other amendments attempt to address displacement concerns highlighted by the [committee analysis](#). Cal Cities will provide more details about these changes once the amendments are in print. The bill cleared the Assembly Housing Committee by 9-2.

*- Brady Guertin, legislative advocate*

**SB 445: Weiner (Action Alert):** Lawmakers added broad new language to [SB 445 \(Wiener\)](#) that would create a near-total erosion of local control over infrastructure assets cities must maintain and steward. The bill transfers key decision-making authority from local governments to external entities, including transit districts and the [state transportation agency](#).

This shift would effectively sideline cities from planning and delivering infrastructure projects within their own jurisdictions. Additionally, the bill proposes a vast array of complex timeframes that are highly prescriptive and impractical, requiring local agencies to respond within rigid, accelerated windows that will only result in greater legal liability for cities.

SB 445 was referred to the Assembly Committee on Transportation. Cities should contact their assembly members and urge them to oppose the measure.

*- Damon Conklin, legislative advocate*

## **Warehouse clean-up bills hearings forthcoming**

Two bills that would revise the [controversial warehouse standards law](#) from last session are set for their final committee hearings. [The law](#) creates restrictions on new or expanding warehouses and requires all cities to update their circulation elements to account for these changes — including truck movement. Cities that fail to do so could face \$50,000 fines every six months from the Attorney General. [AB 735 \(Carrillo\)](#) is in Senate Local Government on July 9, and [SB 415 \(Reyes\)](#) is Assembly Local Government on July 16. Cal Cities secured important revisions to both bills earlier this session and is urging the authors to [adopt further changes](#). Cal Cities is asking lawmakers to let cities develop a plan or ordinance rather than a circulation element update, which would trigger additional general plan updates under the same timelines. Cal Cities is also urging lawmakers to exempt cities from the circulation element update if they are not approving new or expanded logistics use projects. If that changes, a city would need to update its circulation element according to the law.

Cities should submit letters to both committees in advance of the hearings expressing concerns about the continued need for clean-up legislation.

*- Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative advocate*

## **Fire Severity Maps and Vegetation Management**

Three environmental bills sponsored by Cal Cities now await their fate in the appropriations committees. [AB 846 \(Connolly\)](#) would streamline the state permitting process for vegetation management projects in fire-prone areas, reducing the risk of a catastrophic wildfire. [AB 996 \(Pellerin\)](#) would help coastal and bay cities meet mandated sea level rise plan requirements. [SB 454 \(McNerney\)](#) would create a PFAS Mitigation Fund for cities and water suppliers to use to help clean up the forever chemicals in local water supplies. Cities should express their support to help these measures make it out of the fiscal committees.

### [SB 629 \(Durazo D\)](#)

Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas of the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on specified criteria. Current law requires the State Fire Marshal to periodically review the areas in the state identified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as specified. Current law requires a local agency,

within 30 days after receiving a transmittal from the State Fire Marshal that identifies those fire hazard severity zones, to make the information available for public review and comment, and to present the information in a format that is understandable and accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to, maps. Current law requires a person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains an occupied dwelling or structure in a very high fire hazard severity zone to take certain fire risk management measures, including maintaining defensible space of 100 feet from each side of the structure, except as provided. Current law includes among these enforcement mechanisms, among other things, site inspections. This bill would require the factors on which the fire severity zones are based to include areas within the perimeter of a wildfire that burned 1,000 or more acres, destroyed more than 10 structures, or resulted in a fatality, and to include areas at risk for an urban conflagration that accounts for the potential for structures to serve as a fuel source that extends the ember cast outside of wildland areas and areas where agricultural land affects fire hazard

*- Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative advocate*

**Up Coming Events and Event Updates:**

- Prop 36 Update
- Next meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>
- Annual Conference
- Policy Committee Assignments
- Q&A