



# City of Palo Alto

(ID # 12269)

## Policy and Services Committee Staff Report

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**Report Type: Action Items**

**Meeting Date: 5/11/2021**

**Summary Title: Update and Potential Recommendations on Pending State and Federal Legislation**

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**From: City Manager**

**Lead Department: City Manager**

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Policy and Services Committee receive a legislative update and recommend for City Council approval any specific actions on pending State and Federal bills or policy.

### **Background**

In February 2021, the City Council adopted the 2021 Legislative Guidelines (<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/agendas-minutes-reports/agendas-minutes/city-council-agendas-minutes/2021/02-08-21-ccm-agenda-revised.pdf>). The guidelines provided a baseline for the City's legislative advocates at the state and federal level to advocate on the City's behalf in relation to proposed legislation.

### **Discussion**

The City's legislative advocates in Sacramento, Townsend and Associates, will be present to discuss specific pieces of legislation with the committee in addition to providing an update on the coming weeks and months in Sacramento. Below is a high-level summary of activity at both the federal and state level.

#### Federal Update:

The following federal updates are relevant to the City:

**American Rescue Plan:** The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, or its negative economic impacts, including by providing assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, and a direct allocation to government entities.

Congressional “Earmarks” or Community Project Funding: The federal government reintroduced these specific project requests to come from members of Congress. No funding is certain until it is adopted by all of Congress. Through Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, the City-submitted project funding request for funding to start a CAHOOTS-like program in partnership with Mountain View and Los Altos was pushed forward on to the Appropriations Committee for further review. Congresswoman Eshoo also submitted the Palo Alto Avenue Grade Separation and Downtown Coordinated Area Plan Study forward through the Surface Transportation and Infrastructure Process. More updates to come on these as they move throughout the process. The City submitted the Fire Station 4 project to Senator Feinstein for consideration to include as an earmark request.

There will likely be other large legislative bills presented later in the year (such as the American Families Plan) and Van Scoyoc will continue to monitor them on behalf of the City.

#### *2020 Census Results*

The United States Census Bureau [released](#) a first look at the results of the 2020 Census count. The official population of the United States is now 331,449,281; this is a 7.4% increase from the 2010 Census. All results reflect the population of the country on April 1, 2020. Also released were re-apportionment number for each state in the House of Representatives. Texas will gain two seats; Florida, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon will all add one additional seat in the House. California, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia each lost one seat. The new map will take effect in time for the 2022 mid-term elections.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census results were released later than normal this year. The Census Bureau is due to release more detailed data, such as racial and ethnic makeup of states and counties, by September 30, 2021.

Additionally, the City submitted a joint letter with the Cities of East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Menlo Park, and Mountain View with comments on the Federal Aviation Administration’s Overview of FAA Aircraft Noise Policy and Research Efforts during the open comment period related to airplane noise. The letter is available here: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/public-works/palo-alto-airport/airplane-noise/joint-comment-letter-on-faa-aircraft-noise-policy.docx.pdf>.

#### State Update:

April was another busy legislative month packed with policy and budget committee hearings that are taking longer than normal due to the newly adopted pandemic rules. Friday, May 7 is the last day for policy committees to advance non-fiscal bills.

*Status Updates on the bills on which the City has taken a formal position:*

*Senate Bill 9 (Atkins) Oppose*

This bill seeks to require ministerial approval of duplexes and specified subdivision maps; allows an extension of subdivision map validity by one year. This bill has had amendments and likely to have more when it goes to policy committees in the Assembly. Current status: This bill has moved through two policy committees and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee then it goes to the Senate Floor.

*Senate Bill 10 (Wiener) Oppose*

This bill seeks to allow a local legislative body to up zone specified parcels for up to 10 units per parcel. Additional amendments likely to come when the bill goes to policy committees in the Assembly specifically as it relates to voter initiatives. Current status: This bill has moved through two policy committees and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

*Senate Bill 556 (Dodd) Oppose*

This bill seeks to enact the California Connectivity Act, which requires local governments and municipal utilities to make their streetlights and traffic poles available for small cells, and regulates the fees that local governments can charge for such attachments. This bill has been amended a few times. Current status: This bill has moved through two policy committees and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

*Senate Bill 591 (Becker) Support Letter in Progress*

This bill seeks to authorize the establishment of intergenerational housing developments, consisting of units for seniors, caregivers, or transition-age-youth (TAY), as specified. This bill has sailed through both committees on the consent file and continues to move forward. Current status: This bill has moved through two policy committees and will head to the Senate floor.

*Senate Bill 765 (Stern) Support*

This bill repeals the existing prohibition on a city or county imposing a requirement of a setback for an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) of more than four feet from the rear and side lot lines. Current status: This bill is not moving forward this session. It was granted a hearing but without a vote.

*Assembly Bill 703 (Rubio) Support Letter in Progress*

This bill seeks to make changes to open meetings for local agencies. Current status: This bill is not moving forward this session.

Townsend and Associates are closely tracking other legislation related to public meetings, transportation, public safety, the environment, housing, and homelessness.

*State Budget:*

The Governor's May Revise Budget will be presented soon and that will kick off budget

negotiations. The May Revise is when changes are made by the Governor to his Proposed Budget based upon the latest economic forecasts. Though not official yet, it will likely include support for homeless efforts, violence prevention efforts, drought-related aid, and other topics.

### **Timeline and Resource Impact**

The timeline was discussed above. No resource impacts for this particular report.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Staff connects with relevant stakeholders as needed throughout the legislative session.

#### **Attachments:**

- 2021 Legislative Calendar

**2021 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
Revised 12-18-20

**DEADLINES**

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1	2
Wk. 1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk. 2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wk. 4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wk. 1	31						

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 11** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
- Jan. 18** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 22** Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 1	28						

- Feb. 15** Presidents' Day.
- Feb. 19** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(a)(1), J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Spring Recess	28	29	30	31			

- Mar. 25** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- Mar. 31** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Spring Recess					1	2	3
Wk. 1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 4	25	26	27	28	29	30	

- Apr. 5** Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- Apr. 30** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(2)).

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Wk. 3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Wk. 4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
No Hrgs.	30	31					

- May 7** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report to the floor **non-fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
- May 14** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 7 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
- May 21** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report to the floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(5)).
- Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 7 (J.R. 61(a)(6)).
- May 31** Memorial Day.

\*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
No Hrgs.			1	2	3	4	5
Wk. 1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Wk. 2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Wk. 3	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Wk. 4	27	28	29	30			

**June 1-4** **Floor session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to A.R. 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(a)(7)).

**June 4** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(a)(8)).

**June 7** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(a)(9)).

**June 15** Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4					1	2	3
Wk. 1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Summer Recess	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Summer Recess	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**July 2** Independence Day observed.

**July 14** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(11)).

**July 16** **Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Summer Recess	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
No. Hrgs.	29	30	31				

**Aug. 16** Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

**Aug. 27** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(12)).

**Aug. 30-Sept. 10** **Floor session only.** No committees may meet for any purpose, except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to A.R. 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(a)(13)).

SEPTEMBER							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
No Hrgs.				1	2	3	4
No Hrgs.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Interim Recess	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Interim Recess	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Interim Recess	26	27	28	29	30		

**Sept. 3** Last day to **amend** bills on the floor (J.R. 61(a)(14)).

**Sept. 6** Labor Day.

**Sept. 10** Last day for any bill to be passed (J.R. 61(a)(15)). **Interim Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

## IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM RECESS

### **2021**

Oct. 10 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 10 and in the Governor's possession after Sept. 10 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(1)).

### **2022**

Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

Jan. 3 Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.