SCMCA
SONOMA COUNTY
Mayors' & Councilmembers' Association

MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION OF SONOMA COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Windsor

Finley Community Center
Manzanita Room
2060 West College Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Friday April 17, 2026
9:00 AM

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

Cloverdale		Petaluma		Sebastopol	
Cotati		Rohnert Park		Sonoma	
Healdsburg		Santa Rosa		Windsor	

3. **Approval of the Minutes**
   A. Approval of the March 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes

4. **Public Comment**

If members of the public would like to provide public comment, we encourage you to submit them via email to Lauren Berges, by 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting: lberges@sonomacountylocalleaders.org

5. **Business**
   A. Legislative Update: Review of Current Assembly and Senate Bills
   B. City and Legislative Representative Updates

6. **Adjournment to Next Meeting:** May 15, 2026

/s/ Lauren Berges, Executive Director

Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available for public review the Tuesday prior to the regularly scheduled meeting on the Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers' website: https://sonomacountylocalleaders.org/ or by email upon request at lberges@sonomacountylocalleaders.org. Any documents subject to disclosure that are provided to all, or a majority of all, of the members of the Association regarding any item on this agenda, after the agenda has been distributed, will be made available for review. In accordance with the

Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Santa Rosa City Clerk's Office at 707-543-3015. Notification 72-hours prior to the meeting will enable the Association to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

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9:00 AM

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Cloverdale	X	Petaluma	X	Sebastopol	X
Cotati	X	Rohnert Park	X	Sonoma	X
Healdsburg	X	Santa Rosa	X	Windsor	A

3. Public Comment

If members of the public would like to provide public comment, we encourage you to submit them via email to Lauren Berges, by 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting: lberges@sonomacountylocalleaders.org

No public comment.

4. Business

A. Legislative Update: Review of Current Assembly and Senate Bills

Nancy Hall Bennett of Cal Cities gave an update. Staff from Assembly Damon Connolly passed on reporting.

B. City and Legislative Representative Updates

The committee took action after discussion on the following bills:

- SB 922 (Laird) Support. Moved by Petaluma, Seconded by Santa Rosa with unanimous support
- AB 1866 (Rogers) Support. Moved by Rohnert Park, Seconded by Petaluma with unanimous support
- AB 2517 (Calderon) Support. Moved by Cloverdale, Seconded by Healdsburg with unanimous support

- AB 1761 (Rogers) Support. Moved by Santa Rosa, Seconded by Petaluma with unanimous support
- SB 1159 (Cabaldon) Support. Moved by Santa Rosa seconded by Petaluam with unanimous support

5. **Adjournment to Next Meeting:** April 17, 2026

AB 1383 (McKinnor) Public employees' retirement benefits.
Would change many of the reforms put in place in 2013 by Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA).
Specifically, this bill would:

- Increase the pensionable compensation cap;
- Reduce the retirement age for public safety from 57 to 55 prospectively;
- Add a 4th safety tier that is 3% @ 55, prospective and subject to bargaining;
- Allow local agencies to adjust their local formula in a prospective manner; and
- Permit authorized employee representatives to bargain with the employer over the employee share of payment for the normal cost.

AB 2134 (Addis) City council members: absences without permission. (Amended - 3/16/2026)
Existing law states that if a city council member is absent without permission from all regular meetings for a certain period, their office becomes vacant. This bill proposes that cities cannot deny a council member's request for parental leave and excludes such leave from the count of allowed absences. Additionally, council members would not need to request parental leave approval during public hearings. The bill declares that these changes address statewide concerns and apply to all cities, even charter cities. It also notes that any law limiting public access to meetings or documents must be justified by demonstrating the protected interest and the necessity of that protection, which this bill includes in its legislative findings.

AB 2296 (Papan D) Planning and zoning: housing element: regional housing needs allocation.
It extends the timeline for cities and counties to form subregional entities for allocating housing needs from 28 months to 34 months before a housing element revision. It also adjusts the timeline for councils of governments to determine housing need allocations from 25 months to 31 months prior to revision. Additionally, the bill changes the period for developing and distributing regional housing need methodologies to 2.5 years and 2 years, respectively, before a scheduled housing element revision, except for the 7th cycle in 2027. When the Department of Housing and Community Development finds a draft element non-compliant with housing law, it must provide detailed written feedback on deficiencies and remedies and review any amendments within 30 days. The legislative body must address specific non-compliance issues based on the department's feedback or justify why the draft substantially complies. The bill prohibits any amendments to the Housing Element Law from applying 34 months before a scheduled update and aims to assign revision deadlines based on smaller regional groupings and jurisdiction size, as per a California State Auditor's recommendation.

SB 866 (Blakespear D) Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program: housing element.
The bill would require all but 14 cities (the largest) to add extensive homelessness reporting requirements to their housing elements. Only a handful of the state's largest cities get direct state funding to address homelessness. To receive HHAP funding,

recipients must submit regional plans that include performance metrics. SB 866 would require cities that do not receive HHAP funding to add these same metrics to their housing elements.

AB 1821 (Pacheco) California Public Records Act: agency response time. (Amended - 4/6/2026)
Under the California Public Records Act, agencies must provide promptly copies of reasonably described public records on request (subject to fees and statutory exemptions) and, within 10 calendar days, must determine whether requested records are disclosable and notify the requester; that 10-day period may be extended by up to 14 calendar days for unusual circumstances. The bill changes those timing rules to require the initial determination and notice within 10 business days and allows extensions of up to 14 business days.

Reviewed in March and should stay on the agenda with an update for tracking and possible action:

SB 922 (Laird) Vehicles: local agency charges: use of streets or highways. (Amended - 3/11/2026)
Existing law bars local agencies from imposing fees for using streets or highways, except for permit fees related to extralegal loads, unless the fees were imposed before June 1, 1989. This bill clarifies that the prohibition specifically applies to weight-based charges. It states that local agencies are allowed to impose fees or surcharges to cover costs of street maintenance and repair, as well as other related public service costs, and these are not considered prohibited taxes or charges. The bill also updates the language by removing outdated references and making technical corrections.
SCMCA SUPPORT in March 2026

AB 1708 (Solache) Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program: round 7. (Introduced - 2/4/2026)
The Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program provides grants to help address homelessness at local levels. It distributes funds to continuums of care, cities, counties, and tribes over several funding rounds. Rounds 1 to 5 are managed by the Interagency Council on Homelessness, while round 6 is managed by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Round 7, beginning July 1, 2026, includes a $500 million appropriation, released only after a confirmation that round 6 funds are nearly fully disbursed. For round 7, this bill mandates that funding be allocated to smaller jurisdictions (cities with populations under 300,000) that meet specific criteria, including adopting a housing resolution, maintaining a compliant housing element, and establishing a local encampment policy. Continuums of care must follow set procedures when accepting applications from these smaller jurisdictions.
SCMCA WATCH in March 2026

AB 1866 (Rogers) California Disaster Assistance Act: minimum damages thresholds. (Amended - 3/11/2026)
The California Disaster Assistance Act requires the Director of Emergency Services to fund local agencies for costs related to disaster response when the Governor declares a state of emergency. The Act typically covers up to 75% of the eligible costs unless the local agency has a locally adopted hazard mitigation plan, in which case, the provisions may differ. This bill mandates the director to prioritize funding for local agencies that can't access federal assistance because they don't meet federal damage thresholds. Additionally, the bill clarifies what costs can be included in the local agency's share of expenses.
SCMCA SUPPORT in March 2026

AB 1761 (Rogers) Electricity: calculation methodology: data disclosure. (Introduced - 2/9/2026)
The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has authority over public utilities, including setting fair rates for electrical corporations. This bill mandates that the PUC ensure all data used in decisions or analyses related to customer charges for recovering costs of contracts or resources owned by electrical corporations be accessible to load-serving entities and ratepayer advocates. The data must be publicly disclosed, except for market-sensitive information. Violations of this bill would be considered a crime under the Public Utilities Act, thus initiating a state-mandated local program. The bill specifies no reimbursement is needed from the state for associated costs.
SCMCA SUPPORT in March 2026

AB 1699 (Rogers) Good Fire Act: Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program: burn bosses: California Environmental Quality Act. (Introduced - 2/3/2026)
Existing law establishes the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program, administered by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to increase the use of prescribed fires and cultural burning while reducing barriers. It includes the creation of the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund to cover losses for nonpublic entities. Claims require specific eligibility, including supervision by designated fire professionals and prior department approval of a burn plan. Funding of $20 million was appropriated for this purpose. Governor Newsom's executive order temporarily suspended some restrictions to allow more entities like resource conservation districts to join the program. This bill, named the Good Fire Act, aims to extend this pilot program indefinitely and expand eligibility to more non-department and non-federal entities. It seeks to streamline processes by eliminating the department's pre-approval requirement for plans already reviewed by a burn boss and include prioritization methods when funds are oversubscribed. The State Fire Marshal is responsible for developing a burn boss certification program, and the bill requires burn bosses to recertify no sooner than every three years. It also encourages increasing the number of instructors for this program and simplifying the designation process for burn bosses.
SCMCA WATCH in March 2026

SB 299 (Cabaldon) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: day care center: family daycare home: zoning. (Amended - 1/14/2026)
The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mandates a lead agency to prepare and certify an environmental impact report for any project potentially affecting the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if the project is deemed not to have a significant environmental effect. If a project could have a significant effect but can be revised to mitigate this, a mitigated negative declaration must be prepared. Certain projects, like those involving only a daycare center not located in residential areas, are exempt from CEQA. This bill would broaden this exemption to include daycare centers or family daycare homes situated on land zoned exclusively for residential use, with some exceptions. This bill would assign new responsibilities to lead agencies to determine if these exemptions apply, thus creating a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local entities for specified state-mandated costs, but this bill states no reimbursement is needed for the costs it would impose.
SCMCA WATCH in March 2026

AB 2517 (Calderon) Fire safety: fire hazard severity zones. (Introduced - 2/20/2026)
Existing law mandates the State Fire Marshal to classify local responsibility areas into moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones using statewide criteria based on expected fire hazards. These classifications must be reviewed every five years and should ideally align with county general plan updates. Local agencies have 120 days to implement these classifications and may adjust zone severity levels at their discretion. Any alterations made by local agencies to these recommendations are considered final and must be reported to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection within 30 days. This bill proposes that before finalizing these classifications, the State Fire Marshal must post relevant information online, hold regional public workshops, and conduct a 30-day period for written public comments, which must be responded to within 30 days. Additionally, the Fire Marshal is required to review these zones every five years, independently of the county plan schedules, and to publish relevant local ordinances online within 60 days. The bill also permits local agencies to apply a higher fire hazard severity across an entire parcel if it contains multiple zone designations.
SCMCA SUPPORT in March 2026

AB 1623 (Davies) Planning and Zoning: Regional Housing Needs Allocation and Annual Report: Student Housing Quarters
This measure would allow local governments to receive RHNA credit for student housing quarters and would task HCD with determining which student housing quarters may count for RHNA.
SCMCA WATCH in March 2026

AB 2433 (Alvarez) Housing Development: Affordable Homes Bonus
This measure would require local agencies to ministerially approve a density bonus law (DBL) project. Additionally, the measure would increase the number of concessions or waivers a project applicant could qualify for under DBL without increasing the number of affordable units a developer must build. The measure also allows density bonuses to be permitted within or outside the geographic areas of the housing development where the affordable or market-rate units are located. Finally, the measure would require local agencies to adopt procedures and timelines to notify an applicant that a project is eligible for a density bonus and to process a density bonus application.
SCMCA WATCH in March 2026

SB 1216 (Cabaldon) Planning and Zoning Law: Housing Leadership Designation
This measure would provide production-based incentives to local governments that permit a set number of housing units per 1,000 residents, which will depend on the jurisdiction's housing affordability as determined by the median purchase price of a home in the jurisdiction and the area median household income.
SCMCA WATCH in March 2026

AB 1903 (Wicks) Construction defects. (Introduced - 2/12/2026)
Spot Bill: Existing law specifies the rights and requirements of a homeowner to bring an action for construction defects, including applicable standards for home construction, the statute of limitations, the burden of proof, the damages recoverable, a detailed prelitigation procedure, and the obligations of the builder and homeowner. Existing law requires a builder, for fit and finish items, to provide a home buyer with a minimum one-year express written limited warranty covering the fit and finish of specified building components.
This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to the provision requiring a builder to provide a warranty for specified building components.
SCMCA WATCH in March 2026

SB 1159 (Cabaldin) Artificial intelligence: transparency and governance. (Amended - 3/25/2026)
Clarifying how these laws apply in the context of emerging technologies, particularly distinguishing between authentic public input and activity generated at scale by artificial intelligence systems, represents an important step toward protecting meaningful public participation, open governance, and critical staff resources for local agencies. With thoughtful refinement, SB 1159 will help address these challenges in a way that is both effective and implementable as technology continues to evolve quickly.
SCMCA SUPPORT in March 2026