



A G E N D A

CHINO HILLS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025
4:00 P.M.

CIVIC CENTER, LIVE OAK CONFERENCE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR
14000 CITY CENTER DRIVE, CHINO HILLS, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BRIAN JOHSZ
PETER ROGERS

BENJAMIN MONTGOMERY
CITY MANAGER

LYNNAE SISEMORE
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the Legislative Advocacy Committee makes a determination that an emergency exists or that a need to take immediate action on the item came to the attention of the City subsequent to the posting of the agenda. The City Clerk has on file copies of written documentation relating to each item of business on this Agenda available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk in a public binder, and on the City's website at www.chinohills.org/Agendas while the meeting is in session. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk at 14000 City Center Drive, Chino Hills, CA during normal business hours and on the City's website at www.chinohills.org/Agendas, as soon as practicable.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require special assistance to participate in the Council meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office, (909) 364-2620, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements. [Click here](#) to view the City's Reasonable Accommodation Policy or contact the City Clerk's office to obtain a copy.

Emails and documents submitted by the public will be considered a public document subject to posting on the City's website and are subject to the Public Records Act.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE COMMITTEE IS IN SESSION.

Speaker Cards - Those persons wishing to address the Legislative Advocacy Committee on any matter, whether or not it appears on the agenda, must complete and submit to the Committee Secretary a "Request to Speak" form available in the Office of the City Clerk. **In accordance with the Public Records Act, any information you provide on this form is available to the public. You are not required to provide your name or other personal information in order to speak.** The Committee Secretary will explain how you will be called to speak if you decline to provide your name. Comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per speaker for agendized items and non-agendized items will depend on the number of speakers: three (3) minutes for 1-10 speakers; two (2) minutes for 11-15 speakers; and one (1) minute for 16 or more speakers. Only one speaker card per person per comment period may be submitted. Individuals must submit their own speaker card. Public comment periods will generally be limited to 30 minutes per meeting and/or the maximum time limits for speaking may be reduced, so not all members of the public may have the opportunity to speak at every committee meeting. If you want to communicate information to the City you can also do so via email at cityclerk@chinohills.org. All public comments must address matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Legislative Advocacy Committee, which is considered "City business." Failure to adhere to the prohibition against public comments on non-city business, will result in the speaker losing their opportunity to provide public comments at that meeting.

"City business" includes matters over which the City has been granted authority pursuant to state law, subject to state and federal legal and constitutional limitations. These matters include the construction, maintenance and repair of streets, parks and public facilities; providing water, sewer and trash services; providing recreation services and programs; overseeing land development except to the extent the City's authority has been pre-empted by federal and state law; providing public safety services, including police and fire/paramedic services which the City does by contracting with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and working with the Chino Valley Fire District and through its own code enforcement personnel; imposing regulations over conduct and activities in the City to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community; and the City also has the right to hire and manage personnel, the responsibility to maintain public records and the authority to impose fees and taxes and provide the financial services necessary to provide the above services.

"Signs", banners, flags or other symbolic material (except those that are emblazoned on clothing) are prohibited within the conference room because they may obstruct the view of other attendees, obstruct the passage of other attendees, create a fire or safety hazard, or otherwise disturb the business of the meeting. However, signs no larger than 12X24 inches are permitted.

TIPS FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING AT A COMMITTEE MEETING

- If you have filled out a speaker card with or without your name and/or contact information, please hand it to the Committee Secretary.
- A speaker may not relinquish his/her time to another speaker.
- Be prepared to come forward to the speaker's podium when your name is called.
- As you begin to speak, state your name clearly for the record (although this is not required) and city of residence. If you represent a group or organization, please state that information as well.
- Don't be nervous. It may help to take a deep breath and exhale slowly before you speak.
- Please show courtesy to others and direct all comments to the Committee.
- Do not address comments to the audience or staff members.
- Make your position known at the beginning, then present supporting information.
- Identify your main points. Writing them down ahead of time will help you organize your thoughts at the podium.
- Don't repeat yourself. If a previous speaker has already made the point you planned to make, simply refer to that speaker and emphasize your support for that position.
- Handouts summarizing your position may be distributed to the Committee Secretary before or after your presentation.
- Close your comments with an action statement such as, "Adopt this resolution" or "I urge you to vote 'yes' (or 'no') on this item."
- Any person who disrupts the orderly conduct of the Committee's business may be barred from making further comments and shall be subject to removal from the Conference Room.

4:00 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDIZED ITEMS

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** At this time members of the public may address the Legislative Advocacy Committee regarding any item appearing on the agenda. Those persons wishing to address the Committee are requested to complete and submit to the Committee Secretary a "Request to Speak" card. Comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per speaker. The time allotted per person may vary depending on the total number of speaker cards received. This comment period will generally be limited to 30 minutes per meeting, so not all members of the public may have the opportunity to speak at every committee meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING

2. Approve May 6, 2025, Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes
3. Townsend Public Affairs presentation on State Legislative Calendar, State Budget, California Environmental Quality Act Exemptions for Fuel Modifications, Senate, Assembly and Federal Bill Updates, Federal President Budget Requests, Community Project Funding Updates, and California Redistricting Special Election Package

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** At this time, members of the public may address the Legislative Advocacy Committee regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that do not appear on the agenda. Please complete and submit to the Committee Secretary a "Request to Speak" card. Comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per speaker. The time allotted per person may vary depending on the total number of speakers received: three (3) minutes for 1-10 speakers; two (2) minutes for 11-15 speakers; and one (1) minute for 16 or more speakers. This comment period will generally be limited to 30 minutes per meeting, so not all members of the public may have the opportunity to speak at every committee meeting.

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT:

MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

CITY OF CHINO HILLS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 6, 2025

The Regular meeting of the Legislative Advocacy Committee was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BRIAN JOHSZ
PETER ROGERS

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: BENJAMIN MONTGOMERY, CITY MANAGER
LYNNAE SISEMORE, SECRETARY
CHERYL BALZ, CITY CLERK
CHRISTA BUHAGIAR, FINANCE DIRECTOR
WENDI GENSEL, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II
ROD HILL, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
NICHOLAS LIGUORI, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
VALERIE MCCLUNG, COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER
ERIC O'DONNELL, DIRECTOR, TOWNSEND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AGENDIZED PUBLIC COMMENTS

Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director of Hills for Everyone, expressed her concerns with the tenor of the questions being asked by the City regarding the Chino Hills State Park wildfire mitigation practices and asked why a letter to request an audit to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee was necessary.

MEETING MINUTES

On a motion made by Committee Member Rogers, the Committee with all members present, unanimously approved the April 2, 2025, Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting minutes, as presented.

SB 707 (DURAZO) OPEN MEETINGS: MEETING AND TELECONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS, AS AMENDED

Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) Director O'Donnell stated that Senate Bill (SB) 707, (Durazo) Open Meetings: Meeting and Teleconference Requirements would, until January 1, 2030, require a City Council or a County Board of Supervisors to comply with additional meeting requirements, including that all open and public meetings include an opportunity for members of the public to attend either via a two-way telephonic service or a two-way audiovisual platform (hybrid meetings), and a live webcasting of the meeting. TPA Director O'Donnell continued that local agencies must also implement a

system for requesting and receiving interpretation services at public meetings. Additionally, he said that for all legislative bodies, the bill proposes that agendas must be provided in English and any other language spoken by 20 percent or more of the population in the County, especially for those who have difficulty with speaking English. Lastly, he stated that SB 707 treats cities, counties and special districts differently, therefore, this bill would only apply to cities and counties, and that this bill seems to revert back to rules during the pandemic. He asked City Clerk Balz to provide more feedback on the bill's proposed provisions and how it would affect the City.

City Clerk Balz said that during the pandemic, the City used Zoom which allowed for public comments through that platform, however, the City is still concerned with the potential of "Zoom bombing" and said that some of those components can be very difficult to manage during a meeting. She continued that another costly unfunded mandate is the requirement of translation for agendas as it creates a challenge because Google translate is not always accurate, and hiring a translation service can be quite costly.

TPA Director O'Donnell stated that through this bill, if interpretation services are requested, they must be available at the meeting.

City Clerk Balz said that some items of concern are this bill's mandated costs, technical implementation challenges, such as public inspections of video recordings, disruptions of legislative bodies if there are technical issues, extra staffing, and the intent and the proper language for several new provisions in the bill. She said that due to Proposition 42, the Brown Act is no longer a reimbursable state-mandated program. She stated that local governments are required to absorb all the costs of new requirements under the Brown Act, which are expensive mandates on municipalities.

Community Relations Manager McClung said that the City is currently working on a broadcast room upgrade, which could potentially assist in implementing some of the technology requirements, but again it's costly, especially if the City is required to use the County's data for possible translation of languages that are not commonly spoken in Chino Hills.

TPA Director O'Donnell clarified that only the Council agenda must be translated, not the entire agenda packet.

City Clerk Balz stated that translation services are costly as it would affect the agenda for all the City's Commissions and Committees that are governed by the Brown Act. Secretary Sisemore added that the provision to have the translations certified had been removed from the bill.

TPA Director O'Donnell recommended that City Clerk Balz and Assistant City Clerk Sisemore draft a letter of detailed concerns and provide suggested language to support, if amended.

Following discussion, there was consensus from the Committee to draft a letter of concern itemizing suggested changes and potential for support if amended for SB 707 (Durazo) Open Meetings: Meeting and Teleconference Requirements, as Amended.

SB 16 (BLAKESPEAR) HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE, AND PREVENTION PROGRAM: HOUSING ELEMENT: UNSHELTERED AND CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS: ASSESSMENT AND FINANCING PLAN, AS AMENDED

TPA Director O'Donnell said that SB 16 (Blakespear) Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program: Housing Element: Unsheltered and Chronic Homelessness: Assessment and Financing Plan would require all but 14 cities to provide detailed reports on available homelessness resources, actions taken to connect individuals to those resources, and various data points. He said that SB 16 requires cities to share information about the number of people who become homeless after exiting institutional settings, including jails, prisons, and hospitals, and the number of people who become unhoused after moving into permanent housing. He stated that currently Cal Cities is opposing this bill, despite the latest amendments, as there is more information required on the Housing Element side to require plans and actions to reduce barriers for housing the homeless population, and that this is another unfunded mandate for municipalities.

Committee Member Johsz asked for clarification on the "Point in Time Count." Assistant City Manager Hill responded that the program counts the number of unhoused individuals in the City at a specific time on a certain day.

Following discussion, there was consensus from the Committee to send an opposition letter for SB 16 (Blakespear) Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program: Housing Element: Unsheltered and Chronic Homelessness: Assessment and Financing Plan, unless Amended.

SB 634 (PEREZ) HOMELESSNESS: CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES, AS AMENDED

TPA Director O'Donnell said that SB 634 (Perez) Homelessness: Civil and Criminal Penalties would prohibit a local jurisdiction from adopting a local ordinance, or enforcing an existing ordinance, that imposes civil or criminal penalties on a person who is homeless for any act immediately related to homelessness or any act related to basic survival, or on a person who is assisting a person who is homeless with any act related to basic survival. He continued that the bill would similarly prohibit a State agency from adopting any regulation or issuing any policy or guidance, or enforcing an existing regulation, policy, or guidance, that imposes those civil or criminal penalties. He stated that last minute amendments were made on this bill, one being that the bill will prohibit cities from imposing regulations on homelessness service providers that are not placed on other types of social services agencies. He stated that currently Cal Cities is opposed to this bill.

Following discussion, there was a consensus from the Committee to take no action on SB 634 (Perez) Homelessness: Civil and Criminal Penalties, as Amended.

SB 38 (UMBERG) SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM, AS AMENDED

TPA Director O'Donnell stated that Senate Bill (SB) 38 (Umburg) Second Chance Program would require the Second Chance grant program to authorize eligibility for proposals that offer mental health or behavioral health services and drug court or collaborative court programs, including the treatment program under the Treatment-Mandated Felony Act. He stated that Proposition 47 created a Second Chance Grant

Program that is funded through savings that the State has acquired due to the decreased number of incarcerations; however, Proposition 36 may reverse this savings as more criminals are entering the prison system. He continued that this bill would authorize drug courts to be eligible to use grant funding from Proposition 47, which applies more pressure on the grant program and decreases funding, when Proposition 36 should be funded through the General Fund.

City Manager Montgomery stated that there is not adequate funding for the resources needed to administer the program. TPA Director O'Donnell confirmed that there have been no new monies allocated, and that Governor Newsom is aware that funding will need to be put forward for this program.

Following discussion, there was a consensus from the Committee to take no action on SB 38 (Umberg) Second Chance Program, As Amended.

SB 456 (ASHBY) CONTRACTORS: EXEMPTIONS: MURALISTS, AS AMENDED

TPA Director O'Donnell stated that Senate Bill (SB) 456 (Ashby) Contractors: Exemptions: Muralists, as amended would exempt muralists from having to obtain a contractor's license through the California State Licensing Board before being commissioned for public and private art projects. He said that muralists provide a fundamentally different service than a painting contractor, as their work is an artistic expression rather than addressing the structural integrity of a building. TPA Director O'Donnell stated that Cal Cities is the co-sponsor of this bill.

Following discussion, there was a consensus from the Committee to send a letter of support for SB 456 (ASHBY) Contractors: Exemptions: Muralists, As Amended.

SB 789 (MENJIVAR) TAXATION: INFORMATION RETURNS: VACANT COMMERCIAL REAL PROPERTY, AS AMENDED

TPA Director O'Donnell said that Senate Bill (SB) 789 (Menjivar) Taxation: Information Returns: Vacant Commercial Real Property would require a person that owns commercial property in California to register with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and file an information return which includes specified information such as whether any buildings or portions of buildings were vacant in the previous calendar year, amongst other requirements each year by a certain date. He said that SB 789 would authorize extensions of the time for a person to file the information return under specified circumstances, including for good cause, and impose a civil penalty in an unspecified amount on any person who fails or refuses to timely furnish a return required by its provisions. TPA Director O'Donnell stated that SB 789, upon appropriation, would require that a civil penalty collected under its provisions be used to repay any amounts received as a loan from the General Fund, as outlined in the bill text, attached to the staff report on file in the City Clerk's Office. He said that the State is trying to reduce the amount of vacant commercial real estate to rezone the land and implement housing mandates. He stated that this would be demanding on cities to track vacant commercial properties and there are no grounds for enforcement.

Finance Director Buhagiar stated that the tax component of this bill has been removed, and that Cal Cities has taken an opposition position on this bill.

Following discussion, there was a consensus from the Committee to take no action on SB 789 (MENJIVAR) Taxation: Information Returns: Vacant Commercial Real Property, as Amended.

S. 1323 (SCHIFF AND SHEEHY) - THE FACILITATING INCREASED RESILIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL WEATHERIZATION AND LOWERED LIABILITY (FIREWALL) ACT

TPA Director O'Donnell stated that S.1323 (Schiff and Sheehy) - The Facilitating Increased Resilience, Environmental Weatherization and Lowered Liability (FIREWALL) Act is a bill that would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit against tax for disaster mitigation expenditures. S.1323 provides a tax credit for home-hardening against natural disasters. He said this credit would cover 50 percent of eligible expenses, up to \$25,000 for households with under \$200,000 in annual federal income taxes and that eligible expenses and upgrades include fire-resistant building materials and roofing, stormwater barriers, air filtration, and the removal of vegetation posing a risk to a home, among others. The credit would be adjusted for inflation yearly and is refundable.

Following discussion, there was a consensus from the Committee to take send a letter of support for S. 1323 (Schiff and Sheehy) - The Facilitating Increased Resilience, Environmental Weatherization and Lowered Liability (Firewall) Act.

CHINO HILLS STATE PARK AUDIT AND JOINT-LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRIPS

TPA Director O'Donnell stated recently that he, staff from the cities of Chino Hills and Brea, and the Chino Valley Fire District met to discuss and prepare audit questions to submit in a letter to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee addressing concerns regarding the State Park's mitigation efforts. He said that on April 23, 2025, Senator Seyarto provided written testimony on the City's behalf to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) requesting an audit of the Chino Hills State Park Wildfire Prevention practices. He stated that even though the letter has been submitted to JLAC, the City could withdraw the letter up until the day their agenda is posted if their questions are answered by the State Park. He also stated that the City of Brea has requested that the City of Chino Hills contact the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) since they are a better resource to address the wildfire risk in Brea surrounding the State Park.

City Manager Montgomery explained that there was a hard deadline that the City had to follow to submit the letter to JLAC. He said that the City's concerns are related to the fire risk that is associated with the State Park and that no surrounding entities had a clear idea of what the State Park's fire risk responsibilities were in the park, and if anyone had the authority to ask what wildfire preventative measures that the State Park must take.

Assistant City Manager Hill said that the City's met with the State Park last fall regarding clearance of roadways and emergency preparedness and stated that there is still not a clear understanding of their fire risk protocol. He said that he is in the process of coordinating a regional meeting to partner with OCFA, City of Brea, CVFD, potentially Cal Fire, and the City of Yorba Linda, as all these entities want to have a comprehensive understanding of the fire mitigation efforts and resources within and around the State Park.

TPA Director O'Donnell said that the regional meeting needs to take place prior to any meetings in Sacramento for the trip to be an effective use of time and resources.

Ms. Schlotterbeck stated that there are competing missions between the cities and entities, and that residents need to focus on hardening their homes, while working together to honor the habitat the City fought so hard to preserve.

Following discussion, there was a consensus from the Committee to schedule a meeting between Townsend Public Affairs, Orange County Fire Authority, Cities of Chino Hills, Brea, and Yorba Linda, Chino Valley Fire District, and Cal Fire to discuss fire mitigation efforts in Chino Hills State Park before deciding how to move forward with Legislative Advocacy trips to Sacramento.

PRESENTATION ON LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR, STATE BUDGET, AND FEDERAL EARMARK AND RECONCILIATION PACKAGE UPDATES

TPA Director O'Donnell stated that policy committee meetings ended last week and that the State budget revenues are high, but the expenses are outweighing the revenues, causing a \$10 to \$15 billion dollar deficit due to Medi-Cal costs and illegal aliens using services. He said that the May revise is forthcoming and will give us a better understanding of the overall financial picture. TPA Director O'Donnell continued that everyone should anticipate a couple of years of uncertainty due to the changes in Washington D.C., as well as the catastrophic losses from the Los Angeles County Fires, which may not be reimbursed by the Federal Government.

Committee Member Johsz asked if there was any information on the port tariffs. TPA Director O'Donnell responded that there has been no word on tariffs at the ports.

TPA Director O'Donnell stated that the Federal Budget is underway. He said that President Trump's vision starts the process, known as the Skinny Budget, which will be evaluated by the Congress. He recommended that the City draft a letter supporting the continuation of Community Development Block Grant Funding, because that is a budget cut that is being recommended and will be detrimental to cities. He stated that the Reconciliation Package is being drafted in Washington D.C. and that infrastructure tax credits may be deleted, as well as the state and local tax (SALT) tax limit, which is being examined for adjustment, and is something that Congresswoman Kim has been actively supporting for either adjustments or abolishment. TPA Director O'Donnell continued that Federal Community Project Funding (CPF) requests are being finalized for next year. He said that Congresswoman Kim is resubmitting the 15 projects that she chose last year, and that Congresswoman Torres however is requiring Cities to resubmit their projects. He said that TPA resubmitted the Los Serranos and Flood Protection Projects, as well as two other projects on behalf of the City. TPA Director O'Donnell, he said that the approved lists will be distributed in a couple of weeks and that he is cautiously optimistic that two of the City of Chino Hills earmarks will make the list, but he is not sure if projects will be funded due to the uncertainty of the State's budget.

NON-AGNEDIZED PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no future discussion items.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnae Sisemore
Secretary

DRAFT