

Dear Rural City Leader,

January 23, 2019

As you are aware, many elected officials have been discussing forming a Rural Working Group within the League of California Cities structure to specifically focus on issues affecting rural cities.

You are receiving this email because you attended a session and/or demonstrated interest in rural issues. We wanted to give you an update. Our first task is to create and finalize our Rural Working Group Formation Guidelines. Our goal is to complete the guidelines to present to the League Board by the end of February 2019.

We held breakout sessions at the 2018 Mayors and Councilmembers Executive Forum and 2018 League Annual Conference, with more than 80 officials from rural cities attending in engaging and robust discussions of the issues facing rural cities. The consensus at those sessions was that a formation committee be established to create a group within the League to focus on rural issues. That Rural Formation Group has been meeting by phone conference to create, adopt and finalize formation documents for the creation of a Rural Working Group.

We believe that impacts from state legislation have a disproportionate impact on rural cities. Constantly changing state laws and regulations are difficult for all cities to keep up with, but with limited staff in rural cities, it is often nearly impossible. One small rural city commenting on legislation is often lost to bigger voices. We believe that by banding together, the voices of rural cities are more likely to be heard. We also believe that rural cities have compelling stories on impacts of state actions that can assist the League with its lobbying efforts with the Legislature and state agencies on behalf of all California cities.

Our second task is proposing two sessions for the League's Annual Conference in Long Beach on October 16-18th. Although that seems far away, the deadline for proposals is in February. We would like to propose one Breakout Session and one Discussion Forum.

Stay tuned for more information. We are working, meeting, and feeling excited about working together for the benefit of rural cities. We encourage you to share this email with your fellow elected councilmembers and your city manager. We will continue to keep you updated and look forward to your participation. We will be reaching out to you in the near future. If you have questions, please email [jesse.loren@cityofwinters.org](mailto:jesse.loren@cityofwinters.org)

Sincerely,

Rural Working Group Task Force:

Jesse Loren, Councilmember City of Winters

Joan Smith Freeman, Mayor City of Yreka

Lisa Swarthout, Councilmember City of Grass Valley

Steve Baker, Yreka City Manager

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