

Meeting Date: 11/24/2015

Report Type: Staff/Discussion

Report ID: 2015-00927

Title: 2016 State and Federal Priorities and Legislative Platform

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a Motion approving the 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities and Platform.

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Presenter: Randi L. Knott, Director of Government Affairs, (916) 808-5771, Office of the City Manager

Department: City Manager

Division:

Dept ID:

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-2015-2016 State Legislative Platform-DRAFT

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form

Joe Robinson

11/18/2015 11:30:52 AM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: John Dangberg - 11/3/2015 8:03:57 AM

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: In order to allow the City's Governmental Affairs staff, and contract state and federal legislative advocates, to be timely and responsive in protecting the City's interests at the State legislature and in Congress, the City Council is asked to review and approve the proposed legislative priorities and platforms.

Policy Considerations: Approving the state and federal legislative platforms is in alignment with the City Council's Policies and Procedures.

Economic Impacts: Not applicable

Environmental Considerations: Not applicable

Sustainability: Not applicable

Commission/Committee Action: The Law & Legislation Committee voted to recommend approval of the proposed State and Federal Legislative Priorities and Platform on November 10, 2015.

Rationale for Recommendation: The California State Legislature and, to a lesser extent, Congress entertains hundreds of bills each year. The fates of these bills vary widely and they are often amended. In order to ensure that the City's interests are protected and that our policy direction is consistent, staff is recommending that the policy platforms and areas of interest in both of these documents be approved. The documents have been designed to create flexibility and cover a range of topics where state and/or federal action will directly or indirectly affect City operations, policies and/or programs.

Financial Considerations: Not applicable

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable

City of
SACRAMENTO

**STATE AND FEDERAL 2016
LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES AND
PLATFORM**

MAYOR Kevin Johnson

CITY COUNCIL

Angelique Ashby	District 1
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LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2016

Guiding Policy Principles: The following policy areas are deemed to be of the utmost importance to the policies of the Mayor and City Council, the General Plan and strategic direction for the City of Sacramento.

- Preservation of Local Funding:
 - *The City supports the protection of existing state and local funding sources and the authorities that provide revenues to the City of Sacramento.*
 - Such areas include the protection of state-shared revenues, assets of the former redevelopment agency, and the ability for the use of the public right-of-way or city-owned facilities.
 - The City opposes changes in state law that would limit the ability of cities to preserve and enhance their local revenue base.
 - The City supports opportunities to expand local funding through public-private partnerships and other programs as appropriate.
 - The City supports efforts to collect revenue owed by non-traditional vendors such as online retailers in the areas of transient occupancy taxes and user utility taxes to ensure a level of funding that supports the growing needs of our population.
- Preservation of Local Authority:
 - *The City supports preservation and expansion of local decision-making authority including the City's legal autonomy and opposes preemption of local control, diminishment of the City's ability to provide essential services, reduction of revenue sources that are required to maintain services, or mandated additional costs without appropriate reimbursement.*
- Supporting a Healthy, Sustainable and Green Community:
 - *The City supports continuing efforts through legislation and funding opportunities to provide services and support efforts for a strong, healthy and green community.*
 - Such areas include supporting and promoting sustainable planning and development; programs that facilitate smart growth and aid in the recruitment and retention of green businesses and programs that encourage "farm to fork" healthy lifestyles for both residents and visitors.

Support Housing Opportunities for Every Level of Income and Commitment to Ending Homelessness:

- *The City supports increasing the supply of affordable housing programs and funding to eliminate homelessness.*

- Supporting a Safe and Prepared Community:
 - *The City supports legislation and funding to improve the safety, security and the quality of life for Sacramento residents.*
 - This includes funding to supplement local law enforcement staffing and public safety equipment upgrades, training and capital improvements;
 - The City supports legislation and funding to assist in reducing and preventing gun violence, crimes, drug use, gang violence and pedestrian and bike safety;
 - The City supports legislation and funding to improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue emergency medical services, and disaster and emergency preparedness; and, funding to promote crime prevention, public outreach and intervention programs.
 - The City further supports legislation and funding for increased accessibility for mental health services and parity between physical and mental health services.

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2016 Top State Legislative Priorities

Transportation/Transit: *The City supports legislation and other viable opportunities to fund the improvements to and revitalization of the transportation programs and projects within the City, the region and the state.*

- The City further recognizes the need to repair and maintain critical infrastructure, including roads and bridges, for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and rapid transit and supports creative financing to make up for losses in gas taxes due to increased use in electric and hybrid vehicles and lower gas prices.
- The City recognizes the proliferation of disabled parking placard and their abuse and supports efforts to increase access for those with true disabilities and the reduction of fraud.
- The City supports the State's High Speed Rail Project to the extent that it is developed from the initial phasing on through full development to integrate with and improve upon the Capitol Corridor, San Joaquin and other intercity state rail systems and connects to Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego and other major markets in California.
- The City supports efforts to improve rail safety for passengers and the prevention of accidents and derailments particularly related to hazardous materials.

Water Policy, Drought and the Delta: *The City supports development of a comprehensive management plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that balances the needs of water supply, the ecosystem, and the residents of the City, Delta community and Northern California.*

- The City supports legislation and regulatory initiatives and processes to protect the City's water rights and to prevent burdens from being shifted to our region to resolve issues in other regions throughout the state.
- The City also supports water conservation and legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means of achieving conservation mandates.
- The City supports legislation that maintains flexibility to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allow local control over reclaimed water and other conservation activities.
- The City supports measures to increase statewide and regional water supply reliability including both above and below ground storage.

Environmental Policy: *The City supports modernization of the California Environmental Quality Act to ensure that it takes other subsequent environmental legislation and regulations into account and prevents abuse of the law for non-environmental causes.*

- The City further supports legislative and regulatory efforts to continue the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution reduction including the establishment of stewardship programs that provide incentives and/or requires product manufacturers to redesign products to make them less toxic, less wasteful and easier to recycle and shifts the end of life cost for collection and recycling/disposal from local government to producers, retailers and other sources.
- The City also supports legislation, regulation and funding opportunities for the implementation of AB 32, SB 375, SB 350 and other programs that build upon the sustainability principles contained in the SACOG Blueprint, Sacramento General Plan, Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan.

Flood Control: *Improvements are needed to the levee systems throughout the region and in particular around the Natomas Basin to achieve an initial 100-year flood protection certification with the ultimate goal of 200-year protection. Improvements are also needed for levee systems protecting areas of northern and southern Sacramento, including Downtown and the Pocket areas. The City supports legislation that provides authorization and funding to achieve these flood protection goals.*

- The City is committed to partnering with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and SAFECA's legislative and regulatory goals to ensure flood protection throughout the region, including timely completion of the Joint Federal Project at Folsom Dam.
- The City supports flexible regulations to assist local communities in addressing the extraordinary drought and necessary conservation measures.

Economic Development: *Since the dissolution of Redevelopment and Enterprise Zones, the City has few options to support economic development or to provide incentives for employers to locate in Sacramento. The City supports legislation that will provide opportunities to incentivize private investments, job creation and housing opportunities for our community.*

2016 TOP FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Protect Local Revenue and Land Use Authority

- Local government land use and revenue authority is critical to the federal-state-local partnership effort to advance community and economic development and must be preserved. As such, the City urges Congress to:
- Support the Marketplace Fairness Act and similar legislation, such as the Remote Transactions Parity Act
- Oppose a permanent extension to the Internet Tax Freedom Act and support a California exception to protect cities' voter-approved telecommunications utility user taxes
- Oppose efforts by online travel companies to circumvent remittance of transient occupancy taxes (TOT) from hotel reservations purchased using the internet

In addition, the City opposes federal actions imposing unfunded mandates on cities or reducing funding available for important programs or infrastructure needs.

Support Economic Development

- The City urges Congress and the Administration to preserve and expand critical economic development tools to enable the City to advance vital projects. This includes greater flexibility in Economic Development Administration programs and support for additional funding to help the City continue to drive growth in the region.
- The City also supports maintaining the tax exempt status of municipal bonds and opposes proposals to cap the investor tax deduction on municipal securities investments.

Strengthen Neighborhood Revitalization Tools

- Sacramento's neighborhoods are one of its greatest assets and the City urges the federal government to protect and expand initiatives to promote neighborhood revitalization. The City strongly supports the Administration's Choice Neighborhoods and Promise Zone initiatives and urges maximum funding for key programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs.

Enact Long-Term Transportation Legislation & Make the Highway Trust Fund Solvent: *The City calls on Congress to enact long-term legislation that allows municipalities to plan for long-term investments in surface transportation and targets funding for municipalities and local transportation agencies. The new authorization bill should focus on maintenance and preservation, and provide funding for roads, bridges, freight, and transit. Priorities include the following:*

- Significantly increase federal transportation infrastructure investment and provide a longer term (four to six years) authorization to allow for better planning.
- Place program emphasis on energy independence and sustainability.
- Support an urban focus that heightens the federal commitment to mass transit and other alternatives to highways and use of private autos.
- Continued growth in the authorization of the Capital Investment Grants (CIG), the increase in both the total project cost to \$300 million and the federal share to \$100 million, and the inclusion of Small Starts in the Program of Interrelated Projects with a more favorable framework/criteria for streetcar projects.

In addition, the City strongly believes in identifying a sustainable source of funding for the Highway Trust Fund.

Improved Rail Safety

- The continued increase in the transport of crude oil by rail, combined with recent rail accidents involving oil spills and resulting fires, has served to heighten concerns about rail safety. Rail safety improvements such as electronically controlled brakes and the provision of real-time information to first responders must be expedited. In addition, rail tank cars that no longer meet safety standards must be phased out as soon as possible.

End Sequestration and Develop Balanced Approach to Budgeting/Appropriations

- The City urges Congress to adopt a bipartisan and balanced approach to appropriations and to end sequestration. Sequestration has forced deep reductions in spending at the federal level, imperiling job creation and sustained economic development. Congress should return to a regular, orderly budget process.

Support Investments in Affordable Housing: *Sacramento is deeply concerned with the need for affordable housing. The City urges Congress to support legislation and proposals that provide incentives and resources to develop affordable and workforce housing. In addition, the City supports programs such as HOME that provide a variety of financial restructuring options, such as loan forgiveness, payment deferrals, grants, loans and loan guarantees to provide and preserve rental housing for long-term affordable use.*

- The City strongly urges Congress to assist cities in addressing the issue of both temporary and chronic homelessness in the form of funding for transitional and permanent supported housing and mental health services.

Approve and Provide Funding for Long-Term Flood Risk Reduction Measures: *The City urges the Administration and Congress to approve initiatives by the Army Corps of Engineers to provide increased protection from devastating floods and to adequately fund new construction of area levees. Priorities include the following:*

- Provide Federal construction funding for the Natomas Levee Improvement Program.
- Approve the Corps of Engineers study addressing needed levee improvements in other areas adjacent to the American and Sacramento Rivers, known as the “Common Features Project”
- Enact a new Water Resources Development Act authorizing the Common Features Project
- Continue funding for improvements for flood protection and dam safety at Folsom Dam, known as the “Joint Federal Project”

Work to Ensure Balanced Approach to Sustainable Water Supply: *The City urges Congress and the Administration to develop immediate and long-term sustainable policy to address persistent drought conditions and changing hydrological conditions that jeopardize the City's and State's economic, recreational and environmental health. Any legislative and regulatory approaches must be grounded in the following principles:*

- Adherence to, and implementation of, locally-developed, collaborative approaches to meet competitive demands for water supply.
- Protection of existing water rights and water settlement contracts.
- Assurances of no redirected impacts attributable to transfer of water supply.
- Ensure a transparent process to address water supply transfers.
- Financial and technical assistance to develop and construct alternative water supply, including direct grants assistance to support the conjunctive use of surface water, groundwater, recycled water, and capture and treatment of stormwater flows.
- Use of real-time monitoring and most recent science to determine and guide water supply resource allocations.

Invest in Water Infrastructure: *The City continues to have significant water infrastructure needs attributable to federal mandates. These needs address both supply and quality. In order to ensure equitable allocation of the costs of the compliance, the City believes Congress must provide adequate funding levels of programs that support water infrastructure needs. Any federal commitments must include:*

- A minimum of \$1.4 billion to support US EPA clean water state revolving loan fund.
- A minimum of \$1.0 billion to support US EPA drinking water state revolving loan fund.
- Enhanced subsidies to support green infrastructure (stormwater control/treatment).
- Revision of US EPA state revolving loan funding allocation formula to provide equitable funding to California communities.
- Expedited permitting approvals to construct water supply facilities.

- Preservation of unrestricted tax-exempt financing of water supply infrastructure.

Invest in Public Safety and Disaster Preparedness: *To maintain the City's homeland security, emergency preparedness and public safety efforts, the City urges Congress to maintain federal investment in resources critical to enabling local law enforcement to adequately provide public safety. Specifically, the City supports full funding for the Byrne/Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and for disaster preparedness, prevention, recovery, and response for all-hazard threats.*

Develop Energy Efficiency and Resource Conservation Strategies: *The City urges Congress to allot federal resources to assist regional and local governments in developing and implementing energy efficiency and conservation strategies and ensure that local governments can continue, and not be preempted in, their efforts to achieve economic improvements through increased energy efficiency and conservation plans that seek to decrease carbon emissions.*

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