



REPORT TO LAW & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671

STAFF REPORT
November 6, 2007

Honorable Members of the
Law and Legislation Committee

Title: Approve the 2008 State and Federal Legislative Platform

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Law and Legislation Committee approve the proposed 2008 State and Federal Legislative Platform (Attachment 1&2) and forward to full City Council for adoption.

Contact: Yvette Rincon, Legislative Analyst, (916) 808-5827

Presenters: Patti Bisharat, Director of Governmental Affairs

Department: City Manager's Office

Division: Governmental Affairs

Organization No: 0310

Description/Analysis

Issue: This report provides information on the proposed 2008 State and Federal Legislative Platform, which identifies state and federal legislative priorities for the City of Sacramento and recommends that the Law and Legislation Committee approve the proposed platform and forward it to the full City Council for adoption.

It is critical that the platform be viewed as a long term, multi-year effort and that the City is consistent in pursuing its priorities. To that end, the priorities included in the proposed 2008 document have not changed significantly over last year.

Policy Considerations: The proposed 2008 State and Federal Legislative Platform is a focused, comprehensive State and Federal agenda outlining the City's priorities for the coming year. The platform includes the projects and issues that have the potential for state and federal participation and provides the City's state and federal legislative representatives with a clear understanding of our priorities.

The projects identified as "Top Priorities" includes those of the greatest significance to the City. Staff is recommending that the City's "Top Priorities" for 2008 continue to be flood control and the Sacramento Intermodal Transportation

2008 State and Federal Legislative Platform

Facility. In addition, telecommunications continues to be a top priority at the federal level.

Other "Priorities" for legislative advocacy in the coming year are organized under the broad categories of: Transportation; Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space; Economic & Community Development; Public Safety; Environmental/Sustainability, and Historic Preservation.

Environmental Considerations: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: The 2008 State and Federal Legislative Platform sets out clear and focused priorities for the City and its state and federal representatives.

Financial Considerations: None.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None.

Approved by: 
Patti Bisharat
Director of Governmental Affairs

Recommendation Approved:


Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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2008 State Legislative Platform - Priority Summary

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Top Priority Issues			
Flood Control	Folsom Dam Modifications	Project to maintain the dam and reservoir and to upgrade flood control.	Support funding to complete the projects.
	Folsom Dam Mini-Rise	Project to increase the height of the dam thus increasing flood control.	Support funding to complete the project.
	South Sacramento County Streams Group	Project has been developed to help ease stream flooding near business and residential neighborhoods in southeastern Sacramento.	Support funding to complete the project.
	American River Common Features Project	Common Features Project to provide for necessary American River watershed flood protection.	Support funding to complete the project.
	Sacramento River Bank Protection Project—Erosion Control	Long range program to provide bank protection and to solve and prevent levee erosion.	Support continued authorization and funding for project.
	Sacramento River Levee Improvements	Improvements to Sacramento River levees to provide Natomas, Pocket, and Meadowview neighborhoods with 100 year and 200 year levels of flood protection.	Pursue and support legislation and funding for improvements.
Transportation	Sacramento Intermodal Station (Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility)	Project is a combination of both new and renovated facilities at the intersection of 5 th and I Street which will serve a wide range of transportation modes. The conceptual design is completed. Work continues on the environmental review, funding strategy, site acquisition, preliminary engineering, and phasing of the project.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need, especially for track relocation.

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Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Priority Issues			
Transportation	65 th Street Transit Village	Neighborhood/university mixed-use district intended to provide a variety of housing types, retail and employment uses to increase transit use and to reduce vehicle trips. The plan envisions 65 th Street as a pedestrian scale Main Street that connects the California State University, Sacramento with the existing light rail station.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need.
	Downtown Natomas Airport (DNA) Light Rail Corridor	The DNA is a Regional Transit Project. The 13-mile, 13 station light rail transit corridor extends from downtown to the Sacramento International Airport, serving the future Union Pacific Railyards development and Regional Intermodal Facility, the Richards Blvd Redevelopment Area, and the communities of South and North Natomas.	Support Regional Transit in its efforts to pursue funding for the project.
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	American and Sacramento River Parkways	Protect and enhance natural habitat and recreational uses of the Sacramento and American River Parkways and guide development to provide additional public access. A secure and predictable funding source is also needed for maintenance and operations of the American River Parkway.	Secure funding for Sacramento Riverfront and American River Parkway projects, implementation of the recommendations for the Sacramento Riverfront Regional Entity Feasibility Project, including State involvement in a joint powers authority or River Conservancy.
	California Indian Heritage Center	This important regional destination will make use of a portion of the American River Parkway in the Northgate area of the Parkway.	Assist in acquiring properties for CIHC outdoor and interpretive activities. Secure funding for Center development.

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Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	After School Programming for Teens	There is a need to develop and implement prevention / intervention programs for middle and high school teenagers during after school and summer evening hours. The rise of youth violence and crime in the City of Sacramento during non-school hours is a major concern. Quality programs and services for teens would promote positive changes in teen behavior.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds.
	Sacramento Parks and Recreation Master Plan Implementation	Sacramento lacks dedicated funding sources for the following elements of the City's public parks and recreation system including, regional parks, regional off-street trails and parkways, and major destination attractions.	Monitor funding opportunities and pursue funds based on project status and need.
	McClellan Boat Docks	The 75-year old docks on the Sacramento River levee are in need of significant repair to protect historic structures and improve public accessibility.	Seek funding to repair and renovate the site on the levee
	Civic Improvements	As Northern California's transportation and communications crossroads, Sacramento is primed for civic improvements such as museums. They play a vital role in enhancing the cultural heritage of our community and provide an ideal learning environment for all ages.	Support the establishment and development of museums in the City, including a Children's Museum and a Science and Space Museum.
	Universal Preschool	The number of Sacramento County children enrolled in preschool lags behind the state and the national average. A Rand Study estimates that for every \$1.00 invested in Universal Preschool, \$2.62 will be generated in future returns for the State.	Support efforts to expand quality preschool programs from a variety of providers for all children. Advocate for free play and recreation to be included as a curriculum component in quality preschool programs.

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Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	Vision for a Healthy California	The State Administration convened an action summit on health, nutrition, and obesity to lead California's effort to combat obesity. The goal is to make California the nation's model for health, nutrition, and fitness.	Support funding for expansion of health care for children, wellness programs, specialized recreation/park amenities for senior citizens and the physically challenged.
Economic & Community Development	Docks Project	As part of the Riverfront Master Plan, the City will redevelop the Docks Area as a mixed-use neighborhood that provides: public access to the riverfront; pedestrian and bicycle linkages that integrate the area with the adjacent waterfront and downtown; and high-quality public space including a riverfront parkway. To complete the project the City needs to acquire the land in the area that is currently owned by the State.	Work with the State to acquire the land needed for the Docks Project.
	Affordable Housing	The need for affordable housing is high, affecting working and disabled families and individuals, and the community as a whole.	Support legislation that increases funding to expand and preserve affordable housing, including rental and homeownership opportunities.
	Redevelopment	Redevelopment authorities are an essential local tool for revitalizing of Sacramento neighborhoods. State revitalization funding is also important.	Support legislation that retains redevelopment authorities and flexibility, including eminent domain. Support legislation that provides funding for community revitalization efforts.

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Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Economic & Community Development	Small Neighborhood Commercial Centers	Support funding for revitalization of small neighborhood commercial centers that are not in redevelopment areas.	Support funding for projects.
	Eliminating Homelessness	Sacramento has adopted its Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, with housing first as its centerpiece strategy.	Support programs and funding to eliminate homelessness, including funding for supportive services in permanent housing.
	Bridging Interstate 5 (Interstate 5 Riverfront Reconnection)	Examining the feasibility of bridging the below-grade I-5 with a deck and/or pedestrian bridges to generate economic development and recapture the riverfront. Work continues on Project Study Report (PSR) and will be completed in early 2008. Environmental phase will be completed in 2010.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need.
Public Safety	Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness	Continue to seek funding to refine and enhance the City's response plan and strategies for prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.	Seek funding for hometown security and emergency preparedness.
	Crime Prevention and Reduction/ Hometown Security	It is imperative to continue to work towards preventing and reducing the number of crimes, with an emphasis on drugs, gang violence, and pedestrian safety.	Support legislation and seek funding that will assist in reducing and preventing crimes, primarily crimes related to drugs, gang violence and pedestrian safety.
Environmental/ Sustainability	Sustainability	The City supports programs and projects that address air quality improvement, energy efficiency, water efficiency, renewable energy, fuel efficiency, energy adequacy and security.	Support funding for projects that address these issues.

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Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
<p>Environmental/ Sustainability</p>	<p>Water Meters</p>	<p>Per A.B. 2572, the City is required to install water meters on all properties by January 1, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$300 million.</p>	<p>Support funding to complete the project.</p>
	<p>Permanent Sacramento Member on California Air Resources Board</p>	<p>The Sacramento region is the only "severe" or worse federal ozone non-attainment area that currently has no representative on the CARB.</p>	<p>Support the representation of the Sacramento region on the CARB.</p>
	<p>Urban Forest</p>	<p>Maintaining and expanding a vibrant Urban Forest is a major public works endeavor for the City of Sacramento that results in air quality, public health, and quality of life benefits.</p>	<p>Seek funding to maintain and expand the City's Urban forest.</p>
	<p>Water Conservation</p>	<p>Water conservation is essential to guaranteeing a water supply for generations to come. The City of Sacramento is committed to conservation through participation in the Water Forum, water conservation staff, and education of the public regarding water conservation issues.</p>	<p>Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allows local control over water rates.</p>
	<p>Reclaimed Water</p>	<p>Reclaimed water involves the use of treated wastewater for landscaping and irrigation purposes and is a great alternative for areas with limited water supply. There are additional costs to treat and supply reclaimed water that can offset the benefits to the rate-payer.</p>	<p>Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allows local control over reclaimed water, and takes into account the costs versus the benefits of reclaimed water.</p>
<p>Historic Preservation</p>	<p>Historic Railroad Central Shops Rehabilitation and Reconstruction</p>	<p>Rehabilitation and reconstruction of the historic railroad structures including seismic retrofitting, stabilization and other rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need.</p>

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2008 Federal Legislative Platform - Priority Summary

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Top Priority Issues			
Flood Control	Folsom Dam Modifications	Project to maintain the dam and reservoir and to upgrade flood control.	Support funding to complete the projects.
	Folsom Dam Mini-Rise	Project to increase the height of the dam thus increasing flood control.	Support funding to complete the project.
	South Sacramento County Streams Group	Project has been developed to help ease stream flooding near business and residential neighborhoods in southeastern Sacramento.	Support funding to complete project.
	Magpie Creek	Improvements to the creek levee and acquisition of floodplains land to reduce flooding .	Support legislation for the allocation cost sharing and to credit locals for prior costs.
	American River Common Features Project	Common Features Project to provide for necessary American River watershed flood protection.	Pursue funding to complete project.
	Sacramento River Bank Protection Project—Erosion Control	Long range program to provide bank protection and to solve and prevent levee erosion.	Support continued authorization and funding for project.
	Combined Sewer System Improvement Project	Project will help to reduce the chance of overflow in the combined sewer system areas due to increased capacity and infrastructure improvement.	Support Federal funding to assist in completion of the project.
	Sacramento River Levee Improvements	Improvements to Sacramento River levees to provide Natomas, Pocket, and Meadowview neighborhoods with 100 year and 200 year levels of flood protection.	Pursue and support legislation and funding for improvements.

Draft Federal Platform

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Top Priorities			
Transportation	Sacramento Intermodal Station (SITF - Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility)	Project is a combination of both new and renovated facilities at the intersection of 5 th and I Street which will serve a wide range of transportation modes. The conceptual design is completed. Work continuous on environmental review, funding strategy, site acquisition, preliminary engineering, and phasing of the project.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs, especially track relocation.
Telecommunications	Sacramento Utility User Tax (UUT) and Franchising	Currently there is legislation that threatens franchising and UUT revenue.	Support legislation that protects franchising and UUT revenue.
Priority Issues			
Transportation	North Central Business District	Improvements include several related projects that will serve the area of Richards Boulevard north of the Sacramento Railyards, the Railyards development area (including the Sacramento Intermodal Station), and adjacent neighborhoods north of downtown. Much of the feasibility study work has been completed. The Project Study Report for the Richards/I-5 Interchange will start in the near future.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.

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<p>Transportation</p>	<p>R Street Transit Oriented Development Project</p>	<p>Joint effort to transform a former inner-city industrial (rail) corridor to a mixed-use redevelopment area focused upon light rail stations. Environmental and Design of the 1st phase of the project will be completed by late spring of 2008. Construction of the first block will begin in summer of 2008. The 2nd phase of this project is the R Street Market Plaza, and includes a Plaza with pedestrian and road improvements, estimated cost is \$ 4 million. The City has secured a SACOG Community Design grant to begin the Environmental and Design work of this phase of the project.</p>	<p>Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.</p>
	<p>Folsom Boulevard Development Project</p>	<p>Improvements estimated to cost \$70 million to relieve congestion at the intersection of Folsom Boulevard and Power Inn Road and to provide additional north-south and east-west capacity in the area. Currently, the City is conducting a circulation study which is necessary to finalize the planning process. Upon completion of this study, staff will proceed with Environmental and Design phases of the project. The project is funded through preliminary design and environmental.</p>	<p>Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.</p>

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	Cosumnes River Boulevard Extension and Interchange at I-5	Extend Cosumnes River Blvd. as a four-lane roadway from Franklin Blvd. to 24 th St., as a six-lane roadway from 24 th St. to I-5 interchange, and as a four-lane from the I-5 Interchange to Freeport Blvd. The City approved the EIR in May 2007 and expects to get Record of Decision in October 2007. Design will be completed in spring of 2009. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer of 2009 and completed in early 2011.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.
	Downtown Natomas Airport (DNA) Light Rail Corridor	The DNA is a Regional Transit Project. The 13-mile, 13 station light rail transit corridor extends from downtown to the Sacramento International Airport, serving the future Union Pacific Railyards development and Regional Intermodal Facility, the Richards Blvd Redevelopment Area, and the communities of South and North Natomas.	Support Regional Transit in its efforts to pursue funding for the project.
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	American and Sacramento River Parkways	Protect and enhance natural habitat and recreational uses of the Sacramento and American River Parkways and guide development to provide additional public access. A secure and predictable funding source is also needed for maintenance and operations of the American River Parkway.	Secure funding for the Sacramento Riverfront and American River Parkway projects and for implementation of the recommendations of the Sacramento Riverfront Regional Entity Feasibility Project.

Draft Federal Platform

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	After School Programming for Teens	There is a need to develop and implement prevention / intervention programs for middle and high school teenagers during after school and summer evening hours. The rise of youth violence and crime in the City of Sacramento during non-school hours is a major concern. Quality programs and services for teens would promote positive changes in teen behavior.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds.
	McClellan Boat Docks	The 75-year old docks on the Sacramento River levee need repair to protect historic structures and improve public accessibility.	Secure funding to repair and renovate the site on the levee.
	Full Service Community Schools	Full Service Community Schools strengthen communities by seamlessly integrating academic, developmental, multi-generational recreation, and health service programming to families to ensure cost-effective use of facilities and resources.	Support grant funding to expand Community - School Partnerships.
	Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program.	LWCF matches funds to assist parks and recreation infrastructure development and the creation of public parks. UPARR matches local funds to rehabilitate urban recreation facilities in economically distressed neighborhoods.	Support legislation for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program to retain the current state appropriation formula, and the urban forest component of 2007 Farm Bill.
	Civic Improvements	As Northern California's transportation and communications crossroads, Sacramento is primed for civic improvements such as museums. They play a vital role in enhancing the cultural heritage of our community and provide an ideal learning environment for all ages.	Support the establishment and development of museums in the City, including a Children's Museum and a Space and Science Museum.

Draft Federal Platform

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Economic & Community Development	Affordable Housing	The need for affordable housing is high, affecting working and disabled families and individuals, and the community as a whole.	Support legislation that increases funding to expand and preserve affordable housing, including rental and homeownership opportunities. Oppose reductions and support increases in appropriations for HOME.
	Redevelopment	Redevelopment authorities and federal community development funds are essential tools for revitalizing Sacramento neighborhoods.	Support legislation that retains redevelopment authorities and flexibilities, including eminent domain. Oppose reductions and support increases in appropriations for CDBG.
	Small Neighborhood Commercial Centers	Support funding for revitalization of small neighborhood commercial centers that are not in redevelopment areas.	Support funding for projects.
	Eliminating Homelessness	Sacramento has adopted its Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, with housing first as its centerpiece strategy.	Support programs and funding to eliminate homelessness, including funding for supportive services in permanent housing.
	Public Housing	Steady reductions in HUD subsidies have impacted public housing operations.	Oppose further reductions and seek to restore funding for public housing.

Draft Federal Platform

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Economic & Community Development	Bridging Interstate 5 (Interstate 5 Riverfront Reconnection)	Examining the feasibility of bridging the below-grade I-5 with a deck and/or pedestrian bridges to generate economic development and recapture the riverfront. Work continues on Project Study Report (PSR) and will be completed in early 2008. Environmental phase will be completed by 2010.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.
Public Safety	Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness	Continue to seek funding to refine and enhance the City's response plan and strategies for prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.	Seek funding for hometown security and emergency preparedness.
	Northern California Public Safety Training College	Continue with the development of the public safety training college within the Sacramento region to provide curriculum and tactical training to "first responders" which would serve the Western United States and the Pacific Rim.	Support funding for facility development.
	Crime Prevention and Reduction/ Hometown Security	It is imperative to continue to work towards preventing and reducing the number of crimes, with an emphasis on drugs, gang violence, and pedestrian safety.	Support legislation and seek funding that will assist in reducing and preventing crimes, primarily crimes related to drugs, gang violence and pedestrian safety.
Environmental/ Sustainability	Sustainability	The City supports programs and projects that address air quality improvement, energy efficiency, water efficiency, renewable energy, fuel efficiency, energy adequacy and security.	Support funding for projects that address these issues.
	Urban Forest	Maintaining and expanding a vibrant Urban Forest is a major public works endeavor for the City of Sacramento that results in air quality, public health, and quality of life benefits.	Seek funding to maintain and expand the City's Urban forest.

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<p>Environmental/ Sustainability</p>	<p>Water Conservation</p>	<p>Water conservation is essential to guaranteeing a water supply for generations to come. The City of Sacramento is committed to conservation through participation in the Water Forum, water conservation staff, and education of the public regarding water conservation issues.</p>	<p>Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allows local control over water rates.</p>
	<p>Water Meters</p>	<p>Per A.B. 2572, the City is required to install water meters on all properties by January 1, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$300 million.</p>	<p>Support funding to complete the project.</p>
	<p>Reclaimed Water</p>	<p>Reclaimed water involves the use of treated wastewater for landscaping and irrigation purposes and is a great alternative for areas with limited water supply. There are additional costs to treat and supply reclaimed water that can offset the benefits to the rate-payer.</p>	<p>Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allows local control over reclaimed water, and takes into account the costs versus the benefits of reclaimed water.</p>
	<p>Sacramento River Reliability Study</p>	<p>The feasibility study will help in developing a plan to implement the Water Forum Agreement objectives which includes pursuing a Sacramento River diversion to meet the water supply needs of the Placer-Sacramento region and to preserve the Lower American River.</p>	<p>Support continued federal funding of this study.</p>
<p>Historic Preservation</p>	<p>Historic Railroad Central Shops Rehabilitation and Reconstruction</p>	<p>Rehabilitation and reconstruction of the historic railroad structures including seismic retrofitting, stabilization and other rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need.</p>