

Agenda Report

March 14, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Legislative Policy Committee

FROM: Assistant City Manager

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
2. Approve the Federal Legislative Platform and the State Legislative Platform for calendar year 2016.

BACKGROUND:

In partnership with the City's lobbyists Capital Edge (Federal) and Emanuels Jones and Associates (State), staff prepares federal and state legislative platforms annually that become the foundation for focused advocacy strategies with the respective government entities. Each platform outlines the City's position on a range of current issues and provides staff and the lobbyists with direction to pursue advocacy on these matters. The development of the platforms includes one-on-one meetings between the department managers with both the federal and state lobbyists to review last year's legislative activities and project what will be on the key issues for the upcoming legislative sessions. From these discussions, recommendations are prepared and presented for City Council review and adoption.

Over the course of several meetings of the Legislative Policy Committee, staff as well as the City's state and federal lobbyist presented changes to both legislative platforms. The attached platforms are the result of the thoughtful discussion that occurred during the meetings.

Federal Legislative Platform 2016

Several years ago revisions were made to the Federal Legislative Platform format so that it focused more on policy provisions as Congress continues to shy away from earmarks right now. However, it does continue to include some specific needs for the City while maintaining enough flexibility to allow the City to react quickly to topics that might not be at the forefront now but could come into play in the future. The following highlights, by major category, new platform items/topics that are added for 2016:

A. Public Safety:

- a. Drones: Encouraging the Federal Aviation Administration to develop clear rules and regulations governing the use of drones and other unmanned aircraft systems in communities
- b. 21st Century Policing: Provide federal contributions to assist Police Departments in implementing federal recommendations from the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing

B. Transportation:

- a. Bob Hope Airport curfew: Support the efforts of the City of Burbank to secure a Federal Aviation Administration approved curfew at Bob Hope Airport

C. Parks and Recreation:

- a. Rim of the Valley: Support the National Park Service proposal to protect additional lands and habitats in the area by adding the "Rim of the Valley" corridor to the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, with the understanding that the proposal retains existing local land use and regulatory authorities, fire prevention policies, water rights, and utility infrastructure systems.

D. Housing:

- a. Homelessness: Expand federal assistance to address the many issues related to homelessness in communities across the country
- b. Protect the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

E. Public Health:

- a. TB: Maintain funding for tuberculosis (TB) treatment. Even as the number of cases drop in Pasadena, the same amount of funding is still necessary for the resource-intensive treatment associated with TB

F. Communication/Technology:

- a. Residential Fiber: Support federal efforts to encourage investment in expanding fiber optic technology to homes
- b. Cybersecurity: Support legislation pending in the Senate regarding cybersecurity and information sharing reform

The Federal Legislative Platform (Attachment A) incorporates all of the above changes.

State Legislative Platform 2016

Typically in the second year of the two-year legislative session, changes are not made to the State Legislative Platform. However, due to recent trends in legislative and regulatory activity, the Water and Power Department has identified nine new issues that warrant adopting a 2016 State platform. Additionally, staff implemented a major restructuring of existing water and energy issues for easier navigation of the platform for staff and State legislators.

Changes in the State Platform related to Energy included adding the following two new platform issues:

- **Distributed Generation:** to address roof-top solar and net energy metering including local control of equitable rate design, ratepayer protections, and RPS credit; and
- **Cyber and Physical Security:** to support utility-specific best business practices and oppose mandatory "one-size-fits-all" regulations.

Changes in the State Platform related to Water include adding the following seven new platform issues:

- **Low Income Water Rate Assistance:** to support locally developed and administered programs
- **Drought:** to support state and federal tax incentives to encourage customer participation
- **Water-Energy Nexus:** for funding sources (GHG reduction and state emergency drought)
- **Groundwater:** to support responsible management that recognizes existing and historical local extraction practices
- **Greywater:** to support standards developed with public health/water quality goals; seeking grant for PWP's "Laundry to Landscape" program
- **Environmental Planning:** to support non-controversial improvements to CEQA reporting and filing processes
- **California Water Fix:** to support the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Alternative 4A, also known as "California Water Fix". This is the new CEQA proposed project for implementing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan goal of increasing statewide water supply reliability

One new item to the State Platform is a section on the City's minimum wage ordinance that is now different from the State-mandated minimum wage. The City would support legislation that provides funds for enforcement and wage theft as it relates to the city's minimum wage. Additionally the City recognizes that State grants which reimburse for labor hours use the State-mandated rate and not the city's rate. Many small non-profits would be impacted if they were not reimbursed at the city's rate and therefore the City

supports legislation that addresses this unintended consequence of having a city minimum wage higher than the State-mandated minimum wage.

The 2016 State Platform (Attachment B) reflects the changes as outlined above regarding the City's position on state and regional legislative issues. Given the significance of the changes being recommended, staff did bring these to the Legislative Policy Committee for discussion at its regular meeting on January 26th. The platform has been revised in response to feedback received from the Committee.


COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION

Approval of the subject recommendation represents a continuation of the annual policy/practice of establishing federal and state legislative platforms as the advocacy strategies for regional, legislative, and funding request priorities supported by the City of Pasadena.

FISCAL IMPACT:

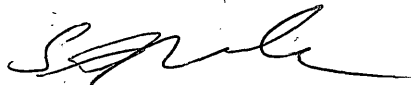
Funds for the legislative advocates are included in the City Councils annual operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,



JULIE A. GUTIERREZ
Assistant City Manager

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
Interim City Manager

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Federal Legislative Platform
- Attachment B – State Legislative Platform