



# Agenda Report

March 27, 2017

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Legislative Policy Committee  
**FROM:** Assistant City Manager  
**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017**

## **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 2017.

## **LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

At the regular meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee on January 24<sup>th</sup>, staff presented both the Federal and State Platforms for 2017. The Committee recommended forwarding both Platforms to the City Council with minor revisions as well as the inclusion of support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to the City Council.

## **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 city's

department directors with both the federal and state lobbyists to review last year's legislative activities and project what will be the key issues for the upcoming legislative sessions. From these discussions, recommendations are prepared and presented for City Council review and adoption.

### **Federal Legislative Platform 2017**

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. 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 challenge for this year's 2017 platform is that under President Trump, both staff and our Federal lobbyist do not yet have a complete understanding how the President's policies will be implemented. Therefore, staff may return mid-year with revisions to our platform that will be more responsive to the President's policies and implementation plans.

The 2017 Federal Platform includes revisions that reflected the removal of policies no longer needed due to bills being adopted that have addressed the issues. We have deleted other policies based on the new priorities of the Trump administration. For example, platform statements that supported a program that was closely identified with former President Obama have been eliminated given that they are not a priority for this new administration.

The following highlights, by major category, some of the new platform items/topics that are added for 2017:

- A. Public Safety:
  - a. Oppose federal efforts to preempt local regulation of drone use in communities.
  - b. Support increased funding for early warning earthquake systems.
  - c. Oppose efforts to deny federal funding to so-called "sanctuary cities," or communities that may not have the resources to enforce federal immigration laws.
- B. Transportation:
  - a. Added Pasadena Transit Station project so that we begin to identify potential federal funding.
- C. Parks and Recreation
  - a. Support for Pasadena's Non-Potable Water Project
  - b. Support for the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project
- D. Public Health
  - a. Support for increased funding for federal programs that target underserved populations
  - b. Advocate for increased funding for tuberculosis prevention and treatment programs.

- c. Improve the Affordable Care Act while maintaining the critical components that have provided health insurance to 20 million Americans previously uncovered.
  - d. Support continued funding for Centers for Disease Control programs for community health projects.
  - e. Protect the eligibility of family planning programs for federal assistance as an important way to prevent the spread of HIV and STDs, and provide important family planning services.
- E. Immigration
- a. Amended the immigration policy to include that the City supports federal legislation that would protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). This protects children who were brought to this country at a young age and are pursuing education and the American dream.

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

### **State Legislative Platform 2017**

In December 2016 we began the first of a two-year legislative session. Last year staff implemented major restructuring of existing water and energy issues for easier navigation of the platform for staff and State legislators.

In addition to minor changes that reflect the approval of new State legislation, the following highlights, by major category, some of the new platform items/topics as well as some updated narrative added for 2017:

A. Part III - Funding Priorities:

- a. SR 710 North Study: Project description was revised to reflect the City's rejection of the certification of the environmental documents prepared for the SR 710 North Study and support for developing innovative transportation solutions that address current mobility challenges, protect the environment, enhance economic vitality, and improve the quality of life for residents throughout the region.
- b. Non-Potable Water: Project was added as a high priority for potential state funding
- c. Arroyo Seco Canyon Project was added as a high priority for potential state funding

B. Part IV - Energy and Water Priorities:

- a. Electricity Markets: added this summary statement that addresses the changing electricity markets in which PWP participates.
- b. Water Resources: Conservation and Water Use Efficiency: added a statement reflecting the current status of Pasadena's water conservation policies.

The State Legislative Platform (Attachment B) incorporates all of the above changes.

**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.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) the "General Rule" provision of CEQA which applies to projects which may have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

**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  
City Manager

Attachments:

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