

Agenda Report

January 8, 2018

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 2018**

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 2018.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

At a special meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee on December 12th, staff presented both the Federal and State Platforms for calendar year 2018. The Committee recommended forwarding both Platforms to the City Council with minor revisions.

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. Given that, this is the second year of the two-year State Legislative session only minor changes and project updates were made.

Federal Legislative Platform 2018

When preparing last year's Federal platform staff noted that it would be challenging given that the newly elected President had yet to outline his policies and how they will be implemented. After eleven months under this current administration, a strategic policy is still unclear. Instead, we find ourselves having to be more reactionary to issues as they arise. The Federal platform reflects only changes to address some of those issues and eliminates language no longer relevant.

The following highlights, by major category, some of the new platform items/topics that are recommended for 2018:

A. Finance:

- a. Added language to protect the federal Build America Bonds rebates from budget sequestration or any other proposed cuts to previously-issued direct pay bonds
- b. Added language to oppose legislative proposals that impose limits on governmental deferred compensation plans

B. Transportation:

- a. Added support of sustainable multi-modal and Transportation System Management/Transportation Demand Management (TSM/TDM) which is the locally preferred alternative for the SR 710 approved by the Metro Board.

C. Public Safety:

- a. Added support increased federal resources for law enforcement recruiting efforts and maintenance of body-worn camera programs

D. Parks and Recreation:

- a. Added support federal funding necessary to complete the feasibility study for the Arroyo Seco ecosystem restoration project.

E. Library:

- a. Supports continued funding of National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities
- b. Support any efforts to maintain net neutrality and open access.

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

State Legislative Platform 2018

In December 2017 we began the second year 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 2018:

A. Part II – Legislative Priorities:

- a. Added language in response to SB 649 (Hueso) “Small Cell” Telecommunication Facilities, which related to the permitting of wireless and small cell telecommunications facilities. Although this bill did not pass, there is the concern that this issue will be return in the future and adding specific language to our platform is appropriate.

B. Part III - Funding Priorities:

- a. SR 710 North Study: Project description was revised to reflect Metro’s decision on the TSM/TDM preferred alternative.
- b. Added a new project for grade separation of the Gold Line LRT and California Boulevard in Pasadena to address constraints imposed by queueing from the LRT grade crossing on the Fair Oaks Avenue intersection with California Boulevard.
- c. Added three new projects under the Utility section for Sunset Reservoir Improvements, Groundwater Contamination in Pasadena Sub Area and Arroyo Seco Pump- back Project. Staff anticipates that Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding may be available in the near future and these first two projects would be good candidates.
- d. Non-potable Water: was revised to include most recent project updates
- e. Arroyo Seco Canyon Project: was revised to include language on the recent litigation
- f. Public Libraries: added language to support the California Library Association legislative priorities.

C. Part IV - Energy and Water Priorities:

- a. Cap and Trade - removed outdated “future outlook” text. With the passage of AB 398, California’s Cap and Trade program has been extended to Year 2030. Also removed reference to the EPA/Federal Clean Power Plan (repealed).

- b. Distributed Generation: moved a portion of the Power Content Category (“PCC”) and out-of-state renewables discussion to the Renewable Portfolio Standard section.
- c. Renewable Portfolio Standard: Added reference to SB 100 increasingly aggressive targets. Added PCC and non-local renewables discussion that earlier appeared in the Distributed Generation section. Added statement on opposing RPS/GHG targets that would adversely affect reliability. Added statement opposing RPS targets/carve-outs for specific technologies.

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.

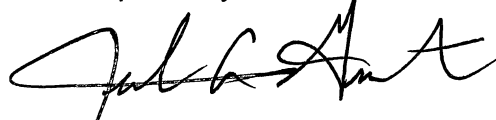
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

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 (with revisions)
- Attachment B – State Legislative Platform (with revisions)