

# Agenda Report

January 28, 2019

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Legislative Policy Committee (January 22, 2019)

**FROM:** Assistant City Manager

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS  
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

## **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 2019.

## **LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

At the January 22, 2019 meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee, staff presented both the Federal and State Legislative Platforms for calendar year 2019. The Committee recommended forwarding both platforms 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, which 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 2019**

When preparing the previous Federal Platform, staff noted many strategic policies and implementation under the Trump administration continue to remain unclear. Over the past two years, several policies have been subject to litigation and have yet to receive approval by Congress. As a result, we find ourselves having to be more reactionary to issues as they arise. The Federal Platform reflects 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 and topics recommended for 2019:

- A. Finance:
  - a. Added support for restoring the tax break for advanced refunding bonds.
  - b. Removed language on Federal legislation for sales tax collection on remote purchases. The Supreme Court allowed for this last year (*Wayfair* decision).
- B. Utilities:
  - a. Added electric vehicle charging to the list of utility infrastructure priorities.
- C. Public Safety:
  - a. Added language for increased Federal resources for law enforcement equipment and technology purchases for day-to-day operations and disaster planning.
  - b. Added reducing recidivism to list of priorities.
- D. Transportation:
  - a. Added language on resources to convert City fleets and other equipment to electric power.
- E. Parks and Recreation:
  - a. Added support for local tree planting initiatives and resources.
  - b. Added language in support of funding for and completion of the feasibility study for the Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Restoration Project being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.
- F. Public Health:
  - a. Added support of funding for mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment.
  - b. Added support of protections for minority and LGBT populations to achieve improved health outcomes.

- G. Communications and Technology:
  - a. Added support for cybersecurity resources.
- H. Library:
  - a. Added support of early learning initiatives to expand activities for the City's Office of the Young Child.
  - b. Added support of resources to protect and preserve America's historic libraries.
- I. Immigration:
  - a. Added clarification that although Pasadena is not a declared sanctuary city, Pasadena has an existing citywide policy that explicitly limits collection or dissemination of information regarding a person's religion, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin and immigration status.

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

### **State Legislative Platform 2019**

The State has begun the first year of a two-year legislative session. In previous years, staff implemented major restructuring of existing water and energy issues for easier navigation of the platform for staff and State legislators.

In addition to changes that reflect the approval of new State legislation, the following highlights, by major category, some new platform items/topics as well as some updated narrative for 2019:

- A. Part II: Legislative Priorities:
  - a. Density Bonus Law – Added incentivized transit-oriented development to a list of the City's demonstrated commitments to affordable housing.
  - b. Support for Affordable Housing – Added language to support reform of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA").
  - c. Inverse Condemnation – Added language regarding Pasadena's electric infrastructure, and that inverse condemnation law and strict liability should not be applied if its locally-owned utility adheres to current safety/operational standards.
  - d. Sales and Use Tax – This is a new section for State-level support of local government to collect sales taxes on remote sales, such as online and catalogue purchases based on the delivery address.
- B. Part III: Funding Priorities:
  - a. SR 710 North Study – Revised the language to reflect Caltrans' approval of the EIR/EIS for the 710 North corridor. Added support for removal of the portions of SR-710 from I-210 to I-10 from the State Highway System; and

Relinquishment and removal of the SR-710 North freeway stub to be renovated and repaired for increased community mobility.

- b. Utility: Groundwater Contamination in Pasadena Sub Area – Revised language to include project updates.
- c. Public Health Services – Added language to support funding opportunities for mental health resources, and substance abuse prevention and treatment.
- d. Public Libraries – Added language to support funding for early learning programs and services, and library afterschool programs.
- e. Affordable Housing – Added language regarding potential impacts from any proposed redevelopment legislation.
- f. Human Services and Recreation – This is a new section, which includes support for health and fitness programs, anti-bullying, and capital improvements to aging parks and recreation facilities.

C. Part IV: Energy and Water Priorities:

- a. Electricity Markets – Added opposition of a regionalized electric grid with a governance structure that marginalizes or underrepresents California's interests.
- b. Greenhouse Gas Reduction – Added opposition to reducing the allocation of low carbon fuel standard credits.
- c. Distributed Generation – Clarified that support for cost-effective, zero-carbon distributed generation includes adherence to local regulatory requirements.
- d. Renewable Portfolio Standard – Revised RPS compliance obligations to be in line with SB 100, and added support for legislation that mitigates stranded investments and minimizes over-procurement of energy.
- e. Water Resources – Added language regarding the City's planned development of Water System and Resources Plan.

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.

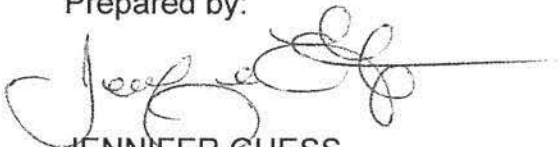
**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for the legislative advocates are included in the City Council's annual operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JULIE A. GUTIERREZ  
Assistant City Manager

Prepared by:

  
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JENNIFER GUESS  
Management Analyst

Approved by:

  
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STEVE MERMELL  
City Manager

Attachments:

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