

Agenda Report

March 9, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Legislative Policy Committee (January 28, 2020)
FROM: Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020

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 2020.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

At the January 28, 2020 meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee, staff presented both the Federal and State Legislative Platforms for calendar year 2020. 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 to 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 2020

When preparing the previous Federal platform, staff noted many strategic policies and implementation under the Trump administration were still unclear. In recent years, several policies have been subject to litigation and/or require Congressional approval. As a result, 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 and topics recommended for 2020:

- A. Utilities:
 - a. Added support for electric vehicle incentives and infrastructure funding.
 - b. Simplified language on non-potable water.
 - c. Added support for the EPA's role addressing constituents of concern for drinking water.
- B. Public Safety:
 - a. Added support for mental health and substance abuse initiatives.
 - b. Added restorative justice to list of public safety priorities.
 - c. Updated language on Pillars of 21st Century Policing.
- C. Transportation:
 - a. Added support for resources to purchase zero-emission buses.
 - b. Added support for the FAA to consider changes to Burbank and Van Nuys Airport flight paths that have regional, adverse noise impacts.
- D. Public Health:
 - a. Revised language to include support for women's reproductive rights.
 - b. Added support for funding in the event of an infectious disease outbreak, epidemic or pandemic.
 - c. Added support for child health, wellness and education.
- E. Human Services and Recreation:
 - a. Added support for facility operations and maintenance funding.
 - b. Added support for innovative work and school-based programs.
- F. Library:
 - a. Added support for funding of public libraries serving people experiencing homelessness and/or mental illness.

G. Environment:

- a. Added general statement on climate change impacts, and cross-referenced other Platform sections that address environmental topics.

H. Solid Waste Resource Management:

- a. This is a new section, which includes support for reducing disposable products and packaging, as well as support for extended producer responsibility initiatives.

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

State Legislative Platform 2020

The State recently began the second year of a two-year legislative session. Staff typically proposes only minor changes during the second year of a legislative session. However, this year, a new section for Public Safety was added that captures the City's legislative priorities.

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 2020:

A. Part I: Guiding Principles:

- a. Preserve Local Funding – Added development impact fees to the list of local funding sources.

B. Part II: Legislative Priorities:

- a. Abatement of Nuisance Liquor Stores – Added selling alcohol and tobacco products to the description of illegal activities targeting minors.
- b. Density Bonus Law – Added support to give municipalities more input in the development of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Also added support to maintain local control over the development of accessible dwelling units.
- c. Support for Affordable Housing – Added support for creative and permanent supportive housing solutions for the homeless.
- d. Inverse Condemnation Law Clarification – Added water to the description of City utility infrastructure.
- e. Public Safety – This is a new section, which includes support for local strategies to address homelessness, mental illness and/or substance abuse. Also includes support to encourage disaster preparedness and emergency planning, and to reduce/prevent gun violence.
- f. Solid Waste Resource Management – This is a new section, which includes support for reducing disposable products and packaging, as well as support for establishing consumer-friendly recycling labels and extended producer responsibility initiatives.

C. Part III: Funding Priorities:

- a. SR 710 North Study – Revised language to reflect recent state legislation.
- b. Pasadena Transit – Added support of funding for transit facilities and zero-emission buses.
- c. Utility: Non-Potable Water -- Simplified language on non-potable water.
- d. Public Health Services – Added support for funding in the event of an infectious disease outbreak, epidemic or pandemic. Added support for child health, wellness, and education.
- e. Public Libraries – Added support for early child development funding, and the California Library Services Act, which directly funds California's Cooperative Library Systems.
- f. Human Services and Recreation – Added support for facility operations and maintenance funding. Added support for innovative work and school-based programs.

D. Part IV: Energy and Water Priorities:

- a. Delta Conveyance – Revised the language to include support for Delta Conveyance enhancement, which includes updating the State's aging infrastructure to transport at least 6,000 cubic-feet-per-second of water for the State Water Project.

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.

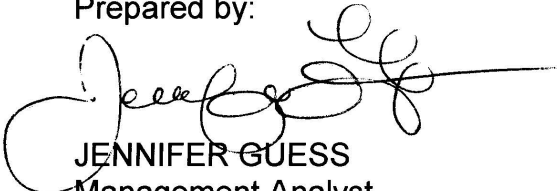
FISCAL IMPACT:

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

Respectfully submitted,


JULIE A. GUTIERREZ
Assistant City Manager

Prepared by:


JENNIFER GUESS
Management Analyst

Approved by:


STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachments:

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