

# Agenda Report

February 7, 2022

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** Legislative Policy Committee (January 25, 2022)  
**FROM:** Director of Finance  
**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS  
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15061(b)(3), the "General Rule"; and
2. Approve the Federal Legislative Platform and the State Legislative Platform for calendar year 2022.

## **LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

At the January 25, 2022 meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee, the Committee approved the staff recommendations, and voted to support federal and state legislation that benefits early childhood education programs.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Annually, the City Council through the Legislative Policy Committee is asked to adopt legislative platforms for both the state and federal governments. The platforms convey to legislators, policymakers, and the public where the City stands on important policy issues and legislative discussions. Staff prepares the platform revisions in coordination with City departments and its state and federal lobbyists. The Committee reviews the platforms based on staff recommendations, which often include revised terminology, emerging industry trends, and new funding priorities. Upon City Council approval, the platforms assist the City Manager's Office, Mayor, City lobbyists and staff to respond quickly to the rapidly changing nature of legislative proposals throughout the year.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Every year, the City Council through the Legislative Policy Committee, adopts the Federal and State Legislative Platforms, which are guiding documents that identify City positions on fundamental legislative issues critical to Pasadena.

The platforms streamline the position taking process by providing staff and City lobbyists with clear direction to advocate on these matters. The platforms help ensure the City's timely response to support, oppose, or take neutral positions on legislation that could impact the City's ability to operate effectively. The platforms also convey to legislators, policymakers, and the public where the City stands on important policy issues and legislative discussions.

Every fall, City lobbyists and staff attend one-on-one meetings with the Department Directors and the City Manager's Office to discuss platform updates. The meetings include a review of the previous year's legislative activities and a discussion of potential bills for the next year. From these discussions, staff prepares the platform revisions for Legislative Policy Committee review and City Council adoption. Additionally, staff may recommend platform amendments to the Committee during the year to add, remove or modify language if unanticipated legislative issues arise.

This year marks the second year of the 2021-2022 sessions for both the state and federal legislatures. Key policy issues will continue to focus on affordable housing, public health, public safety, and climate change.

## **Federal Legislative Platform for 2022**

With the Biden Administration still in its early stages, staff anticipates continued legislative activity across numerous federal policy issues. The federal platform reflects changes to address some of these issues and eliminates language no longer relevant. The following highlights, by major category, some of the new platform items and topics recommended for 2022:

- A. The American Rescue Plan Act, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – New Section:
  - 1) Added language to emphasize the City's priority for direct funding regarding federal investments in infrastructure, and other policy areas in this legislation such as housing, health, and climate change.
- B. COVID-19 Response:
  - 1) Added language to support direct fiscal assistance to local health jurisdictions regarding family health harmed by the pandemic.
- C. Early Childhood Education – New Section:
  - 1) Added language to support legislation and funding opportunities for early childhood education programs.

D. Utilities:

- 1) Added water supply and distribution pipeline upgrades to the list of utility infrastructure priorities.
- 2) Added support for federal initiatives that avoid duplicative climate change policies.
- 3) Added support for federal programs that enhance local and regional water supply projects and help protect against drought related shortages or supply interruptions.
- 4) Minor text revisions to the Arroyo Seco Canyon project language.

E. Public Safety:

- 1) Added support for legislation and funding to reduce/prevent gun violence, crimes, drug use, and gang violence, and to promote public outreach and intervention programs that specifically divert juveniles from the criminal justice system. (NOTE: This is existing language in the State Platform.)
- 2) Added support for increased federal reimbursement rates for ambulance services and emergency medical services, as well as additional funding for mobile integrated health programs.

F. Transportation:

- 1) Added support for funding opportunities to transition former highway corridors to neighborhood boulevards.

G. Public Health:

- 1) Revised existing language to include continued funding for U.S. Centers for Disease Control community health programs and public health workforce retention and development.
- 2) Added support for addressing social determinants of health that drive health inequities in the population.
- 3) Added support for violence prevention research and programs that impact health outcomes.

H. Communications and Technology:

- 1) Added language encouraging investment to expand community access to fiber optic technology. Prioritized local government input in the distribution of financial incentives to meet community-specific needs.

I. Parks Recreation and Community Services:

- 1) Removed language to restore funding for the Land and Water conservation fund. This program is now fully funded.

J. Library Services:

- 1) Added language to support funding for library building infrastructure, capital improvements, and safety needs, including the Central Library.

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

### **State Legislative Platform for 2022**

As previously noted, 2022 is the second year of the state's two-year legislative session. The state platform reflects changes to address some of these issues and eliminates language no longer relevant.

**A. Guiding Principles: Preserve Local Authority**

- 1) Added language supporting local control for reasonable development standards of housing land use regulations (such as accessory dwelling units and single family-zoned properties).

**B. COVID-19 Response:**

- 1) Added language to support direct fiscal assistance to local health jurisdictions regarding family health harmed by the pandemic.

**C. Early Childhood Education – New Section:**

- 1) Added language to support legislation and funding opportunities for early childhood education programs.

**D. Communications and Technology:**

- 1) Added language encouraging investment to expand community access to fiber optic technology in communities. Prioritized local government input in the distribution of financial incentives to meet community-specific needs.

**E. Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) – New Section:**

- 1) Staff is recommending a dedicated section on this issue to emphasize the importance of City input in the RHNA process.

**F. California Public Employees' Retirement System – New Section:**

- 1) Staff is recommending the City oppose legislation that would increase/expand CalPERS' ability to make investment decisions in closed session without complete transparency.

**G. SR: 710 North Study:**

- 1) Added support for dedicated funding to enhance the on/off ramps that connect the SR-134 and I-210 freeways.

**H. Public Libraries:**

- 1) Added language to support funding for library building infrastructure, capital improvements, and safety needs, including the Central Library.

**I. Energy and Water:**

- 1) Added water supply and distribution pipeline upgrades to the list of utility infrastructure priorities.
- 2) Minor text revisions to the Arroyo Seco Canyon project language.

- 3) Updated the text for the Renewables Portfolio Standard to support access to a cost-effective renewables market that helps meet state mandates while protecting ratepayers.

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 priorities supported by the City.

**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.

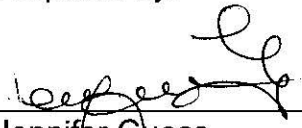
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Director of Finance

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Attachments: (2)

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