



AGENDA REPORT

- CITY COUNCIL
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
- SUCCESSOR AGENCY
- BUENA SANITATION DISTRICT
- JOINT POWERS FINANCING AUTHORITY

Department: City Manager

Item No: C6

Prepared By: Cheryl Mast, Management Analyst
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Meeting Date: January 13, 2015

Approved By: Patrick Johnson, City Manager

Agenda Location: Consent Calendar

SUBJECT: 2015 CITY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the 2015 Legislative Platform and Advocacy Objectives.

PRIOR ACTION: On January 14, 2014, approved the 2014 Legislative Platform and Advocacy Objections (Vote: 4-1, Campbell opposed).

For a complete list of City Council actions please see Exhibit 2.

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT: Each year, there are a number of issues before the State Legislature and U.S. Congress that impact local governments. Annually, the City Council approves a legislative platform, which enables staff to take action in support of or in opposition to a bill that is covered by the platform without taking each item before the City Council for an approved position. Through the adoption of the legislative platform, staff is able to respond in a timely manner to pending legislation and have the City's position considered during legislative hearings.

In 2014, the City took positions on 14 state bills; nine in support and five in opposition. Topics covered included massage therapy, medical marijuana, human trafficking, solar permits, workers compensation, redevelopment, the Brown Act and election dates. No positions were taken on federal legislation.

The content of the proposed 2015 Legislative Platform has not changed from last year, other than a few minor grammatical edits. The platform includes broad policy guidelines and statements regarding protection of local control, funding sources and authority. The platform covers a variety of areas, including local government finance, law enforcement, water management, fire safety, and housing and labor relations. It allows the City to support legislation that consistently advocates home rule, stronger law enforcement, and reduced regulation on local agencies while opposing measures that would reduce City autonomy or impose greater restrictions or requirements on local governments, such as unfunded mandates.

Each year thousands of bills are introduced. Staff uses legislative tools provided by the League of California Cities to stay abreast of legislation that may impact the City. Each year staff places an emphasis on a number of "high priority" legislative objectives, which will be followed at a higher level

ACTION: Approved above recommendation, and directed City staff to add tracking of California Assembly Bill 109 to the City Council high priority objectives. Vote: 4-1 (Campbell opposed)



Clerk/Secretary

SUBJECT: 2015 CITY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

throughout the year. For 2015, staff recommends that the City Council approve the following “high priority” legislative objectives:

1. Support efforts to provide employer flexibility for all aspects of employer-employee relations.
2. Support efforts that strengthen local law enforcement, including the prohibition of medical marijuana dispensaries.
3. Ensure that the City’s revenues, programs and authority are protected, especially as they pertain to Successor Agencies to Redevelopment.
4. Advocate for State and Federal funding that supports City infrastructure, transportation and energy efficiency projects.
5. Oppose any negative impacts resulting from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the staff recommendation.

EXHIBITS:

1. Proposed 2015 Legislative Platform (red line version)
2. Prior City Council Actions



CITY OF VISTA 2014⁵ LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

For the purpose of the Legislative Platform the term “City” includes the City of Vista, the Vista Community Development Commission, Buena Sanitation District and the Joint Powers Financing Authority. The City supports efforts that promotes its ability to accomplish the City Council’s goals and objectives and which support the effective provision of City services to residents. The City of Vista opposes efforts which reduce local control or local funding sources, and supports efforts which provide greater local control and/or local funding options. This platform is a general listing of legislative issues of concern to the City.

CORE POLICY ISSUES

Local Control

- a. Advocate efforts that enhance local control of resources, programs and tools that allow the City to address the needs and concerns of its residents, and oppose any efforts that preempt local authority.
- b. Support efforts that reflect a positive, collective, and cohesive approach to regional solutions, as long as local control is maintained.

Local Finance and Revenues

- a. Oppose any efforts that negatively impact the City’s fiscal viability by adding further financial burden through unfunded mandates or other means.
- b. Oppose any efforts to increase reporting requirements related to locally raised revenues.
- c. Oppose any efforts to reduce or redirect the City’s current revenues.
- d. Oppose efforts that would reduce local discretion over local revenues, taxes, fees and other funding sources.
- e. Oppose efforts that would reduce the City’s ability to use debt financing and traditional government financing instruments for the purchase or construction of public purpose improvements, and support the enactment of revenue measures and fees that close the gap between the tax revenue from development and the cost of providing city services.
- f. Advocate State and Federal funding that supports City infrastructure and other projects.
- g. Oppose efforts that either increase the City’s liability or decrease outside parties’ liability concerning municipal finances.
- h. Support a statutory or constitutional redistribution of property tax revenues that more equitably reflects local government responsibilities.
- i. Support efforts to allow access to Redevelopment Bond Proceeds issued in 2011.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

Labor Relations

- a. Oppose efforts that would increase the City's liability for unemployment compensation.
- b. Oppose efforts that would increase employee Workers' Compensation benefits without system reforms to offset increased employer costs, and that would provide presumptive eligibility for the award of Workers' Compensation.
- c. Support efforts to modify the federal Fair Labor Standards Act to permit adjustable work schedules to meet the needs of management and labor and to eliminate prospective and retroactive overtime payments.
- d. Support efforts to enact pension reform to reduce future labor costs including the addition of a second tier for "CalPERS legacy/lateral" new hires.
- e. Support efforts that provide more employer flexibility for all aspects of Employer-Employee relations to include subject areas of mandated bargaining and mandating additional components to the 'meet and confer' process.

Law Enforcement:

- a. Oppose efforts that would impede local law enforcement from addressing crime problems and recovering costs resulting from a crime committed by a guilty party.
- b. Support efforts that strengthen local law enforcement, including: prevention of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol; prohibition of medical marijuana dispensaries; the sharing of criminal history information between states; registration of sex offenders; the provision of a greater share of seized assets to localities; cost recovery from the guilty party when alcohol or drugs are present; increased sentences for criminals involved in activities such as violence, gangs, narcotics, human trafficking or repeated offenses; and establishing greater City Council latitude in setting speed limits.

Housing

- a. Support efforts to establish a permanent funding source for the development, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing.

Fire Safety

- a. Support efforts that promote national fire code development using an open, consensus-based process.
- b. Support efforts to create a funding mechanism for a regional fire department in San Diego County that does not diminish the ability of cities to provide essential services.
- c. Oppose any negative impacts resulting from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, specifically supporting efforts to minimize financial impact on Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Water Management

- a. Support measures to increase the water supply or improve water quality within the region and that encourage ~~the use of~~ water conservation techniques.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

On January 8, 2013, approved the 2013 Legislative Platform and Advocacy Objectives (Vote: 5-0).

On February 22, 2011, approved the 2011 Legislative Platform and Advocacy Objectives (Vote: 5-0).

On January 26, 2010, approved the 2010 Legislative Platform (Vote: 5-0).

On February 24, 2009, approved the 2009 Legislative Platform (Vote: 5-0).

On February 12, 2008, approved the 2008 Legislative Platform and adopted City Council Resolution No. 2008-32, approving the submittal of Federal appropriations requests for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 (Vote: 4-0, Campbell absent).

On February 13, 2007, approved the 2007 Legislative Platform with amendments (Vote: 4-0, Campbell absent).

On February 14, 2006, approved the 2006 Legislative Platform (Vote: 4-0, Campbell absent).

On January 25, 2005, approved the 2005 Legislative Platform with amendments (Vote: 5-0).

On January 27, 2004, approved the 2004 Legislative Platform with amendments (Vote: 5-0).

On January 28, 2003, approved the 2003 Legislative Platform with amendments (Vote: 5-0).

On January 8, 2002, approved the 2002 Legislative Platform with amendments (Vote 4-0, McClellan absent).

On January 23, 2001, approved the 2001 Legislative Platform with amendments (Vote: 5-0).

On February 22, 2000, approved the 2000 Legislative Platform (Vote: 4-0, Cooke absent).

Between 1989 and 2000, the City Council took action on an annual basis approving a legislative platform.