

City of San Leandro

Meeting Date: December 7, 2015

Staff Report

File Number: 15-645 Agenda Section: CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Number: 8.K.

TO: City Council

FROM: Chris Zapata

City Manager

BY: Lianne Marshall

Assistant City Manager

FINANCE REVIEW: David Baum

Finance Director

TITLE: Staff Report for City Council Review of Legislative Priorities for the 2016

Federal Fiscal Year

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council review and authorize the attached list of recommended local projects and advocacy efforts as part of the City of San Leandro's 2016 federal legislative work plan.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Each year, the Mayor and several members of the City Council travel to Washington, D.C. to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter meeting or the National League of Cities - Congressional Cities Conference. While in the Capitol, they also may have the opportunity to attend meetings with San Leandro's elected representatives/staff in Congress or with federal agency staff in order to learn more about various grant opportunities, as well as to share information about San Leandro's needs and interests at the federal level. This process, which is coordinated by the City's federal advocacy representative Len Simon, may include the presentation of written material in support of city projects or advocacy efforts related to various policy areas that are of direct relevance to the City. These efforts have proven successful in recent years, as demonstrated by various federal grant awards. Examples include two grants from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office (a \$250,000 award for two school resource officers, and an approximately \$75,000 award for engagement efforts with Chinese-speaking community residents), as well as a \$2.1 million grant from the US Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration for the expansion of the Lit San Leandro fiber optic loop.

It is important to identify projects or policy areas that are of importance to the City of San Leandro so that members of the City Council, City staff, or the City's federal advocates may take action as opportunities may arise to advance the City's interests. To this end, staff has identified a number of projects and issue areas for incorporation into our federal work plan,

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which are further outlined in the following attachments:

<u>Smart San Leandro: A Connected City.</u> This project outlines various opportunities to leverage public-private partnerships and emerging technology resources to transform traditional industrial districts into modern manufacturing workplaces.

<u>Urban Greenway</u>. This project would lead to the development of a regional bicycle and pedestrian pathway connecting neighborhoods across Oakland, San Leandro, unincorporated Alameda County, and Hayward.

<u>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs.</u> This attachment summarizes the important role that the Community Development Block Grant program plays in funding various capital improvement, affordable housing and ADA compliance projects, and memorializes the City Council's desire to see federal appropriations for this program restored to historic levels.

Other Federal Advocacy Efforts. This document summarizes various other federal policy issues for advocacy or monitoring, such as:

- FEMA National Flood Insurance Program
- Railroad Safety
- HUD Housing Programs
- EPA Urban Waters Small Grants
- Affordable Care Act Implementation
- US Army Corps programs, including dredging of residential marinas
- Shoreline Project implementation
- COPS Office grant programs

Next Steps

If authorized by Council, staff will include these summaries in the packet of materials that is delivered to Len Simon, the City's federal advocate, who will attend the City Council Work Session on January 11, 2016 to provide an update of what has occurred at the federal level over the past year as well as what he expects to see in the coming year. These materials also will assist in any advocacy efforts carried out on behalf of the City of San Leandro by the Mayor, members of the City Council, Mr. Simon, or City staff over the course of the year ahead.

Fiscal Impacts

The fiscal impact of these requests is unknown at this time. Should any of the projects identified in the attached documents ultimately receive federal grant assistance, some local matching funds could be required, which would be further evaluated and presented for the City Council's consideration prior to acceptance of any grant awards. The costs of attending the US Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities events are already appropriated in the adopted City budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Urban Greenway

File Number: 15-645

- Smart San Leandro: A Connected City
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs
- Other Federal Advocacy Efforts

PREPARED BY: Eric Engelbart, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager's Office

Smart San Leandro: A Connected City

The City of San Leandro is seeking grant opportunities to leverage publicprivate partnerships and emerging technology resources to transform traditional industrial districts into modern manufacturing workplaces.

The City's historically robust manufacturing sector is resurging with a new focus on fiber optics, additive/advanced manufacturing technologies and art. *Our mission to develop San Leandro as a Center for Innovation* includes improvement and expansion of a healthy industrial base through physical/digital infrastructure investment.



Truth is Beauty: Marco Cochrane, Sculptor

Lit San Leandro

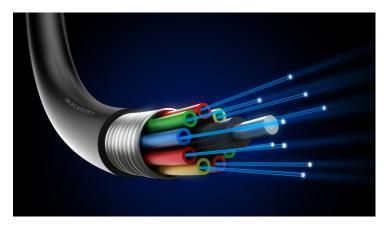
Local government plays a critical role in developing and maintaining a healthy, connected ecosystem in which its residents, businesses and visitors can thrive. As a result, *Lit San Leandro*, fiber optic infrastructure for the digital age, was created:



- In 2011, a 10 gigabit per second, 10.5 mile fiber optic network was developed through a unique public-private partnership.
- In 2012, the **US Department of Commerce—Economic Development Administration** approved a \$2.12 million matching grant to expand the conduit infrastructure. The fiber optic network will grow to 19+ miles upon completion in 2016.

Lit San Leandro is providing infrastructure needed to transform our City into a digitally connected community:

- Connected Businesses: Over threemillion building square feet and more than 200 businesses have been connected to Lit San Leandro since 2012
- Connected Schools: In 2016, all San Leandro Unified School District sites will be connected to a 10 gigabit per second dedicated, ubiquitous fiber optic connection to the internet. Given San Leandro's ethnically diverse population, Lit San Leandro provides a unique tool for bridging the digital divide.





Continuing to build on the fiber optic network, the City is exploring development of a city-wide, distributed renewable energy micro grid project through a public-private partnership designed to meet Climate Action Plan goals adopted in 2009. The **Connected Renewal Energy Micro Grid** will reduce greenhouse gas production and energy costs, create local jobs, and increase real

estate values and energy security.

Make it in America: Manufacturing Resurgence

San Leandro boasts a strategic Bay Area location, flexible industrial building stock, a highly-skilled workforce, competitive lease and purchase rates and a high-speed fiber optic network that traverses the industrial area.

- San Leandro's industrial area encompasses 25% of its land area, providing two-thirds of its jobs.
- Once a manufacturing powerhouse, the following buildings have been transformed:

Former Chrysler Dodge Auto Plant: now *The Gate,* home to makers and artists Former Kellogg's Plant: transitioned from making Pop Tarts to *21st Amendment* craft beer Former Del Monte Cannery: now *San Leandro Tech Campus,* home to "Truth is Beauty" Former Hudson Lumber Pencil Factory: now *Preferred Freezer,* home to massive "Pulse of Nature" public mural

Congressmembers Barbara Lee & Steny Hoyer

visit Type A Machines: "Make it in America"

Funding Request

| Project | Funding Requested |
|--|--------------------------|
| Smart San Leandro: Continue to Build Fiber Optic Infrastructure: Expand existing free downtown Wi-Fi City-wide to be built on access points along Lit San Leandro's 19+ mile fiber optic network. | \$5 million |
| Smart San Leandro: Build Distributed Renewable Energy Micro Grid: Capital start-up costs to include City-owned assets in renewable energy micro grid PPP project. | \$10 million |
| Humanize the Industrial District: Large Scale Industrial Art and Mural Projects: Seed funding to commission large scale industrial art and mural projects, linking local artists with industrial businesses to create a sense of place and engage people at street level. | \$1 million |

360' x 60' "Pulse of Nature" mural adjacent to BART at 247k sf Preferred Freezer facility



East Bay Greenway



The East Bay Greenway is a unique regional project that will provide a north-south bicycle and pedestrian connection to the 189,000 residents of Oakland, San Leandro and Hayward who live, work, or attend school nearby. This project offers a much-needed recreational and transportation opportunity in close proximity to densely populated neighborhoods, schools, retail areas, community centers, industrial areas and transit hubs.

Greenway Project Overview

The East Bay Greenway is planned to be a well-lighted, beautifully landscaped pedestrian and bicycle path connecting five Bay Areas Rapid Transit (BART) stations. With play areas and other community amenities, the currently neglected space will be transformed into a community asset that brings people together in healthier, safer, and stronger communities.

The 15-mile East Bay Greenway passes through four jurisdictions: Oakland, San Leandro, unincorporated Alameda County,

and Hayward. It will run along and adjacent to the BART elevated "A" Line within the Oakland Subdivision railway, parallel to the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Ridge Trail. The Greenway will serve as an urban counterpart to these existing recreational routes.

In order to make the Greenway comfortable and inviting for inexperienced and/or beginning cyclists, the Greenway is designed as a separated multi-use pathway (Class I bike path) for as much of the route as possible. This project would be accomplished with the acquisition and conversion of the adjacent rail line.







Greenway Funding Request

Probable land acquisition and construction cost for the 3.5 mile San Leandro section of the project is approximately \$28 million. The acquisition and construction cost of the entire 15-mile long project is approximately \$94 million. Alameda County voters authorized Measure BB in November 2014, which will provide sufficient funds for grant matching requirements. Federal funding would allow the project to move forward.

CDBG and HOME Programs

Project Overview

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and HOME Investment Partnerships Program have been important and long-standing community development funding resources for the City of San Leandro.

The City has allocated CDBG for important capital improvement projects that have enhanced the City's physical environment over the years. CDBG funds were vital in the construction of the City's new senior community center, which opened in 2011. Other notable CDBG-funded capital improvement projects include: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements for City parks and community facilities, ADA accessible wheelchair ramps/curb cuts, and providing loans for low-income serving non-profit public service agencies to renovate their facilities. **The City continues to have significant capital improvement needs, including making all City facilities/parks fully ADA accessible** and providing home rehabilitation assistance to lower-income homeowners, particularly fixed-income seniors. Due to limited local and State revenue sources, **federal CDBG funds are even more critical for the City in addressing infrastructure needs.**

CDBG funds have assisted local non-profit agencies in providing needed services to over 10,600 lower income San Leandro residents annually. The types of social services funded include: emergency food and clothing, mental health counseling, healthcare, employment services, emergency shelter for homeless families, support services for abused children, hot and nutritious meals for seniors as well as meal delivery to homebound seniors. These are vital services that often serve as a safety net for the neediest residents and require adequate CDBG funding to continue.

The City utilized its HOME funds to assist in the construction of Phase 1 of Marea Alta Apartments, a 115-unit affordable rental housing complex that is currently under construction and projected to be completed in Spring 2016. With the State's elimination of redevelopment, the City lost a substantial annual stream of affordable housing funding used to acquire, rehabilitate, and/or build affordable housing. HOME funds are more vital than ever to the City because it has become the City's primary affordable housing funding source to address the continuing housing affordability problem in the Bay Area.



Funding Request

San Leandro is seeking support and advocacy to restore CDBG and HOME funding to FY 2010-11 levels in order to more effectively address its community development and affordable housing needs. Reductions of more than 20% in its annual CDBG entitlement grant allocation (\$786K vs. \$628K in FY15-16) and nearly 57% in its HOME grant (\$329K vs. \$141K) have occurred in the last five fiscal years. These significant funding reductions have continued despite increasing demands from San Leandro residents for vital social services and affordable housing particularly amidst skyrocketing rents and home prices in the Bay Area that have significantly impacted low and moderate income community residents.

Other Federal Advocacy Efforts

Key Federal Policy Issues for Advocacy or Monitoring:

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): Support Congressional efforts to reform the National Flood Insurance Program to expedite the claims process and ensure that premium rate increases do not unfairly impact residences and business properties. Support efforts to ensure that FEMA uses transparent processes and communicates directly with property owners who are potentially impacted by changes, and ensure that any changes to flood insurance rate maps do not result in disproportionate rate increases to areas that have not historically been subjected to flooding.

Railroad Safety: Urge Congress and the Administration to work towards implementation of Positive Train Control technology in locomotives, support U.S. Department of Transportation initiatives for new safety measures, such as reduced speeds for crude oil tank cars in urban areas, and ask that the Administration continue to work towards strong oversight of rail safety.

HUD Housing Programs: Support efforts to increase federal funding for critical HUD programs, particularly HOME and the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. Urge HUD to continue implementing innovative programs like Moving-To-Work and Rental Assistant Demonstration (RAD) that allow more regulatory flexibility for Public Housing Authorities.

EPA Urban Waters Small Grants: Support efforts to maintain or increase funding to vital state and local government grants provided both by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department and submit applications at the appropriate time.

Affordable Care Act Implementation: Support efforts in Congress and within the Administration to continue implementing the Affordable Care Act with special emphasis for ongoing funding related to Community Health Centers.

U.S. Army Corps Programs. Urge Congress to include funding for the dredging of small recreational harbors in the next Water Resources Development reauthorization and explore project funding through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program (WIFIA).

Shoreline Project. Support legislative efforts or federal funding opportunities that would assist in the successful redevelopment of San Leandro's shoreline area.

COPS programs. Support efforts to identify federal funding for various local or regional law enforcement initiatives through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.





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Minute Order - Council

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FROM: Chris Zapata

City Manager

BY: Lianne Marshall

Assistant City Manager

FINANCE REVIEW: Not Applicable

TITLE: MOTION Authorizing Staff to Include the Project and Federal Advocacy

Summaries in the Packet of Materials Delivered to the City's Federal Advocate, Len Simon, and Used in the City's Advocacy Efforts over the

Course of the Upcoming Year

Urban Greenway

· Smart San Leandro: A Connected City

· Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs

Other Federal Policy Matters