



# City of San Leandro

Meeting Date: January 3, 2017

## Staff Report

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**File Number:** 16-663

**Agenda Section:** CONSENT CALENDAR

**Agenda Number:** 8.D.

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Chris Zapata  
City Manager

**BY:** City Council

**FINANCE REVIEW:** Not Applicable

**TITLE:** Staff Report for City Council Review of 2017 Federal Legislative Priorities

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### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council review and authorize the attached list of recommended projects and advocacy efforts as part of the City of San Leandro's 2017 federal legislative work plan.

### BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Each year, the Mayor and/or some 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 have the opportunity to attend meetings with San Leandro's elected representatives or staff in Congress, or with federal agency staff in order to learn more about various grant opportunities, and to advocate 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 take action as opportunities arise to advance the City's interests. To this end, staff identifies for City Council consideration a number of projects and issue areas for incorporation into the City's federal work plan, which are further outlined in the attached draft federal platform.

### Next Steps

If authorized by Council, staff will include these summaries in the packet of materials for delivery to Len Simon, the City's federal advocate, who will attend the City Council Work Session on January 9, 2017 to provide an update of what has occurred at the federal level over the past year as well as his forecast of what may be expected in 2017. These materials will also assist in any federal advocacy efforts carried out on behalf of the City by the Mayor, members of the City Council, Mr. Simon, or City staff over the course of the year ahead.

### Fiscal Impacts

The costs for the City's contract with Simon & Company for federal advocacy services, along with anticipated costs for attendance at US Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities events are already appropriated in the adopted City budget. Should any of the projects identified in the federal platform ultimately receive federal grant assistance, some local matching funds could be required. Such costs would be further evaluated and presented for the City Council's consideration as needed prior to acceptance of any grant awards.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 2017 Federal Advocacy Platform

**PREPARED BY:** Eric Engelbart, Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office

# 2017 Federal Advocacy Platform

## **Key Federal Policy Issues or Project for Advocacy or Monitoring:**

***Affordable Care Act:*** Oppose efforts in Congress and within the Administration to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Support efforts to retain key provisions within the Act that help to provide insurance coverage for at-risk populations. Support funding for Community Health Centers.

**Broadband Infrastructure.** Support legislation or funding opportunities that would expand public and private access to broadband, including the development of related infrastructure

**Cannabis Regulation.** Support efforts to modify the Schedule I status of cannabis at the federal level, including efforts that would facilitate additional scientific research and study. Support efforts to protect public safety and facilitate effective regulation at the state and local level. Oppose federal actions that interfere with state's rights, as well as any actions or legislation that would restrict local control.

***CDBG and HOME Programs.*** Advocate to restore funding for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) programs in order to more effectively address community development and affordable housing needs. Support increased federal funding for critical HUD programs and housing opportunities.

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

***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.

***Federal Aviation Administration.*** Work with federal officials or relevant staff in order to address ongoing noise and other impacts to the San Leandro community associated with the flight patterns and operations of surrounding Bay Area airports.

***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.



# 2017 Federal Advocacy Platform (cont'd)

**Immigration Policies.** Monitor efforts at the federal level that would impact undocumented populations, including immigration enforcement practices. Oppose efforts that would restrict access to federal funds by cities or other public agencies based on local policy positions related to immigration. Support positive relations between law enforcement and immigrant communities.

**Infrastructure.** Support efforts to advance federal investment in infrastructure, including funding for transportation.

**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. Support federal funding for railroad safety improvements.

**Renewable Energy Micro-grid.** Seek funding opportunities that could assist in San Leandro's efforts to develop of a renewable energy micro-grid.

**Smart Cities Initiatives.** Seek opportunities to leverage public-private partnerships and emerging technology resources that would assist communities like San Leandro in transforming traditional industrial sites into modern manufacturing workplaces. Support programs or opportunities to humanize industrial districts, including funding for place-making.

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

**Urban Greenway.** Support efforts that could lead to additional funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects, including the East Bay Greenway. This project would lead to the development of a new 15-mile pedestrian and bicycle pathway connecting five BART stations throughout the East Bay.

**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).





# City of San Leandro

Meeting Date: January 3, 2017

## Minute Order - Council

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**File Number:** 16-664

**Agenda Section:** CONSENT CALENDAR

**Agenda Number:**

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Chris Zapata  
City Manager

**BY:** City Council

**FINANCE REVIEW:** Not Applicable

**TITLE:** MOTION Authorizing 2017 Federal Advocacy Priorities

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