



City of San Leandro

Meeting Date: January 16, 2018

Staff Report

File Number: 17-692

Agenda Section: CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Number: 8.C.

TO: City Council

FROM: Chris Zapata
City Manager

BY: City Council

FINANCE REVIEW: Not Applicable

TITLE: Staff Report for City Council Review of 2018 Federal Legislative Priorities

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council review and authorize the attached 2018 federal legislative platform.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The primary purpose of the 2018 Federal Legislative Platform is to provide standing authority for the Mayor, Council Members, City staff and the City's advocates to take action on behalf of the City on pending legislative matters when time constraints or other logistical hurdles preclude bringing such matters before the City Council in advance. Adoption of this document also provides the City's advocates a better understanding of the Mayor and City Council's policy preferences regarding a variety of federal legislative and intergovernmental issues that may arise over the year ahead. Related efforts could include issuing letters on behalf of the City to members of Congress or the Executive branch in support or opposition to proposed legislation, organizing meetings with federal agency staff, or otherwise advancing the City's interests on various matters that are dependent upon or impacted by the actions of the federal government.

Along these lines, each year the Mayor and some members of the City Council may attend various conferences or meetings hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors or the National League of Cities and/or committees of these organizations. While attending these events, they may have the opportunity to attend meetings with San Leandro's elected representatives in Congress, or with federal agency staff in order to learn more about various grant opportunities, and/or to otherwise advocate San Leandro's needs and interests as outlined in the attached document.

The above 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.

Next Steps

If authorized by Council, the attached document will be transmitted Simon & Company (the City's federal advocacy firm), and will be used to assist in any federal advocacy efforts carried out on behalf of the City 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.

ATTACHMENTS

- 2018 Federal Advocacy Platform

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

DRAFT 2018 Federal Advocacy Platform

Key Federal Policy Issues or Projects for Advocacy or Monitoring:

Affordable Care Act: Oppose federal efforts 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 the expansion of public and private access to broadband, as well as the protection of public wi-fi system integrity. Support efforts to protect local land use authority over related infrastructure. Support efforts to restore network neutrality protections and support a level playing field among market competitors. Oppose federal actions that would limit consumer protections.

Cannabis Regulation. Support modifying 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 or legislation that interfere with state's rights or 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.

Department of Energy: Support efforts to develop innovative renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage projects to achieve energy security.

Environmental Protection Agency: Support efforts to maintain programs such as Energy Star, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Power Plan and oppose efforts to roll back regulations designed to protect the environment or prevent/mitigate the impacts of climate change.

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 businesses. Work with FEMA to provide transparent processes and communicate directly with property owners potentially impacted by changes to flood maps.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. Support funding for resilient infrastructure improvements such as green infrastructure, recycled water pipelines, horizontal levees & other innovative solutions to protect vital community assets threatened by sea level rise, rising temperatures, wildfire and drought.



DRAFT 2018 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. Advocate for additional funding for local and regional projects.

National League of Cities and U.S. Conference of Mayors. Support efforts by the National League of Cities and U.S. Conference of Mayors to protect the interests of cities at the national level, including related advocacy efforts by these organizations' policy committees and task forces.

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 train speeds in urban areas, and 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 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. Support federal funding for the dredging of recreational marinas.

Telecommunications Facilities and Local Rights-of-Way. Oppose efforts to preempt or restrict zoning and/or other local land use regulations related to the location, placement, size, appearance, screening or siting of transmission and receiving facilities, or other communications facilities such as satellite dishes, radio towers, broadcast facilities, microwave facilities, equipment housing or similar facilities. Oppose federal preemption of local control over local rights-of-way.

Tax Reform. Monitor implementation of the 2017 federal tax reform legislation. Support common sense modifications that would benefit California taxpayers and/or address federal deficits.

Urban Greenway. Support efforts that could lead to additional funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects, including the East Bay Greenway.

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.

