



**Department:** Administration  
**Cost Center:** 1001  
**For Agenda of:** 4/2/2024  
**Placement:** Consent  
**Estimated Time:** N/A

**FROM:** Greg Hermann, Deputy City Manager  
**Prepared By:** Natalie Harnett, Policy and Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** 2024 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM

## RECOMMENDATION

1. As recommended by Mayor Stewart and Council Member Shoresman, adopt a Draft Resolution entitled, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, establishing a City Legislative Action Platform for 2024 and appointing the Council Member and Staff to act as a liaison between the City of San Luis Obispo and the League of California Cities"; and
2. Appoint the Mayor, City Manager, and the City Attorney to act as the primary legislative liaisons between the League of California Cities and the City of San Luis Obispo.

## POLICY CONTEXT

The legislative platform is a tool to promote the efficient use of staff and the Council time while also ensuring the City is actively engaged on relevant legislative issues. City Council approval is required for any modifications to the platform and is updated through an annual review process. The City will be providing a copy of the City's Legislative Platform to Federal and State legislators and will also be sharing a copy with the County Board of Supervisors.

## DISCUSSION

Attached for Council's consideration is a Resolution (Attachment A) establishing the City's 2024 Legislative Action Platform. Similar resolutions have been adopted by the Council since 1993. The City Administration and IT Department coordinates the Legislative Action Program and assistance from the Attorney's Office and other City departments, as appropriate. This Resolution authorizes staff to respond to legislative issues affecting the City (via letters signed by the Mayor, City Manager and occasionally, Department Heads), provided that the positions taken in the letters are consistent with the priorities identified in Exhibit A to the Resolution (Attachment B) and League of California Cities advocacy efforts.

## Item 6f

By establishing a broad legislative platform and delegating responsibility to the Mayor and staff to respond to proposed legislation and recommendations from the League of California Cities, the City is better able to react quickly to changing circumstances and urgent requests than it would be if each item were brought to the Council at its regular meetings. The process is considered a best practice, has been efficient given the limited City resources available, and the City continues to be very active in communicating its positions on Federal and State legislation.

During the January 9, 2024 City Council meeting the Council appointed Mayor Stewart and Council Member Shoresman to an Ad Hoc Committee to review the 2024 Legislative Platform. Staff reviewed the Legislative Platform and suggested edits based on their subject matter expertise. On February 27, 2024, the Ad Hoc Committee met after they had reviewed the platform and suggested additional edits. The Ad Hoc Committee made several changes to the platform that mostly expanded upon previous items in the platform.

In addition to Council's substantive direction on the platform, edits were also made to the introduction section of the platform to provide more context on the platform and clarify the scope. Historically, and as affirmed by the City Councils of the last four years, the platform has been utilized primarily to advocate for or against a particular piece of legislation and not for or against a particular project or permitting application (adjudicative acts before other jurisdictions' legislative bodies). This is still the intent of the platform, but the language was clarified to include legislative proposals including those related to budget, regulations, policies, and programs. All changes, including language clean-ups and issue consolidations, are shown in the legislative draft of the 2024 Platform attached to this report (Attachment C).

### **Previous Council or Advisory Body Action**

The City Council discussed this item at the January 9, 2024 meeting and appointed the Ad Hoc Committee. On February 27, 2024, the Ad Hoc Committee met after they had reviewed the platform and suggested additional edits.

Similar resolutions have been adopted by the Council since 1993 following the advice and example of other cities (1993 Staff Report). The most recent Legislative Action Platform was approved on April 2, 2023.

### **Legislative Liaison Appointments**

The League of California Cities encourages cities to appoint a Council Member and a staff person to act as legislative liaisons between the League and the City. As has been past practice, staff recommends that Mayor Erica A. Stewart act as the Council Legislative Liaison and the City Manager and the City Attorney serve as the Staff Liaisons.

### **Public Engagement**

Public comment on the item can be provided to the City Council through written correspondence prior to the meeting and through public testimony at the meeting.

**CONCURRENCE**

In preparing this year’s draft platform, input was solicited from all City departments and several additions and clarifications were recommended.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to the recommended action in this report, because the action does not constitute a “Project” under CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15378.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Budgeted: Yes

Budget Year: 2023-24

Funding Identified: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

| <b>Funding Sources</b> | <b>Total Budget Available</b> | <b>Current Funding Request</b> | <b>Remaining Balance</b> | <b>Annual Ongoing Cost</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| General Fund           | \$                            | \$                             | \$                       | \$                         |
| State                  |                               |                                |                          |                            |
| Federal                |                               |                                |                          |                            |
| Fees                   |                               |                                |                          |                            |
| Other:                 |                               |                                |                          |                            |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>N/A</b>                    | <b>N/A</b>                     | <b>N/A</b>               | <b>N/A</b>                 |

Because no additional staff work is anticipated as a result of this ongoing program, no new fiscal impact will be incurred that was not already included in the current budget appropriation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

***The Council may wish to include other issues, not included in the current draft.*** However, it is important to note that the Legislative Platform allows the City to take action on any bills and other measures formally supported by the League of California Cities. It is staff’s recommendation that the desired additions to the Platform are generally crafted and flexible to allow for quick responses to legislation important to cities.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A - Draft Resolution adopting the 2024 Legislative Platform
- B - Exhibit A to the Draft Resolution – 2024 Legislative Action Platform (Clean Version)
- C - 2024 Legislative Action Platform (Legislative Version)