



Council Agenda Report

Item 5i

Department: Administration
Cost Center: 1001
For Agenda of: 4/19/2022
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Greg Hermann, Deputy City Manager
Prepared By: Hans Poschman, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT: 2022 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

RECOMMENDATION

1. As recommended by Council Members Marx and Shoresman, adopt a Resolution entitled "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, establishing the City Legislative Action Platform for 2022 and appointing the Council Member and Staff Person to act as liaison between the City of San Luis Obispo and the League of California Cities"; and
2. Provide direction to staff on the scope and application of the legislative platform related to advocacy for non-legislative items or particular projects; and
3. Appoint the Mayor, City Attorney, and City Manager to act as the primary legislative liaisons between the League of California Cities and the City of San Luis Obispo.

DISCUSSION

Legislative Action Program

Attached for the Council's consideration is a resolution establishing the City's 2022 Legislative Action Platform. Similar resolutions have been adopted by the Council since 1993. The City Administration Department coordinates the Legislative Action Program with assistance from the Attorney's Office and from various City departments, as appropriate. This resolution authorizes staff to respond to legislative issues affecting the City (via letters signed by the Mayor or relevant Department Head), provided that the positions taken in the letters are consistent with the priorities identified in Exhibit A to the resolution (Attachment - A) and League of California Cities advocacy efforts.

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. In 2021, the City sent 14 letters pertaining to pending legislation utilizing the Legislative Action Platform.

During the January 18, 2022 City Council meeting the Council appointed Council Members Marx and Shoresman to an ad hoc committee to review the 2022 Legislative Platform. The ad hoc Committee met twice after Council Members reviewed the platform and suggested edits. The ad hoc committee made several changes to the platform that mostly expanded upon previous items in the platform. Additionally, they requested a new portion of the platform that would focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The DEI section is made up of existing items from the platform as well as new items that are consistent with the Major City Goal for DEI.

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 Attorney and the City Manager serve as the staff liaisons.

Previous Council or Advisory Body Action

Similar resolutions have been adopted by the council since 1993 following the advice and example of other cities ([1993 Staff Report](#)).

Policy Context

The legislative platform is a tool to promote the efficient use of staff and Council time. While not a new way of doing business, it is an existing practice, the purpose of which is to reduce time spent drafting, reviewing, and acting on Council agenda items, freeing time to work on other matters and ensuring the most timely and effective response to emerging issues. This year, the City will be providing a copy of the City's Legislative Platform to Federal and State legislators and will be also sharing a copy with the County Board of Supervisors.

Public Engagement

This item is scheduled for the April 19, 2022 City Council meeting and will follow all required postings and notifications. The public may provide comment on this item at or before the meeting.

CONCURRENCE

In preparing this year's draft platform, input was solicited from all City departments and several additions and clarifications were recommended. All changes, including language clean-ups and issue consolidations, are shown in the legislative draft of the 2022 Platform attached to this report (Attachment B). In addition to Council's substantive direction on the platform, staff also is seeking direction as to the application of the platform to City positions on particular projects or applications that Council Members believe raise issues related to the platform. Historically, and as affirmed by the City Councils of the last two 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). Staff continues to recommend that the scope be limited to legislative action, but again requests explicit direction from the council majority on that issue to ensure clarity in expectations moving forward.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act 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: No

Budget Year: not applicable

Funding Identified: No

Fiscal Analysis:

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

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 Action 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 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 2022 Legislative Platform
- B – 2022 Legislative Action Platform (Legislative Version)