City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:

Matthew Fertal

From:

Maria Stipe

Dept:

City Manager

Dept:

City Manager

Subject:

2010 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Date:

January 26, 2010

OBJECTIVE

To provide a proposed legislative advocacy platform for City Council consideration and approval.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Legislature and Congress consider several hundred legislative proposals, many of which may have a significant impact on the City. To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the City's legislative advocacy program, the City Council periodically adopts a legislative platform, which serves as the foundation for the City's advocacy strategy. Adoption of the legislative platform allows the Mayor or City Manager to send letters to the Legislature and Congress consistent with the platform. Additionally, the platform provides a vehicle for summarizing the City Council's positions on various priority issues without precluding the consideration of additional legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session.

DISCUSSION

With the 2010 legislative session now underway, staff has reviewed and updated the current legislative platform. The 2010 legislative platform is similar to the prior platform, with the addition of several items that have been identified by City departments as important new advocacy issues, and the elimination of a few items that are no longer relevant. These changes are identified by bold text for new items and strikethrough text for deleted items.

Once approved by the City Council, the platform will be used by staff, in coordination with City lobbyists, to respond to legislative proposals. Utilizing this pre-approved list will allow the City to make timely responses to breaking issues. Additionally, the list will be used in ongoing discussions with elected officials serving Garden Grove regarding the City's priorities and concerns. The legislative platform will guide the City until a subsequent platform is adopted by the City Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

No direct impact.

2010 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM January 26, 2010 Page 2

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

 Consider and approve the attached legislative platform for the 2010 legislative session.

MARIA STIPE

Assistant to the City Manager

Attachment: 2010 Legislative Platform

Recommended for Approval

Matthew Fertal for City Manager

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2007-08 **2010** LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FINANCE

- 1. Support the fair and effective implementation of the 2006 infrastructure bonds reflecting the needs of California cities.
- 1. Support relieving taxpayers of the burden of paying for services that can be charged directly to users.
- 2. Oppose new unfunded state and federal mandates, and support repeal or full cost reimbursement of existing mandates.
- 3. Oppose legislation that shifts tax revenues away from local governments without the adequate provision of a constitutionally guaranteed backfill to offset the lost revenues of those local governments.
- 5. Support repeal of bank and insurance exemptions from local business operations taxes.
- 4. Support generation, protection and timely allocation of local funding distributed by the state (e.g., Prop 42 funds, 1A funds).
- 5. Support future legislation and measures that provide new funding for City Priority Projects.
- 6. Support the protection and full implementation of Proposition 1A (local revenue protection).

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support legislative efforts to grant state and federal funding to supplement local law enforcement and fire suppression to increase staffing and equipment to maintain the safety, security and quality of life for Garden Grove residents.
- 1. Support restoration of federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, Edwards Byrnes Memorial Grant and COPS grant funding.

- 2. Support legislation and grants, which provide funding for equipment upgrades, training and capital improvements, including funding to enhance Emergency Operation Centers.
- 3. Support legislation efforts to improve fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
- 4. Support legislation that seeks to reimburse to City for overtime costs, training, and equipment, paid to and for fire suppression personnel who are fighting statewide wildland fires, attending regional trainings, and promoting interoperability through the upgrade and replacement of outdated equipment.
- 5. Support legislation to allow automated red light enforcement citations to be placed as a registration lien against those who refuse to pay or appear in court for their citations.
- 6. Support protection of the conditional use permit process and strengthen local control over land use and zoning issues related to alcohol sales.
- 7. Oppose attempts to eliminate local control of alcohol beverage establishments.
- 8. Oppose any broadening of access to law enforcement records.
- 9. Support legislation to maintain the level of distribution of asset forfeiture funds.
- 10. Support prohibitions of selling sexually explicit materials through vending devices.
- 11. Support increased local authority to regulate or prohibit sexually oriented businesses.
- 12. Support funding for community-based gang diversion programs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 1. Support legislation and grants to fund parks, recreation and capital improvements, and programs to increase the quality of life for Garden Grove residents.
- 1. Support funding (e.g. park bond) for capital intensive high-demand recreational facilities, such as artificial turf sports fields, or the rehabilitation and expansion of swimming pools.

- 2. Support funding for community-based efforts to address the social, recreational and developmental needs of youth.
- 3. Support funding (e.g. park bond) for the creation of new parks on the OCTA right of way and other open space areas within the city.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

- 1. Oppose imposition of new or enhanced mandated employee benefits, including the mandatory expansion of benefits to part-time employees or retirees.
- 2. Oppose any reduction in local control over public employee disputes, or imposition of regulations of an outside agency.
- Oppose any measure expanding granting public employees the right to strike.
- 4. Oppose mandated heightened disciplinary proceeding standards for police officers and firefighters compared to other employees.
- 5. Support continued workers compensation reforms to prevent fraud and abuse of the workers' compensation system.
- 6. Support workers' compensation reforms that protect the ability of employers to challenge the work-relatedness of illnesses claimed by public employees in workers' compensation cases, and to overcome presumptions that illnesses are work related.
- 7. Support health care reform that does not create significant additional financial burdens on cities or threaten the viability of health programs.
- 8. Support proposals that seek to responsibly reform pension formulas for future employees in order to insure the ongoing viability of CalPERS.
- 9. Oppose any measures designed to insert state control or influence over the municipal bankruptcy process as a way to prevent the renegotiation of financially unsustainable labor agreements.
- 10. Oppose any state legislation that would mandate interest arbitration in labor disputes.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- 1. Support measures which provide for cooperative efforts to reduce air pollution through the reduction of actual emissions, rather than vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled.
- 2. Support measures that provide for continued funding and incentives to cities to work together to improve air quality through the reduction of emissions and advancing economic development.
- 3. Support air quality efforts that emphasize the use of advanced technology and market incentives, and incentives for the use of alternative fuels and the development of infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles.
- 4. Support measures that maintain and enhance local decision making authority, where appropriate, in the development and implementation of air quality attainment strategies.
- 5. Continue to support measures that streamline AB 939 compliance and implementation.
- 6. Support measures that maintain and enhance local authority and flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables.
- 7. Support measures to increase water supply and improve **drinking-**water quality in the region.
- 8. Support state, federal or other funding for desalinization and water reuse technologies.
- 9. Support measures to provide for and promote the use of reclaimed water.
- 10. Support measures to permit the sale, lease, exchange or transfer of surplus water within the state.
- 11. Support voluntary approaches to the reduction of non-point-source water pollution.
- 12. Support policy development, funding and research for addressing urban runoff and beach closures, including funding for studies, which identify the sources of bacterial, viral and other contaminants and human pathogens.
- 13. Oppose efforts to make all National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits the same. Requirements of Los Angeles or San Diego permits may be too onerous or not applicable. Orange County's permit should be tailored to our region/watershed.

- 14. Support State General Fund subventions and Bond revenue to cities for local and regional efforts that educate the public on urban runoff, which provide for long-term capital improvements (e.g., storm drain diversions and filters), and which encourage municipalities to implement Urban Runoff Best Management Practices at the local level.
- 15. Oppose actions by Regional Water Quality Control Boards that impose mandates on cities that exceed State or Federal Regulations and/or are outside their jurisdictional authority to impose or enforce.
- Oppose environmental regulations for which the costs of regulation, both direct and indirect, significantly exceed the benefits or provide only minimal protections.
- 17. Oppose imposition of clean-fuel vehicle fleet standards on local agencies unless fully funded by the State or South Coast Air Quality Management District.

HOUSING

- 1. Support federal and state participation in funding innovative housing solutions for low-income, elderly, and handicapped individuals.
- 2. Oppose any reduction in the housing or community development authority of municipalities.
- 3. Support flexibility in utilizing funding and other housing resources.
- 4. Support the provision of legislative authority for local governments to implement reasonable housing occupancy standards.
- 5. Oppose cuts to the Section 8 Housing Voucher program.
- 6. Support funding of community-based local efforts to address the homelessness problem.
- 7. Support continued funding of the Family Self-Sufficiency program.
- 8. Support legislation that permits self-certification of the City's Housing Element

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Support the doctrine of "home rule" and the local exercise of the police power in local land use.
- 2. Oppose further erosion of redevelopment agency authority and financing capabilities, including support of specific California Redevelopment Association and League of California Cities legislative priorities in this area.
- 3. Oppose Federal legislation that would reduce funds dedicated to the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- 4. Oppose and advocate repeal of the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act as an unwarranted federal intrusion into local land use planning.

REGIONAL ISSUES

- 1. Oppose new authority for subregional or regional bodies that infringe on municipal authority.
- 2. Oppose the creation of new levels of regional government.
- 3. Support measures to achieve fair and proportionate representation on countywide and regional boards.

TRANSPORTATION

- 1. Oppose new requirements for state or federal review of predominantly local transportation projects.
- 2. Support increased local discretionary authority to expend transportation funds.
- 3. Support measures that ensure Orange County cities receive their fair share of transportation revenues.
- 4. Support implementing legislation that enables faster, more efficient delivery of transportation projects.
- 5. Support legislation authorizing the use of design-build for Phase II of the SR-22 project.

5. Support legislation that expands infrastructure and transportation investment.

LIABILITY EXPOSURE

- 1. Support reform of California tort law to curtail unreasonable liability exposure for cities.
- 2. Support reform of the California tort law system to facilitate the ability of cities to obtain affordable insurance.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Oppose efforts to exempt cable television providers and other users of the public rights-of-way from reimbursing the public for the use of these facilities.
- 2. Oppose the elimination of franchisor regulatory authority over basic cable television rates.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1. Support changes in the law that allow cities the option to use design/build contracting and other innovations designed to bring efficiency to public contracting.
- 2. Support legislation that allows cities to effectively address the problem of abandoned shopping carts located in the public right-of-way, including recovery of reasonable related costs.
- 3. Support legislation permitting local government agencies to retrieve shopping carts that are located beyond the premises of a retail establishment, including its parking area, and to recover the reasonable costs of impounding, storing and returning these carts to their owner.