## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

CC# 4395

DATE: December 30, 2011

TITLE: Adopt Priorities for State and Federal Advocacy for 2012-2013

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## **SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the following set of priorities to guide the City's State and federal legislative and judicial advocacy programs through calendar years 2012 and 2013.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The State and federal priorities and legislative platform defined within this document are the results of the City Council's articulation of their goals and priorities during legislative updates and the recent November 2011 Council Legislative workshop. The Legislative Platform is intended to convey the Council's positions on issues that are currently, or are anticipated to be, the focus of future legislation by the state or federal governments.

The City Council recognizes the need to protect Roseville's interests and ability to implement its strategic goals. The Legislative Platform includes City Council's priorities set forth for the 2012 Legislative Session and provides general direction to staff and the City's Legislative Advocates during the year.

Council's adoption of these priorities authorizes the City's active participation to influence State and federal decision-making on legislative, administrative, regulatory and funding issues and to support judicial advocacy consistent with the City's priorities. Using this document as a guide, the City will adopt positions on specific legislation, regulations and budget proposals, and respond to requests for *amicus curiae* support when the outcome of a pending lawsuit is likely to significantly affect a priority concern of the City. The Mayor will sign letters based on the City's identified interests; the Mayor and other Council Members will advance City interests through individual and regional advocacy efforts; and the Mayor will act on requests from the City Attorney to join in friend-of-the-court briefs.

Staff recommends that the Legislative Platform be updated annually to reflect the interests unique to Roseville and interests that may also be common to cities throughout the State.

Effective Platform Implementation Routing Approval:	

AGENDA ITEM
#\_ 8.2

#### Effective Platform Implementation

An assortment of internal and external resources is used to effectively administer the City's legislative platform. The resources and processes used include the following:

- City staff works collaboratively with our federal and state lobbyists to understand and develop strategies for influencing legislation. The City's federal lobbyist also works closely with staff to help identify funding resources for departmental projects and will review grant applications before they are submitted.
- In addition to the City's lobbyists, city staff interacts and participates-with
  organizations such as Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), California
  Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), Roseville Chamber of Commerce, etc.
  on issues that are important to the City. Belonging to these organizations and
  partnering with them on critical issues allows the City to have a stronger voice
  on issues and a greater potential to impact key policy and legislative matters.
- Internally, government relations staff works with staff from each department on legislation, regulations, and project funding opportunities that are important to their departments. During the course of the legislative year, staff monitors introduced legislation, develops priority lists of legislation for each department and makes recommendations on letters of support/opposition as the bills progress through the legislative process.
- Government relations staff works closely with the staff of the City's legislators and Congressman to ensure the City's position on legislation is clearly understood by our representatives. The development of this relationship and exchange of information with the City's representatives is an effort that continues throughout the entire year.

Working collaboratively and with the City's internal and external partners helps ensure that the City's has the greatest ability to influence legislation and policies that are crucial to the City. The City has successfully demonstrated the ability to work with this process and to develop coalitions that take positions on legislation in an advantageous manner.

## PROPOSED PRIORITIES FOR 2012- 2013:

Staff submits the following as the foundation of priorities for 2012-2013:

## Citywide legislative principles

- The City of Roseville believes in local control and the ability of the City Council to
  make decisions that address the needs of residents and businesses within the
  local jurisdiction they directly serve. In general, the City of Roseville will oppose
  legislation that erodes local control and will support legislation that increases
  local control.
- 2. The City of Roseville also believes in fiscal responsibility and requires financial flexibility to carry out its mission and objectives for the community. The City will oppose legislation that hinders financial flexibility and will support legislation that encourages financial flexibility.

# Federal funding: City requests – legislative and administrative funding opportunities

Continue previous efforts to secure funding for infrastructure improvements.

- 1. Washington Andora Widening Project
- 2. Aguifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Expansion

## Federal funding: Promoting economic stimulus and infrastructure investment The City will support legislation and measures that fund:

- a) Projects that provide jobs especially in the areas of energy, water, transportation, public safety and community development.
- b) Assist in business expansion and formation.
- c) The City will support participation in regional efforts to identify federal funding opportunities.

#### Federal and State Legislative platform:

## Citywide Platform:

- 1. Oppose state and federal actions that produce incompatible consequences and/or have an adverse impact on the City's ability to comply with state and federal regulations and/or legislation. The City will inform the community when these situations occur.
- 2. Support legislation and regulations that preserve city assets, infrastructure and projects.
- 3. Support legislation and policies that protect our residents and businesses from unnecessary and costly state and federal regulations and permits.
- 4. Oppose legislation and regulations that would negatively impact or divert the City's sales tax to the state or any other entity.

Administrative Services Goal: To protect the ability of the City to make decisions unencumbered by onerous policies and regulations that are costly and/or restrictive in how they must be implemented regarding areas of human resources, City Clerk activities, and informational technology.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

#### Administrative Services Platform:

- 1. Support legislation and measures that protect the City's rights in the collective bargaining process.
- 2. Support legislation, policies and regulations that simplify administration of public records, election code and Brown Act provisions and provide full cost recovery.
- 3. Oppose legislation that diminishes enacted worker compensation reforms.
- 4. Support legislation that reforms unemployment insurance.

#### Information Technology Platform:

- Support legislation and regulations of information technology facilities and services that ensure emergency communication capabilities and interoperability for public safety agencies.
- 2. Support legislation and policies that increase the ability to manage technology risks and compliance requirements.
- 3. Support legislation and policies that encourage streamlining of business processes for responding to open records requests.
- 4. Support legislation and cost effective Green Technology initiatives.

Community Development Goal: To create an attractive, vibrant, well-planned city demonstrated by a balanced land use with walkable neighborhoods, prosperous businesses, excellent schools, convenient public services and open space and recreation amenities all linked by superior transportation systems, well maintained streets, sidewalks, bike paths and alternative modes of transportation in a cost effective

and financially sustainable manner. To monitor and act on legislation that would restrict local control or impose new regulations that require increased costs and greater demands on the City's general fund.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

## Public Works and Transportation Platform

- 1. Support reauthorization of the nation's highway and transit laws.
- 2. Oppose legislation that reduces or eliminates transportation and transit revenues for transportation and transit purposes.
- 3. Support legislation that provides additional funding for local roadway maintenance, transportation and infrastructure.
- 4. Support measures that ensure accessibility of all public and private transportation services.
- 5. Oppose legislation that reduces the ability to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes by transit, para-transit and other high occupancy use vehicles.
- 6. Support legislation, policies and regulations that allow the use of Medi-Cal funds for transportation purposes and support Medi-Cal policies that promote the use of transit/Para transit as Medicaid providers.
- 7. Support legislation that provides tax incentives for people who use public transit and other alternative forms of travel to a personal vehicle.

## Planning Platform

- 1. Support legislation that strengthens local control in the areas of transportation and land-use policies and assists local governments to integrate new growth
- 2. Support legislation, policies and regulations that support transit oriented communities utilizing cost effective green building design to reduce energy consumption.
- 3. Support legislation, policies and regulations that ensure local governments maintain authority to decrease emissions.
- 4. Support legislation that ensures local control and flexibility in determining control and reduction measures for greenhouse gas requirements.
- 5. Support legislation and regulations that require agencies to consider the economic impacts of mitigation measures regarding permits for addressing Wetland impacts.

## Community Services Platform

- 1. Support legislation and measures that fund recreation, fitness and wellness and prevention programs for youth.
- 2. Support legislation that protects funding for the State Library Fund and support new initiatives for park, recreation and library programs and services.

**Public Safety Goal**: To protect and enhance the safety and well-being of our residents, businesses, customers and partners by providing exceptional responses to all service requests, promoting programs that minimize risk and maximize the safety or our entire community and by delivering exceptional solutions as a cohesive team.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

1. Oppose legislation that would decrease state and federal funding for programs and services including Homeland Security.

- 2. Support legislation that ensures flexibility for and local control of all grant resources and funding for public safety technology.
- 3. Protect ability to adopt local amendments to fire and building codes.
- 4. Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate funding for disaster mitigation.
- 5. Oppose reductions to the levels of state and federal funding opportunities for public safety programs and/or services.
- 6. Oppose regulatory policies that negatively affect either the police or fire departments.
- 7. Support legislation that provides municipalities with local control to provide paratransit services.

**Economic Development Goal**: To create a vibrant business and community environment that enhances the quality of life for our residents and provides outstanding potential for our businesses and partners to flourish. To provide exceptional facilities, programs, services and affordable housing opportunities in a safe environment by maintaining neighborhoods and commercial districts and by forming effective partnerships to maximize social and economic opportunities.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

## Community Services Platform

1. Support full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## Housing and Redevelopment Platform

- Support legislation that fully funds the federal Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), Neighborhood Stabilization and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs.
- 2. Support legislation and measures that create new State incentives for affordable housing and infill development.
- 3. Support legislation that increases flexibility in the State housing element process and streamlines environmental statutes.
- 4. Support legislation that establishes effective redevelopment funding.
- 5. Support appropriation of adequate funding for housing programs including CDBG and HOME.
- 6. Support funding for projects that create short-term construction jobs and long-term employment opportunities.
- 7. Support streamlining of the requirements for the types of projects that can be funded with State and federal funding.

#### City Wide Economic Development Platform

- 1. Oppose legislation and measures that create competitive disadvantages for local businesses.
- 2. Support legislation and measures that allow the City to grow the current economic base by providing the tools and resource needed for businesses to expand and flourish.
- Support legislation, funding and policies that promote ROP, trade schools, investment in Research and Development technology and tax incentives for manufacturing.
- 4. Support legislation, policies and regulations that require economic analysis and/or scientific validation of changes to state policies or regulations before modifications can be enacted.

Electric and Environmental Utilities Goal: To protect local control over how utilities provide service to their customers; protect our customers from state and federal legislation, policies and regulations that have no clear benefit relative to cost; and, to resist legislation, policies and regulations that create unfunded mandates and upward pressures that negatively impact the utility's ability to provide their services and products in the best and most cost effective manner.

We take the following approaches to accomplish this:

## Electric Platform

- Support legislation, policies and regulations that ensure utility regulation and new environmental laws protect local authority and the ability to serve customers and consider cost/rate impacts.
- 2. Support legislation that develops cost effective renewable energy resources.
- 3. Support legislation and regulations that streamline new generating facilities.
- 4. Support legislation that provides for multiple approaches to meet energy peak usage.
- 5. Promote community choice aggregation, newly formed joint power action groups, and new municipal power entities.
- 6. Oppose legislation that establishes market based rates for users of federal hydro-electric power.
- 7. Support legislation that preserves public tax exempt financing.
- 8. Oppose legislation that would eliminate energy tax incentives or reduces funding for energy programs.
- 9. Support legislation that streamlines the regulatory requirements at all levels regarding federal reliability standards and state environmental regulations.
- 10. Support legislation that would improve the process used by NERC for evaluating reliability compliance including; refocusing the process on issues that pose the greatest risks to reliability of the grid; and, reduces regulatory burdens on users, owners and operators.
- 11. Oppose legislation that makes changes to renewable regulation without comprehensive analysis and stakeholder input before enactment.

#### **Environmental Utility Legislative priorities**

#### Solid Waste Management:

- Support legislation to enact a comprehensive statewide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law that allocates end of life disposal costs with the producer of the product.
- 2. Support product-by-product EPR laws in-lieu of a statewide comprehensive EPR law.
- 3. Oppose legislation to increase recycling diversion rates if determined to not be cost effective, relative to the benefits that could be achieved.
- 4. Support legislation to reuse waste in a beneficial way if cost effective relative to benefits.
- 5. Support legislation that empowers local governments to safely collect and dispose of pharmaceuticals.
- 6. Support legislation that supports the City's rights and protects solid waste worker safety.

## Water Supply and Delivery

- 1. Safeguard Roseville's water supply contracts from outside interests.
- 2. Support legislation that allocates the costs for Delta and statewide water infrastructure improvements to the parties that either impacts the Delta and/or stand to benefit from those improvements; known as the 'Beneficiary Pays Principle.

- 3. Support legislation that helps local governments maintain water conservation programs that meet state objectives, are cost effective and make sense for the local conditions.
- 4. Support state and federal efforts to increase water efficiency ratings for common consumer products that use water and are cost effective.
- 5. Support legislation that streamlines regulatory processes to allow full implementation of the city's Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Program.
- 6. Oppose state and federal legislation regarding water regulatory requirements that would add costs to the operation without a corresponding perceived benefit.
- 7. Protect the city's land use authority and their right to make land use decisions with respect to water supply.

#### Water Quality

- 1. Oppose state and federal legislation to impose state mandated stormwater programs without commensurate funding for those programs.
- 2. Oppose EPA policies that would add additional and costly regulations to stormwater requirements.
- 3. Support legislative efforts to reduce potential of third party lawsuits pertaining to water quality issues.
- 4. Support legislation that revises the State Constitution to allow for stormwater programs to establish a funding mechanism that is similar to that of the utilities under the Proposition 218 reforms.
- 5. Oppose legislation to increase whole effluent toxicity testing for recycled water, stormwater and wastewater when it is not cost effective, has no clear benefit and/or is not based on sound science.
- 6. Oppose legislation to add contaminants of emerging concern for regulation and testing recycled water, stormwater and wastewater when it is not cost effective, has no clear health benefit and/or is not based on sound science.
- 7. Actively track and respond to proposed changes in Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR's) from the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards.

#### Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction

- 1. Support legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions for our utilities where the benefits of the GHG reduction measures are balanced with cost.
- 2. Support legislation that allows local governments to develop practical local solutions to reduce and manage locally generated GHG emissions.
- 3. Oppose statewide or federal greenhouse gas emission estimating, monitoring, and reporting mandates affecting city utilities unless there is a clear need that provides demonstrated benefits to the environment.

## Regulations and Permits

- Support legislative reform efforts that require a cost benefit analysis for new regulations.
- 2. Support legislative reform efforts that require a cost benefit analysis be completed as part of any permit writing process.

## **Develop Outside Funding Opportunities**

1. Develop relationships and funding opportunities through actively promoting Roseville projects that provide a mutual benefit for our funding partners.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

No direct impact; this CC provides policy direction only.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to activities that will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (CEQA Guidelines §I 5061 (b) (3). Stating policy priorities does not include the potential for a significant environmental effect, and therefore is not subject to CEQA.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adopting the attached priorities to guide the City's State and federal legislative and judicial advocacy programs during 2012-2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

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APPROVED:

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