



## **CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

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## **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: January 21, 2020

### **Subject**

Adopt 2020 Legislative Platform.

### **Recommended Action**

Adopt the City's proposed 2020 Legislative Platform.

### **Background**

Each year, the Council adopts a Legislative Platform that guides and informs official City positions on pending legislative issues during the year. The Legislative Review Committee (LRC) uses the Council-approved Platform to authorize City positions and position letters on legislation. Federal and state bills consistent with the City's legislative priorities would be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals in conflict with the Platform would be opposed. Items not clearly addressed in the City's Platform would require Council approval prior to any position being taken. Since the LRC is a smaller group comprised of two councilmembers, they can remain nimble and respond to time-sensitive legislative issues.

### **Discussion**

On December 5, 2019, the LRC considered the initial draft of the 2020 Legislative Platform and provided input. Staff and the City's legislative firm, Townsend Public Affairs, incorporated the LRC's feedback and brought back an updated draft to the LRC on January 13, 2020. After further input, the LRC unanimously recommended that Council adopt the proposed 2020 Legislative Platform.

This year's draft Legislative Platform includes many of the same elements as the 2019 Legislative Platform and includes some modifications based on recommendations from Townsend, LRC, and staff. These changes from the 2019 Platform can be seen in the attached redline version (Attachment B). One of the more significant changes was that a resiliency aspect was added to support legislation that strengthens local disaster preparedness, emergency planning and response activities, as well as programs that invest in climate adaptation planning and deployment of adaptation strategies. This was done as there has been an increased focus on emergency preparedness especially in light of the local impacts to cities from the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. There is

also increased concern regarding climate change generally and as it relates to resiliency so additional sustainability language was added.

Additional monitoring items were also added, which express the City's interest in an area but would ultimately require a vote of the Council to take an official City position on any given legislation:

- Monitor legislation that would amend sales tax or property distribution formulas.
- Monitor legislation that would amend the definition of independent contractors.
- Monitor legislation related to the regulation of mobile food vendors and businesses preparing food in home kitchens.
- Monitor legislation related to the overnight parking of recreational vehicles on public streets.

**Sustainability Impact**

No sustainability impact.

**Fiscal Impact**

No fiscal impact.

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Prepared by: Katy Nomura, Assistant to the City Manager  
Reviewed by: Dianne Thompson, Assistant City Manager  
Approved for Submission by: Deborah Feng, City Manager  
Attachments:

A – Proposed 2020 Legislative Platform

B – Proposed 2020 Legislative Platform Redline