



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Ben Harvey, City Manager

Meeting Date: May 3, 2017

Subject: City Council State and Federal Legislative Platform

CEQA: This action does not constitute a “project” as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines section 15378.

RECOMMENDATION

Appoint two City Council Members as a subcommittee to work with the City Manager to draft a proposed City Council State and Federal Legislative Platform, and empower the Mayor and/or members of the subcommittee to respond to pending legislation on the City Council’s behalf.

DISCUSSION

State and Federal legislation often has an impact on local government. The City Council, through its Goals, the adopted General Plan, the proposed Local Coastal Plan, and other policy and related documents, has outlined existing outlined positions. To ensure that proposed State and/or Federal legislation does not have a negative impact on the City’s policies, or to support proposed State and/or Federal legislation that furthers the City’s policies, a legislative platform would be useful.

Currently, the City does not have a legislative platform. As bills move their way through the State Legislature or Congress, and the City becomes aware of a need to oppose or support the measure, a City Council meeting is the only forum currently available for discussion of the proposed measure, and the City’s proposed response due to requisite Brown Act compliance reasons. Often the City is unable to respond to a bill swiftly enough through a letter, phone call or email due to the timing of the next City Council meeting, and the bill’s status in the State Legislature or Congress.

To address this situation, it is proposed that the City Council appoint a subcommittee of two Council Members to work with the City Manager to draft a proposed City Council State and Federal Legislative Platform. It is suggested that the proposed platform contain categories that align with other City Council policy documents, such as the City Council’s Goals. Categories

that should be considered for inclusion within the proposed legislative platform include (but are not limited to):

- Local Control
- Fiscal Stability and/or Accountability
- Infrastructure
- Water
- Environmental Stewardship
- Affordable Housing
- Transportation

The appointed City Council subcommittee, working with the City Manager, could review (and possibly expand) the platform list, adding proposed direction within each category. An example of this might be as follows:

- Legislative Category: Local Control
- City Action: Support legislation that offers fiscal remedy or relief to burdens created through State or Federal mandates.

Once the City Council subcommittee's work is complete, the legislative platform list would be brought back to the City Council for review, discussion and approval. Once approved by the City Council, the Mayor and/or the City Council subcommittee would then be authorized and prepared to respond to pending legislation on the City's behalf (by offering letters of support or opposition, sending email, making phone calls, etc.) in a nimble fashion, without the delay of going back to the entire City Council each time for legislative policy direction.

OPTIONS

1. Take no action.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to appointing a City Council subcommittee and drafting a proposed legislative platform.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Ben Harvey
City Manager