



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604

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STAFF REPORT

February 7, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Proposed 2006 State and Federal Legislative Platform

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation:

This report recommends that the Mayor and City Council adopt the proposed 2006 State and Federal Legislative Platform (Attachment A).

Contact: Patti Bisharat, Government Affairs, 808-8197

Presenters: Patti Bisharat, Government Affairs

Department: City Manager's Office

Division: Government Affairs

Organization No: 0310

Summary:

This report provides information on the proposed 2006 State and Federal Legislative Platform, which identifies state and federal legislative priorities for the City of Sacramento and recommends that the Council adopt the proposed platform (Attachment A).

Committee/Commission Action:

This report was presented to the Law and Legislation Committee earlier today for approval. The comments and/or actions by the Law and Legislation Committee will be reported out at the Council meeting.

Background Information:

The proposed 2006 State and Federal Legislative Platform is a focused, comprehensive State and Federal agenda outlining the City's priorities for the coming year. The platform includes the projects and issues that have the potential for state and federal participation and provides the City's state and federal legislative representatives with a clear understanding of our priorities.

It is critical that the platform be viewed as a long term, multi-year effort and that the City is consistent in pursuing its priorities. To that end, the priorities included in the proposed 2006 document have not changed significantly over last year. During 2005, additional issues were added to the platform by the Law & Legislation Committee. These additions included homelessness, sustainability and water conservation and have been included in the 2006 proposal.

The projects identified as "Top Priorities" includes those of the greatest significance to the City. Staff is recommending that the City's "Top Priorities" for 2006 continue to be flood control and the Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility. Additionally, staff is recommending the addition of a top priority under the category of Telecommunications. Currently, discussions and legislation are underway at both the State and Federal level regarding application and collection of franchise and Utility User Tax revenues. Many of the proposals, if enacted, would seriously threaten one of the key revenue sources for the general fund and apply a broad brush approach to a local issue.

Other "Priorities" for legislative advocacy in the coming year are organized under the broad categories of: Transportation; Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space; Economic & Community Development; Public Safety; and Environmental/Sustainability. Examples of these projects and issues include the Tower Bridge, the Riverfront Master Plan and affordable housing. The full summary of State and Federal priorities for 2006 is included as Attachment A of this report.

The platform document will be a cover folder with space for inserts for each individual subject area at both the state and federal levels that include project/issue detail, graphics and maps as appropriate. The purpose of this design is to allow maximum flexibility to create a customized information packet based on specific need or purpose.

Financial Considerations:

None.

Environmental Considerations:

None.

Policy Considerations:


The proposed 2006 State and Federal Legislative Platform is consistent with the City's legislative guiding principles.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

Not applicable.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Patti Bisharat, Government Affairs

APPROVED:



RAY KERRIDGE
Interim City Manager

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2006 State Legislative Platform - Priority Summary

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Top Priority Issues			
Flood Control	Folsom Dam Modifications	Project to maintain the dam and reservoir and to upgrade flood control.	Support funding to complete the project.
	Folsom Dam Mini-Rise	Project to increase the height of the dam to increase flood control.	Support funding to complete the project.
	South Sacramento County Streams Group	Project has been developed to help ease stream flooding near business and residential neighborhoods in southeastern Sacramento.	Support funding to complete the project.
	American River Common Features Project	Common Features Project to provide for necessary American River watershed flood protection.	Support funding to complete project.
	Sacramento River Bank Protection Project—Erosion Control	Long range program to provide bank protection and to solve and prevent levee erosion.	Support funding for the project.
Transportation	Sacramento Intermodal Station (Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility)	Project is a combination of both new and renovated facilities at the intersection of 5 th and I Street which will provide a variety of transportation modes. The conceptual design is completed. Work continues on the environmental approach, funding strategy, governance and phasing of the project.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need.
Telecommunications	Sacramento user utility tax and franchise fees	Currently there is legislation that threatens local control over franchising and UUT revenue. Also, pending lawsuits against other cities threaten UUT revenue.	Support legislation that protects local control over franchising and UUT revenue.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Priority Issues			
Transportation	Tower Bridge	Project is a partnership between Sacramento and West Sacramento to widen walkways to accommodate high-level pedestrian activity. Construction scheduled to begin in summer 2006 and will be completed in December 2007.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need.
	65 th Street Transit Village	Neighborhood/university mixed-use district that provides a variety of housing types, retail and employment uses to increase transit use to reduce vehicle traffic on the highways. The plan envisions 65 th Street as a pedestrian scale Main Street that connects the California State University.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need.
	Pedestrian/Bikeway Bridge Repair	The City of Sacramento assumed responsibility for several pedestrian and bikeway bridges along major City transportation corridors. No funding source exists for bridge maintenance.	Secure a sponsor to introduce legislation to fund the repair of aging and historic pedestrian access and Class 1 bikeway bridges.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	California State Capital Riverfront (Sacramento Riverfront)	The California State Capital Riverfront is an ambitious plan to protect and enhance natural habitat and recreational uses of the Sacramento and lower American Rivers and guide development. The plan is a partnership with West Sacramento, Sacramento and Yolo counties, and SAFCA.	<p>Seek legislation to implement the recommendations of the Sacramento Riverfront Regional Feasibility Project, including recommendations for State involvement in a joint powers authority or River Conservancy.</p> <p>Seek funding from Proposition 40 and 50 to support Riverfront Plan projects</p> <p>Support funding for river parkways and regional parks in any related bond acts or initiatives.</p> <p>Support the formation of a River Conservancy.</p>
	American River Parkway	Work with the County of Sacramento and the State to secure a predictable funding source for acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of the Parkway.	<p>Support legislative actions to determine the most appropriate governance and financing mechanisms for the lower reach of the Parkway.</p> <p>Seek stable funding sources for the acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of the American River Parkway.</p>

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	California Indian Heritage Center	The California Indian Heritage Center Committee selected a site at Northgate at the American River and Highway 160.	<p>Advocate for the Center to be located on the selected site.</p> <p>Assist in acquiring the properties at the selected site.</p> <p>Create the necessary agreements among the stakeholders for development and management of the Center.</p> <p>Assist in securing funding for Center development.</p>
	Universal Preschool	The number of Sacramento County children enrolled in preschool lags behind the state and the national average. A Rand Study estimates that for every \$1.00 invested in Universal Preschool, \$2.62 will be generated in future returns for the State.	<p>Support efforts to expand quality preschool programs from a variety of providers for all children.</p> <p>Advocate for free play and recreation to be included as a curriculum component in quality preschool programs.</p>
	Pedestrian/Bikeway Bridge Repair	The City of Sacramento assumed responsibility for several pedestrian and bikeway bridges along major City transportation corridors. No funding source exists for bridge maintenance.	Secure a sponsor to introduce legislation to fund repairing aging and historic pedestrian access and Class 1 bikeway bridges.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	Urban Forest	Maintaining and expanding a vibrant Urban Forest is a major public works endeavor for the City of Sacramento that results in air quality, public health, and quality of life benefits	<p>Seek legislation to designate a permanent State funding source for Urban Forest protection, maintenance and expansion</p> <p>Support continued urban forest grant administration by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.</p> <p>Support minimum experience standards to obtain a tree maintenance/tree care contractors license from the State.</p>
	Sacramento: The City of Festivals	There is a need to organize cross-cultural and multi-generational celebrations in the State Capital City to foster unity and inclusion	Seek State funding to host destination attraction style celebrations and to reconfigure existing venues to accommodate these festivals.
	Care for the Levee throughout the Sacramento Area	Establish joint use of flood control systems for linear recreational/ pedestrian transportation systems and trails on waterways.	<p>Advocate for appropriate care of the levee along the Sacramento Riverfront to support linear recreation/ pedestrian transportation systems and trails.</p> <p>Support legislative actions to facilitate changes in the Richards Blvd. area to provide setbacks to strengthen the levee.</p>
	McClellan Boat Docks	The 75-year old docks on the Sacramento River levee are in need of significant repair to protect historic structures and improve public accessibility.	Seek funding to repair and renovate the site on the levee.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	Vision for a Healthy California	On September 15, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger convened an action summit on health, nutrition, and obesity to lead California's effort to combat obesity. The goal is to make California the nation's model for health, nutrition, and fitness.	Support funding for expansion of wellness programs and specialized recreation/park amenities for senior citizens and the physically challenged. Support funding to increase and improve underserved youth's access to quality outdoor experiences in urban and wilderness settings. Support funding for public service announcements and to conduct community specific and culturally relevant public awareness campaigns.
	Parks and Recreation in City General Plans	To maximize livability and sustainability for neighborhoods, Parks and Recreation programs must be integral parts of a City's General Plan.	Seek legislation to require "Parks and Recreation" to be an element addressed in a City's General Plan.
Economic & Community Development	Bridging Interstate 5 (Interstate 5 Riverfront Reconnection)	Examining the feasibility of bridging the below-grade I-5 with a deck and/or pedestrian bridges to generate economic development and recapture the riverfront. Environmental phase scheduled to be complete in 2010.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and need

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Economic & Community Development	Affordable Housing	The demand for affordable housing in Sacramento has increased dramatically as household income has fallen behind the steady increase in single family home sales prices and apartment rents. More and more households are being pushed out of the housing market.	Support State legislation that increases funding to expand and preserve affordable housing. Support legislation that provides funding for programs that promote revitalization of urban areas.
	Redevelopment	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Redevelopment authority and funds are critical to the revitalization of Sacramento neighborhoods.	Support legislation that retains CDBG and redevelopment authority and funds.
	Small Neighborhood Commercial Centers	Support funding for revitalization of small neighborhood commercial centers that are not in redevelopment areas.	Support funding for projects.
	Homelessness	Implementation of the 10-year housing first strategy.	Support HUD and other sources of funding for projects.
	Sacramento Port Authority	The existing geographic boundaries of the Port District are currently too broad. The boundaries should be reduced to coincide with that of Yolo County's first supervisorial district. The City and County of Sacramento support a change to the Port Commission Board membership, divesting themselves and providing for a 5 membership Commission made up of 4 members to be appointed by the City of West Sacramento and one by Yolo County.	Support legislation that reduces the Sacramento Port Authority boundaries and reduces the Port Commission membership to five - West Sac shall have four appointments and Yolo County shall have one.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Public Safety	Booking Fees	For public safety purposes, all felony and specified misdemeanor arrestees must be booked. Due to lack of discretion available to the City, booking fees should not be charged for these arrests. Also, unspecified misdemeanor arrests should be charged standardized booking fees.	Support legislation that (1) eliminates booking fee charges for non-discretionary arrests and (2) standardizes booking fees for discretionary arrests.
	Homeland Security	The City has experienced increased costs to implement enhanced security during alert periods and the time frame up to and during time of war.	Seek reimbursement of expenses incurred.
	Parolee Issues	Parolees commit a large majority of the crimes and were responsible for the death of the last five Sacramento Police Officers shot and killed in Sacramento.	Support legislation that increases penalties for parolees who commit crimes. Oppose legislation for early release.
Environmental/ Sustainability	Water Meters	Per A.B. 2572, the City is required to install water meters on all properties by January 1, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$300 million.	Support funding to complete the project.
	Permanent Sacramento Member on California Air Resources Board	The Sacramento region is the only "severe" or worse federal ozone non-attainment area that currently has no representative on the CARB.	Advocate for legislation to establish to create a permanent appointment to the CARB to represent the Sacramento region.
	Sustainability	The City supports programs and projects that address air quality improvement, energy efficiency, water efficiency, renewable energy, fuel efficiency, energy adequacy and security.	Support funding for projects that address these issues.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Environmental/ Sustainability	Water Conservation	Water conservation is essential to guaranteeing a water supply for generations to come. The City of Sacramento is committed to conservation through participation in the Water Forum, water conservation staff, and education of the public regarding water conservation issues.	Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allows local control over water rates.
	Reclaimed Water	Reclaimed water involves the use of treated wastewater for landscaping and irrigation purposes and is a great alternative for areas with limited water supply.	Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allows local control over reclaimed water.

2006 Federal Legislative Platform - Priority Summary

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Top Priority Issues			
Flood Control	Folsom Dam Modifications	Project to maintain the dam and reservoir and to upgrade flood control.	Support funding to complete the projects.
	Folsom Dam Mini-Rise	Project to increase the height of the dam to increase flood control.	Support funding to complete the project.
	South Sacramento County Streams Group	Project has been developed to help ease stream flooding near business and residential neighborhoods in southeastern Sacramento.	Support funding to complete project.
	Magpie Creek	Improvements to the creek levee and acquisition of floodplains land to reduce flooding .	Support legislation for the allocation cost sharing and to credit local for costs.
	American River Common Features Project	Common Features Project to provide for necessary American River watershed flood protection.	Pursue funding to complete project.
	Sacramento River Bank Protection Project—Erosion Control	Long range program to provide bank protection and to solve and prevent levee erosion.	Support funding for the project.
	Combined Sewer System Improvement Project	Project will help to reduce the chance of overflow in the combined sewer system areas due to increased capacity and infrastructure improvement.	Support Federal funding to assist in completion of the project.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Transportation	Sacramento Intermodal Station (SITF - Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility)	Project is a combination of both new and renovated facilities at the intersection of 5 th and I Street which will provide a variety of transportation modes. Completed conceptual design; work on environmental approach, funding strategy, governance and phasing of the project.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.
Telecommunications	Sacramento user utility tax and franchise fees	Currently there is legislation that threatens local control over franchising and UUT revenue. Also, pending lawsuits against other cities threaten UUT revenue.	Support legislation that protects local control over franchising and UUT revenue.
Priority Issues			
Transportation	Tower Bridge	Sacramento to widen walkways to accommodate high-level pedestrian activity. Construction scheduled to begin in summer 2006 and will be completed in December 2007.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.
	North Central Business District	Improvements include several related projects that will serve the area of Richards Boulevard north of the Sacramento Railyards, the Railyards development area (including the Sacramento Intermodal Station), and adjacent neighborhoods north of downtown. The proposed projects allow substantial infill development in this large area.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Transportation	R Street Transit Oriented Development Project	Joint effort to transform a former inner-city industrial (rail) corridor to a linear mixed-use redevelopment area focused upon light rail stations. The 1 st phase of the project, between 10 th and 13 th Streets, is funded with approximately \$2 million and will begin construction shortly. The second phase is the R Street Market Plaza, between 16 th and 18 th Streets, and includes a Plaza with pedestrian and road improvements. The estimated cost of the second phase is \$ 4 million.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.
	Folsom Boulevard Development Project	Improvements estimated to cost \$70 million to relieve congestion at the intersection of Folsom Boulevard and Power Inn Road and to provide additional north-south and east-west capacity in the area. The project is funded through preliminary design and environmental and will take the next 2-3 years to complete.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.
	Cosumnes River Boulevard Extension and Interchange at I-5	Extend Cosumnes river Blvd. as a four-lane roadway from Franklin Blvd. to 24 th St., as a six-lane roadway from 24 th St. to I-5 interchange, and as a four-lane from the I-5 Interchange to Freeport Blvd. Construct an interchange at I-5 project includes a grade separation at the UPRR, bike lanes and sidewalks in both directions.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	California State Capital Riverfront (Sacramento Riverfront)	The California State Capital Riverfront is an ambitious plan to protect and enhance natural habitat and recreational uses of the Sacramento and lower American Rivers and guide development. The plan is a partnership with West Sacramento, Sacramento and Yolo counties, and SAFCA.	Secure funding for the Riverfront Plan projects Seek legislation necessary to implement the recommendations of the Sacramento Riverfront Regional Entity Feasibility Project.
	American River Parkway	A secure and predictable funding source is needed for maintenance and operations of the American River Parkway.	Work with the State and the County of Sacramento to secure funding for the operations and maintenance of the American River Parkway.
	California Indian Heritage Center	The California Indian Heritage Center Committee selected a site at Northgate at the American River and Highway 160	Advocate for the Center to be located on the selected site. Assist in acquiring the properties at the selected site. Create the necessary agreements among the stakeholders for development and management of the Center. Assist in securing funding for Center development.
	McClellan Boat Docks	The 75-year old docks on the Sacramento River levee need repair to protect historic structures and improve public accessibility.	Secure funding to repair and renovate the site on the levee
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	The current backlog of biological assessment and permit requests for local jurisdiction projects causes project delays of over one year, which leads to project budget overruns.	Support efforts to address the current backlog and expedite reviews of local jurisdiction projects

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space	Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program.	LWCF matches funds to assist parks and recreation infrastructure development and the creation of public parks. UPARR matches local funds to rehabilitate urban recreation facilities in economically distressed neighborhoods.	Advocate to fully fund the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program and retain the current state appropriation formula.
	Full Service Community Schools	Full Service Community Schools strengthen communities by seamlessly integrating academic, developmental, multi-generational recreation, and health service programming to families to ensure cost-effective use of facilities and resources.	Support grant funding to expand Community - School Partnerships.
Economic & Community Development	Bridging Interstate 5 (Interstate 5 Riverfront Reconnection)	Examining the feasibility of bridging the below-grade I-5 with a deck and/or pedestrian bridges to generate economic development and recapture the riverfront. Environmental phase scheduled to be complete in 2010.	Monitoring funding opportunities and pursuing funds based on project status and needs.
	Affordable Housing	The demand for affordable housing in Sacramento has increased dramatically as household income has fallen behind the steady increase in single family home sales prices and apartment rents. More and more households are being pushed out of the housing market.	Support legislation that increases funding to expand and preserve affordable housing. Support legislation that provides funding for programs that promote revitalization of urban areas.
	Redevelopment	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Redevelopment authority and funds are critical to the revitalization of Sacramento neighborhoods.	Support legislation that retains CDBG and redevelopment authority and funds.
	Small Neighborhood Commercial Centers	Support funding for revitalization of small neighborhood commercial centers that are not in redevelopment areas.	Support funding for projects.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Economic & Community Development	Homelessness	Implementation of the 10-year housing first strategy.	Support HUD and other sources of funding for projects.
Public Safety	Homeland Security	The City has experienced increased costs to implement enhanced security during alert periods and the time frame up to and during time of war.	Seek reimbursement of expenses incurred.
	Project HomeSTAR	Development of a public training safety college within the Sacramento region to provide curriculum and tactical training to "first responders" which would serve the Western United States and the Pacific Rim	Support funding for facility development.
	Sunset of Assault Weapons Ban	Assault Weapons ban expired on September 13, 2004.	Support renewal of the federal ban on assault weapons.
Environmental/ Sustainability	Water Meters	Per A.B. 2572, the City is required to install water meters on all properties by January 1, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$300 million.	Support funding to complete the project.
	Sustainability	The City supports programs and project that address air quality improvement, energy efficiency, water efficiency, renewable energy, fuel efficiency, energy adequacy and security.	Support funding for projects that address these issues.
	Water Conservation	Water conservation is essential to guaranteeing a water supply for generations to come. The City of Sacramento is committed to conservation through participation in the Water Forum, water conservation staff, and education of the public regarding water conservation issues.	Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allows local control over water rates.

Subject	Issue	Summary	Action
Environmental/ Sustainability	Reclaimed Water	Reclaimed water involves the use of treated wastewater for landscaping and irrigation purposes and is a great alternative for areas with limited water supply	Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allows local control over reclaimed water.
	Sacramento River Reliability Study	The feasibility study will help in developing a plan to implement the Water Forum Agreement objectives which includes pursuing a Sacramento River diversion to meet the water supply needs of the Placer-Sacramento region and to preserve the Lower American River.	Support continued federal funding of this study.