

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ADRIANE MERTENS, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS &
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER;
JOHN O'DONNELL, MMO PARTNERS;
KYRIAKOS PAGONIS, MMO PARTNERS
SUBJECT: 2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Communications & Intergovernmental Relations Office that the Council, by resolution, adopt the City's 2021 Federal Legislative Platform.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 federal legislative session is now underway. To be best positioned to respond to what is anticipated to be a very active session, City staff have identified federal legislative priorities in a proposed 2021 federal platform for consideration by the City Council. Defined priorities, approved by the City Council, will help communicate the City's federal legislative and project priorities to the California Congressional Delegation, Congress, and federal agencies.

BACKGROUND

Since the 2017 wildfires, the City has been actively working with our contracted federal lobbyist team, MMO Partners, to engage our federal representatives and federal government agencies on our community's critical recovery and resiliency needs. Since then, additional wildfires, more frequent Public Safety Power Shutoff events, and the Coronavirus pandemic have only increased the City's need for participation in these advocacy efforts. Additionally, potential new funding opportunities for critical infrastructure projects make the timing right for expanding on the city's federal engagement activity focuses.

The 117th Congressional session has now begun, the 2021 federal funding cycle and process is initiating, and City staff anticipate that this will be a very active session. To prepare for these activities, staff has identified federal legislative priorities in the

proposed 2021 legislative platform for consideration by the City Council. The priorities focus efforts in the following core areas: COVID-19 Response and Economic Resiliency, Wildfire Recovery and Resiliency, Community and Environmental Infrastructure, Housing and Community Development, and Public Safety.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

The statements outlined in the proposed 2021 Federal Legislative Platform (Attachment 1) are intended to help communicate the City's federal legislative and project priorities to the California Congressional Delegation, Congress, and federal agencies. A defined, Council-approved platform will allow City Council members and City staff to efficiently and appropriately address proposed legislation, administrative, or regulatory actions to advance and protect City interests, as necessary.

City staff, in coordination with the City's federal lobbyist team, will monitor federal legislation and administrative or regulatory proposals, taking appropriate action when necessary in alignment with the approved 2021 Federal Legislative Platform and in compliance with the City's existing Legislative Advocacy Council Policy No. 000-40 in order to advance and/or safeguard the City's priorities in Washington, D.C.

FISCAL IMPACT

At this time, approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the City's General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378 in that there is no possibility that the implementation of this action may have significant effects on the environment, and that no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
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- Attachment 1 - 2021 Federal Legislative Platform
- Resolution/ Exhibit A – 2021 Federal Legislative Platform

CONTACT

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