

2022 State Legislative Platform



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Introduction

About Renee Public Policy Group (RPPG)

- Specializing in the most important legislative and regulatory issues facing local government—representing cities, special districts and local government trade associations across the State.
- Decades of advocacy experience, including prior work with Cal Cities and Capitol Staff in Housing, Transportation, and Natural Resources.
- Technical expertise in Land Use, Transportation, Public Safety, Governmental Operations, Revenue and Taxation.
- Proven track record in securing funding opportunities and negotiating multiple water, park, housing and transportation bonds.

Analysis

Purpose for Establishing a State Legislative Platform

- Communicates the City's state policy and project priorities to the public, CA State Legislative Delegation, regional and state agencies.
- Allows staff and legislative consultant to quickly triage and assess legislative matters upon introduction.
- Provides guidance/direction to City staff and state representatives regarding City's state and regional funding priorities.

Analysis continued

Deep Dive Meeting Process:

- City Staff and RPPG conducted “Deep Dive” meetings with each department to assess the following:
 - State policies that have an impact on departmental operations.
 - Ongoing local projects, programs or initiatives that may have a state policy nexus.
 - Past and/or present funding requests (both state and federal).

Proposed State Priorities

COVID-19 Response & Economic Resiliency Priorities

- Support legislation that provides direct and flexible funding to local governments for the costs incurred as a result of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Support legislation that provides assistance for rental relief and water/utility/sewer payments to those residents impacted by loss of revenue due to COVID-19.
- Support legislation to protect employees and the community from COVID-19.

Proposed State Priorities

Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery

- Support legislation that supports policy and funding needs outlined in the City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Oppose legislative attempts that shift wildfire costs associated with investor-owned utility-caused events to the city and its residents.
- Support programs which provide funding to hazard mitigation projects, such as wildfire and flood protection measures, including those identified in a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Proposed State Priorities

Administration, Human Resources and Risk Management

- Support maximum flexibility for local governments in contracting and contract negotiations.
- Support legislation that promotes efforts to advance workplace diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Support legislation that facilitates the ability of local government to share resources to increase efficiencies and decrease costs, including local efforts to address regional management of fire services.

Proposed State Priorities

Governmental Transparency and Public Access

- Support legislation that balances increased public trust, confidence and access to public meetings while realizing the fiscal and operational constraints of local government.
- Support state funding efforts to assist with enhanced public access for members of the community.
- Support legislation that would permit the City to provide electronic copies of documents to satisfy requirements in the California Public Records Act.

Proposed State Priorities

Economic Development

- Support international, statewide, regional and local efforts to attract, retain and provide resources for current and future technology-based, commercial and industrial businesses.
- Support efforts to provide funding mechanisms for economic development tools including infrastructure investment, housing, childcare, and other needs critical to a foundation of equitable economic resiliency.
- Support policies, projects and programs in support of workforce resiliency and addressing a more equitable economic growth.

Proposed State Priorities

Environment, Climate Change & Sustainability

- Support legislation that provides funding opportunities focused on coordinating sustainable planning in transportation, housing, and economic development.
- Support legislation that provides local governments assistance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and total energy use.
- Support policies, guidelines, incentives, and funding for programs with combined benefits to air quality, water quality, housing, infrastructure (including multi-modal transportation systems) and public health.

Proposed State Priorities

Water Quality and Water Supply

- Support and monitor legislation that would increase the availability of, and funding for, water conservation, water reuse technologies, recycled water, local water storage, groundwater storage, recharge, and recovery, watershed protection and improvement, storm/flood risk mitigation, Integrated Regional Water Management Plans, and other water supply technologies.
- Support the enhancement of a reliable and sustainable water supply for the City and surrounding communities.
- Support measures to increase water supply and improve water quality in the region, including drought relief legislation.

Proposed State Priorities

Land-Use Planning and Housing

- Support efforts to strengthen the legal and fiscal capability of local agencies to prepare, adopt and implement plans for orderly growth, development, beautification and conservation of local planning areas.
- Support housing measures that promote the preservation of existing affordable housing.
- Support measures that increase inclusionary affordable housing and increase affordable housing investment and partnerships.

Proposed State Priorities

Homelessness

- Support efforts to increase funding for the development and ongoing operations of permanent supportive housing, including resources to finance the development of new units and resources to provide long term sustainability for supportive services.
- Support efforts to increase State funding to prevent and reduce homelessness in Sonoma County.
- Support measures that provide resources to address the mental health and alcohol/substance use needs of persons experiencing homelessness.

Proposed State Priorities

Recreation and Parks

- Support legislation and funding opportunities (e.g. state park grant funds, conservancy grant funds, project mitigation funds) that would help the City fund improvements for parks, open space, natural resources, historic preservation, the arts and cultural resources.
- Promote local agency control over policies that recognize the benefits of parks and recreation facilities.
- Support efforts to fund the Housing Related Parks Program offered through the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Proposed State Priorities

Public Safety, Emergency Services and Law Enforcement

- Support legislation and funding that will help local governments with improving community policing and rebuilding community trust through officer training and mental health first response for crises involving mental illness, homelessness, and addiction; and support programs like the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.
- Recommend funding opportunities be created for public safety to include diversity in police and fire hiring, recruiting and education practices.
- Support legislation that coordinates public safety shut off (PSPS) events between customers, regulators, government officials, and public safety partners.

Proposed State Priorities

Transportation, Public Works & Utilities

- Support legislation that would increase funding for local transportation projects including road resurfacing projects, local transit projects, adding bicycle lanes, sidewalks and trails throughout the city where appropriate, programs that facilitate development-oriented transit and transit-oriented development and enhancing bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Support policies aimed at equitable access for transportation system users and equitable transportation funding for disadvantaged communities.
- Support funding for increasing the use of broadband, including middle and last mile expenditures.

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Communications & Intergovernmental Relations Office that the Council, by resolution, adopt the City's 2022 State Legislative Platform.

QUESTIONS?