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CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA REPORT

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**VIA:** James DeStefano, City Manager

**TITLE:** **APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE'S  
RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT A CITY-WIDE LEGISLATIVE  
PLATFORM**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

The City of Diamond Bar regularly monitors and establishes supporting/opposing positions on legislative proposals generated at the county, state, and federal levels. Currently, each item is taken to the Council's Legislative Subcommittee for their recommendation and then on to the full City Council for final direction. Staff then forwards letters and/or resolutions of support or opposition to the bill's sponsoring legislator with copies to any other interested parties.

In an effort to further streamline and improve the City's legislative advocacy efforts, staff proposes to create a Council approved annual Legislative Platform. A Platform identifies the fundamental legislative issues deemed important to the City, and upon Council approval, will allow staff to respond to the rapidly changing nature of legislative items efficiently and without delay.

For example, the attached draft Legislative Platform states that the City would support legislation providing for greater local control of the placement of group residential care facilities within the City. With an approved Platform in place, staff could respond with letters of support immediately rather than waiting to secure both Legislative Subcommittee and Council approval, making the City's advocacy efforts all the more timely.

Staff introduced the concept of a Legislative Platform to the Legislative Subcommittee for review and approval. After incorporating the input of the Subcommittee, the attached Legislative Platform was approved with the following program terms:

- Upon approval of the Legislative Platform by the City Council, staff shall continue to monitor all pertinent legislative proposals
- Staff will respond with letters of support or opposition to those legislative proposals deemed eligible based on the adopted Platform. Letters will contain the Mayor's electronic signature, with copies distributed to the City Council
- Staff shall prepare a report to the Council following the issuance of any letters stating the City's position on a particular bill
- The City Manager shall review all correspondence before it is issued to confirm appropriateness
- Those items of importance that are not clearly defined on the adopted Platform will be referred to the Legislative Subcommittee for direction
- Adjustments to the adopted Legislative Platform may be recommended by the Legislative Subcommittee at any time and referred to the full City Council for adoption
- The Legislative Subcommittee shall meet annually to develop the following Fiscal Year's Platform.

Should the Council approve the Legislative Platform, the program could be in effect immediately.

**Prepared by:**

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Ryan McLean, Assistant to the City Manager

## **FY 08-09 Proposed Legislative Platform**

### **1) General**

- a) Support legislation that enhances and maintains local control, including but not limited to land use planning, local public meeting procedures, and all other aspects of the City's governance

### **2) Finance/Budget**

- a) Support legislation that proposes to further secure local government funding sources such as property taxes and Prop. 42 transportation dollars
- b) Support legislation that proposes to provide more funding for infrastructure, public facilities, and the purchase of open space
- c) Support legislation that advocates equitable distribution of Property Tax allocations based on overall contribution
- d) Support state and federal fiscal policy that requires a balanced budget
- e) Oppose legislation that proposes to divert local government funds to the State or other entity

### **3) Transportation**

- a) Support legislation that provides funding for local, regional, and state-wide transportation infrastructure and system improvements
- b) Support legislation proposing improvements/funding for the Four Corners Transportation Coalition priority projects
- c) Support legislation that prohibits diversion of transportation funding for other uses
- d) Oppose legislation that identifies the 60 Freeway Corridor as a preferred alternative for truck-only lanes

### **4) Land Use/Planning/Housing**

- a) Support legislation that increases local control over group/residential care facilities, their location, and their oversight
- b) Oppose measures that mandate unattainable RHNA requirements where developable land is unavailable, etc.

- c) Support legislation that enhances the City's ability to enforce municipal codes for businesses operating outside their approved land use and without a Conditional Use Permit

## **5) Public Works**

- a) Support legislation that permits general law cities to use design-build contracts for public works projects
- b) Support legislation authorizing local governments to enter into agreements with private entities to finance specified types of revenue generating infrastructure projects
- c) Oppose legislation requiring local public works projects to be designed and/or approved by state engineers/architects

## **6) Public Safety**

- a) Support legislation which aims to strengthen local law enforcement efforts including, but not limited to the regulation of sales or manufacturing of drugs; prevention of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol; criminal activity of all types; registration of sex offenders; the provision of a greater share of seized assets to localities in a more timely manner; increased sentences for criminals involved in activities such as violence, robbery/burglary, gangs, narcotics, or repeated offenses
- b) Support legislation that enhances consequences for those convicted of vandalism of public property and further tightens regulations on the sale and trade of stolen public property
- c) Support legislation that provides for additional funding sources dedicated to public safety programs, services, and personnel

## **7) Environmental**

- a) Support legislation that provides increased funding opportunities for municipal environmental programs and sustainable energy projects
- b) Support legislation that provides fiscally responsible policy for renewable energy programs
- c) Oppose legislation that places undue hardship on local governments to implement new environmental regulations