



# ***City of Hughson Legislative Program***

*(Adopted March 24, 2014)*

---

## **General Principles**

### **Home Rule**

We support self-governance by locally elected officials as provided for in the State's Constitution. Specifically, we feel local governments should control their rights of way, have condemnation authority, be immune from tort liability, and be free to voluntarily cooperate with other public and private entities, as well as State government, to ensure the best level of service for our citizens. We do not support actions at the state level that erode representative democracy or local self-determination.

### **Annexation**

The ability of the City of Hughson to promote and plan for growth is inherent to the ultimate success of our community and Stanislaus County. We support the ability of cities to use their annexation powers as they are currently established in state statute. We oppose any change that limits the authority of cities to grow through annexation.

### **Rights-of-Way**

We oppose any legislation that would restrict the ability of cities to control public property and rights-of-way or the ability of cities to franchise those entities that use the rights-of-way including the implementation of statewide franchises.

### **Unfunded Mandates**

We oppose unfunded mandates. If the state or federal governments seek to promote particular policy objectives, an appropriate level of funding should accompany such mandates.

### **Pension /Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

Continue and expand upon recent efforts at pension and OPEB reform to ensure the long-term affordability and responsiveness of public services for city residents.

### **Local Control and Funding**

Promote local control for cities. Support or oppose legislation and proposed constitutional amendments based on whether they advance maximum local control by city governments over city revenues, land use, redevelopment and other private activities to advance the public health, safety and welfare of city residents.

## ***Environmental/Utilities***

### **Strategy: Infrastructure**

- Support federal and state funding targeted towards regional and interregional water resource planning efforts and related land use planning.
- Support measures, which increase water supply through recharging and strengthen the City's rights for use of surface water.
- Support a fiscally and environmentally responsible reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Support measures that will fund water management improvements.

### **Strategy: Livable Community**

- Support legislation that provides direct funding for conservation and demand reduction projects in city facilities; seek grant or loan funding for essential services (i.e. police/fire, water/wastewater) to purchase new or replace existing back-up generators that are more energy efficient and less polluting.

### **Strategy: Government Operations**

- Support measures that improve water quality within the city/region without lowering MCLs or requiring more monitoring.
- Oppose mandatory groundwater management unless it is reasonable and the management reflects the representative views of all agencies which will be regulated, particularly local government.
- Support legislation that provides local government and agency flexibility in meeting air quality requirements for existing backup generators for sewer, water and storm-pumping facilities.
- Support legislation and increased funding for juvenile crime prevention and abatement programs.
- Support legislation that will reimburse agencies responsible for identifying, tagging and removing waste from illegal drug labs.
- Support legislation that would make Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement Task Force labs available to our jurisdiction for evidence process and drug lab clean-up.
- Support legislation that facilitates local law enforcement ability to acquire the needed Federal Homeland Security funds.
- Support legislation enhancing sentencing and eliminating sentencing consolidation or reductions for those convicted of auto theft.

## ***Public Works/Transportation/Telecommunications***

### **Strategy: Infrastructure**

- Support development of state programs that would provide funding for construction of new transportation infrastructure and upgrades within communities experiencing explosive residential growth.
- Support legislation that provides additional funds for infrastructure or which provides options for financing developer requirements.
- Support legislation that enhances resources for local jurisdiction to maintain and operate their infrastructure.

- Support legislation to fund telecommunication planning and implementation.
- Support legislation to fund GIS to better manage regional resources, respond to emergencies and plan for growth.

**Strategy: Planning for the Future**

- Support State and Federal legislation to reaffirm home rule in oversight and revaluation of telecommunication entities, using public right-of-ways and affecting conditions addressed by local planning and land use policies.

**Strategy: Government Operations**

- Support legislation that provides increased local control over spending on streets and highways.
- Support legislation that provides additional funding to assist public transit systems in meeting air quality standards.
- Support State legislation that protects current City revenues:
  - SLESF (Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund)
  - Vehicle License Fees, Property Taxes, Sales Taxes