

CITY OF MORENO VALLEY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM



2016 Legislative Session



**CITY OF MORENO VALLEY
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM
2016**

PURPOSE

The Legislative Platform outlines the City's position on priority issues and provides a comprehensive approach to allow staff to take immediate action on pressing legislation under City Council direction. The Platform establishes legislative priorities and serves as a vehicle for the City to pursue regional, state, and federal legislative objectives in the most efficient and effective manner.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The City Council amends the Legislative Platform for each legislative session. The Platform provides City officials and staff with direction to engage in advocacy efforts on bills that are of critical importance to the City, precluding the need to agendaize every bill that is presented. If the proposed legislation falls within the guidelines of the Legislative Platform, City staff prepares a letter for the Mayor's signature to either support or oppose the bill. Requests that are not addressed in the City's Platform may be placed on an agenda for consideration by the City Council. Staff will review current bills with the City Council appointed member for the California League of Cities prior to taking action on any legislation outlined on the platform.

The statements expressed herein are statements of existing City Council policy. This platform supplements existing City Council established goals and policies in various documents, including the City's General Plan. The legislative priorities are identified by category to encompass the objectives of the City Council and the interests of the City of Moreno Valley. City officials, staff, and legislative advocates will support or oppose the adopted policies when acting on behalf of the City. If individual positions are expressed by City Council members, any contrary positions are deemed individual opinions, and do not reflect or alter the policy of the City Council.

- A. Community and Economic Development:** To support activities that promote job creation and economic growth.
1. Support legislation and funding to strengthen the capability of local agencies to prepare, adopt and implement plans for responsible growth, development, zoning, and annexations.
 2. Support measures that clarify and streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to reduce the time and cost of compliance while ensuring that the environment is adequately protected.
 3. Support CEQA reform that protects our natural environment while precluding frivolous lawsuits that result from inadequate safeguards

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written into CEQA regulations.

4. Support legislation that reduces the time period in which lawsuits may be filed to challenge a certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
5. Support legislation that would require the party or parties that file a challenge to an EIR or NEPA certification to bear all costs associated with the lawsuit when such challenges do not prevail.
6. Support State legislation to establish a new, locally-controlled economic development funding program to fill the void created by the elimination of redevelopment agencies.
7. Support State legislation to establish a new, locally-controlled affordable housing funding program to fill the void created by the elimination of redevelopment housing set-asides.
8. Support legislation that facilitates the recoupment of City costs derived from State and Federal mandates.
9. Support federal legislation that would appropriate funding to expand both active and reserve operations and the addition of necessary flight crews for March Air Reserve Base (March ARB).
10. Support federal legislation that would increase the joint services use of March ARB and oppose legislation that would reduce the joint services use of March ARB or eliminate the base entirely.
11. Support reform of the Endangered Species Act (Act) to include the following elements:
 - a. Mandates should be fully funded by the legislative body that imposes them;
 - b. All economic impacts of the Act should be considered before revising and/or amending the Act;
 - c. Mitigation required by the Act should be incentive-based; and
 - d. Preservation of habitats should support multiple species, as opposed to creating single species habitats.
12. Support reform measures for housing law that:
 - a. Streamline state approval of housing elements;
 - b. Set reasonable minimum performance standards for all local governments.

- B. Environment and Public Health:** To improve the environment and promote public health to create a more sustainable community.
1. Support the change of grant eligibility requirements so that granting agencies may assist challenged water systems in disadvantaged communities before there is a violation of drinking water standards.
 2. Support legislation that provides resources and funding to local governments for the implementation SB 375 and SB 32.
 3. Support the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, its processes, and funding.
 4. Support legislation for funding storm water infrastructure improvements and compliance with storm water quality regulations.
 5. Support funding for programs that reduce waste sent to landfills.
 6. Oppose waste management requirements that would put local jurisdictions at risk of not meeting their AB 939 waste diversion requirements or that create additional unfunded mandates.
 7. Support legislation that funds the increase of the urban forest canopy.
 8. Support state and federal funding for residential, business, and municipal energy efficiency projects.
 9. Support state and federal implementation of climate change legislation that is practical, incentive-based and cost effective for businesses, residents, and local government.
 10. Oppose legislation that focuses on costly or impractical solutions and mandates.
 11. Support and influence state legislation and regulatory initiatives to strengthen local government's ability to set local policies relating to "sustainability," including, but not limited to, building standards and land use planning.
 12. Support legislation and funding to create a sustainable and stable water supply, encourage conservation of water resources and reduce urban runoff pollution.
- C. Fiscal Responsibility:** To maintain a balanced budget and ensure that assets and resources are properly safeguarded and deployed in a prudent, efficient

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manner.

1. Support legislative efforts to remove unjustified “cost recovery” charges by electric utilities that disproportionately amortize street light poles and related facilities.
2. Oppose efforts to exempt Internet telephonic services from local taxes and fees applicable to other telephonic services.
3. Support legislation that preserves local authority to regulate Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services and collect any applicable revenues.
4. Support workers compensation reform to reduce the exposure of employers to frivolous claims.
5. Support legislation to retain local sales tax revenues in their communities of origin.
6. Oppose legislation that will further erode local governments’ ability to collect sales tax revenues.
7. Support efforts to simplify the collection of sales taxes nationwide and provide an equitable method for collecting sales taxes for Internet and catalog sales.
8. Support legislation that will provide the City with equitable compensation for revenues lost due to any miscalculation of property taxes by the County Auditor-Controller.
9. Support legislation that will restore City revenues lost through state actions.
10. Support statewide reorganization of municipal financing to achieve equity among cities and provide a broad tax base for cities.
11. Support legislation that will clarify the implementation of Proposition 218 and protect existing City revenues.
12. Oppose any actions by the State to further reduce City revenues unless fully offset by either equal relief of mandates or equalized supplementation with other stable revenues.
13. Oppose local government financing reform that will result in an overall reduction of tax revenues to the City.
14. Support concept of "block grant" vs. categorical grants in order to reduce administrative costs.

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15. Support regulatory reform that simplifies grant accounting standards to minimize administrative costs.
16. Oppose mandates for cities to pay fees for county services beyond what is paid by county residents for such services (e.g., booking fees, property tax administrative fees).
17. Oppose legislation that would establish a standard utility user's tax for all jurisdictions, which would be lower than the tax rate approved by Moreno Valley voters.
18. Support continuation of Gas Tax funding for local transportation projects.
19. Support permanent removal of "maintenance of effort" requirements when grant or program funding is reduced in any way.
20. Oppose legislation that would limit the City's ability to hold contractors accountable for their work product, such as retention of progress payments.
21. Support legislation that would make the debarment process more reasonable and protect cities from non-performing and unethical contractors.
22. Support legislation that allows cities to select other than the low bidder for public works projects.
23. Oppose the imposition of new fees upon municipal utilities.
24. Oppose Federal or State legislation that would have a negative impact on local government's ability to issue tax exempt financing.

D. Livability: To enhance quality of life by supporting effective education programs, strengthening the City's neighborhoods, safeguarding community services and facilities, and promoting arts and culture.

1. Oppose state budget reductions that will reduce Community Services District revenues.
2. Support funding for childcare, including after-school programs.
3. Support legislation that would provide funding for recreation and youth programs.
4. Support legislation and funding for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of public facilities, parks and open space.

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5. Support legislation and funding for policies and programs that promote the overall health and wellness of families, veterans, seniors and youth in the City.
 6. Support legislation that provides additional funding to train and re-train individuals to enhance the local workforce by matching jobseeker skills with job opportunities.
- E. Local Control:** To preserve local governance and protect government revenue.
1. Support legislation that strengthens Home Rule and oppose legislation that preempts local authority.
 2. Support application of the Brown Act to the state legislature to the same extent that it applies to local government.
 3. Oppose state legislation mandating binding arbitration.
 4. Oppose any legislation that would grant, to the State, any zoning or other land use controls in municipalities.
 5. Support efforts to establish local control over placement of group homes within the City and require the state to disclose to cities the categories of placements that include sex offenders who would be placed in the homes.
- F. Public Safety:** To promote the general safety of all City residents.
1. Support legislation that increases the minimum distance from schools that registered sex offenders must reside.
 2. Support legislation that prohibits any sex offender from residing with a child who was a victim of a sex offender.
 3. Oppose any legislation imposing fines and penalties versus corrective action notices for safety violations.
 4. Support legislation that increases penalties for traffic violations in school zones.
 5. Support measures that would establish tougher penalties for graffiti vandals and strengthen cities' ability to be compensated for damages.
 6. Support legislation that increases public safety through educational initiatives.
 7. Support legislation that increases public safety through state and federal block grants.

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8. Support legislation to prohibit the manufacture, import, sale and use of dangerous synthetic substances, including those that mimic marijuana, methamphetamine and heroin.
9. Oppose legislation to expand “early release” for low-risk serious and violent offenders without an increase in sustained funding to ensure responsible supervision by parole agents and for local agencies that provide post-release supervision.
10. Support legislation and funding to assist local law enforcement to reduce crimes related to illicit drugs, burglary, and assault, including domestic violence, and sobriety and driver’s license checkpoints.
11. Support legislation to grant more local control for cities to regulate zoning for massage therapy businesses.

G. Public Utilities: To preserve the local rate-making authority of municipally-owned utilities and promote voluntary compliance with CEC reporting.

1. Support legislation that establishes and preserves the role of cities in energy decisions for municipal utilities, including activities relating to electricity generation, supply, demand and conservation.
2. Oppose legislation that preempts the authority and self-regulatory principles of municipal utilities.

H. Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility: To cultivate a city with safe, appealing, efficient, motor and non-motor transportation infrastructure to attract and retain small and large businesses, new entertainment and recreation, and residents, and to support growth in the goods movement industry.

1. Support efforts to improve the roadway and aesthetics along State Route 60 between Interstate 215 and Interstate 10.
2. Support State Route 60 Improvements east of Interstate 215. The increase of commerce and economic growth requires improved highways in and around Moreno Valley and through the “Badlands.”
3. Support legislation to increase funding for jurisdictions to repair, maintain, and replace state and local transportation infrastructure.
4. Support legislation that increases the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
5. Support privatization of Caltrans projects to allow rapid construction of priority projects.

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6. Oppose legislation that would eliminate or restrict the use of Riverside County State Improvement Transportation Funds, federal transportation funding, Measure A, or Gas Tax funding for local transportation projects.
7. Support efforts to establish a high speed rail route along the Interstate 215 corridor in concert with the cities of San Bernardino, Riverside, and other nearby cities.
8. Support funding for the mitigation and construction of the Heacock Channel Improvement Project.
9. Support funding for the mitigation and construction of the Cactus Drainage Channel.