



## 2016 Legislative Platform

### LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM PURPOSE STATEMENT

The 2016 Legislative Platform provides a framework for the City of Rancho Cucamonga's Legislative Program. Adopted annually, the City's Legislative Platform is the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy and serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives that provide direction for the City Council and staff throughout the year.

### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The primary objective of the Legislative Platform is for the City Council to adopt official City positions on clearly stated legislative issues at the start of the legislative session. By doing this, the legislative approval process is streamlined by receiving clear direction at the beginning of the legislative session from the City Council on pertinent legislative issues.

The Legislative Platform is developed and maintained using the goals and objectives of the City Council, a review of legislative priorities from the League of California Cities, League's Inland Empire Division, input from City Council and Staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff and the City's legislative advocates.

Federal and state legislative proposals and policies consistent with the Legislative Platform may be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals inconsistent with this agenda may be opposed by the City. For proposed legislation, either consistent with the City's Legislative Platform or consistent with legislative positions the City has taken in the past, City staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the Mayor's signature. Items not addressed in the City's Legislative Platform may require further Council direction.

Legislative priorities may only address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of municipal services. Generally, the City will not address matters that are not pertinent to the City's local government services such as social or international issues. City departments are encouraged to monitor and be knowledgeable of any legislative issues related to their discipline. Any requests for the City to take a position on a legislative matter must be directed to the City Manager's Office. City departments may not take positions on legislative issues without City Manager's Office review and approval.



## PROGRAM GOALS AND STRATEGIES/ACTIONS

The Legislative Program Goals and Strategies/Actions are outlined below.

### **Program Goals:**

- Advocate the City's legislative interests at the Federal, State and County levels.
- Inform and share information with our Legislators, City Council, and staff on the legislative process and key issues and legislation that could have a potential impact on the City.
- Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the League of California Cities, regional agencies such as SANBAG, SCAG, SCAQMD, OmniTrans, and local professional organizations on legislative/regulatory issues that are important to the City and our Region.
- Seek grant and funding assistance for City projects, services, and programs to enhance services for our community.

### **Strategies/Actions:**

- I. Communicate legislative positions on proposed Federal, State, and County legislation, measures, initiatives, and governmental regulations.
  - A. Work with city departments and our legislative advocates to develop positions on proposed Federal and State legislative measures.
  - B. Staff will review the positions and analysis done by the League of California Cities, our legislative advocates' feedback, and other local government/professional associations in formulating our positions.
  - C. The City will take positions only on proposals that clearly impact our City or are a threat to local control.
  - D. Actively track key bills through the legislative process, utilizing the City's advocacy services, various Legislative websites, and government/professional associations.
  - E. Communicate the City's position to our Federal, State, and County Legislators, bill author(s), committees, and Legislature, through correspondence, testimony, and in-person meetings.
  - F. Work cooperatively with other Cities, associations, and the League of California Cities on advocating our legislative positions.
  - G. As necessary, participate in the drafting and amending of proposed Federal and State measures that have the potential to significantly impact the City.
  - H. Meet with Legislators and their representatives, as well as other Federal, State and County government officials on a regular basis, to discuss local government issues, proposed legislation, requests for funding assistance, and City programs and services.
- II. Seek Federal, State, and County funding through earmarks, grants, and other discretionary funding for City projects, services, and programs.
  - A. Annually identify City projects for potential submittal for Federal earmark consideration. Develop a submittal packet for Legislators that provides information and need for the projects.
  - B. Provide information to City departments on potential grant funding opportunities and recognition programs.
  - C. Advocate and request letters of support for City projects and grant applications or other resources that are being considered for Federal, State, and County funding.



- III. Work closely with the League of California Cities, our legislative advocates, and other cities and organizations in advocating for City's Federal, State, and County legislative interests.
  - A. Actively participate in the League of California Cities' Inland Empire Division activities.
  - B. Participate in League of California Cities, including active involvement in League Policy Committees and other organization briefings and activities in order to stay updated on trends, upcoming initiatives, and pending legislation.
  - C. Support the League of California Cities Multi-Year Strategic Initiatives and Advocacy Strategies.
  - D. Interact with other cities on issues of mutual concern or impact.
  - E. Interact with regional groups that are involved with legislative programs (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, SANBAG, CalTrans, CVWD, SCAG, SCAQMD, etc.)
  - F. Review requests from other governmental and regional organizations to consider supporting their legislative positions and/or funding requests.
  
- IV. Share information with the City Council, City staff, and the community on legislative issues.
  - A. Work closely with department heads and staff to determine their legislative priorities and funding needs for the upcoming legislative session.
  - B. Provide updates on legislative issues to the Council and departments throughout the year.
  - C. Educate and involve the community in the City's advocacy efforts on legislative issues and State/Federal funding requests.



## **2016 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

The City of Rancho Cucamonga strongly promotes local control and home rule for cities and will support or oppose legislation and proposed constitutional amendments based on whether they advance maximum local control by city governments over city revenues, land use, community development and other municipal activities.

### **STATE PRIORITIES**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMPLOYMENT RELATED**

- ▶ Support responsible implementation by CalPERS of recent pension reforms adopted by the Legislature.
- ▶ Support cities' ability to determine for themselves how their municipal elections are conducted.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that puts cities at a disadvantage in the collective bargaining process.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that circumvents the collective bargaining process between cities and employee groups. .
- ▶ Support efforts to enact workers' compensation reforms that lower employers' costs while still protecting workers.
- ▶ Oppose legislation or regulations that would unreasonably increase employer medical costs for workers' compensation.
- ▶ Oppose legislation which would increase employer liability for unemployment compensation, or which would reduce local discretion to manage this risk.
- ▶ Oppose legislative efforts to impose binding arbitration that would remove local government authority on matters of local interest.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that increases the statute of limitations for workers' compensation benefit claims.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that limits the ability of non-profit organizations that represent public agencies from participating in state and local ballot initiatives.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that limits local authority or makes it more onerous for cities to contract for various services.

#### **COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- ▶ Support efforts to provide enhanced funding for library programs and initiatives.
- ▶ Support legislative efforts and additional funding to help address the issue of homelessness.



- ▶ Support funding for a comprehensive approach to expanding and enhancing arts programs in the community.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides incentives or grant opportunities for community improvements.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides funding for senior citizen transportation services.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides funding and resources for local governments to implement Healthy Cities programs and policies aimed at reducing obesity, childhood obesity, high rates of diabetes, heart disease, and other health conditions.
- ▶ Support legislative efforts to increase opportunities for community-wide citizen volunteer programs.
- ▶ Support funding for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to address the needs of youth in the community.

## ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Support efforts to provide adequate funding for water conservation projects, including turf removal and the installation of low flow water efficient fixtures.
- ▶ Support efforts to adjust the regulatory framework for mandatory water conservation to include groundwater banking, recycled water use and any other adjustments that provide equity to water providers and communities meeting the state conservation requirements.
- ▶ Support changes to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits that consider the economic and environmental impacts these permits have on local agencies.
- ▶ Support the continued distribution of Cap and Trade revenues to cities to assist in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage sustainable community strategies.
- ▶ Support efforts to allocate greater portions of Cap and Trade revenues for projects located outside of disadvantaged communities as defined by CalEnviroScreen.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that imposes undue hardship on local agencies by requiring them to implement onerous environmental regulations.
- ▶ Support streamlined environmental processing for regulatory permits issued by Caltrans and various other state and federal agencies for the purpose of expediting public infrastructure developments.
- ▶ Support legislation to provide changes to AB 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act, which will streamline its provisions and assist in compliance, placing more emphasis on implementation of waste diversion programs and less on strict mathematical accounting.
- ▶ Support financial incentives for water reuse and legislation that encourages the treatment of municipal wastewater for non-potable reuse and promote the development of reasonable



regulations to encourage and maximize the responsible use of reclaimed water as an alternative to California's fresh water supply.

- ▶ Support efforts to streamline and improve the CEQA process.
- ▶ Support legislation that allows cities and other local agencies to compete for funding under Proposition 39 – The California Clean Energy and Jobs Act
- ▶ Support efforts to provide adequate funding to assist local government in water conservation, ground water recharge and reuse of stormwater and urban runoff programs.

### **LAND USE, PLANNING AND COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- ▶ Oppose legislation that removes the local control provisions provided to cities and counties through the Medical Marijuana Safety Act.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that requires cities to modify their permitting process.
- ▶ Support legislation that aims to incentivize private-sector investment by offering income tax credits to attract and retain economic development.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that removes local control for cities to properly regulate the massage industry, including requiring background checks for massage therapists.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that imposes a mandatory cap on local parking standards in transit intensive areas.
- ▶ Support legislation that strengthens the concept of local control/home rule for local decision making on land use and zoning matters.
- ▶ Support legislation that preserves municipal authority over the public right-of-way including fair and reasonable compensation for use of the right-of-way.
- ▶ Support a streamlined right-of-way acquisition process.
- ▶ Support legislation that expands community and economic development tools and funding options for infrastructure and affordable housing.
- ▶ Oppose efforts by any regulatory commission from promulgating rules and regulations that infringe on local land use decisions and management of the public right-of-way.
- ▶ Oppose additional affordable housing production mandates without necessary funding to support said housing mandate.
- ▶ Support legislation that enhances the City's ability to promote economic development and job creation.
- ▶ Support efforts that increase the City's ability to reasonably oversee the location of community care facilities.



- ▶ Support legislation that provides funding for the identification, acquisition, maintenance and restoration of historic sites and structures.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that requires additional development review requirements for large “superstore” retailers.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- ▶ Support legislation that makes it easier for public service agencies to collaborate with social service providers in order to implement emergency prevention and risk reduction programs for at-risk populations.
- ▶ Support legislation that prohibits drones from interfering with a firefighting operation or other public safety response.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that limits law enforcement’s ability to address homelessness.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides funding support for disaster preparedness, Homeland Security, and other local emergency management and law enforcement activities.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that would impede local law enforcement from addressing crime and recovering costs resulting from a crime committed by the guilty party.
- ▶ Support legislation that limits the placement of sex offender and parolee group homes within the City limits.
- ▶ Support statewide efforts for local emergency management programs and support guidelines that provide the foundation for effective emergency cost recovery.
- ▶ Support and promote programs that enhance the benefits of mutual aid agreements between local governments.
- ▶ Support increased authority and resources devoted to cities for abatement of graffiti and other acts of public vandalism.
- ▶ Support legislation that protects home rule in adopting Fire and Life Safety Codes.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that restricts local authority jurisdiction over the enforcement of fire and life safety regulations.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides resources and funding opportunities related to wildfire prevention and wildfire response.
- ▶ Support regional efforts to improve interoperability of voice and data communications equipment.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides local law enforcement agencies authority to recover any costs associated with complying with any federal, state or court-ordered licensing, registration and



testing requirements.

- ▶ Support efforts to promote and fund programs to combat pet overpopulation, increase pet adoptions and spay/neuter programs and educate citizens on the dangers and nuisance of roaming, uncontrolled animals and other animal control issues that risk public health and safety and quality of life.
- ▶ Support legislation and budget actions to fund immediate and critical court services and provide funding consistent with court workloads.

### REVENUE AND TAXATION

- ▶ Support legislation that provides a level playing field for traditional taxi services and transportation network companies (TNC's), such as Uber and Lyft, enhances public safety and streamlines local government administrative responsibilities, while allowing local control.
- ▶ Support legislation that prohibits associated websites from advertising short-term residential vacation rental units that are operating in conflict with local ordinances.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that prohibits the collection of transient occupancy tax (TOT) on web-based vacation rental units.
- ▶ Support policy options that update the local government tax structure to respond to the "New Economy" and the erosion of major government revenue sources resulting from the expansion of e-commerce, increased consumption of retail services rather than goods, changing patterns of commerce, and innovations in technology.
- ▶ Oppose any legislation that would make local agencies more dependent on the State for financial stability and policy direction.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that would impose State mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.
- ▶ Support efforts to protect local government revenue sources and the provisions of Proposition 1A – Protection of Local Government Revenues. Support legislation/initiatives that ensure that all local funding sources remain a dedicated revenue source for local governments.
- ▶ Oppose any legislation that would pre-empt or reduce local discretion over locally-imposed taxes.
- ▶ Support full cost reimbursement to the City for all federal, state and county-mandated programs.
- ▶ Oppose legislative and administrative efforts by online travel companies to circumvent remittance of transient occupancy taxes to local governments from hotel reservations purchased using the internet.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that eliminates the municipal bond tax exemption.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that alters distribution of revenues from traffic and parking violations, resulting



in lower revenue for local governments.

### **TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS**

- ▶ Support the procurement of renewable resources with the flexibility to choose which resources best meet each municipal utility's needs.
- ▶ Support efforts to include Distributed Generation as a "Category 1" Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) resource.
- ▶ Support efforts to include out-of-state renewables, such as wind, solar and geothermal resources, as contributing to the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals.
- ▶ Support the development of policies that recognize hydropower as a domestic renewable resource.
- ▶ Support efforts to incentivize energy storage technologies that help integrate renewable energy.
- ▶ Support funding for the development and implementation of cost-effective energy conservation and energy efficiency programs that provide flexibility for publicly owned utilities to create programs that reflect the unique interests of their community.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides a fair, reliable, equitable, and continuous funding source for transportation projects, allocates funding for local street maintenance projects, and increases revenues for infrastructure repair and maintenance.
- ▶ Oppose legislation with unnecessary mandates related to a Gold Line connection to the Ontario Airport that does not fully address concerns regarding funding, representation, liability, and local control over the portion of the project located in San Bernardino County.
- ▶ Support recognition of the importance of San Bernardino County to the overall goods movement systems as part of any statewide investment plan in transportation.
- ▶ Support continued state funding for Safe Routes to School programs.
- ▶ Advocate for funding for the Etiwanda Railroad Grade Separation project.
- ▶ Oppose efforts to redirect, eliminate, or reduce amount of Highway User Tax Account (HUTA) that cities receive for street maintenance and improvements.
- ▶ Support legislation or policy that provides funding to local governments for local transportation, water, sewer and storm system projects.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides funding and resources for alternative fuel vehicles for replacement of municipal fleet equipment.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides funding and resources for retrofitting municipal buildings to increase energy efficiency.



- ▶ Support efforts for continuing and increasing funding sources for street maintenance projects and transportation improvements.
- ▶ Oppose any legislation that diminishes or does not assure local franchise fees for all utilities' use of City right-of-way.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that seeks to lessen the City's ability to enforce contractual language agreed to and contained within existing franchise documents.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides clarification and improvements to Infrastructure Financing District (IFD) Law that will enable local agencies to more effectively use this tool for a variety of infrastructure financing needs
- ▶ Oppose legislation that places the burden and liability of replacing all sidewalks solely on cities.
- ▶ Support efforts to ensure and protect the water supply for local agencies.



## FEDERAL PRIORITIES

### TRANSPORTATION

- ▶ Support legislation that facilitates the pending transfer of the Ontario International Airport (ONT) from the City of Los Angeles to the City of Ontario.
- ▶ Support targeted funding for goods movement projects of national significance that are beyond the funding capacity of local and state transportation programs and budgets.
- ▶ Advocate for funding for the Etiwanda Railroad Grade Separation project.
- ▶ Support legislative efforts to provide a stable and reliable federal revenue stream for current and future transportation projects.
- ▶ Support continued federal funding for Safe Routes to Schools programs.

### LOCAL REVENUE AND LAND USE AUTHORITY

- ▶ Support legislation that streamlines the current sales tax remittance process to grant states and localities the authority to enforce existing laws on remote retailers that have otherwise enjoyed a steep competitive advantage against brick-and-mortar stores.
- ▶ Oppose legislation and the promulgation of rules and regulations that allow any agency to intrude on, or supersede local authority, including, but not limited to, the City's right to regulate the development of wireless facilities.
- ▶ Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate local government resources by providing a tax moratorium for the expanding cellular telecommunications industry.
- ▶ Oppose efforts to eliminate the tax exempt status of municipal bonds and proposals to cap the investor tax deduction on municipal securities investments, which are critical tools used by local governments to finance community and capital improvement projects.
- ▶ Oppose legislative and regulatory efforts by online travel companies to circumvent remittance of transient occupancy taxes to local governments from hotel reservations purchased using the internet.

### COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Support streamlined environmental processing for federal regulatory permits issued by the US Army Corp of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Highway Administration and various other state and federal agencies for the purpose of expediting public infrastructure projects.
- ▶ Support legislation to include consideration of the economic impacts of proposed species listings, as well as support the delisting of species no longer threatened or endangered.
- ▶ Oppose funding cuts to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME program.



Advocate for a more streamlined application process and for greater flexibility of local appropriation and use of monies.

- ▶ Support legislation that provides incentives and resources to stimulate economic development and encourage job creation in the Inland Empire region.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

- ▶ Support continued adequate federal investment in resources critical to enabling local law enforcement to sufficiently provide public safety services, including full funding for Byrne/JAG and COPS programs, and renew suspension of the COPS grant local cost share requirement.
- ▶ Support modifications to the COPS Hiring Program grant that provides a greater federal cost share of the deputies' salary.
- ▶ Support continued funding for disaster preparedness, prevention, recovery, and response for all hazard threats, including investment in assisting communities with necessary upgrades to existing flood control systems.

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

- ▶ Support the *California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act*, provided there are provisions in the bill to protect existing and vested rights for mining access as well as encouraging a robust local outreach effort to gather critical input from the community and local stakeholder groups.
- ▶ Support changes to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits that consider the economic and environmental impacts these permits have on local agencies.
- ▶ Oppose legislative or administrative actions that prohibit or hinder local government's ability to implement Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs.
- ▶ Support federal resources to assist regional and local governments in developing and implementing energy efficiency and conservation strategies that maximize available resources, reduce costs, expand community access and protect public health.
- ▶ Support federal incentives that assist local governments in integrating new growth into existing communities, and develop and implement transportation, land use and building policies that encourage maximum use of resources and lower energy consumption.

### **COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- ▶ Support funding for the National Endowment of Arts for the purpose of expanding and enhancing arts programs in the community.
- ▶ Support legislation that provides incentives or grant opportunities for community improvements and historic preservation.
- ▶ Support legislative or executive efforts to include Cucamonga Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.



- ▶ Support efforts to attract federal resources to assist with the management of Cucamonga Canyon.