

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

2016 Legislative Platform



Adopted by the City Council on December 8, 2015

A legislative platform, approved by the City Council, enables City of Santa Clarita elected officials and staff to act quickly in outreaching to legislators, executive branch elected officials, and legislative, administrative, or regulatory staff in communicating the City's interests at the federal and state levels of government. The components within the 2016 Legislative Platform are primarily based upon positions previously adopted by the City Council.

The Santa Clarita City Council establishes the City of Santa Clarita's official policy position on all legislative, administrative and regulatory matters with which the City is involved.

Position statements on legislation, regulatory, and other matters for which City Council established policy exists may be communicated by the City Manager or designated staff to legislators, legislative staff, administration officials, administrative staff, and other entities, as appropriate, reflecting the City Council's adopted policy.

For those matters in which no City Council policy exists, bills and other legislative or regulatory matters will be brought to the City Council Legislative Committee for a recommendation to the full City Council. These matters may also be brought directly to the City Council, upon the request of the Council or in the event that timeliness of action by the City Council is required.

The purpose of the Santa Clarita 2016 Legislative Platform is to clearly outline the position of the City Council on priority issues and matters that impact the City's ability to operate effectively. City staff will monitor federal and state legislation, and administrative or regulatory actions; taking appropriate action when required and in compliance with this Platform to safeguard and/or advance the City's interests in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento.

The statements outlined below are intended to assist the City Council and City staff to appropriately address proposed legislation, administrative or regulatory actions to promote City interests and protect local authority, as necessary.

FEDERAL

1. Support legislation to designate the St. Francis Dam National Memorial.
2. Work with Members of Congress regarding issues related to the potential legislative establishment of a Castaic Wilderness area.
3. Support legislation to increase funding for, creating enhancements to, or expanding the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.
4. Support principles and legislation that will bring funding to the City of Santa Clarita under the reauthorization of the surface transportation act, including funding for Metrolink commuter rail, which is separate from the California High Speed Rail Authority project.
5. Oppose the imposition of unfunded or less-than-fully funded mandates on local governments.
6. Seek funding opportunities to be used toward construction of a new Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center within the City of Santa Clarita.
7. Seek funding opportunities to be used toward construction of a new Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's station within the City of Santa Clarita.
8. Support legislation and grant opportunities that will increase funding for Santa Clarita's community services, including funding for local law enforcement Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and enhanced Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).
9. Oppose regulatory efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to erode or eliminate local government authority regarding siting of cellular communications towers or transmission sites.
10. Support legislation or grant opportunities for local governments that provide funding for development or enhancing alternative vehicle fueling stations.
11. Support legislation and grant opportunities that will preserve or increase funding for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

12. Support incentives and programs utilized by states and local governments designed to keep filming within the United States, and in particular, California.
13. Work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to secure updated community flood maps.

STATE

1. Oppose legislation that seeks to impose district-based voting systems in municipal elections.
2. Oppose legislation that removes authority of local jurisdictions to determine how best to comply with provisions of the California Voting Rights Act.
3. Support legislation that seeks to create financial protections for cities regarding California Voting Rights Act Litigation.
4. Oppose the imposition of unfunded or inadequately funded state mandates.
5. Support legislation and regulatory action to assure timely reimbursements of mandated reimbursements owed to the City of Santa Clarita.
6. Support legislation that maintains or enhances the City's ability to keep and protect existing state and local funding sources that provide revenues to the City of Santa Clarita.
7. Oppose legislation that limits local control of municipal public services or imposes unjustified financial burdens.
8. Monitor and influence legislation or regulatory action regarding the proposed California High Speed Rail project; with the goal of eliminating (i.e. Burbank to Palmdale direct alignment by-passing Santa Clarita) or limiting (i.e. tunnel extension through eastern neighborhoods of Santa Clarita) negative impacts to Santa Clarita residents and the community.
9. Oppose legislation that would infringe upon the authority of local governments to effectively administer and consider unique local circumstances when processing permits and enforcing building and safety standards.
10. Oppose legislation that would interfere with the decision-making authority of local governments in the area of local land use.

11. Oppose legislative efforts that would allow the California Department of Transportation to transfer ownership of state highways to local governments without prior approval from the receiving agency.
12. Support legislation requiring transparency in the state licensing requirements for alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation facilities on par with public noticing requirements for group home facilities.
13. Support legislation regulating the location of state licensed alcohol or drug recovery facilities.
14. Support legislation that will preserve or enhance the tools, incentives, and programs utilized by local governments and the state that will keep filming in California.
15. Support efforts to streamline the redevelopment dissolution process with consistency and equitability.
16. Support legislation that fosters job creation, encourages sustainable growth, construction of affordable housing, and the elimination of blight in Santa Clarita.
17. Advocate for measures that support the City's continued efforts to retain and promote the growth or expansion of local businesses.
18. Support legislation or grant opportunities for local governments that provide funding for developing or enhancing alternative vehicle fueling stations.
19. Support efforts to ensure Santa Clarita receives its fair share of transportation revenue; based upon current population statistics and proportionate to transportation tax dollars generated in the City and increase funding for local transportation, transit programs, and projects.
20. Oppose legislation that would prohibit or limit local governments' ability to contract out for the provision of services.
21. Oppose legislation that mandates local governments provide specific benefits to employees or removes local authority to determine the level of benefits to be provided to employees.
22. Support measures that provide funding to local agencies for training, effective disaster preparedness, sheriff's station infrastructure, homeland security, and emergency planning.
23. Ensure all cities, including contract cities, have equal access to funding which increases public safety services.

24. Work with state legislators and administration officials, in partnership with the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District in seeking funding to continue reduction of self-regenerating water softeners.
25. Support legislation that enhances transparency in the decision-making process of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
26. Support full funding of the state's obligation to support local public libraries pursuant to existing formulas established in the state's education code.
27. Oppose state regulatory efforts to override or eliminate local authority regarding the siting of cellular communications towers or wireless transmission sites.
28. Ensure all cities, including contract cities, have equal access to funding for parks, recreation and open space.
29. Support efforts that direct a portion of Cap-and-Trade funds toward local transportation projects.
30. Oppose legislation that seeks to circumvent local control when addressing homelessness in an effort to take into account unique local circumstances.
31. Support legislative efforts to address the negative impacts of Proposition 47 on local governments and provide local law enforcement with the appropriate tools to reduce criminal activity.

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