

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA

2017 Legislative Platform



A legislative platform, approved by the City Council, enables City of Santa Clarita elected officials and staff to act quickly in reaching out 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 2017 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 regarding legislative, administrative, 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, regulatory board members, 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, administrative 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 2017 Legislative Platform is to 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 proposals; taking appropriate action when required in compliance with the adopted Legislative Platform in order 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 efficiently and appropriately address proposed legislation, administrative or regulatory actions to promote City interests and protect local authority, as necessary.

FEDERAL

1. Support legislation to establish the St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial and National Monument.
2. Support legislation to increase funding for, creating enhancements to, or expanding the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.
3. Support legislation seeking to implement the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study; containing boundary adjustments that include portions of the Santa Clarita Valley, but does not eliminate or limit current authority of the City of Santa Clarita.
4. Support legislation, regulatory proposals or grant applications that will bring funding beneficial to the City of Santa Clarita under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.
5. Work with Members of Congress regarding issues related to the potential legislative establishment of a Castaic Wilderness area.
6. Support legislation that enables local governments to enact ordinances or exercise regulatory authority governing residential recovery facilities, including, but not limited to, drugs and alcohol.
7. Seek funding opportunities to be used toward construction of a new Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center within the City of Santa Clarita.
8. Seek funding opportunities to be used toward construction of a new Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's station within the City of Santa Clarita.
9. Support legislation, administrative proposals or grant opportunities that will increase funding for Santa Clarita's community services; including, but not limited to, funding for local law enforcement Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and enhanced Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).
10. Support legislation, administrative actions or regulatory proposals ensuring that contract cities for law enforcement services are treated equally with municipalities providing full service or in-house law enforcement services.
11. Oppose regulatory efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to erode, limit or eliminate local government authority regarding siting of cellular communications towers, transmission sites or other infrastructure.

12. Support legislation or grant opportunities for local governments that provide funding for development or enhancing alternative fueling stations for vehicles.
13. Support legislation and grant opportunities that will preserve or increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
14. Support incentives and programs utilized by states and local governments designed to keep filming within the United States, and in particular, California.
15. Work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to secure updated community flood maps.
16. Oppose the imposition of unfunded or less-than-fully-funded mandates on local governments.

STATE

1. Support legislation that provides more transparency and contact between mobilehome park owners and residents; particularly in the areas of mobilehome park owner/tenant relations, conversion of senior parks to family parks, mobilehome lease agreements, and mobilehome park maintenance and evictions.
2. Support legislative efforts to address the negative impacts of Proposition 47 and Proposition 57 on local governments and provide local law enforcement with the appropriate tools to reduce criminal activity.
3. Oppose legislation that seeks to limit or eliminate municipal authority to regulate or ban commercial growing, processing, licensing, sale or transport of cannabis or cannabis products for recreational or medical use.
4. Oppose legislation that seeks to impose district-based voting systems in municipal elections or otherwise mandates specific actions for municipalities to implement when challenged regarding compliance with the California Voting Rights Act.
5. Oppose legislation that removes or limits the authority of local jurisdictions to determine how best to comply with provisions of the California Voting Rights Act.
6. Support legislation that would enable the California Department of Transportation to transfer ownership of portions of state highways to local governments, provided the receiving agency is in agreement with the transfer.
7. Oppose legislation that seeks to circumvent local control and local circumstances when addressing homelessness.

8. Oppose legislation, regulatory proposals or administrative actions to limit or eliminate local government authority or mandate by-right approvals relative to the siting or modification of telecommunications equipment or infrastructure.
9. Oppose legislation that changes the composition of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors (Metro), resulting in a reduction of Santa Clarita's representation or influence with the Board of Directors.
10. Support legislation, regulatory proposals or administrative actions to assure timely reimbursements of mandated reimbursements owed to the City of Santa Clarita by the State of California.
11. Support legislation that maintains or enhances the City's ability to keep and protect existing state and local funding sources providing revenues to the City of Santa Clarita.
12. Oppose legislation that limits local control of municipal public services or imposes new financial burdens.
13. Monitor and influence legislation, regulatory proposals or other actions regarding the proposed California High-Speed Rail Authority project; opposing alignment proposals that are not fully underground within the Palmdale to Burbank project section or otherwise negatively impact Santa Clarita residents and the community.
14. 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.
15. Oppose legislation that would interfere with, limit or eliminate the decision-making authority of local governments in the area of local land use.
16. Support legislation requiring transparency in the state licensing requirements for alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation or recovery facilities on par with public noticing requirements for group home facilities.
17. Support legislation that provides local governments with a role in regulating the location of state licensed alcohol or drug recovery facilities.
18. 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.
19. Advocate for measures that support the City's continued efforts to retain and promote the growth or expansion of local businesses.
20. Support legislation, regulatory proposals or grant opportunities for local governments that provide funding for developing or enhancing alternative fueling stations for vehicles.

21. Support efforts to ensure Santa Clarita receives its fair share of transportation revenue; based upon appropriate population statistics or proportionate to transportation tax dollars generated in the City and increase funding for local transportation, transit programs, and projects.
22. Oppose legislation that would prohibit or limit local governments' ability to contract out for the provision of services.
23. Oppose legislation that mandates local governments provide specific benefits to employees or removes or limits local authority to determine the level of benefits to be provided to employees.
24. Support measures that provide funding to local agencies for training, effective disaster preparedness, sheriff's station infrastructure, homeland security, and emergency planning.
25. Support legislation, regulations or administrative actions ensuring all cities, including contract cities, have equal access to funding which increases public safety services.
26. Support legislation, regulations or administrative actions ensuring all cities, including contract cities, have equal access to funding for parks, recreation and open space.
27. In partnership with the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District, work with state legislators and administration officials in seeking funding to continue reduction of self-regenerating water softeners and/or provides funding for the chloride compliance project.
28. Support legislation that enhances transparency in the decision-making process of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
29. Support full funding of the state's obligation to support local public libraries pursuant to existing formulas established in the state's education code.
30. Oppose state regulatory efforts to override or eliminate local authority regarding the siting of cellular communications towers, wireless transmission sites or other infrastructure.
31. Support legislation that directs a portion of Cap-and-Trade funds toward local transportation projects, excluding additional funds for high-speed rail.
32. Support legislation or administrative efforts to streamline the redevelopment dissolution process with consistency and equitability.
33. Support legislation that increases penalties for possession of date rape drugs with the intention of committing sexual assault.
34. Oppose the imposition of unfunded or inadequately funded state mandates.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Michael P. Murphy
Intergovernmental Relations Manager
mmurphy@santa-clarita.com
(661) 255-4384

Masis Hagobian
Administrative Analyst
mhagobian@santa-clarita.com
(661) 286-4057

The Santa Clarita City Council adopted the 2017 Legislative Platform on March 28, 2017.