

CITY OF CORONADO



2016 LEGISLATIVE POLICY GUIDELINES

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The following guidelines shall be utilized to take the appropriate positions on both state and federal legislative issues that affect the City of Coronado. These guidelines assist in taking positions on various issues in order to prepare consistent correspondence to various legislative members.

As needed, the staff legislative liaison will provide periodic updates of important legislative issues to the City Council at regular City Council Meetings. The City Council will then have the opportunity to make a position statement on the issues.

When a legislative matter requires action between a regular City Council meeting, staff is authorized to take a position on the matter in accordance with these guidelines. However, if there are mitigating factors where the Council may want to take a position different than indicated in these guidelines, the measure shall go to the City Council for action regardless of the urgency.

In addition, in accordance with Council Policy #26, Legislative correspondence signed by the Mayor shall be presented to the full City Council, subject to agenda deadlines, at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting as a non-action item under the Agenda Heading of COMMUNICATIONS – WRITTEN.

These guidelines are reviewed annually by the City Council and revised to reflect positions the Council has taken on previous legislative issues or may want to take based on recommendations from staff.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE	
A. State-Federal Mandated Programs	4
B. Long-Term Financing of Local Agencies	4
C. Revenue, Fees and Taxes	4
D. Border Area Economic Development	5
E. Local Educational Funding	5
II. GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
A. Workers' Compensation	6
B. Unemployment Compensation	6
C. Labor Relations	6
D. State and Local Government Relations	6
E. Pension Reform	7
III. PUBLIC PROTECTION	
A. Crimes	8
B. Drugs	8
C. Fire Protection	8
D. Medical Care	9
E. Homeland Security	9
F. Emergency Preparedness	9
IV. TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS	
A. Transportation	10
B. Solid Waste and Recycling	10
C. Public Rights-of-Way	11
D. Public Works	11
V. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT	
A. California Environmental Quality Act	12
B. Offshore Drilling	12
C. Waterfront	12
D. Water	13
E. Storm Drain and Sewer	13
F. Tijuana River Valley Sewage	13
G. Regional Growth Management	14
H. Air Quality	14
I. Wetlands	14
J. Energy	14
K. Land Use	14
VI. REDEVELOPMENT DISSOLUTION	
A. Housing	16
B. Successor Agencies	16
C. Redevelopment Mechanisms	16

VII. RECREATION	17
VIII. CITY-NAVY RELATIONS	18

I. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

A. State-Federal Mandated Programs

1. Support legislation requiring the State and Federal Government to provide full cost reimbursement to cities for all mandated programs and for all programs resulting in revenue losses.
2. Oppose legislation that fails to provide adequate funding for State and Federally mandated programs.
3. Oppose any measure that mandates procedures (such as maintenance-of-effort) that would make local government more dependent on the State for financial stability.
4. Support legislation that further protects local government revenue from being taken, confiscated, shifted, diverted or otherwise used to fund State government operations and responsibilities.

B. Long-Term Financing of Local Agencies

1. Support legislation to stabilize local government financing, to increase funding to local agencies and to permit the most cost-efficient management of State-mandated programs.
2. Oppose legislation which shifts revenue from local government to the State for any purpose or reduces local discretion in the use of local government revenues.

C. Revenues, Fees and Taxes

1. Support legislation which increases local revenues or improves local government's ability to generate revenue.
2. Oppose legislation that would change the property tax allocation method or formula that would result in less property tax to the City of Coronado.
3. Oppose legislation that would transfer a local government's reserves, or designated reserves, to the state or other agency, or reduces a local government's revenue due to the level of reserves it maintains.
4. Support legislation to protect and preserve local control over locally imposed taxes (such as transient occupancy tax and franchise fees).
5. Support legislation that would repeal FY 92-93 and FY 93-94 property tax shift from cities.

6. Support legislation to protect critical local programs and services from State budget cuts during the current legislative session.
7. Support legislation that would create cost recovery for local police, fire, and emergency medical services to state/military properties, including military housing.
8. Support legislation that would create cost recovery for local non-safety public services to state/military properties, including military housing.
9. Support legislation that would amend the State Constitution Article XIID, Section 6.C. to include storm drain fees among the list of types of fees that are exempt from the voting requirements imposed by Proposition 218.

D. Border Area Economic Development

1. Support legislation which would provide aid to and assist in the development of the economies of South Bay and border cities.

E. Local Educational Funding

1. Support legislation that guarantees Federal Impact Aid Funds to Coronado schools.
2. Support legislation that provides flexibility for use of 2% pass-through funds (Health & Safety Code section 33676) on school district operations.

II. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

A. Workers' Compensation

1. Oppose legislation which would increase employee benefits without system reforms which would offset increased employer costs.
2. Oppose legislation which would provide presumptive eligibility for the award of benefits for Workers' Compensation or other employee health benefits.
3. Support legislation which would remove existing presumptive eligibility for the award of benefits for Workers' Compensation or other employee health benefits.
4. Support legislation which would reform the Workers' Compensation system to reduce employer costs through the reduction of system abuse.

B. Unemployment Compensation

1. Oppose legislation which would increase employer liability for unemployment compensation or which would reduce local discretion to manage this risk.

C. Labor Relations

1. Oppose legislation which would impede local administration of labor relations.
2. Oppose legislation which would require, impose, or expand compulsory binding arbitration for public employees.
3. Oppose legislation which would increase the cost of benefits, the cost of administering benefits, or mandate that a special group health and welfare benefit be provided to all employees.
4. Oppose legislation which reduces local control over public employee disputes and/or imposes regulations from an outside agency.
5. Oppose legislation which makes disciplinary proceedings for public safety employees similar to criminal proceedings, making it virtually impossible for employers to prove an administrative violation.
6. Oppose legislation restricting the availability of evidence in administrative investigations and hearings involving public safety employees.

D. State and Local Government Relations

1. Oppose legislative efforts that restrict the City from contacting and representing itself on issues of importance before state agencies and commissions.

E. Pension Reform

1. Support legislation consistent with the League of California Cities' recommendations for pension reform that provides sustainable pensions for employees.

III. PUBLIC PROTECTION

A. Crimes

1. Support legislation that would protect the public from the dangerous and improper use of weapons and enact necessary regulations to control their use.
2. Oppose legislation which would weaken the authority of local law enforcement to control the issuance of concealed weapon permits.
3. Support legislation which strengthens State graffiti law and provides local government revenue and resources for graffiti abatement.
4. Support legislation that would protect the public from crimes, including identity theft, committed by use of computers, the Internet or other electronic means.
5. Support legislation that would provide funds for local law enforcement technology.
6. Support legislation that would provide funds for additional equipment, services, and/or personnel (COPS bill).
7. Support legislation that would prohibit transient rental hosting platforms from facilitating occupancy of a residential unit offered for tourist or transient use in violation of any ordinance, regulation, or law of the city; and require transient rental hosting platforms to report quarterly activities sufficient to enforce local transient rental regulations and zoning.

B. Drugs

1. Support legislation which strengthens State and Federal drug laws to give local government the power to restrict or regulate the sale, manufacture and the use of alcohol and/or controlled substances.
2. Support legislation which would provide a greater share of seized assets to localities.

C. Fire Protection

1. Support legislation protecting local discretion regarding building and fire code standards.
2. Support legislation that provides funding for local emergency operations including equipment, services and personnel.

D. Medical Care

1. Support legislation protecting or increasing municipal discretion regarding the provision of emergency medical services.
2. Support legislation to update the Geographic Practice Cost Index to provide for adequate reimbursement schedules for physicians in San Diego County who treat Medicare and Medicaid patients.
3. Support legislation that provides State and Federal funding for local hospital operations and capital improvement projects.

E. Homeland Security

1. Support legislation that would provide funding for Homeland Security measures.
2. Support legislation that would require communicating with city officials regarding threats to local safety, as threats occur.

F. Emergency Preparedness

1. Support establishment of a statewide earthquake early warning system.

IV. TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

A. Transportation

1. Seek and support legislation that would provide Department of Defense/Department of Navy funding and participation in congestion relief for the SR 75/282 Transportation Corridor.
2. Support legislation which provides equitable amounts of State and Federal funding for roads and highways and facilitates the timely construction of local transportation projects.
3. Support legislation which reaffirms State responsibility for highway funding and oppose legislation that would relinquish State Routes to local governments without appropriate consideration or concurrence.
4. Support legislation which assures Federal and State funding efforts for local transportation projects and for alternative forms of transportation.
5. Support legislation providing funds for local agencies to establish peak hour traffic management plans.
6. Support legislation to authorize financial incentives for employees who commute to work in car pools or use public transportation.
7. Support legislation that allows the use of speed cameras in 25 M.P.H. school zones and residential neighborhoods based solely on safety concerns.
8. Support legislation that would allow the lowering of the speed limit on State Route 282 and State Route 75/Silver Strand Highway.
9. Support legislation for active transportation methods and the implementation of complete streets in the City of Coronado to improve bikeability and walkability throughout the City.

B. Solid Waste and Recycling

1. Support legislation requiring local agencies to prepare and implement recycling plans.
2. Support legislation which encourages the State to provide funding for added costs of implementing mandatory solid waste, household hazardous waste, and recycling programs to local agencies.
3. Support legislation which sets reasonable and flexible recycling standards.

4. Support legislation that would exempt a city from AB 939 penalties due to a federal installation's excessive contribution to the city's waste stream.
5. Support legislation encouraging active development of markets for recycled goods.
6. Support legislation requiring local agencies to prepare and implement household hazardous waste collection plans and provide funding.
7. Support legislation which reduces local government's superfund liability for solid waste.

C. Public Rights-of-Way

1. Support legislation to retain local control over public rights-of-way.

D. Public Works

1. Support legislation that would address poor performance by contractors selected under low bid contract requirements.
2. Support legislation that would allow general law cities to use design build or other delivery methods for constructing capital improvement programs.
3. Support legislation that would provide greater flexibility in the use of City forces to complete minor Public Works contracts.
4. Support legislation that would allow general law cities to use a two-step, best value contract acquisition method for service contracts.

V. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

A. California Environmental Quality Act

1. Support legislation which improves CEQA requirements to aid in a thorough environmental review of future projects.
2. Support legislation that would exempt local agencies from completing CEQA or obtaining additional permits from State or Federal agencies for temporary events such as aerial fireworks displays.

B. Offshore Drilling

1. Oppose legislation which includes any San Diego coastal areas in the lease/sale program until environmental protection has been assured and the need for this resource has been demonstrated.
2. Support legislation which provides for oil spill prevention and response.
3. Support legislation which creates a Coastal Sanctuary which prohibits a State agency from entering into a new lease for the extraction of oil in State waters.

C. Waterfront

1. Support legislation which provides funding for waterfront coastal restoration, protection, and enhancement.
2. Monitor efforts to improve or modify facilities at Silver Strand State Beach with the intent of preserving the environment for the Coronado residents who are adjacent to the State Beach.
3. Monitor the status of legislation and seek state cooperation and funding for protecting the Silver Strand and Coronado Bridge Scenic Highways, including maintenance and operations of the Silver Strand State Park, master planning efforts, ridge line fence improvements, and rehabilitating and upgrading the environmental preserve north of the bayside beach picnic area.
4. Oppose projects that diminish or have a negative impact on the Silver Strand and Coronado Bridge Scenic Highways.
5. Support legislation to fund advance planning for the potential of sea-level rise.

D. Water

1. Support legislative efforts to feasibly improve the water quality in San Diego Bay.
2. Support legislation to provide Southern California with a stable source of water.
3. Support legislation which would provide incentives and funding for alternative water sources and for water conservation measures sponsored by local agencies.
4. Support legislation that would advance the opportunity to secure and utilize reclaimed/recycled water.
5. Support legislation that would support the development of a Long-Range Regional Water Reuse Plan.
6. Support legislation that would expand the ability of local government officials, staff, and the public to serve on the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

E. Storm Drain and Sewer

1. Support legislation to provide funding for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance and other mitigation measures and projects to reuse, divert, or treat urban runoff.
2. Oppose legislation that imposes more stringent requirements on storm drain runoff without providing funding and/or consideration of the feasibility of monitoring and mitigation of such requirements.
3. Monitor any new or reviewed requirements by State or Federal agencies for testing water quality and water body closures.
4. Support legislation that would provide funding for the Transbay wastewater system and other projects in the sewer and storm water master plans.
5. Support Federal and State legislation to allow for smaller secondary equivalency at the Point Loma Wastewater Plant (including the proposed Pure Water San Diego Program) rather than upgrading the plant to full secondary treatment as long as the discharges from the plant are not harming the environment.
6. Support legislation to fund programs for the proper disposal of prescription drugs.

F. Tijuana River Valley Sewage

1. Support Federal and State legislation that provides funding for remediation of inadequacies in Tijuana's sewer infrastructure facilities.

2. Support Federal and State legislation that provides funding for remediation efforts and pollution prevention efforts in the Tijuana River Valley.

G. Regional Growth Management

1. Support legislation that would produce additional resources, including adequate funding, to local agencies to address regional growth issues.
2. Support legislation that would authorize local agencies to establish regional authorities to address growth management issues on a voluntary basis.
3. Support legislation which provides for regional governance but does not compromise the City of Coronado's membership or role in regional governance issues or local municipal land use authority.

H. Air Quality

1. Support legislation to feasibly improve the air quality in San Diego County.
2. Support legislation which allocates State and/or Federal funds for compliance with Federal and State air quality standards.
3. Support legislation that would provide funding for alternative fuel vehicles.

I. Wetlands

1. Oppose legislation which adversely impacts the wetlands.

J. Energy

1. Support legislation that effectively stabilizes energy availability and reduces energy costs.
2. Support legislation that would provide funding for alternative energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation measures.

K. Land Use

1. Oppose legislation that takes a punitive approach to City General Plan Housing Element reform and the imposition of any extraordinary powers in State agencies with regard to City Housing Elements.
2. Oppose legislation, or other agency actions, that would usurp local control of land use decision-making.

3. Oppose legislation that would impose State-mandated development standards or procedures that are contrary to the Coronado General Plan or local land use policy.
4. Oppose legislation that is inflexible and cannot be modified through local review.
5. Oppose proposals that would alter air traffic that could result in negative impacts to Coronado.
6. Support actions by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA) related to the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) that do not adversely impact properties in Coronado based on the Air Installation Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) study from the Navy.
7. Support legislation that would provide for the Navy's AICUZ to be advisory, not mandatory, to the SDCRAA for preparation and adoption of an ALUCP for Naval Air Station North Island.
8. Support legislation that would provide for environmental review of the Navy's AICUZ prior to approval.
9. Support legislation that would eliminate potential for liability to the City for overriding recommendations of the AICUZ and ALUCP.
10. Support legislation and policy interpretation that allows for existing uses in an Airport Influence Area to be maintained, expanded and redeveloped in conformance with the City of Coronado's zoning regulations and General Plan.

VI. REDEVELOPMENT DISSOLUTION

A. Housing

1. Oppose legislation which restricts local discretion in the use of housing funds or in the assessment of housing needs.

B. Successor Agency

1. Oppose legislation which reduces the amount of Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) revenues allocable to successor agencies.
2. Oppose legislation which shifts revenue from successor agencies to the State to cure State budget deficits.
3. Oppose legislation which authorizes other agencies to assess successor agencies in excess of costs for actual services rendered.
4. Oppose legislation that prohibits a successor agency from repaying loans from a City that were provided to the agency for a lawful purpose.
5. Oppose legislation that prohibits the return of unused proceeds from a loan from a City to a redevelopment or successor agency.

C. Redevelopment Mechanisms

1. Support development of tools for local government to improve a community's value and infrastructure.

VII. RECREATION

- A. Support legislation that would provide funds for local and regional recreation areas, facilities, and services.

- B. Support legislation that provides funding from SANDAG, the State, and/or the Federal Government to complete and maintain the Bayshore Bikeway project around the entire San Diego Bay and other bikeway networks in San Diego County.

VIII. CITY-NAVY RELATIONS

- A. Support the Navy on matters of mutual concern that are consistent with the City's best interests to maintain a high quality of life for the community, dealing with base security, mission priorities, training facilities, air traffic safety, and ground traffic congestion.
- B. Support the Navy's efforts in retaining Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI) as a long-term, exclusive military facility under BRAC.
- C. Oppose efforts for joint use of commercial air passenger or cargo use of Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI).
- D. Oppose legislation that interferes with the City's land use authority to retain existing uses and allow for reasonable expansion of structures within any landing zones.
- E. Support Navy policy interpretation that provides for public participation in the preparation of an Air Installation Compatible Use Zone study for NASNI.