



WESTSIDE CITIES

- BEVERLY HILLS
- CULVER CITY
- LOS ANGELES
- SANTA MONICA
- WEST HOLLYWOOD
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Date: January 10, 2008

To: Westside Cities Council of Governments

From: Jody Hall Esser, Executive Director

Re: Review of Proposed WSCCOG Legislative Platform for 2008

Last year, it was agreed that a legislative agenda for the WSCCOG would be beneficial and would provide general policy guidance for the Chair and Executive Director to guide on-going administration of the organizations business affairs.

Copies of the legislative priorities for each of the WSCCOG member cities were for review.

With the assistance of Beverly Hills staff, Chair Briskman has prepared a *Draft Proposed State and Federal Legislative Platform for 2008*. (See Attachment 1 to this agenda item.) This document was distributed for review by electeds on December 12, 2007 in order to provide ample time for consideration prior to the January Board meeting. The document was distributed again on January 9, 2008.

Though not specifically requested with either advance distribution, should electeds make/take the time to draft suggested changes prior to the January Board meeting, such will be collected and distributed at the meeting. Otherwise, on the 17th, the Executive Director will note/collect suggested revisions and return a revised document to the Board for consideration in March.

Recommended Action

That the Governing Board discuss and comment on the *Draft Proposed State and Federal Legislative Platform for 2008* and request the Executive Director to return with a revised document for Board consideration at the March meeting.

DRAFT – Westside Cities COG
2008 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Platform Overview

The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the Westside Cities. Its primary focus is protecting local government control, maintaining local government revenue, pursuing homeland security funding, and actively supporting Westside transportation improvement projects. The Legislative Platform provides a policy framework for the COG to respond to legislative issues in a timely manner.

Local Control: Advocate legislation that maintains and enhances local control of resources and tools that allow cities to address the needs of constituents locally and within a framework of regional cooperation. Encourage the use of state incentives for local government action rather than mandates, (funded or unfunded). Oppose preemption of local authority whether by State legislation or ballot propositions.

Fiscal Strategies: Maintain the protections provided by Proposition 1A (November 2004 State election), promote stable revenue for local governments to plan for future growth and needed public facilities and services including library, parks (construction and renovation), recreational and social service facilities and oppose unfunded State mandates.

Housing and Land Use: Support incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply in our area including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements. Prioritize funding for necessary infrastructure. Emphasize local control in relation to all land use planning.

Transportation: Support and sponsor legislation that enhances the safety of city streets for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, reduces traffic congestion and supports regional transportation improvements including funding for the Exposition Light Rail to Santa Monica, the Westside Subway Extension and the I-10/Robertson/National Area Circulation Improvement Project.

Environment: Advocate legislation that supports flexibility to pursue cost effective sustainable responsible environmental policy and programs that effect potable water, waste water, solid waste removal and storm water.

Emergency Preparedness and Recovery and Homeland Security: Support efforts, strategies and legislation that promote and funds emergency preparedness and recovery efforts. Advocate for ICIS (Interagency Communications Interoperability System) participation among jurisdictions and funding for equipment and operations. Support funding opportunities for local homeland security programs including new technology and equipment (e.g., closed circuit television) that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations. Seek grants, and pilot project/demonstration project funding for City homeland security priorities.

Community Services and Public Health Infrastructure: Support legislation related to internet and filtering in public facilities, funding for literacy and English as a second language programs and protection against censorship and restriction of free speech. Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades and affordable social services for seniors and disabled. Support legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for at risk populations such as the frail elderly, indigent, disabled, means-challenged, and other challenged populations. Support legislation and other efforts to reduce the homeless population. Seek funding for parks and community facilities.

Air Quality:

The COG supports California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger cars and trucks.

The COG opposes legislation redirecting the funds authorized by Health and Safety Code Section 44223, which currently are used by local governments for locally based air quality programs.

The COG supports the expansion of representation on the South Coast Air Quality Management District by city officials, including the Western region of Los Angeles; and opposes efforts to diminish such city representation.

Arts, Cultural Resources, Historic Preservation & Activities:

The COG supports the continued state funding, and recognizes the important role of local arts activities and historic preservation in community life and how these cultural activities affect the social health and economic vitality of communities.

Land Use:

The COG opposes any attempt to erode Cities' local autonomy over land-use decisions, or weaken the ability of cities to ensure the future welfare of residents through local control of the planning process.

Sales Taxes:

Support efforts to simplify the collection of sales taxes nationwide and provide an equitable method for collecting sales taxes for Internet and catalog sales.

Affordable Housing:

Support legislation that expands the supply of affordable housing by adopting reforms that reduce barriers to improved planning and expand the financial resources available.

Traffic:

Support increased state resources to mitigate traffic congestion on City streets and rebuild and maintain roads.