



## City Council Staff Report

**From: City Manager**

**Report Type: ACTION ITEMS**

**Lead Department: City Manager**

**Meeting Date: May 15, 2023**

Report #:2304-1281

### **TITLE**

Update, Discussion, and Potential Direction regarding State and Federal Legislation

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council receive an update on State Legislation and provide feedback on bills to monitor or take direction on. This action item is a follow-up discussion to the April 3, 2023 discussion.

### **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

On April 3, 2023<sup>1</sup>, the City Council received a brief legislative update from Townsend Public Affairs (Townsend) related to recent actions in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. and asked Townsend questions of interest. Specific State bills of interest to decide to support or oppose was not discussed by City Council due to meeting time constraints. Staff has included an updated memo from Townsend Public Affairs (**Attachment A**) with the current status of bills organized in the same way as the last memo.

The memo is organized in the State updates section by pulling a handful of bills to the top and including specific Palo Alto impact information for those bills. The Mayor has signed letters for 4 of the 5 bills in the first table of the memo and those letters are included as **Attachment B**. The memo also lists other bills that Townsend is monitoring on behalf of the City. Staff also requested the League of California Cities to join for this update, if available, to share their State advocacy efforts on behalf of cities. Staff will continue to analyze these bills with Townsend as they progress. If desired, Council members may also raise for discussion other legislation of Palo Alto interest that is not listed in the memo or may recommend action on any of the bills listed on the monitoring list. The memo also includes a brief Federal update.

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<sup>1</sup>City Council, April 3, 2023 Item 13:

<https://cityofpaloalto.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=1103>

As a reminder, the 2023 State legislative calendar (which includes deadlines and other important dates) can be found online at: [www.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2023-01/2023 legislative calendar final.pdf](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2023-01/2023_legislative_calendar_final.pdf). This calendar provides helpful context when reviewing the bills included in the Townsend memo.

*Process:*

The question of process was included in the April 3<sup>rd</sup> memo and the City Council did not get to the discussion on that. The City Council expressed interest in being more involved in the legislative advocacy process, particularly related to State legislation. Going forward, Townsend and staff will regularly share legislative updates with the City Council based on the bills the City is monitoring or has taken positions on. If there are additional bills that Council members feel the City should be monitoring, please let staff know. Townsend and staff will review the bill and recommend a course of action. For context, the listed bills are being monitored in anticipation of potentially taking a position in the future depending on what happens with the bill.

Staff would like to confirm the process that the City Council will use for reviewing legislation. In prior years, the process has varied between going first to the Policy and Services Committee versus review directly by the full City Council. Given the City Council's interest in discussing and receiving the updates, staff could plan on a monthly agenda item on legislation between February and June each year. For 2023, this would be difficult as the City Council docket is very full in June.

**FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT**

There is no additional funding needed for this update report. The City Council budgets annually for the legislative advocacy services and these efforts are led by staff in the City Manager's Office with stakeholder support across departments on key issues.

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Staff from multiple departments are involved in the legislative process in helping to review the impacts of bills as well as discussing grant opportunities linked to state and federal programs.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The City's legislative advocacy activities are not a project under section 15378(b)(25) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment).

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: State and Federal Update Memo from Townsend Public Affairs, May 2023  
Attachment B: Recent Letters on State Legislation

**APPROVED BY:**

Ed Shikada, City Manager