



City Council Staff Report

From: City Manager

Report Type: ACTION ITEMS

Lead Department: City Manager

Meeting Date: August 14, 2023

Report #:2306-1652

TITLE

Update on Pending State and Federal Legislation and Advocacy and Grant Writing Support Activities; Consideration of Resolution Offering Comments on SB 532 - the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Bay Area Public Transportation Emergency Act

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council receive an update on pending State and federal legislation and lobbying activities. Staff also recommends that the City Council consider a resolution offering comments on SB 532 - the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Bay Area Public Transportation Emergency Act.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The City Council previously received a legislative update on May 15, 2023 and April 3, 2023 related to recent actions in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. The League of California Cities also participated in the May update.

For this current update, staff included a memo from Townsend Public Affairs (**Attachment A**) with the current status of bills organized in the same way as the May 2023 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 and previous positions the City has taken. It also includes information on where the bills are in the legislative process. The memo also includes 3 additional bills with a proposed position for the City Council to take on the bills. Two of those bills fit within the City's Legislative Guidelines and thus staff is only asking for Council confirmation on the proposed positions for those 2 bills (AB 531 and SB 326).

The third bill, SB 532, is related to transportation funding and staff wanted to receive Council direction related to this bill. Given the burden this bill could place on lower income people, staff proposes a position of offering comments and drafted a resolution for the City Council to consider (**Attachment B**). If the City Council chooses not to weigh in on this bill or chooses to oppose or support it, staff can amend the resolution to reflect the position.

The TPA memo also lists other bills that Townsend is monitoring on behalf of the City. 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. Positions could also relate to bills the Council would like to request the Governor to veto. The memo also includes brief Federal and Grants updates.

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. This calendar provides helpful context when reviewing the bills included in the Townsend memo.

Lastly, the Legislative Ad Hoc will be convening in August and another legislative check in will come to the City Council in the fall.

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)(5) 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, August 2023
Attachment B: Draft Resolution for Consideration on SB 532 (Wiener)

APPROVED BY:

Ed Shikada, City Manager