



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 18, 2019

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: City Administrator's Office

SUBJECT: Update Of State And Federal Legislative Platform

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Adopt the legislative platform, recommended by the Council Committee on Legislation, that guides the City's support or opposition to regional, state and federal legislative issues;
- B. Consider the request by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation to include language in the legislative platform related to nuclear weapons; and
- C. Authorize the Mayor, Councilmembers, and staff, on behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, to contact regional, state and federal representatives to advocate for legislation and actions consistent with the goals of the legislative platform.

DISCUSSION:

The City's legislative platform ("Platform") serves as the foundation for the City to support, remain neutral, or oppose regional initiatives and/or state and federal legislation. A comprehensive and current platform enables the City to act quickly when advocacy is needed. Periodically, staff reviews the platform to ensure it reflects current policy issues and positions of the Council. The City Council adopted the current legislative platform in June of 2017.

The Council Committee on Legislation met on May 2, 2019 to review recommended changes to the Platform and to forward recommended revisions to City Council. The proposed Platform is included as Attachment 1 to this report. Redline font indicates new language; language for proposed deletion is shown in strike-through font. Purple font indicates changes recommended by the Committee on Legislation at its May 2, 2019 meeting. The Committee unanimously approved the Platform shown in Attachment 1.

Other potential changes were discussed at the May 2 Committee meeting, based upon specific bills that were introduced during the current legislative session. However, staff ultimately did not include these changes in the Platform, as the bills in question have changed dramatically since their introduction, thus obviating a formal position by the City.

At the May 2, 2019 meeting, the Committee on Legislation also received and considered a request by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (Foundation) to include language related to nuclear weapons in the legislative platform (Attachment 3). The Committee voted unanimously to refer the language as proposed by the Foundation, adding the language, "subject to Congressional oversight," to the full Council for consideration for inclusion in the Platform:

Support federal and administrative efforts that, subject to Congressional oversight:

- *renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first;*
- *end the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;*
- *take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;*
- *cancel the plan to replace the entire U.S. arsenal with enhanced nuclear weapons;*
and
- *actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.*

Oppose legislation or efforts, subject to Congressional oversight, that lead to developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, otherwise acquiring, possessing, or stockpiling nuclear weapons.

Support legislation and measures, subject to Congressional oversight, that encourage the U.S. to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Oppose the investment of city resources or the creation of contracts with businesses that are involved in nuclear weapons production.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Proposed 2019 Legislative Platform with redline/strike-through
2. Letter from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

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SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, City Administrator

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office