

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: John A. Brand, Senior Management Analyst 

DATE: April 10, 2007 (CC Meeting of 4/16/2008)

SUBJECT: Consider 2008 Legislative Program

BACKGROUND

The City Council adopts an annual Legislative Program outlining the City's position on key municipal issues. If a measure is consistent with the Legislative Program, the Mayor is authorized to send a letter indicating the City's position. If a measure is not addressed by the Legislative Program, or if a staff recommendation differs from the Legislative Program, then the Finance, Administration and Public Safety Committee will review the measure and recommend a position to the City Council. The Finance, Administration and Public Safety Committee annually reviews the Legislative Program prior to City Council consideration and including the recommendations discussed in the report.

DISCUSSION

On April 2, the Finance, Administration and Public Safety Committee (Mayor Hunter and Mayor Pro Tem Parvin) met and discussed the City Legislative Program. The Committee recommended that Council consider the following additions to the Legislative program:

Category 4. Environment

- I. Support funding for local projects and planning strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.***

Category 5. Public Safety

- H. Support legislation to expand Vehicle Code enforcement on privately owned and maintained parking lots.***

Additionally, the Committee discussed whether the Council might consider directing staff to explore sponsoring specific legislation to expand Vehicle Code enforcement on private property. Current law (VC 21107.8) allows law enforcement to apply specific sections of the code after a resolution or ordinance by the City Council, and after required signage is posted. However, contrary to public perception, the law limits enforcement on private parking facilities to three sections: VC 22350 – Basic Speed Law; VC 23103 - Reckless Driving; and VC 23109 – Speed Contest/Exhibition of Speed. Proposed legislation may ask the legislature to consider expanding additional specific sections or entire divisions of law as they deem appropriate. Among the laws that the Committee discussed that should be enforceable were:

- VC 21200.5 – DUI on a Bicycle
- VC 21461 – Obey Traffic Regulatory Signs (e.g. One way, Do Not Enter, etc.)
- VC 21650 – Drive on Right Half of Roadway
- VC 22450 – Stop Signs
- VC 23110 – Throwing Substances at Vehicles
- VC 23220 – Drinking While Driving
- VC 23221 – Drinking in a Motor Vehicle
- VC 23222 – Possession of Marijuana or Open Container While Driving
- VC 27360 – Child Restraints
- VC 24250 – During Darkness required Lighting On
- VC 27007 – Sound Amplification Devices (radios, etc, greater than 50 feet)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Adopt a 2008 Legislative Program.
- 2) Direct staff to seek legislation expanding Vehicle Code enforcement on private property.

- Attachment 1: Draft 2008 Legislative Program
- Attachment 2: VCOG Legislative Program
- Attachment 3: League of CA Cities - Federal Priorities for 110th Congress
- Attachment 4: League of CA Cities - Strategic Priorities for 2008

**CITY OF MOORPARK
2008 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

April 2008

The following Legislative Program was developed to allow the City to respond to state and federal legislation in a proactive manner. The Mayor (or Mayor Pro Tem in the Mayor's absence) is authorized to sign correspondence expressing the City's position on pending legislation consistent with the Legislative Program and/or other positions approved by the City Council. The Finance, Administration and Public Safety Committee will also periodically review legislation for recommendation to the City Council.

Staff will monitor the League of California Cities' *Priority Focus* and other sources to identify pending legislation that may impact the City. Letters expressing the City's position will be drafted for the Mayor's signature, and copies will be distributed to each Councilmember. Pending legislation not addressed by the Legislative Program, or staff recommendations that deviate from the Legislative Program, will be agendaized for Finance, Administration and Public Safety Committee review and City Council consideration.

PLATFORM STATEMENTS

1. Local Government Finance

- A. Support legislation that limits cities' contributions to the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) and directs the repayment of past contributions.
- B. Oppose legislation that eliminates or restricts the taxing authority of cities over development; weakens existing Government Code Section 66000 fee authority; and redefines any development tax, condition, or other monetary charge as development fees.
- C. Support legislation requiring the state and federal governments to provide full cost reimbursement to cities for all mandated programs and for all programs resulting in revenue losses.
- D. Support legislation that safeguards existing City revenue sources from preemption or seizure by the state or county.
- E. Oppose any change in revenue allocations that would negatively affect the City of Moorpark, including but not limited to the redistribution of sales tax, property tax, transient occupancy tax, and vehicle in-lieu fee.

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- F. Oppose legislation that restricts or limits a city's ability to use tax-exempt debt for the purchase or construction of public purpose improvements.
- G. Support measures that provide greater fiscal independence to cities and result in greater stability and predictability in local government budgeting.
- H. Support efforts that provide greater accountability on the part of counties for the distribution of funds back to municipalities, including, but not limited to, fines and forfeitures.
- I. Oppose any measure that makes local agencies more dependent on the state for financial stability and policy direction.
- J. Support legislation that protects the ability of local government to recover the costs of mandated programs through fees that are not subject to Proposition 218.
- K. Support the establishment of a constitutionally-protected funding structure for local government.
- L. Support legislation that closes the loophole that allows companies currently doing business in California to create dot-com subsidiaries to avoid collection of sales taxes on Internet commerce.
- M. Support legislation that authorizes a statewide ballot measure to restore the requirement for a simple majority of voters in a city or county to approve an increase in taxes or issue general obligation bonds.
- N. Join with other Ventura County cities to encourage the Ventura County Treasurer-Tax Collector to shorten the time to collect property tax readjustments.

2. Labor Relations

- A. Oppose legislation that would restrict a city's ability to use its own employees on public works projects when such projects have previously been advertised for bid.
- B. Oppose legislation that requires the use of city employees rather than contracting out.
- C. Oppose any legislation that would grant employee benefits that should be decided at the local bargaining table.

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- D. Oppose legislation that removes or reduces management rights, such as deciding staffing or service levels, either by direct action or increased liability.
- E. Support legislation that would reform the Workers' Compensation system to reduce employer cost through the reduction of system abuse.
- F. Support legislation that limits the ability of employees to receive Workers' Compensation benefits for occupational injuries/illnesses that result from stress, disciplinary action, or performance evaluation consultations.
- G. Oppose legislation that expands or extends any presumptions of occupational injury or illness.
- H. Oppose any measure that imposes compulsory and binding interest arbitration.
- I. Oppose efforts that reduce local control over public employee disputes or impose regulations of an outside agency on such disputes.
- J. Oppose a mandatory Social Security tax for public employers and public employees.

3. Transportation

- A. Oppose legislation that redirects local transportation funds away from cities.
- B. Support legislation that would provide additional resources to cities to finance local transportation systems, facilities, and improvements.
- C. Support legislation that provides greater flexibility for the use of local transportation funds for both public transit and street maintenance and construction purposes.
- D. Support legislation that will help reduce non-local commercial vehicle traffic on SR-118 through the City.
- E. Oppose legislation that limits and/or decreases the existing amount of retention proceeds withheld from any payment by a public entity to the contractor on a public project.

4. **Environment**

- A. Support legislation that streamlines the state's environmental review process and maintains public participation.
- B. Support legislation that would eliminate unfunded mandates such as the water course pollution prevention programs.
- C. Support legislation that reduces or eliminates local government's owner/operator Superfund liability.
- D. Support legislation to either consolidate or streamline the federal and state Clean Air Acts without reducing air quality standards.
- E. Support air quality efforts that emphasize use of advanced technologies and market incentives, including use of alternative fuels and development of an infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles.
- F. Support legislation that reimburses cities for revenue losses stemming from environmental decisions made without city participation.
- G. Support legislation that provides money to local governments for energy conservation programs.
- H. Support legislation that gives cities authority to meet their National Pollution Elimination Discharge System requirements on a more collective and regional basis.
- I. ***Support funding for local projects and planning strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.***

5. **Waste Management**

- A. Support legislation that provides cities with financial assistance for programs designed to provide for the safe disposal of solid, hazardous, and special waste.
- B. Support legislation that strengthens cities' ability to direct municipal solid waste flow to designated solid waste facilities.
- C. Support legislation that streamlines AB 939 tracking and reporting requirements.

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- D. Support legislation that would make grants available to local agencies for programs that encourage the recycling/reclaiming of resources.
- E. Support legislation that promotes source reduction measures without creating an unfunded mandate.
- F. Oppose legislation that would restrict or limit local government's ability to franchise refuse and recycling collection services, to direct municipal solid waste flow (flow control), or to contractually require haulers to guarantee achievement of AB 939 goals.
- G. Support legislation that promotes recycling and expands the market for recycled materials.
- H. Support new resource recovery and conversion technologies, such as bio-diesel from organic waste.
- I. Support legislation that implements the concept of extended manufacturer responsibility for electronic waste and other material types requiring incentives for recycling.

6. General Government

- A. Support legislation that ensures cities receive a proportionate share of property taxes upon withdrawal from a county library services district, or any other county service or district for which property taxes are received.
- B. Support legislation that provides financial assistance for local public libraries without the imposition of new taxes.
- C. Support legislation that limits libraries' contributions to the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund.
- D. Oppose legislation that reduces funding for libraries including Public Library Funds.
- E. Support legislation that reinstates effective local regulation of the cable television industry and other deregulated utilities, including financial reimbursement for use of public right-of-ways.
- F. Oppose legislation that restricts or weakens a city's ability to regulate smoking areas, alcoholic beverage licenses, or adult-oriented business establishments.
- G. Support legislation limiting a city's liability associated with hazardous recreational activities, such as skateboarding and in-line skating.

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- H. Oppose legislation that increases local government's exposure to litigation.
- I. Support legislation that provides maximum local flexibility in contracting for services.
- J. Oppose efforts to cut funding for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs and other community services and workforce assistance programs to serve low-income and/or other disadvantaged residents.
- K. Support legislation to give non-entitlement cities the same rights as entitlement cities in CDBG program administration.
- L. Support legislation that makes funds available to refurbish and improve parks.
- M. Support legislation that promotes low-cost or no-cost spay and neuter programs.
- N. Support legislation that holds animal owners accountable for injuries or property damage caused by animals under their care or control.
- O. Evaluate the benefits of expanding the current boundaries of the Oxnard Harbor District through collaborative legislation with other Ventura County cities and the County of Ventura.
- P. Oppose any legislation that reduces or restricts local authority to regulate public right-of-way.

7. Public Safety

- A. Support legislation that would provide cities with a greater share of fines and forfeitures.
- B. Support legislation that would provide additional resources for commercial truck safety inspections and the enforcement of commercial truck vehicle codes.
- C. Oppose legislation that weakens enforcement of, and penalties for, commercial truck violations.
- D. Support legislation that would provide cities with contract law enforcement a proportionate share of Proposition 172 sales tax revenues for public safety.
- E. Support legislation that increases local law enforcement resources without increasing taxes.

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- F. Support legislation that would provide a greater share of seized assets to cities.
- G. Support legislation that allows use of state and federal public safety grants for maintenance efforts in addition to service increases.
- H. ***Support legislation to expand Vehicle Code enforcement on privately owned and maintained parking lots.***

8. **Land Use Planning**

- A. Support legislation that reforms annexation law by strengthening cities' authority over spheres of influence and ensures that fair property tax agreements can be obtained.
- B. Support legislation that provides for shared land use determinations between counties and cities when the General Plan of the city establishes a planning area consistent with Government Code provisions.
- C. Support legislation that enhances local control and diminishes litigation surrounding adult entertainment facilities.
- D. Support legislation that strengthens local control to prepare, adopt, and implement fiscal plans for orderly growth, development, beautification, and conservation of local planning areas, including, but not limited to, regulatory authority over zoning, subdivisions, annexations, and redevelopment areas.
- E. Support efforts that are consistent with the doctrine of "home rule" and the local exercise of police powers, through planning and zoning processes, over local land use.
- F. Oppose county development projects for undeveloped areas in the city's area of interest that do not conform to city standards.
- G. Support legislation that allows local control over the establishment of medical marijuana establishments.
- H. Oppose legislation that limits city use of eminent domain.

9. **Housing**

- A. Support legislation that addresses occupancy levels and strengthens cities' ability to reduce overcrowding in residential housing.
- B. Support efforts to develop federal, state, and county participation, financial support, and incentives for programs that provide adequate, affordable

housing for the elderly, handicapped, and low-income persons throughout the community.

- C. Oppose legislation that expands the state Department of Housing and Community Development's review role for local Housing Elements.
- D. Support Housing Element reform legislation that provides greater local control and flexibility, simplifies the process, and improves its effectiveness.
- E. Support legislation that eliminates the current Regional Housing Needs Allocation process and defines an equitable process to determine a "fair share" of new housing needed to respond to growth trends in the region.
- F. Oppose legislation that expands the state exemption for second dwelling units in single family zones.
- G. Support legislation to ensure that property tax valuations for deed restricted dwelling units with reinforcing Deeds of Trust are based on the Affordable Sales Price, actually paid by the buyers, rather than based on market value.

10. Redevelopment/Economic Development

- A. Oppose legislation that further weakens a city redevelopment agency's authority to use eminent domain.
- B. Oppose legislation that would prohibit or limit the establishment of new redevelopment project areas and/or the expansion of existing project areas.
- C. Oppose legislation that reduces the amount of gross tax increment allocable to redevelopment agencies.
- D. Support legislation that reforms reporting requirements for redevelopment agencies by simplifying the process and eliminating reporting confusion.
- E. Oppose legislation that adds restrictions and procedural requirements regarding closed session discussions on land acquisition, use of eminent domain, and disposal of property.
- F. Oppose measures that would diminish the current authority or financing capabilities of redevelopment agencies.
- G. Support legislation that gives cities resources to finance economic development efforts, such as business attraction, retention, and growth, as well as marketing and tourism.

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- H. Support legislation that simplifies and streamlines the process for foreign trade.
- I. Oppose legislation that limits redevelopment agency use of eminent domain.

VCOG ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR 2008

Draft – January 4, 2008

Purpose

The goal and intent of VCOG is one of voluntary cooperation among cities and the county of Ventura for their collective benefit. In this regard, VCOG serves as an advocate in representing the members of VCOG at the regional, state and federal levels on issues of mutual importance to the Ventura County area. It also can serve as a forum for the review, consideration, study, development and recommendation of public policies and plans with regional significance.

Overriding Principles

VCOG believes that cities and counties must be able to control matters within their own jurisdictions. Therefore, VCOG will take positions on proposed legislation, rules and/or regulations that affect local control. Additionally, VCOG will take positions on issues that directly affect the county area. And, when local decisions affect neighboring communities, VCOG supports local governments working collaboratively and regionally to address regional issues.

Process

Staff will monitor the League of California Cities' *Priority Focus*, California State Association of Counties' positions as well as other sources to identify pending legislation that may impact the member entities.

A Legislative Subcommittee of the VCOG Administrative Committee shall be created composed of the following three members: Chair, Chair Elect and Immediate Past Chair. The Chair (or Chair Elect in the Chair's absence) is authorized to sign correspondence expressing VCOG's position on pending legislation consistent with the Legislative Program and/or other positions approved by the Governing Board provided that such correspondence has been sent to the Legislative Subcommittee for their review with a deadline for their comments but not less than 24 hours before it is finalized.

Copies of all correspondence will be distributed to each Governing Board member and their jurisdiction and a Legislative Report will be provided at Board meetings.

Pending legislation not addressed by the Legislative Agenda, member requests or staff recommendations that deviate from the Legislative Agenda, will be agendaized for VCOG Governing Board consideration.

This policy will be reviewed each year with the adoption of the Legislative Agenda.

Issues Of Common Concern and Areas of VCOG Commitment

I. Fiscal Impact - VCOG is committed to:

- A. Maintain the protections that are provided in Proposition 1A to protect local revenues from seizure by the state.
- B. Oppose preemption of local authority.
- C. Support measures that result in greater stability and predictability in local government budgeting.
- D. Support legislation requiring the state and federal governments to provide full cost reimbursement to cities and counties for all unfunded or underfunded mandated programs and for all programs resulting in revenue losses.
- E. Encourage the use of state incentives for local government action rather than mandates and penalties.
- F. Support legislation eliminate unfunded Federal mandates.

II. Transportation & Transit - VCOG is committed to:

- A. Support legislation that would provide additional resources to cities and counties to finance local transportation systems, facilities, and improvements.
- B. Protect and enhance current funding levels and local authority for existing State and Federal transportation revenues and programs
- C. Support the immediate halt to transfers to the State General Fund of dedicated State Transportation funds and the timely return of all previous loans
- D. Support the authority of cities and county to manage the public right-of-way and receive compensation for its use.
- E. Support legislation authorizing design-build as an option for public works projects.
- F. Support legislation that expands SCAG's "2% blueprint" process.

III. Economic Development - VCOG is committed to:

- A. Support legislation that gives cities and counties resources to finance economic development efforts, such as business attraction, retention, and growth, as well as marketing and tourism.
- B. Support the retention of the Naval Base Ventura County.

- C. Support legislation to ensure sufficient funding to operate one-stop employment and training centers.
- D. Oppose efforts to cut funding for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs and other publicly funded community services and workforce assistance programs to serve low-income and/or other disadvantaged residents.
- E. Support legislation that reforms reporting requirements for redevelopment agencies by simplifying the process and eliminating reporting confusion.

IV. Land Use - VCOG is committed to:

- A. Support efforts that are consistent with the doctrine of "home rule" and the local exercise of police powers, through planning and zoning processes, over local land use.
- B. Support legislation that strengthens local control to prepare, adopt, and implement plans for orderly growth, development, beautification, and conservation of local planning areas, including, but not limited to, regulatory authority over zoning, subdivisions, annexations, and redevelopment areas.

V. Housing - VCOG is committed to:

- A. Support efforts to develop multi-jurisdictional (federal, state, county, city) participation, financial support, and incentives for programs that provide adequate, affordable housing for the elderly, handicapped, and low-income persons throughout the community as well as required infrastructure construction.
- B. Support Housing Element reform legislation that provides greater local control and flexibility, simplifies the process, and improves its effectiveness.
- C. Support legislation that eliminates the current Regional Housing Needs Allocation process and defines a more equitable process to respond to growth trends in the region.
- D. Support legislation that streamlines the environmental review process for mixed-use infill development without compromising environmental quality standards.
- E. Support legislation that promotes and provides incentives for environmentally responsible design and construction.
- F. Support legislation that streamlines the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process to make less onerous on cities and counties.

VI. Environment - VCOG is committed to:

- A. Support legislation that streamlines the state's environmental review process and

maintains public participation without compromising environmental quality standards.

B. Air Quality Protection

1. Support mobile source emission reduction activities to improve the environment without adverse impact on local economy.
2. Support air quality efforts that emphasize use of advanced technologies and market incentives, including use of alternative fuels and development of an infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles.
3. Support port air emission reductions.
4. Support federal action for reducing air pollution from those sources solely under federal control such as ships, planes and trains which are increasingly affecting the ability to reach local air quality attainment.

C. Solid Waste

1. Support legislation that provides cities and counties with financial assistance for programs designed to provide for the safe disposal of solid, hazardous, and special waste.
2. Support legislation that promotes source reduction measures without creating an unfunded mandate.
3. Support legislation that promotes recycling and expands the market for recycled materials as well as making grants available to local agencies for programs that encourage the recycling/reclaiming of resources.
4. Support new resource recovery and conversion technologies, such as bio-diesel from organic waste, including removing impediments to the adoption of transformation or conversion technologies to help municipalities and the county meet and exceed their requirement to divert 50% of their solid waste away from landfills.
5. Oppose legislation that would restrict or limit local government's ability to franchise refuse and recycling collection services, to direct municipal or county solid waste flow (flow control), or to contractually require haulers to guarantee achievement of AB 939 goals
6. Initiate legislation that streamlines AB 939 tracking and reporting requirements.

D. Water Protection

1. Support legislation and cooperative efforts to ensure adequate water supplies for

Southern California and to protect and enhance regional groundwater resources and watersheds.

2. Support state and federal funding legislation for local storm water and NPDES programs as well as incentives for the re-use of reclaimed water. Support regulations and full reimbursement for local agencies to carry out the NPDES mission that are practical and capable of being implemented including taking into account economic considerations.
3. Support scientific investigation and implementation, as funding permits, of reasonable, cost-effective, and proven best management practices (BMP) and best available technologies (BAT) to mitigate storm water pollution to the maximum extent practicable

E. Natural Resources

1. Support funding and legislation for the designation and preservation of open space and preservation, restoration and enhancement of natural resources.
2. Support legislation and/or programs that provide money to local governments for energy efficiency and conservation programs.

VIII. Public Safety and Homeland Security - VCOG is committed to:

- A. Support legislation that increases local law enforcement resources including providing cities and counties with a greater share of fines and forfeitures.
- B. Support funding for improved public safety programs, specifically the State Grants that have provided police departments with the funds necessary to support technology improvements increasing efficiency. This includes grants that support homeland security, grants through the Office of Traffic Safety, as well as other grants that support the hiring of law enforcement personnel.
- C. Support legislation to support public safety facilities funding.
- D. Support legislation that would provide additional resources for commercial truck safety inspections and the enforcement of commercial truck vehicle codes.
- E. Support legislation that allows use of state and federal public safety grants for maintenance efforts in addition to service increases.
- F. Support maintenance of existing health care facilities within the county for emergency response with adequate funding and staffing.

G. Support funding for all hazards, not just terrorism and encourage comprehensive All Hazards planning.

H. Oppose a relaxation of TSA safety standards enacted after 9/11.

IX. Labor Relations - VCOG is committed to:

A. Oppose legislation that would restrict a local government's ability to use its own employees on public works projects when such projects have previously been advertised for bid.

B. Oppose legislation that requires the use of city or county employees rather than contracting out.

C. Oppose any legislation that would grant employee benefits that should be decided at the local bargaining table.

D. Support legislation that would reform the Workers' Compensation system to reduce employer cost through the reduction of system abuse.

E. Oppose any measure that imposes compulsory and binding interest arbitration.

F. Oppose efforts that reduce local control over public employee disputes or impose regulations of an outside agency on such disputes.

IX. General Government - VCOG is committed to:

A. Support legislation limiting the county and a city's liability associated with hazardous recreational activities, such as skateboarding and in-line skating.

B. Support legislation that makes funds available to refurbish and improve parks.

C. Oppose legislation that increases local government's exposure to litigation.



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FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR 110TH CONGRESS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The League strongly supports and encourages telecommunication innovation and increased competition in any Federal telecommunications policy overhaul. To ensure consumer access to efficient, cost-effective and innovative telecommunication services, the League urges Congress to:

- Maintain local government's ability to negotiate franchise agreements with telecommunications providers to maximize consumer benefit. Through these negotiations, municipalities are able to ensure the provision of key services, including public, education and government channels, as well as make sure that local emergency alerts and institutional networks meet specific local needs.
- Address a reasonable timeframe for deployment of telecommunications services by providers that includes a clear plan for sequencing of the build-out of facilities within an entire franchise area.
- Protect the authority of local governments to collect revenues from telecommunications providers and ensure that any future changes are revenue neutral for local governments.
- Support local government's ability to regulate use of public rights-of-way. Local governments are important and proven stewards of the public rights-of-way, and are pivotal in helping to prevent public safety issues resulting from overcrowding and improper use; ensuring local emergency (911) services are provided; as well as addressing customer service and local business concerns.
- Preserve local authority to deploy and operate municipal broadband networks, either through public-private partnerships or systems wholly owned by the municipality.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Approximately 80 percent of California's nearly 37 million people live in cities. As the state continues to grow by almost 500,000 people each year, California cities are deeply concerned about the need for housing - especially affordable housing in balance with jobs and transportation systems. The League urges Congress to increase support for existing programs within the U.S. Housing and Urban Development and establish new affordable housing programs and incentives:

- Community Development Block Grant: Support increased funding, and oppose proposals to reduce or eliminate funding, for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is critical in assisting urban and rural cities throughout California with creating jobs, providing affordable housing, eliminating blight and generating new economic investment. In addition, seek flexibility in the CDBG state program to enhance the use of the program by California's 314 non-entitlement communities.
- Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers: Support full funding of the Section 8 program, which assists very low-income families, the elderly and the disabled afford decent and safe housing.
- Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Program: Support increased funding for the HOME program, which provides formula grants to local governments to create affordable housing for low-income households.
- National Housing Trust Fund: Support the creation of a new National Housing Trust Fund to help fund the production of new housing, and the preservation or rehabilitation of existing housing that is affordable for low-income people.
- Workforce Housing: Seek the creation of new programs that provide affordable housing to working families, including targeted resources for mixed use, affordable housing around transit.

The housing shortage has particularly affected low- and middle-income families. In many areas, workers who provide basic services to local governments - like teachers, firefighters, and police officers - cannot afford to live in the communities where they work, forcing them to drive from far away and impose additional stress on an already overburdened traffic system.

- Housing Tax Incentives: Seek new tax incentives to promote private investment in the production of rental housing, including expanding the Low Income Housing Tax Credit to create mixed income developments.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

California cities' water, wastewater and transportation systems, which are vital to fueling and keeping the fifth largest economy in the world moving, are in need of major overhaul with tremendous deficits in capacity and deferred maintenance. California's transportation systems, which face rapidly growing vehicle use by an ever increasing number of new drivers, has seen the costs of building new lane miles rise much faster than inflation and road maintenance needs increase with the age of the freeway system. California's water and wastewater systems, with the state's population growth of 30% in 20 years, has seen close to no new investment in the state's water supply infrastructure for over 30 years. In addition, stringent new standards for safe drinking water and clean water are placing more pressure on our cities' systems.

The League urges Congress to advance legislation in the 110th Congress that provides targeted Federal resources to assist cities facing significant population growth with improving these vital systems for our nation's communities.

EMINENT DOMAIN/TAKINGS

- Eminent Domain: Ensure that Federal legislation addressing eminent domain does not severely impact states, like California, which have strong laws that limit the use of the tool and have strong protections for property owners. The seldom-used but important tool allows communities in California to convert to safe, affordable housing, to clean up environmentally toxic areas, and to assist impoverished, economically depressed neighborhoods.
- Takings: Oppose the so-called federal Private Property Rights Implementation Act. While this measure is being promoted as a necessary response to the Supreme Court's verdict in the Kelo v. City of New London case, it does not address direct condemnations, eminent domain, or Kelo-style economic development projects in any way. The Act is designed to help developers sue cities over land use issues in federal court. The legislation would encourage developers to bypass State courts and local resolution procedures, where most land use disputes are now resolved. The existing rules, developed over hundreds of years, allow courts to strike a fair balance between takings claimants, neighboring property owners, and the public.

HOMELAND SECURITY/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

California's cities are on the front line of the war on terrorism. To strengthen California's homeland security and emergency preparedness efforts, the League urges Congress to:

- Support a revised formula for distribution of homeland security grant funding and a reduction in the per-state minimum allocation, which ensure funding is targeted to areas where the threat of terrorism is greatest. The current system directs more funding to low-risk, low-population states instead of high-risk states, like California.
- Maximize first responder funding to California cities, including providing continued funding for the Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Grants, as well as flexibility in the use of funds to assist areas of need (i.e. personnel, training, and target hardening).
- Ensure adequate broadcast spectrum is available to local governments for public safety communications.
- Support increased funding for disaster preparedness, prevention, recovery, and response for all-hazard threats.

LEAGUE ADOPTS NEW STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2008

The League of California Cities board of directors set the stage for a productive year in 2008, adopting four strategic priorities for the organization during its meeting on Friday, Nov. 29 and Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Fairmont San Jose hotel in San Jose. The 2008 strategic priorities, developed under the theme of "Building Sustainable Communities" are:

- Protect Funding for Vital Community Services
- Green and Sustainable Cities
- Expand Infrastructure Investment
- Enact Honest and Responsible Eminent Domain Reform

The strategic priorities were drafted through a collaboration between the board and leaders of the League's divisions, departments, policy committees and caucuses. Participants in the goal setting process broke into eight groups to debate possible priorities for final board consideration. The official language and explanation of the strategic priorities is located below:

Building Sustainable Communities

The League of California Cities is strongly committed to advocating policies that support sustainable communities across our state that help build a strong economy, protect our environment and advance social equity in the following ways:

- 1. Protect Funding for Vital Community Services.** Vigorously oppose efforts to erode funding for vital community services that keep Californian families safe from crime, support transportation mobility and economic growth, provide housing and important after-school recreation opportunities, ensure orderly development and protect the environment. Funding for local community-based services and programs should not be sacrificed again to meet state revenue needs.
- 2. Green and Sustainable Cities.** Lead in the development of state and local policies, strategies and programs to protect the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through more efficient and sustainable land use and building practices, increased energy efficiency and use of alternative/renewable energy sources, improved water supply and wastewater treatment system efficiencies, expanded public transit opportunities and innovations in other city operations.
- 3. Expand Infrastructure Investment.** Support continued implementation of the 2006 infrastructure bond program and the development of new funding sources and programs to meet the infrastructure needs of our rapidly growing communities in a sustainable way for water supply, wastewater treatment, public transit, streets and roads, storm water management and other critical infrastructure.
- 4. Enact Honest and Responsible Eminent Domain Reform.** Support enactment of eminent domain reforms that protect homeowners, such as the Homeowners Protection Act, and oppose proposals that would cripple the ability of state and local agencies to manage development, develop new water supplies, protect the environment, and develop affordable housing.