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**M E M O R A N D U M**

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**To:**           **The Honorable Ally Medina, Mayor of Emeryville**  
                  **The Honorable Christian Patz, Vice Mayor of Emeryville**

**CC:**           **Christine Daniel, City Manager**

**From:**       Christopher Townsend, President, Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.  
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**Date:**       **February 27, 2019**

**Subject:**     **Update and Recommendations on 2019 Legislative Actions**

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Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. (TPA) has prepared this report for the City of Emeryville as we move forward in the 2019 Legislative Session. This report covers specific 2019 State and Federal Legislation for discussion and action. Attached to this report are two matrices of legislation with the intent to get feedback and direction from the City Council on official positions. As background, not all of the bills on the lists are in their final form and some will undergo additional amendments.

**2019 State Policy topics of interested**

The City's priority policy topics are listed below; additionally, TPA remains flexible to address any new items that may arise over the course of the legislative sessions.

**Affordable Housing/Housing.** A new, ongoing source of funding is needed for local governments to construct new housing and help support low income residents and working families. Additionally, with the housing crisis impacting our state, the need to build faster, preserve units, and protect tenants is also a top focus.

**Homelessness.** Cities and counties have the direct, daily perspective and response to conditions that contribute to homelessness in their areas; however, state or federal funding is needed to provide additional tools and support to maintain access to support services, treatment, housing, and jobs. There are, and will be, various budget proposals seeking to help address homelessness, so the focus may be less on legislation and more on the budget.

**Climate Change.** Last session there was a flurry of bills that sought to address climate change, while also strengthening California's green economy. Since then, the Governor has repeatedly stated his desire to advance greater efforts to improve California's ability to enhance climate change efforts.

**Cannabis.** The Administration has finalized the rulemaking process and there have already been several pieces of legislation introduced in reaction to the final regulations, as well as a number of reintroductions of cannabis bills that were vetoed by the previous Governor. The City has approved

many operators and will have a thriving cannabis industry which means we will be hyper sensitive to any proposed legislation. Additionally, there will be some legislation introduced seeking to overturn the regulations as it related to delivery which could negatively impact the city.

**Health/Impact on youth.** Citing an alarming rise in e-cigarette use among youths, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report showing that more than 3.6 million middle and high school students are using e-cigarettes. The stunning growth between 2017 and 2018 amounted to a 78 percent increase in e-cigarette use by high school students and a 48 percent increase by middle school students. Additionally, with the correlation between sugar-sweetened beverages and the public health crisis of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease there are many pieces of legislation that seek to curb these negative impacts on our youth.

### **2019 Legislative matrices**

To help with the review of the two attached matrices, we have broken them down into two lists; one list is what we recommend we support now and the second list we recommend we watch. As more information becomes available, we would move certain bills to the support list and Council can take action accordingly.

To provide additional insight, the bills we are recommending support and to watch include legislation from Senator Skinner, Assembly Member Wicks, housing related legislation, cannabis related legislation, and health related legislation. If there are additional bills or topics the Council would like to add, we are happy to do so.

### **2019 State Legislative Dates**

- February 22<sup>nd</sup> was the last day to introduce a new bill.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> is the last day for policy committees to hear and report fiscal bills to fiscal committees.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the last day for policy committee to report to the floor non-fiscal bills.
- May 17<sup>th</sup> is the last day for fiscal committee to hear and report bills to the floor.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day to pass bills out of the house of origin.
- July 12<sup>th</sup> is the last day for policy committees to meet and report bills to the floor.
- August 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the floor.
- September 6<sup>th</sup> is the last day to amend on the floor.
- September 13<sup>th</sup> is the last day for any bill to be passed.
- October 13<sup>th</sup> is the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before September 13<sup>th</sup> and in the Governor's possession after September 13<sup>th</sup>

### **2019 Federal efforts**

TPA was asked to provide a brief summary on a recently introduced federal legislative proposal which is highlighted below.

**H.R.7173 - Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018.** The Market-Based Climate Solution

#### **Purpose of This Policy**

- To encourage market-driven innovation in clean energy technologies.
- To create efficient markets, encourage competition, and promote our national interests.
- To create a healthier, more stable, more prosperous nation for future generations.

#### **Projected Benefits**

- Creates 2.1 million net new jobs by the 10th year.
- Deploys private capital and American innovation to advance clean energy technologies.
- Reduces U.S. carbon emissions by 33% in 10 years, targets 90% reduction by 2050 (vs. 2015).
- Improves health, prevents 13,000 pollution-related U.S. deaths annually.

- The bill's introduction comes amid increased interest in moving climate legislation in the House by committees, including the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has the broadest jurisdiction over the issue.
- Co-Sponsors from California:
  - Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
  - Scott Peters (D-CA)
  - Judy Chu (D-CA)
  - Salud Carbajal (D-CA)
  - Jackie Speier (D-CA)

### **Federal Appropriations letter**

Congress will soon start the Fiscal Year 2020 federal appropriations process, and as we have done in years past, we recommend formally communicating our federal funding priorities to our legislators. TPA recently sent the draft letters to the City for review and approval. Once signed, we will deliver them and continuously follow up on our federal funding priorities throughout the appropriations process.

As a reminder, the President's budget request is typically released on the first Monday of February and serves as the unofficial launch of a lengthy debate over federal funding levels.

- However, due to the 35-day partial government shutdown, it is expected that the Trump Administration will not submit its FY 2020 request until at least the week of March 11.

While the President's FY 2020 request is delayed, TPA is moving forward to ensure your congressional representatives know our funding priorities.

- The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are considering whether to move forward or also delay their process of considering Member requests, conducting hearings, and drafting legislation.
- Once the Appropriations Committees determine their deadlines for Member requests, our congressional representatives will be looking for information on our highest priorities, but no two Members' process for soliciting input is exactly alike.

To streamline this process, TPA has drafted a comprehensive letter to reflect the City's federal funding priorities. This will:

- maintain and boost your direct relationship with your representatives;
- formalize your budget priorities; and
- increase your influence at the federal level.

### **Next steps**

Due to the ever-changing nature of legislation in Sacramento, TPA recommends the matrices are updated either biweekly or monthly thereby allowing the City Council flexibility and timely updates.