

## CITY OF CORONA LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

~~2018~~

2019

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish and memorialize Corona City Council policies regarding State and Federal Legislation. Adoption of this policy provides guidance to City officials involved in advocating City interests to Federal, State, and County governments.

**Objective:** To support the viability of the City of Corona through education, advocacy and legislation.

**I. Implementation:** This policy will have several aspects to its implementation.

- A. The City Council and City Manager will support a legislative platform that will advocate City positions on Council-adopted priority issues. All City Department Directors are responsible for monitoring legislation that falls within their respective jurisdiction and for providing information on the impacts of legislation.
- B. The Mayor and City Council will look for opportunities to establish joint advocacy efforts with other entities including the Chamber of Commerce, the Corona-Norco Unified School District, the County of Riverside, or other cities.
- C. The Mayor and City Council, through the Finance, Legislation & Economic Development Committee, will be made aware of any legislative activities that may significantly impact the City. The Mayor and Council, through their involvement with the League of California Cities, Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Western Riverside Council of Governments and Southern California Association of Governments, will bring messages to lawmakers at the County, State and Federal level through correspondence, personal contact, or testimony.
- D. The City Manager shall direct the scope and activities of any State and Federal lobbyist hired on behalf of the City, consistent with the Legislative Platform and other direction provided by the City Council.

**II. Standing Legislative Priorities:** The City Council has adopted the following standing legislative priorities. These priorities are intended to provide guidance to the City Council and City Manager, while precluding the need for the Council to take a position on each and every proposal that is presented. The priorities are stated in general terms so they can be applied broadly to the many forms that legislative proposals may take. It is expected that all City officials will support the adopted priorities when acting on behalf of the City.

**A. Transportation**

- Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding for local and regional transportation projects; especially those which increase the capacity or public safety of State Route 91, Interstate 15, State Route 71, and the various interchanges and on/off ramps associated with those routes in the Corona area.
- Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding for the construction of alternate or additional transportation corridors to Orange County, ~~which may include the tunnel alignment through the Cleveland National Forest to connect Orange and Riverside Counties.~~
- Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding for grade separation or other upgrades of existing roadway grade crossings of the railroad corridor to establish

- a Quiet Zone throughout the City of Corona.
- Support measures that lessen congestion and the wear and tear of Corona surface streets due to freeway “cut through” traffic.
- Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding to repair and upgrade aging bridges and transportation infrastructure.
- Oppose efforts to eliminate and/or restrict the use of Riverside County State Improvement Transportation Funds, Federal Surface Transportation program, Measure A, or Gas Tax funding for local transportation projects.
- Oppose efforts by the State to divert Riverside County State Improvement Transportation Funds, Federal Surface Transportation program, Measure A, or Gas Tax funding sources to help pay for the State budget deficit.
- Support efforts to increase Federal programs and funding to mitigate the environmental and traffic congestion impacts of national goods movement from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles on Inland highways and grade crossings.
- Oppose efforts by the State to divert Proposition 42 funding away from transportation projects to fund the State budget deficit.
- Support additional funding for transit operations, including services for persons with disabilities and senior citizens.
- Support for inter-county transit services to assist commuters between Riverside and Orange Counties.
- Support legislation and grant programs that encourage transit ridership, active transportation, and congestion relief programs for western Riverside County.
- Support legislation that provides funding for the improvement and expansion of commuter rail (Metrolink) services on the Inland Empire line.
- Support legislation that provides funding for the construction of Phase 2 of the parking structure at the North Main Metrolink Station.
- Support partnering efforts with local and regional agencies that improve coordination of transit services.
- Support legislation that would implement the statewide high-speed rail (HSR) system including the segment from Los Angeles to San Diego via the Inland Empire, and light rail which increases intercity mobility from Corona and would relieve traffic congestion through the Corona area.
- Oppose Congressional efforts to prohibit federal funding from being utilized on the California HSR project.
- Support the implementation of an HSR alignment and station in Corona.
- Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development and transit adjacent development around rail transit stations.
- Support the use of bike trails and pedestrian paths as viable alternatives to solo driving.
- Support legislation that safeguards Corona's fair share allocation of Proposition 84 funds.
- Oppose actions intended to expand the use of HOV lanes for purposes not associated with congestion relief or air quality improvement.
- Oppose legislation that would make the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act more restrictive on public projects.
- Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding for future phases of the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) which provides traffic signal synchronization and incident management.
- Advocate for Medicaid policies that promote the use of transit as Medicaid providers

- Oppose any changes in Department of Transportation (DOT) American's with Disabilities (ADA) regulations or interpretations without full public notice and comment.
- Support legislation that provides tax incentives for people who use public transit instead of a personal vehicle.
- Oppose any legislation that diverts additional gas tax from the City

**B. Municipal Financing**

- Support efforts which will protect the revenue base of local governments.
- Support efforts which will redirect State and Federal tax dollars to the City of Corona.
- Support efforts, which protect the ability of local governments to responsibly raise revenue.
- Support efforts that allow the City to control operating costs to the City and its residents.
- Oppose actions that will reduce City of Corona revenues or limit the ability to raise revenue.
- Support and monitor lawful implementation of Proposition IA which was passed to protect local government finance.

**C. Unfunded Mandates**

- Support efforts to provide increased flexibility to cities in the areas of service delivery and funding.
- Oppose legislative actions that impose Federal or State mandates on cities without sufficient funding for implementation.

**D. Home Rule**

- Support efforts which protect the rights of cities to plan and operate their communities.
- Oppose restrictions of local control of land use and development decisions.

**E. Public Safety**

- Support efforts that increase public safety within the City.
- Support efforts that provide funding or reimbursement for municipal public safety services.
- Support efforts to protect the health and safety of law enforcement officers and firefighters. Resist efforts to extend Workers Compensation presumptives or to extend 4850 time beyond the year it currently offers.
- Oppose efforts that reduce funding dedicated to municipal public safety services.
- Support legislation that allows for cities to determine public safety service levels and services offered from suppression staffing to Emergency Medical Services.
- Support emergency response funding initiatives that would support adequate local fire services as well as enhance the State's ability to respond to major emergencies including large-scale fires, rescues, medical, and hazardous materials incidents.
- Support efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2004 Blue Ribbon Task Force (California Fire Protection and Suppression Action Plan, September 10, 2004).
- Support legislation that enhances Emergency Management Program Capabilities, to include core functions performed during emergencies and program functions performed on a day-to-day basis.
- Support efforts that provide State and Federal funding to augment our capabilities in the four phases of Emergency Management: Preparedness, Response,

## Recovery, and Mitigation.

### F. Tort Reform

- Support efforts that reform liability statutes to reduce City exposure to "deep pocket" claims.
- Oppose expansion of liability for municipalities. Protect from erosion of the defenses.

### G. Housing ~~Element~~ Reform

- Support efforts that ~~would modify current government codes regarding Regional Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Element Plan Updates to allow make affordable housing more attainable for local jurisdictions flexibility in how they meet the housing needs of their population. By providing financial resources or subsidies that are less competitive and do not require affordable housing developments to compete with one another.~~
- Oppose expanding State and Federal authority over local jurisdictions.
- Oppose penalties such as withholding state public transportation ("gas tax") monies to local jurisdictions that are not capable of meeting housing units administered by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) under RHNA.

### H. Public Utilities

#### General:

- Oppose regulations that affect publicly-owned utilities that do not consider cost of implementation.
- Support efforts to provide penalties for theft of metal and other crimes that can harm or jeopardize the delivery and safety of the City's water, sewer and electric systems.
- Support efforts to provide funding for drought relief, disadvantaged communities, Delta management and sustainability, water supply reliability, statewide water system improvements, groundwater protection, water quality improvements, water reclamation, water conservation, watershed protection and water bond issues.
- Support Federal efforts to address long-term drought.
- Support Federal and State funding for long-term low and no-interest loan programs that will enable utilities to replace aging infrastructure.
- Oppose the proposed water tax

#### Water Supply

- Support policies and principles that recognize and maintain the "co-equal" goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem enhancement for the Delta.
- Support the financing and construction of an alternative conveyance facility for the Delta to improve water supply reliability for the region and state.
- Support efforts to control and reduce imported water costs.
- Support the development of alternative water sources, such as desalinization plants, by streamlining regulatory approval and permitting processes and providing funding for such projects.
- Support funding for planning and construction projects that provide for the sustainability of existing and future developments.

#### Water Quality, Reclaimed Water and Greywater

- Support water softener discharge and salinity management requirements to help maintain groundwater quality and reduce wastewater treatment costs.
- Support research on direct potable reuse of reclaimed water to help offset the use

- of potable water.
- Support changes to the CEQA permitting process to help streamline the installation of reclaimed water lines within existing rights-of-way.
- Support the implementation of reasonable emergency notification requirements for water quality notifications to the public.
- Support efforts to approve alternative delivery methods of annual Consumer Confidence Reports including, but not limited to, posting online, delivery by email, and notification of online report delivered by mail.

#### Groundwater Management

- Support voluntary groundwater monitoring regulations that maintain local control of groundwater supplies and management.
- Support the increased use of stormwater and reclaimed water for groundwater recharge and storage, as well as funding for the recharge of groundwater basins.

#### Water Conservation

- Support efforts to provide funding for SBx7-7, Statewide Water Conservation to reduce statewide per capita water consumption 20% by 2020.
- Support efforts that eliminate restrictions on water efficient landscapes and the use of artificial turf in common interest developments and provide for appropriate enforcement mechanisms.
- Support funding for rainwater capture programs and stormwater recharge planning and projects.
- Support funding for water reclamation and advanced reclamation treatment technology projects.

#### Electricity:

- Support efforts that would stabilize electricity rates and give cities the ability to municipalize utilities.
- Support the expansion of direct access programs to provide a choice to electric customers and encourage competitive pricing.
- Support efforts to consolidate electrical reporting requirements for the California Energy Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Energy.
- Support funding for solar power projects and other alternative energy sources.
- Oppose expanding State and Federal authority and controls on municipal facilities and operations.
- Support legislation and rule-making that would allow small Publicly Owned Utilities (POU), supplying less than 200,000 MWH of energy per year, to meet Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and other obligations through flexible options that take into account small POU constraints.
- Support the standardization of open source protocol for electric vehicle charging station networks.

#### Biosolids:

- Support efforts that recognize the science-based benefits of recycling and using biosolids, and promote the use of biosolids in industries such as agriculture and fuel production.

### **I. Library and Recreation Services**

- Support efforts that provide funding for library branch extension.
- Support efforts that provide funding for library print and electronic materials for public use.

- Support efforts that provide funding for additional library services including costs for staff.
- Support efforts that provide funding or reimbursement for recreation programs and events for the community, especially youths and seniors.
- Support efforts that provide funding for adaptive/special needs programing.
- ~~Support efforts to increase Federal funding for library.~~

J. **Maintenance Services**

- Support efforts that provide funding for the purchase of open space recreation land and construction of recreational facilities.
- Support efforts that provide funding for the renovation and maintenance of existing parks and recreation facilities to provide for more sustainable facilities.
- Support efforts that provide funding for repairs and renovation of the Corona Municipal Airport.
- Support efforts to fund and complete the Santa Ana Regional Interceptor line to minimize impact on Corona Municipal Airport due to flooding.
- Support funding for security, lighting, and paving improvements at the Corona Municipal Airport.

### III. **Legislative Priorities for 2018 Legislative Session**

#### A. **MUNICIPAL FINANCE**

- **Issue: Governor's Annual Budget Proposal**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**City Position:**
  1. Oppose budget cuts that will have a negative funding effect on Corona.
  2. Oppose any efforts to reduce or link VLF funding to any other requirements.
  3. Oppose any efforts to reduce sales tax allocation or transportation funds to the City.
  4. Oppose efforts such as swapping sales tax for property tax with no guarantee of backfill.
  5. Oppose State efforts to seize redevelopment funding, including ERAF shifts.**Reason for Position:** To make cities, like Corona, financially whole.
- **Issue: Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF)**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**Summary:** The City will continue its efforts to secure a repayment of property taxes shifted by Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). While cities did receive an initial payment in 1999, and a one-time allocation in 2000, the goal is to secure a long-term commitment to repay all property taxes taken by the State during the recession of the early 1990s and to restore property tax to pre-ERAF levels. Since 1995, the City of Corona has lost \$93.6 million cumulatively due to ERAF(1). The City opposes efforts to expand property tax exemptions.  
**City Position:** Support  
**Reasons for Position:** Stable funding for needed municipal services.  
*(1) Source: League of California Cities, Cumulative FY 2009-10*
- **Issue: Electronic Commerce**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal and State

**Summary:** The State has been engaged in an effort to establish a streamlined sales tax initiative that would provide electronic retailers with a less burdensome means to collect local and State sales tax. The agreement now goes to each State, which must enact legislation to bring their State and local sales tax laws into conformity with the agreement. The agreement, which would become operable as soon as 10 States enact legislation, would establish uniform definitions for taxable goods and would require participating States and local governments to have only one statewide tax rate for each type of product. The State of California is not a participant in this agreement.

**City Position:**

1. The City supports creation of a level playing field between “bricks and mortar” retailers and electronic commerce retailers.
2. The City supports efforts that protect existing local government sales tax revenues without adding any new taxes or costs to local government.

**Reason for Position:**

1. Create a level playing field for businesses;
2. Prevent loss of City sales tax revenues;
3. Prevent widening the “digital divide” by permitting tax-free purchasing for those who have computers and Internet access.

## **B. TRANSPORTATION**

- **Issue: Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) Funding**

**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional/State/Federal

**Summary:** Once transportation priorities are approved by the City Council, staff applies for funding from various regional, State, and Federal sources.

**City Position:** Maximize funding for City and regional transportation priorities. Promote efforts for RCTC to expedite efforts to fund short and mid-term projects and operational improvements on the 71, 91 and 15 Freeways, outlined in the State Route (SR)-91 Improvements Implementation Plan.

**Reason for Position:** Necessary funding to construct transportation improvements to mitigate the negative impact of bottlenecks on SR-71, SR-91 and I-15.

- **Issue: State Route 91 Advisory Committee**

**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional

**Summary:** As part of AB 1010, which transferred ownership of the 91 Express Lanes to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), an advisory committee was created for participants to provide valuable input to OCTA on improving congestions on the toll lanes. The City will continue to monitor the SR-91 Express Lane through RCTC’s participation in the State Route 91 Advisory Committee.

**City Position:** Support participation on the State Route 91 Advisory Committee to benefit Corona and Riverside County commuters.

**Reason for Position:** To ensure that Corona and Riverside County has a presence to influence policy formulation pertaining to the 91 Express Lanes.

- **Issue: Studies and Implementation of Recommended Improvements from the Major Investment Study (MIS) for OC/RC CETAP Corridor**

**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional

**Summary:** The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) approved the major



investment study of the SR- 91 corridor, which considered capacity improvements to SR-91, I-15 and other transportation options, including a new corridor between Orange and Riverside Counties. This study concluded with three strategic elements to improve traffic flow between the two counties: SR 91 Corridor Improvement Project (adding general purpose lane, auxiliary lane and extended toll lanes), Corridor A (four lane parallel corridor adjacent to SR-91), and Corridor B (tunnel connecting Riverside and Orange Counties).

The first project was awarded as a design-build contract. Construction started in 2014 and ~~will be~~ completed in early 2018. The project, SR 91 Corridor Improvement Project, was awarded federal TIFIA funding.

**City Position:** Support. The City has been an active participant in this process, and will continue to actively participate in future follow up technical feasibility studies, funding strategies, and project implementation.

**Reason for Position:** To ensure that Corona's transportation needs are addressed correctly and fairly.

- **Issue: Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF)**

**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional

**Summary:** Western Riverside Council of Governments manages the collection and distribution of TUMF fees collected from four zones that cover the western Riverside County. Fees are periodically updated to reflect cost of inflation and level of remaining developments. WRCOG works with RCTC and the local agencies to prioritize and fund projects. In addition, RCTC manages the portion of the TUMF funds designated for regional improvements

**City Position:** Support reasonable fee adjustments based on sound nexus studies. Ensure that TUMF facilities within and near Corona are programmed for funding at the nearest opportunity possible and that funds are formally committed by WRCOG with an appropriation to secure that funding. Ensure that any new affordable housing developments receiving direct or indirect assistance are exempted from paying the TUMF fee.

**Reason for Position:** To ensure that new developments pay their fair share towards construction needed regional transportation facilities, and to ensure that TUMF facilities are prioritized based on the highest congestion needs.

- **Issue: Transportation Funding and Construction**

**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional, State and Federal

**Summary:** While the City's focus is to ensure Corona's regional and residential transportation priorities are seriously considered for funding, the City Council has taken the following position on major transportation issues:

1. Support funding of projects contained in the 91 Freeway Major Improvement Study (MIS) and the 2004 Improvement Implementation Study (AB1010).
2. Support funding for the SR 91 Corridor Improvement Project.
3. Support funding for capacity and public safety improvements to the 91 Freeway, efforts for completing the 91 eastbound auxiliary lane between the 241 toll road and SR-71, and other quick fixes to eliminate bottlenecks where feasible.
4. Work with RCTC and Caltrans to ensure early funding of planned widening for the I-15 and upgrades to the I-15/SR-91 Interchange.
5. Support improving freeway operation/access to freeway/ramp meters, particularly along the I-15 Freeway.
6. Support funding for mass transit, trip reduction, and non-motorized



- transportation, including adding parking capacity to the Metrolink stations, transit center, trails, bikeway facilities and safe routes to school.
7. Support efforts to coordinate funding and construction timetables of all transportation and utility agencies so as to minimize adverse impacts to residents and businesses.
  8. Support efforts to landscape the SR-91/I-15 Interchange and freeway frontage through Corona.
  9. Work with WRCOG and member agencies to ensure timely funding of The Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) improvements in the Corona area, and expedite implementation of TUMF projects, including the Cajalco Interchange and the McKinley GradeSeparation in coordination with regional transportation planning activities.
  10. Support efforts to fund railroad grade separations in Corona.
  11. Support efforts to fund the bridge rehabilitation and upgrades in Corona.
- City Position:** Support funding for needed regional and residential transportation priorities.
- Reason for Position:** Critical funding needed for regional and residential transportation projects.

- **Issue: Goods Movement.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal/State/Regional

**Summary:** The regional-national movement of goods has had a significant impact on Corona in terms of clogged freeways and local arterials, which in turn accelerates their wear and tear. Congestion, noise and related air pollution at local grade crossings continues to be problematic.

**City Position:** Support efforts/funding to improve the movement of goods in Corona. The City also supports efforts by Congress to develop a funding mechanism and program to offset community impacts of goods movement. Corona will work with Federal/regional agencies to ease train noise at grade crossings.

**Reason for Position:** To help mitigate the congestion and noise brought about by movement of goods through Corona.

## C. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Issue: Public Safety Funding – Supplemental Law Enforcement ServicesAccount , or SLESA**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** In the past, the State has funded the Supplemental Law Enforcement ServicesAccount, or SLESA, formerly CAL COPS. The SLESF allocation is designated to provide funding for frontline municipal police services to supplement existing services.

**City Position:** Support efforts that would stabilize funding for the SLESF Program and other initiatives to provide funding for public safety while minimizing the strings attached for its use.

**Reason for Position:** Critical funding for public safety.

- **Issue: Public Safety Funding – Board of State and Community Corrections for AB 109**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Prior to June 30, 2016, the State had funded assistance for the implementation of AB109, in addition to the amounts allocated for country probation departments. The funding wasdesignated to provide collaboration for

local agencies to address Post-Release Accountability and Compliance, or PACT activities.

**City Position:** Support efforts that would continue funding for the PACT Program and other initiatives to provide funding for public safety.

**Reason for Position:** Critical funding for public safety.

- **Issue: Public Safety Funding – Equitable Sharing / Asset Forfeiture Rescission**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State/Federal

**Summary:** Previously, equitable sharing payments to state and local law enforcement agencies through the federal asset forfeiture program had been sequestered. This decision was a result of the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (H.R. 2029), which was signed into law on December 18, 2015. The Consolidated Appropriations Act made major rescissions from the federal asset forfeiture fund to pay for other programs. Most law enforcement agencies were unaware of the Federal budgetary deficit and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 that ceased funding to address the deficit.

**City Position:** Support efforts that would continue equitable sharing efforts to provide funding for public safety. Support better communication of public safety funding revisions.

**Reason for Position:** Critical funding for public safety.

- **Issue: Homeowners Insurance Reform**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** The Southern California Wildfire of October 2003 resulted in insurance companies drastically altering fire insurance coverage requirements for homeowners. Many insurance companies have decided to not provide or renew fire insurance policies for homes which are located near hillsides and brush. This has left homeowners without coverage or coverage with uncompetitive rates.

**City Position:** Support legislative efforts for Homeowners Insurance Reform to allow affordable and reasonable homeowners insurance in the Wildland Urban Interface including development of statewide rating standards.

**Reason for Position:** To stabilize rates and keep coverage available for Homeowners.

- **Issue: Fire Protection and Emergency response**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Local governments are increasingly being asked to take on more responsibilities in the area of Emergency Response. With Corona's expanding land mass and population, opportunities must be seized to bring funding and legislation to bolster Emergency Response Services.

**City Position:** Support legislative efforts that will allow for increased public protection from wildland fires, natural and person caused disasters, homeland security and normal emergency operations, through increased funding for equipment, personnel, local land use planning, vegetation management and the formation of fire safe alliances/councils.

**Reason for Position:** To maintain the high standard of public safety, emergency service, and protection.

- **Issue: Emergency Medical Services**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** The City supports efforts which authorize cities to prescribe and monitor the manner and scope of emergency medical services provided within their

boundaries; and authorizing cities and fire districts at their discretion to increase the level of emergency medical services provided within their boundaries to include the provision of emergency medical transport through ambulance services.

**City Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:** Local control of vital public safety services.

- **Issue: Federal Homeland Security Funding**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** —Congress annually appropriates funding for homeland security assistance to state, specified urban areas and critical infrastructure. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has provided this assistance to state, local governments, public and private entities. These programs have either an all hazards purpose or a terrorism preparedness purpose and are primarily used by first responders, which include firefighters, emergency medical personnel, emergency managers, and law enforcement officers. Specifically, the appropriations for these programs provide for grants, training, exercises and other support. The Federal Emergency Management administers these programs for DHS. The City Fire/Emergency Management and Police Department have historically been recipients of the Homeland Security Grant Program which to date has not required any type of cost match. The FY 2018 President's Budget proposed establishing a 25 percent non-Federal cost match for FEMA preparedness grant awards that currently require no cost match. This did not come to fruition but may again be a future consideration.

**City Position:** Oppose legislative efforts that implement a cost match for FEMA preparedness grants

**Reason for Position:** This will add additional financial burden to our restricted general funding and limit our ability to acquire these grants.

~~Congress annually appropriates funding for homeland security assistance to states, specified urban areas and critical infrastructure. The Department of Homeland Security(DHS) has provided this assistance to state, local governments, public and private entities. These programs have either an all hazards purpose or a terrorism preparedness purpose and are primarily used by first responders, which include firefighters, emergency medical personnel, emergency managers, and law enforcement officers. Specifically the appropriations for these programs provide for grants, training, exercises and other support. The Federal Emergency Management administers these programs for the DHS.~~

~~The FY 2018 President's Budget provides \$2.1 billion for Federal Assistance, a reduction of \$958.6 million from the FY 2017 Annualized CR.~~

~~\$539.9 million represents reductions to grant funding for programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that are either unauthorized by the Congress, such as FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, or that must provide more measurable results and ensure the Federal Government is not supplanting other stakeholders' responsibilities, such as the Homeland Security Grant Program. For that reason, the Budget also proposes establishing a 25 percent non-Federal cost match for FEMA preparedness grant awards that currently require no cost match. This is the same cost-sharing approach as FEMA's disaster recovery grants. The City of Corona participates in both of these programs and may be greatly affected by this.~~

~~**City Position:** The City supports efforts by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to make funds available to local first responders. However, the City would like to see more flexibility in what cities can purchase to meet local needs once funding is obtained. The current purchasing procedures are too restrictive through~~

~~a lengthy approval process. An Authorized Equipment List (AEL) is provided by DHS and has limited items. An example of categories that need to be added are supplies for sheltering and citizens corps programs.~~

~~**Reason for Position:** To make funds more readily available to local jurisdiction first responders in a timely and efficient manner and provide a larger scope of authorized equipment.~~

## **D. LIBRARY AND RECREATION SERVICES**

- **Issue: Lack of Recreational Programs and Facilities Available to Residents in New Developments Outside the City Boundaries.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional

**Summary:** Current City of Corona recreation and non-profit youth sports programs are impacted from development outside the City limits. ~~The non~~Non-profit youth sports organizations within the City ~~of Corona~~ have territories that expand beyond the current City boundaries; ~~however, while~~ the construction of sport fields and recreational facilities has not kept pace with demand in surrounding communities. Further, few County recreation programs are easily accessible to residents living near Corona. This leads to rapid growth of youth sports leagues and City recreation ~~programs without adequate~~ with inadequate facilities to serve them. Top priorities include:

1. Development of ~~a new Senior Services Center~~ sports facilities and community and senior centers.
2. ~~Increase~~ increased funding for recreation programs.

**City Position:** Encourage all County development projects to provide youth programs and facilities to match the demand caused by this growth.

**Reason for Position:** The Corona residents should not bear the cost for providing recreational facilities and programs for non-residents.

## **E. HOUSING/REDEVELOPMENT**

- **Issue: State Legislation on Affordable Housing Bill**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Affordable housing legislation passed by the State Senate and Assembly are removing local control from cities and allowing by-right housing development in jurisdictions that do meet the number of assigned housing units in each Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) category and additionally are penalizing local jurisdictions financially by withholding public transportation monies if assigned housing units are not constructed.

**City Position:** Funding for affordable housing projects as public/private partnerships have become difficult due to the elimination of local Redevelopment Agencies and the limited funding opportunities available from the state, therefore, legislation should consider the financial constraints of local jurisdictions and should offer less competitive financial subsidies ~~incentives~~ for affordable housing projects.

**Reason for Position:** To maintain local control on housing decisions.

- **Issue: Payment of Prevailing Wage for Affordable Housing Projects**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Payment of prevailing wages is required under Section 1720 of the Labor Code for publicly assisted capital development projects. Due to the increase in cost this adds to affordable housing projects, and given the State's declaration of an affordable housing crisis, the development of workforce housing and

affordable housing to extremely-low to moderate income persons should be exempt from prevailing wage requirements.

**City Position:** Initiate efforts, in conjunction with affordable housing advocacy groups throughout the State, to exempt affordable housing projects from prevailing wage requirements, regardless of funding source, in order to make affordable housing developments financially feasible.

- **Issue: Funding For Affordable Housing**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal and State

**Summary:** The development of affordable housing is financially challenging, often requiring more public sector subsidy than is available. Federal and State financial resources need to be more flexible and plentiful to build the workforce and affordable housing needed for the Inland Empire. Furthermore, with the dissolution of redevelopment and its funding which included housing set aside funding, since 2011 there has been no local funds generated for the development and/or preservation of affordable housing. The State's position on the affordable housing crisis doesn't match its stance on eliminating the primary source of housing funds in the state. The state should reinstate housing set aside funds to local agencies to support affordable housing development.

**City Position:** Support

**Reasons for Position:** Maximize efforts that bring Federal funding to Corona's affordable housing projects.

- ~~**Issue: Change in the formula used for allocation of entitlement funds for CDBG and HOME**~~

~~**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal~~

~~**Summary:** The formula used for the allocation of the formula grant (entitlement) funds (CDBG & HOME for Corona) has never been updated or revised and is out of date. Certain economic factors are not considered such as, the poverty rate, cost of transportation, and cost of housing. HUD had submitted a proposed change to Congress in the past but it has not been considered. However, if HUD re-submits it for consideration and it is passed into law, the City could have its CDBG funding reduced.~~

~~**City Position:** Watch to determine direct impact to the City.~~

~~**Reason for Position:** At this time not enough information is known to take a support or oppose position. However, the issue could have substantial financial impacts to the City and it should be monitored carefully throughout the next Congress.~~

- **Issue: CDBG and/or HOME allocations**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** ~~The President has threatened to eliminate~~ CDBG and HOME funds in the Federal Budget.

**City Position:** Support efforts to maintain CDBG and HOME funding in the Federal Budget.

**Reason for Position:** The City and its non-profit community partners depend upon these funds to advocate for decent housing, increased economic opportunities, and suitable living environment for the extremely-low to moderate-income residents and areas of the City. Any reduction in funding will impact this population group in a disproportional manner.

- **Issue: Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Special Projects section**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** The City is the recipient of a five-year commitment of EDI funds beginning in 2004 for the renovation of the Historic Civic Center. In 2004, the City received \$223,673 and in 2006 (2005 program year funds) \$99,000. However, Congress did not approve EDI funds for 2006 program year.

**City Position:** Support the City receiving a full 5-years worth of EDI funding for the renovation of the Historic Civic Center or proposed remodel of the former police headquarters into a city-wide community center and watch for opportunities for other projects.

**Reason for Position:** Based upon the five-year commitment of EDI funds, the City embarked upon a major, multi-phased project to renovate the Historic Civic Center. It is in the City's best interest to work to ensure continued funding for this project and to look for other funding opportunities for community development projects.

- **Issue: Changes to the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative Grant (BEDI); specifically changing the requirement that a BEDI grant must be tied to a Section 108 Loan Guarantee.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** Currently, applicants for a BEDI grant must also obtain approval for a Section 108 Loan Guarantee from HUD. The Section 108 Loan Guarantee allows a CDBG Entitlement Community, such as Corona, to pledge up to five times the annual CDBG funding allocation as a loan guarantee for the project. It is felt in many jurisdictions that this requirement is impeding the remediation and subsequent reuse of brownfields throughout the Country and that by dropping the Section 108 requirement many more brownfields will be cleaned up and turned into viable, revenue producing areas.

**City Position:** Strongly support dropping the Section 108 requirement.

**Reason for Position:** Dropping the Section 108 requirement would allow the City to protect its future CDBG funds. Further, it would make BEDI funds simpler to apply for without impacting a jurisdiction's ability to use its CDBG funds.

## **F. PUBLIC UTILITIES**

- **Issue: Electricity Availability, Rates and Regulations**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal

**Summary:** California de-regulated its electricity markets in 1996 because electricity costs in California were significantly higher than in other States. With the enactment of AB1890, customers could buy their power from a third party provider, or remain with their electric utility. This legislation also created several interrelated systems through which power is bought, sold and transmitted. For several years, California has faced soaring wholesale electricity costs. Generally these are due to increased demand, and lack of generating capacity in the State, among other factors.

By aggregating loads within the City, serving its own needs, and providing service to specific areas within the City, the City has created a competitive alternative for reliable, reasonably priced electricity for its customers. The City has developed an electric distribution service system to new developments (Greenfield developments) within Corona.

**City position:**

1. The City supports efforts that will allow for the continuation of direct



access, community choice aggregation and development of new generation of electric power.

2. Support legislative efforts that allow for the continued operation and expansion of municipal utilities.
3. Support efforts that exempt municipal utilities from exit fees.
4. Support California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) sponsored legislation that would allow small Publicly Owned Utilities, providing less than 200,000 MWH of energy per year, to meet its Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) obligations using Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) only, similar to Small Investment Owned Utilities (IOUs).

**Reason for position:**

1. There must be a reliable supply of competitively priced electricity for residents, municipalities, and businesses alike. If not, it will drive commerce out of the State.
2. Increased electrical costs for the City's water and wastewater operations will result in rate increases to customers.
3. Increased electrical rates will result in increased operating costs for streetlight and landscape maintenance districts.
4. Capital Improvement Projects for the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance Districts are built with the reserves held in the district. Increased energy costs will erode the reserves and make it impossible to fund needed improvements.
5. Increased electricity costs will also impact the City's General Fund, thereby reducing available funding for basic City services.
6. It is a City's constitutional right to operate an electric utility. Municipalities operating electric utilities can bring needed revenue to the City and provide reliable, competitively priced rates to customers.
7. Exempting municipal utilities from exit fees would allow more cities to become energy providers that can offer competitive rates to customers.

- **Issue: Federal Bureau of Water Reclamation**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** The City will be applying for grants and loans for funding City-wide reclamation efforts which will enable us to provide reclaimed water to parks, landscape maintenance districts, schools, and landscaped freeway frontages and other water conservation efforts.

**City Position:** Support authorizations of grants for reclaimed water and water conservation purposes.

**Reason for Position:**

1. Better use of water resources.
2. Savings to taxpayers and school districts.
3. In line with adopted State Recycled Water Policy.
4. Assists in compliance with State's requirement to reduce potable water use 20% by 2020.
5. Helps ensure water supply reliability for Corona by matching water quality with water use.

- **Issue: Clean Water Act Reauthorization and Environmental Protection Act:**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** The Clean Water Act (CWA) was developed to restore and maintain the physical, chemical, hydrologic, and biological integrity of the nation's water. The national water quality criteria was developed to implement the CWA, however, it is designed to protect species that are non-existent within or non-representative

of most ephemeral or effluent-dependent ecosystems and are thus, not appropriately utilized in the establishment of water quality standards for many parts of the United States. For example, western wastewater agencies are burdened with a regulatory system which presumes that wastewater facility discharges are entering the Great Lakes or the Mississippi River rather than dry streambeds and washes, and treats ditches and canals as if they were natural streams. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements of a maximum of three (3) sewer overflows per year, regardless of agency size is unattainable.

**City Position:**

1. Support passage of legislation which provides for the protection of arid west ecosystems with environmental regulations that are based on sound science.
2. Provide Federal funding for implementing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), currently an unfunded Federal mandate.
3. Continue to support and lobby to identify funds for Corona.

**Reason for Position:**

1. More efficient management of water supplies.
2. Reduces costs to treat water and wastewater resulting in savings to ratepayers.

- **Issue: Riverside-Corona Feeder Authorization Act and other Supply Reliability projects.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** HR 3334 (H. Rpt. 108-643), the Riverside-Corona Feeder Authorization Act, was authorized in 2004. This project will authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Western Municipal Water District, to participate in the design and construction of a water supply project, which includes 20 groundwater wells and 28 miles of pipeline in Western Riverside County.

**City Position:**

1. Support projects that provide additional water supply to Western Riverside County.
2. Support Federal projects concerning water reliability and recycling that benefit the region through grants and low interest loans.

**Reason for Position:** Providing a reliable water supply is a priority for the economic well-being of Southern California.

- **Issue: Proposition 50: Safe Drinking Water**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, Water Code Section 79500, et seq., was passed by California voters in the November 2002 general election. Up to \$5 million dollars in grant funds are available for public water systems and public entities to help ensure safe drinking water for the public.

**City Position:** Support funding and protection of funding from state budget cuts and borrowing to balance the state budget.

**Reason for Position:**

1. The City has an interest in Proposition 50 to assist in funding for existing and proposed future projects.
2. DWP has obtained a funding agreement for the development of two new wells.

- **Issue: Proposition 84: Water Quality**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** This proposition authorizes \$5.388 billion for water-related projects. The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) has undertaken the

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) grant proposal to fund regional projects, including projects submitted by Corona

**City Position:** Continue to lobby for fair share of funds and for protection of these funds from state budget cuts and borrowing to balance the state budget.

**Reason for Position:**

1. The City has numerous projects which could benefit from this funding.
2. Due to the agricultural history of the watershed, the City has to blend and treat some of its water supply before it is delivered to the customer's tap.
3. The City has numerous safe drinking water and water quality improvement related projects which could benefit from this funding.

- **Issue: AB 32: Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** This signed State proposition caps California greenhouse emissions at year-1990 levels; it includes penalties for non-compliance and requires the State Air Resource Control Board to establish a program for statewide gas emissions reporting and monitor and enforce compliance with this program.

**City Position:** Lobby for reasonable implementation of this law to ensure there are not negative financial impacts to the City, its residents and local businesses.

**Reason for Position:**

1. Increased global temperature and climate change may have an impact on water supply reliability for DWP customers.
2. The costs to implement compliance with AB 32 are currently unknown.
3. It is imperative for the livelihood of the City, its residents and local business that costs of implementation of AB 32 do not cause utility rates to soar.

- **Issue: Regulatory Salinity Management**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal

**Summary:** Inland cities and counties face a challenge with high salinity in their groundwater. The cost of compliance with State and EPA salinity regulations is high.

**City Position:** Support funding and continue to lobby for Corona's fair share.

**Reason for Position:**

1. The City should have the ability to manage groundwater salinity; currently there is high salinity in ground and imported water.
2. Potential future avoided costs to our customers from not treating high salinity in our groundwater, reclaimed water and waste discharge streams.

- **Issue: Potable Water Supply, Conservation Measures, Reclaimed Water Production, Water Quality, Groundwater Augmentation**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal

**Summary:** Identify and support legislation for the improvement of water reliability and quality, and funding to support water issues concerning the City of Corona.

**City Position:** Support legislation and funding through grants and low-interest loans.

**Reason for Position:** It is in the City's best interest to support and invest in additional sources of water and the efficient use of current resources to decrease our dependence on imported water.

## G. MAINTENANCE SERVICES

- **Issue: Parks**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal

**Summary:** Park development remains a top priority for Corona. Organized youth sports continue to be extremely popular and are putting significant constraints on existing facilities. The City continues to seek partnerships and funding opportunities to develop unfunded park projects. Top priorities include the following:

1. Design and construction of an aquatic facility.
2. Design and development of community active and passive parks on the Army Corps of Engineer's Prado Basin property ("Borrow Site").
3. Support funding of urban forestry programs and projects.
4. Funding for design and construction of multi-purpose recreation trails and facilities.
5. Funding for design and construction of existing parks and recreation facilities requiring renovation.
6. Funding for design and construction or retrofitting existing parks with universally acceptable playground facilities.

**City Position:** Support legislation that will bring funding to parks programs and facilities.

**Reason for Position:** Increased demand on City facilities.

## H. PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT

- ~~**Issue: Riverside County Development within the City's Sphere of Influence**~~

~~**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional~~

~~**Summary:** The City is concerned about Riverside County development within the City of Corona's sphere of influence. The County should consider the impacts of development on the City and require developers to construct the necessary public infrastructure to support the level of service borne by development. **City Position:** The County should require developers to properly mitigate project impacts that would have an impact on city services.~~

~~**Reason for Position:** City of Corona residents should not be bearing the cost of services provided to County development.~~

- ~~**Issue: School Fees and Land Use Authority**~~

~~**Government Jurisdiction:** State~~

~~**Summary:** With the passage of Proposition 1A, the provisions of SB 50 have gone into effect. Of most significance to the City, are statutory changes that place statutory caps on school developer fees, and prohibit the ability of local governments to deny a project based on the adequacy of school facilities.~~

~~**City Position:**~~

~~1. Oppose efforts which compromise the ability of cities and counties to deny~~

~~—or place conditions on new development in areas where school facilities are inadequate, including but not limited to ingress/egress issues, traffic circulation, developer fees, etc.~~

~~2. Support efforts that give cities more say on school construction matters.~~

~~**Reasons for Position:**~~

~~1. Necessary to ensure school facility construction correlates to residential~~

~~—construction;~~

~~2. Necessary to give City greater control over school site construction and its~~

~~—impact on ingress/egress and traffic circulation issues.~~

~~3. Public safety.~~

- **Issue: Group Homes**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal

**Summary:** Municipal governments are responsible to ensure that land uses within their boundaries are appropriate, reasonable, and meet all foreseeable environmental, health and safety impacts. State and Federal law undermines a City's ability to fulfill its land use responsibility regarding the siting of group homes, specifically small group homes serving six or fewer persons. State law allows for the same regulations, taxes and fees as any other single family residence in the same zone. The only established siting criteria is that licensed homes be at least 300 feet from structure to structure.

**City Position:**

1. Support legislation that seeks reasonable changes to State law to provide local governments with sufficient flexibility to enable them to address, in a non-discriminatory fashion, any impacts of group home facilities which are not typically created by traditional single-family housing.
2. Support State legislation that would allow cities to require a conditional use permit (CUP) for all group homes. In the event a CUP requirement is not supported, the City supports the following actions:
  - a) Require State licensing of all group homes, including those with six or fewer residents;
  - b) Require all group homes, licensed or unlicensed, to register with the County citing their location, number of persons in residence, services provided, name of licensing agency (if applicable). The County would then be required to notify cities;
  - c) Require all group homes to be subject to the same business license requirements of any other home occupation, as stated in local ordinances; and
  - d) Require all group homes to be subject to local safety agency oversight on safety issues such as ingress and egress from buildings, proper working smoke alarms, fire alarm systems, prohibition of burglar bars on windows, etc.

**Reasons for Position:**

1. Local control to resolve issues associated with group homes;
2. Public safety.

- **Issue: Prado Basin Funding for Dike Construction, Rincon Road, and Agency Coordination, Santa Ana River Trail.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** Federal funding has been allocated for the design and construction of several dikes necessitated by the recent capacity increases to Prado Dam. Modifications to Dam Embankment and Outlet Works started in Spring 2003. State Route 71 has been elevated and construction of State Route 71 dike completed. Staff will continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers and Orange County to ensure the alignment of the interior dikes maximize benefits to the City, as well as all utility placements are properly placed and disruption to Corona residents are minimized. The Army Corps circulated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) document which proposed an increase in the level of water conservation behind

the dam. Staff have raised concerns regarding the impacts of this project on recreational facilities and opportunities within the basin.

**City Position:** City staff will continue ongoing dialogue to influence the outcome of the project design to properly mitigate impacts in Corona, including incorporating the design of the Santa Ana River Regional Trail into the dikes design, ~~and the elimination of the flood gate.~~ Staff will also continue to work with the Army Corps to finalize the basin recreation master plan, maximizing available lands in the basin for future parks and recreational use.

**Reasons for Position:** To ensure that impacts to Corona residents are minimized, avoided, or mitigated.

- **Issue: Local Zoning Authority and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rulings**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** Proposed rule-makings by the FCC seek to limit local authority over the siting of wireless communication and broadcast towers, zoning moratoria, and the ability of local governments to manage their public rights-of-ways.

**City Position:**

1. Support efforts to improve wireless communication service in the City.
2. Support efforts for local governments to retain essential zoning and land Use authority over the placement, construction and modification of personal wireless service facilities within the City, and in particular, decisions regarding facilities whose siting, scope, scale or design may result in undue impacts, whether aesthetically or otherwise, to adjacent businesses and residents.
3. Oppose actions of FCC to preempt and preclude local siting moratoria that do not specify a fixed length of duration.

**Reasons for Position:**

1. Preserve cities' ability to manage the public rights-of-way and to receive fair and reasonable compensation for use of the public rights-of-way by telecommunication providers; and
2. Preserve local zoning authority over telecommunication facilities.

- **Issue: Revisions to Endangered Species Act**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** The Environmental Species Act has provided protection for hundreds of species threatened with extinction in our Country over the past twenty-five years. Although the ESA is a federally mandated law, individual property owners and local governments are solely responsible for financing it. The City is supportive of revisions that would ensure that the spirit of the ESA is allowed to proceed in a responsible manner. Along with this, Corona supports regional habitat plans such as the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and "no surprise" clauses.

**City Position:** The City is supportive of reasonable revisions to the Endangered Species Act, but not limited to ensuring that:

1. Mitigation requirements not placed on routine maintenance activities or activities that occurred in the past;
2. Federal agency determinations are not based on insufficient data;
3. Federal agencies initiate consultation within 15 days of request of the permit or license applicant;
4. Cost of mitigation not exceed 10 percent of the total project costs; and
5. Mitigation requirements should allow for creative approaches, such as



Replacing trees, as opposed to acres, or allowing the creation of interpretive centers.

**Reasons for Position:**

1. Balance the needs of species protected by the ESA and people;
2. Ensure mitigation requirements are reasonable;
3. Ensure regulatory agencies are responsive to permit requests or applications.

## **I. ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL**

- **Issue: State Mandated Benefit Increases/Anti Business Legislation**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Increases in minimum wage, expansion of workers compensation and disability benefit levels, and similar benefit increases all have a tremendous impact on the City as well as the business community. Such mandated changes often eat away at operating revenues, decreasing available funds for needed operational funding, which often jeopardizes needed services as well as the viability of small businesses.

**City Position:** Oppose legislative action which mandates increases in worker compensation, disability/healthcare/pension costs, and unemployment benefit levels.

**Reason for Position:** Maintain fiscal stability by controlling the cost of government and business.

- **Issues: CALPERS PEMHCA Health Insurance Rates**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Cal PERS has implemented regional medical premium pricing which has provided some financial relief for agencies. ~~However, We see dramatic fluctuations in the health premium rates. -rates continue to increase at about 3-11% for the period of 2009-2012. Further, there is a lack of local agency representation on the PERS Board. Comparing 2016 to 2019, some plans have been reduced by up to 26% while others have increased by as much as 31%.~~

**City Position:**

1. Support efforts to increase co-payments in an effort to mitigate escalating costs to Employers.
2. Support efforts to expand local government representation on the PERS Board and encourage CalPERS to aggressively seek rate reductions.
3. Support efforts to increase medical plans and hospital facilities. ~~The number of plan providers is shrinking every year and this is particularly difficult for employees that live in more rural areas.~~

**Reason for Position:** Maintain fiscal stability by controlling the cost of government.

- **Issue: Payment of the Prevailing Wage for Certain Maintenance Projects**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Payment of prevailing wages is required for maintenance projects under Labor Code Section 1771 and Section 16001(f), Title 8, of the California Code of Regulations. Although there are a few exceptions to this prevailing wage requirement, the nature of some work for which the City contracts out does not warrant the excessively high basic hourly rates required under current state law (e.g. landscaping, tree trimming, traffic signal maintenance).

**City Position:** Initiate or support efforts to:

1. Expand the number of exceptions to CCR Section 16001(f); and/or

2. Create a separate wage category for "maintenance project" that is not based on the wage rates for " Commercial Building, Highway, Heavy Construction and Dredging Projects" currently published by the Department of Industrial Relations, but which is based on industry practices.

**Reason for Position:** Protect and preserve the City's funding for much needed public services.

- **Issue: Cap on Medicare**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal  
**Summary:** Currently there is no ceiling on the amount of employee and employer Medicare contributions.  
**Position:** The City is supportive of efforts to place a cap on employer and employee Medicare contributions.  
**Reason for Position:**
  1. Align with Social Security wage base.
  2. Limit taxes paid by employees and employers.
- **Issue: Workers Compensation Reform**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**Summary:** In 2004, several bills were signed into law to help alleviate the rising cost of Workers Compensation. These reforms continue to come under attack and reform opponents are prone to support litigation and or new legislation that would seek to roll back prior legislative reforms.  
**City Position:** Oppose legislative actions which are designed to reverse previous reforms to workers compensation.  
**Reason for Position:** Maintain fiscal stability by controlling the cost of government and business.
- **Issue: Access to State Board of Equalization (SBE) records**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**Summary:** City and State Board of Equalization share information. This allows for business license and income verification of tax base for both agencies.  
**City Position:** Support Access.  
**Reason for Position:** Verifies information for municipal service support through business licensing efforts.

## **J. Economic Development**

- **Issue: Incentives and exporting support for manufacturers**  
**Summary:** California is the #1 manufacturing state in the nation, yet most of our own manufacturers are not aware of this and do not feel like they receive federal and/or state support for their growth.  
  
Manufacturing is a major part of our nation's and California's economy. For every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, another \$1.89 is added to the economy; ~~that is,~~ Manufacturing has one of the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector. For every one worker in manufacturing, there are another four employees hired elsewhere. Manufacturers need to be incentivized to expand and hire and to export goods more than import. Trade agreements with overseas partners are a vital part of this equation as well. Not only are these jobs in the US and in California, but manufacturing ensures better stability for our economy as a global provider of products.

**City position:** Support efforts and incentivize manufacturers to increase exports from Corona and California to the global economy; encourage continued support of overseas trade policies that support both exports and imports.

**Reason for Position:** To encourage job growth in California (and the nation) by encouraging the growth and success of our manufacturers.

- **Issue: Opportunity Zones**

**Summary:** The federal tax bill approved in December 2017 allowed the Governor to designate certain census tracts as "Opportunity Zones." Investments made by individuals through special funds in these zones would be allowed to defer or eliminate federal taxes on capital gains. The U.S. Treasury Department issued an initial draft Opportunity Zones rules in October 2018 but the proposed regulations leave many issues unresolved. The details, guidelines, technical aspects and implementation, including a definition of terms will be critical for the successful adoption and use of Opportunity Zones.

**City position:** The City of Corona has two opportunity zones, one of which bleeds into unincorporated Western Riverside County because the zone follows the census track. Without having clear program details, it is difficult to promote and use this economic development tool to it's fullest potential. Investors need to have a definitive IRS ruling on how Opportunity Zones will be viewed and the implications. Clear, concise and user-friendly guidelines are critical to successful adoption and implementation as well as leveraging this economic development tool to it's maximum advantage.

**Reason for Position:** Corona has two opportunity zones that may help in revitalizing certain areas of town if appropriately utilized to their maximum potential. If appropriately utilized, Opportunity Zones could bring millions of dollars of investment to the Corona area.

- **Issue: Removal of Floodplain Designation from City Hall**

**Summary:** Riverside County Floodplain maps indicate that Corona City Hall is located in a 500-year floodplain zone. Several dikes have been built in the Prado Dam area as well as raising the height of the dam itself in preparation for rare and severe flood conditions, yet the federally adopted and approved maps do not reflect current conditions.

**City position:** The City of Corona may lease under-utilized office space at City Hall to other state or federal agencies. One such agency has expressed interest in leasing space at Corona City Hall but the lease agreement has stalled with this federal agency due to the designation on the floodplain maps. Updated, revised and federally adopted floodplain maps that reflect current conditions could allow City Hall to meet the required conditions for the federal agency.

**Reason for Position:** City Hall has extra office space that we would like to lease to a federal entity, but the floodplain designation has become an obstacle to that transaction. Leasing the vacant space would create a mutually beneficial outcome for the federal entity who is seeking office space and the local jurisdiction that has under-utilized space.

## CITY OF CORONA LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES 2019

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish and memorialize Corona City Council policies regarding State and Federal Legislation. Adoption of this policy provides guidance to City officials involved in advocating City interests to Federal, State, and County governments.

**Objective:** To support the viability of the City of Corona through education, advocacy and legislation.

**I. Implementation:** This policy will have several aspects to its implementation.

- A. The City Council and City Manager will support a legislative platform that will advocate City positions on Council-adopted priority issues. All City Department Directors are responsible for monitoring legislation that falls within their respective jurisdiction and for providing information on the impacts of legislation.
- B. The Mayor and City Council will look for opportunities to establish joint advocacy efforts with other entities including the Chamber of Commerce, the Corona-Norco Unified School District, the County of Riverside, or other cities.
- C. The Mayor and City Council, through the Finance, Legislation & Economic Development Committee, will be made aware of any legislative activities that may significantly impact the City. The Mayor and Council, through their involvement with the League of California Cities, Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Western Riverside Council of Governments and Southern California Association of Governments, will bring messages to lawmakers at the County, State and Federal level through correspondence, personal contact, or testimony.
- D. The City Manager shall direct the scope and activities of any State and Federal lobbyist hired on behalf of the City, consistent with the Legislative Platform and other direction provided by the City Council.

**II. Standing Legislative Priorities:** The City Council has adopted the following standing legislative priorities. These priorities are intended to provide guidance to the City Council and City Manager, while precluding the need for the Council to take a position on each and every proposal that is presented. The priorities are stated in general terms so they can be applied broadly to the many forms that legislative proposals may take. It is expected that all City officials will support the adopted priorities when acting on behalf of the City.

- A. **Transportation**
  - Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding for local and regional transportation projects; especially those which increase the capacity or public safety of State Route 91, Interstate 15, State Route 71, and the various interchanges and on/off ramps associated with those routes in the Corona area.
  - Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding for the construction of alternate or additional transportation corridors to Orange County.
  - Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding for grade separation or other upgrades of existing roadway grade crossings of the railroad corridor to establish a Quiet Zone throughout the City of Corona.

- Support measures that lessen congestion and the wear and tear of Corona surface streets due to freeway “cut through” traffic.
- Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding to repair and upgrade aging bridges and transportation infrastructure.
- Oppose efforts to eliminate and/or restrict the use of Riverside County State Improvement Transportation Funds, Federal Surface Transportation program, Measure A, or Gas Tax funding for local transportation projects.
- Oppose efforts by the State to divert Riverside County State Improvement Transportation Funds, Federal Surface Transportation program, Measure A, or Gas Tax funding sources to help pay for the State budget deficit.
- Support efforts to increase Federal programs and funding to mitigate the environmental and traffic congestion impacts of national goods movement from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles on Inland highways and grade crossings.
- Oppose efforts by the State to divert Proposition 42 funding away from transportation projects to fund the State budget deficit.
- Support additional funding for transit operations, including services for persons with disabilities and senior citizens.
- Support for inter-county transit services to assist commuters between Riverside and Orange Counties.
- Support legislation and grant programs that encourage transit ridership, active transportation, and congestion relief programs for western Riverside County.
- Support legislation that provides funding for the improvement and expansion of commuter rail (Metrolink) services on the Inland Empire line.
- Support legislation that provides funding for the construction of Phase 2 of the parking structure at the North Main Metrolink Station.
- Support partnering efforts with local and regional agencies that improve coordination of transit services.
- Support legislation that would implement the statewide high-speed rail (HSR) system including the segment from Los Angeles to San Diego via the Inland Empire, and light rail which increases intercity mobility from Corona and would relieve traffic congestion through the Corona area.
- Oppose Congressional efforts to prohibit federal funding from being utilized on the California HSR project.
- Support the implementation of an HSR alignment and station in Corona.
- Support legislation that promotes transit-oriented development and transit adjacent development around rail transit stations.
- Support the use of bike trails and pedestrian paths as viable alternatives to solo driving.
- Support legislation that safeguards Corona's fair share allocation of Proposition 84 funds.
- Oppose actions intended to expand the use of HOV lanes for purposes not associated with congestion relief or air quality improvement.
- Oppose legislation that would make the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act more restrictive on public projects.
- Support efforts to provide State and Federal funding for future phases of the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) which provides traffic signal synchronization and incident management.
- Advocate for Medicaid policies that promote the use of transit as Medicaid providers
- Oppose any changes in Department of Transportation (DOT) American's with Disabilities (ADA) regulations or interpretations without full public notice and comment.

- Support legislation that provides tax incentives for people who use public transit instead of a personal vehicle.
- Oppose any legislation that diverts additional gas tax from the City

**B. Municipal Financing**

- Support efforts which will protect the revenue base of local governments.
- Support efforts which will redirect State and Federal tax dollars to the City of Corona.
- Support efforts, which protect the ability of local governments to responsibly raise revenue.
- Support efforts that allow the City to control operating costs to the City and its residents.
- Oppose actions that will reduce City of Corona revenues or limit the ability to raise revenue.
- Support and monitor lawful implementation of Proposition IA which was passed to protect local government finance.

**C. Unfunded Mandates**

- Support efforts to provide increased flexibility to cities in the areas of service delivery and funding.
- Oppose legislative actions that impose Federal or State mandates on cities without sufficient funding for implementation.

**D. Home Rule**

- Support efforts which protect the rights of cities to plan and operate their communities.
- Oppose restrictions of local control of land use and development decisions.

**E. Public Safety**

- Support efforts that increase public safety within the City.
- Support efforts that provide funding or reimbursement for municipal public safety services.
- Support efforts to protect the health and safety of law enforcement officers and firefighters. Resist efforts to extend Workers Compensation presumptives or to extend 4850 time beyond the year it currently offers.
- Oppose efforts that reduce funding dedicated to municipal public safety services.
- Support legislation that allows for cities to determine public safety service levels and services offered from suppression staffing to Emergency Medical Services.
- Support emergency response funding initiatives that would support adequate local fire services as well as enhance the State's ability to respond to major emergencies including large-scale fires, rescues, medical, and hazardous materials incidents.
- Support legislation that enhances Emergency Management Program Capabilities, to include core functions performed during emergencies and program functions performed on a day-to-day basis.
- Support efforts that provide State and Federal funding to augment our capabilities in the four phases of Emergency Management; Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation.

**F. Tort Reform**

- Support efforts that reform liability statutes to reduce City exposure to "deep pocket" claims.
- Oppose expansion of liability for municipalities. Protect from erosion of the



defenses.

**G. Housing Reform**

- Support efforts that make affordable housing more attainable for local jurisdictions By providing financial resources or subsidies that are less competitive and do not require affordable housing developments to compete with one another.
- Oppose expanding State and Federal authority over local jurisdictions.
- Oppose penalties such as withholding state public transportation (“gas tax”) monies to local jurisdictions that are not capable of meeting housing units administered by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) under RHNA.

**H. Public Utilities**

General:

- Oppose regulations that affect publicly-owned utilities that do not consider cost of implementation.
- Support efforts to provide penalties for theft of metal and other crimes that can harm or jeopardize the delivery and safety of the City’s water, sewer and electric systems.
- Support efforts to provide funding for drought relief, disadvantaged communities, Delta management and sustainability, water supply reliability, statewide water system improvements, groundwater protection, water quality improvements, water reclamation, water conservation, watershed protection and water bond issues.
- Support Federal efforts to address long-term drought.
- Support Federal and State funding for long-term low and no-interest loan programs that will enable utilities to replace aging infrastructure.
- Oppose the proposed water tax

Water Supply

- Support policies and principles that recognize and maintain the “co-equal” goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem enhancement for the Delta.
- Support the financing and construction of an alternative conveyance facility for the Delta to improve water supply reliability for the region and state.
- Support efforts to control and reduce imported water costs.
- Support the development of alternative water sources, such as desalinization plants, by streamlining regulatory approval and permitting processes and providing funding for such projects.
- Support funding for planning and construction projects that provide for the sustainability of existing and future developments.

Water Quality, Reclaimed Water and Greywater

- Support water softener discharge and salinity management requirements to help maintain groundwater quality and reduce wastewater treatment costs.
- Support research on direct potable reuse of reclaimed water to help offset the use of potable water.
- Support changes to the CEQA permitting process to help streamline the installation of reclaimed water lines within existing rights-of-way.
- Support the implementation of reasonable emergency notification requirements for water quality notifications to the public.
- Support efforts to approve alternative delivery methods of annual Consumer Confidence Reports including, but not limited to, posting online, delivery by email, and notification of online report delivered by mail.

Groundwater Management

- Support voluntary groundwater monitoring regulations that maintain local control of groundwater supplies and management.
- Support the increased use of stormwater and reclaimed water for groundwater recharge and storage, as well as funding for the recharge of groundwater basins.

Water Conservation

- Support efforts to provide funding for SBx7-7, Statewide Water Conservation to reduce statewide per capita water consumption 20% by 2020.
- Support efforts that eliminate restrictions on water efficient landscapes and the use of artificial turf in common interest developments and provide for appropriate enforcement mechanisms.
- Support funding for rainwater capture programs and stormwater recharge planning and projects.
- Support funding for water reclamation and advanced reclamation treatment technology projects.

Electricity:

- Support efforts that would stabilize electricity rates and give cities the ability to municipalize utilities.
- Support the expansion of direct access programs to provide a choice to electric customers and encourage competitive pricing.
- Support efforts to consolidate electrical reporting requirements for the California Energy Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Energy.
- Support funding for solar power projects and other alternative energy sources.
- Oppose expanding State and Federal authority and controls on municipal facilities and operations.
- Support legislation and rule-making that would allow small Publicly Owned Utilities (POU), supplying less than 200,000 MWH of energy per year, to meet Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and other obligations through flexible options that take into account small POU constraints.
- Support the standardization of open source protocol for electric vehicle charging station networks.

Biosolids:

- Support efforts that recognize the science-based benefits of recycling and using biosolids, and promote the use of biosolids in industries such as agriculture and fuel production.

I. Library and Recreation Services

- Support efforts that provide funding for library branch extension.
- Support efforts that provide funding for library print and electronic materials.
- Support efforts that provide funding for additional library services including costs for staff.
- Support efforts that provide funding or reimbursement for recreation programs and events for the community, especially youths and seniors.
- Support efforts that provide funding for adaptive/special needs programming.

J. Maintenance Services

- Support efforts that provide funding for the purchase of open space recreation land and construction of recreational facilities.

- Support efforts that provide funding for the renovation and maintenance of existing parks and recreation facilities to provide for more sustainable facilities.
- Support efforts that provide funding for repairs and renovation of the Corona Municipal Airport.
- Support efforts to fund and complete the Santa Ana Regional Interceptor line to minimize impact on Corona Municipal Airport due to flooding.
- Support funding for security, lighting, and paving improvements at the Corona Municipal Airport.

### III. Legislative Priorities for 2018 Legislative Session

#### A. MUNICIPAL FINANCE

- **Issue: Governor's Annual Budget Proposal**  
Government Jurisdiction: State  
City Position:
  1. Oppose budget cuts that will have a negative funding effect on Corona.
  2. Oppose any efforts to reduce or link VLF funding to any other requirements.
  3. Oppose any efforts to reduce sales tax allocation or transportation funds to the City.
  4. Oppose efforts such as swapping sales tax for property tax with no guarantee of backfill.
  5. Oppose State efforts to seize redevelopment funding, including ERAF shifts.Reason for Position: To make cities, like Corona, financially whole.
- **Issue: Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF)**  
Government Jurisdiction: State  
Summary: The City will continue its efforts to secure a repayment of property taxes shifted by Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). While cities did receive an initial payment in 1999, and a one-time allocation in 2000, the goal is to secure a long-term commitment to repay all property taxes taken by the State during the recession of the early 1990s and to restore property tax to pre-ERAF levels. Since 1995, the City of Corona has lost \$93.6 million cumulatively due to ERAF(1). The City opposes efforts to expand property tax exemptions.  
City Position: Support  
Reasons for Position: Stable funding for needed municipal services.  
*(1) Source: League of California Cities, Cumulative FY 2009-10*
- **Issue: Electronic Commerce**  
Government Jurisdiction: Federal and State  
Summary: The State has been engaged in an effort to establish a streamlined sales tax initiative that would provide electronic retailers with a less burdensome means to collect local and State sales tax. The agreement now goes to each State, which must enact legislation to bring their State and local sales tax laws into conformity with the agreement. The agreement, which would become operable as soon as 10 States enact legislation, would establish uniform definitions for taxable goods and would require participating States and local governments to have only one statewide tax rate for each type of product. The State of California is not a participant in this agreement.  
City Position:
  1. The City supports creation of a level playing field between "bricks and mortar" retailers and electronic commerce retailers.

2. The City supports efforts that protect existing local government sales tax revenues without adding any new taxes or costs to local government.

**Reason for Position:**

1. Create a level playing field for businesses;
2. Prevent loss of City sales tax revenues;
3. Prevent widening the “digital divide” by permitting tax-free purchasing for those who have computers and Internet access.

## **B. TRANSPORTATION**

- **Issue: Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) Funding**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional/State/Federal  
**Summary:** Once transportation priorities are approved by the City Council, staff applies for funding from various regional, State, and Federal sources.  
**City Position:** Maximize funding for City and regional transportation priorities. Promote efforts for RCTC to expedite efforts to fund short and mid-term projects and operational improvements on the 71, 91 and 15 Freeways, outlined in the State Route (SR)-91 Improvements Implementation Plan.  
**Reason for Position:** Necessary funding to construct transportation improvements to mitigate the negative impact of bottlenecks on SR-71, SR-91 and I-15.
  
- **Issue: State Route 91 Advisory Committee**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional  
**Summary:** As part of AB 1010, which transferred ownership of the 91 Express Lanes to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), an advisory committee was created for participants to provide valuable input to OCTA on improving congestions on the toll lanes. The City will continue to monitor the SR-91 Express Lane through RCTC’s participation in the State Route 91 Advisory Committee.  
**City Position:** Support participation on the State Route 91 Advisory Committee to benefit Corona and Riverside County commuters.  
**Reason for Position:** To ensure that Corona and Riverside County has a presence to influence policy formulation pertaining to the 91 Express Lanes.
  
- **Issue: Studies and Implementation of Recommended Improvements from the Major Investment Study (MIS) for OC/RC CETAP Corridor**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional  
**Summary:** The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) approved the major investment study of the SR- 91 corridor, which considered capacity improvements to SR-91, I-15 and other transportation options, including a new corridor between Orange and Riverside Counties. This study concluded with three strategic elements to improve traffic flow between the two counties: SR 91 Corridor Improvement Project (adding general purpose lane, auxiliary lane and extended toll lanes), Corridor A (four lane parallel corridor adjacent to SR-91), and Corridor B (tunnel connecting Riverside and Orange Counties).  
The first project was awarded as a design-build contract. Construction started in 2014 and completed in 2018. The project, SR 91 Corridor Improvement Project, was awarded federal TIFIA funding.  
**City Position:** Support. The City has been an active participant in this process, and will continue to actively participate in future follow up technical feasibility

studies, funding strategies, and project implementation.

**Reason for Position:** To ensure that Corona's transportation needs are addressed correctly and fairly.

- **Issue: Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF)**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional  
**Summary:** Western Riverside Council of Governments manages the collection and distribution of TUMF fees collected from four zones that cover the western Riverside County. Fees are periodically updated to reflect cost of inflation and level of remaining developments. WRCOG works with RCTC and the local agencies to prioritize and fund projects. In addition, RCTC manages the portion of the TUMF funds designated for regional improvements  
**City Position:** Support reasonable fee adjustments based on sound nexus studies. Ensure that TUMF facilities within and near Corona are programmed for funding at the nearest opportunity possible and that funds are formally committed by WRCOG with an appropriation to secure that funding. Ensure that any new affordable housing developments receiving direct or indirect assistance are exempted from paying the TUMF fee.  
**Reason for Position:** To ensure that new developments pay their fair share towards construction needed regional transportation facilities, and to ensure that TUMF facilities are prioritized based on the highest congestion needs.
- **Issue: Transportation Funding and Construction**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional, State and Federal  
**Summary:** While the City's focus is to ensure Corona's regional and residential transportation priorities are seriously considered for funding, the City Council has taken the following position on major transportation issues:
  1. Support funding of projects contained in the 91 Freeway Major Improvement Study (MIS) and the 2004 Improvement Implementation Study (AB1010).
  2. Support funding for the SR 91 Corridor Improvement Project.
  3. Support funding for capacity and public safety improvements to the 91 Freeway, efforts for completing the 91 eastbound auxiliary lane between the 241 toll road and SR-71, and other quick fixes to eliminate bottlenecks where feasible.
  4. Work with RCTC and Caltrans to ensure early funding of planned widening for the I-15 and upgrades to the I-15/SR-91 Interchange.
  5. Support improving freeway operation/access to freeway/ramp meters, particularly along the I-15 Freeway.
  6. Support funding for mass transit, trip reduction, and non-motorized transportation, including adding parking capacity to the Metrolink stations, transit center, trails, bikeway facilities and safe routes to school.
  7. Support efforts to coordinate funding and construction timetables of all transportation and utility agencies so as to minimize adverse impacts to residents and businesses.
  8. Support efforts to landscape the SR-91/I-15 Interchange and freeway frontage through Corona.
  9. Work with WRCOG and member agencies to ensure timely funding of The Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF) improvements in the Corona area, and expedite implementation of TUMF projects, including the Cajalco Interchange and the McKinley Grade Separation in coordination with regional transportation planning activities.
  10. Support efforts to fund railroad grade separations in Corona.

11. Support efforts to fund the bridge rehabilitation and upgrades in Corona. **City Position:** Support funding for needed regional and residential transportation priorities.

**Reason for Position:** Critical funding needed for regional and residential transportation projects.

- **Issue: Goods Movement.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal/State/Regional

**Summary:** The regional-national movement of goods has had a significant impact on Corona in terms of clogged freeways and local arterials, which in turn accelerates their wear and tear. Congestion, noise and related air pollution at local grade crossings continues to be problematic.

**City Position:** Support efforts/funding to improve the movement of goods in Corona. The City also supports efforts by Congress to develop a funding mechanism and program to offset community impacts of goods movement. Corona will work with Federal/regional agencies to ease train noise at grade crossings.

**Reason for Position:** To help mitigate the congestion and noise brought about by movement of goods through Corona.

## C. **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- **Issue: Public Safety Funding – Supplemental Law Enforcement ServicesAccount , or SLESA**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** In the past, the State has funded the Supplemental Law Enforcement ServicesAccount, or SLESA, formerly CAL COPS. The SLESF allocation is designated to provide funding for frontline municipal police services to supplement existing services.

**City Position:** Support efforts that would stabilize funding for the SLESF Program and other initiatives to provide funding for public safety while minimizing the strings attached for its use.

**Reason for Position:** Critical funding for public safety.

- **Issue: Public Safety Funding – Board of State and Community Corrections for AB 109**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Prior to June 30, 2016, the State had funded assistance for the implementation of AB109, in addition to the amounts allocated for country probation departments. The funding wasdesignated to provide collaboration for local agencies to address Post-Release Accountability and Compliance, or PACT activities.

**City Position:** Support efforts that would continue funding for the PACT Program and other initiatives to provide funding for public safety.

**Reason for Position:** Critical funding for public safety.

- **Issue: Public Safety Funding – Equitable Sharing / Asset Forfeiture Rescission**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State/Federal

**Summary:** Previously, equitable sharing payments to state and local law enforcement agencies through the federal asset forfeiture program had been sequestered. This decision was a result of the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (H.R. 2029), which was signed into law on December



18, 2015. The Consolidated Appropriations Act made major rescissions from the federal asset forfeiture fund to pay for other programs. Most law enforcement agencies were unaware of the Federal budgetary deficit and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 that ceased funding to address the deficit.

**City Position:** Support efforts that would continue equitable sharing efforts to provide funding for public safety. Support better communication of public safety funding revisions.

**Reason for Position:** Critical funding for public safety.

- **Issue: Homeowners Insurance Reform**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**Summary:** The Southern California Wildfire of October 2003 resulted in insurance companies drastically altering fire insurance coverage requirements for homeowners. Many insurance companies have decided to not provide or renew fire insurance policies for homes which are located near hillsides and brush. This has left homeowners without coverage or coverage with uncompetitive rates.  
**City Position:** Support legislative efforts for Homeowners Insurance Reform to allow affordable and reasonable homeowners insurance in the Wildland Urban Interface including development of statewide rating standards.  
**Reason for Position:** To stabilize rates and keep coverage available for Homeowners.
  
- **Issue: Fire Protection and Emergency response**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**Summary:** Local governments are increasingly being asked to take on more responsibilities in the area of Emergency Response. With Corona's expanding land mass and population, opportunities must be seized to bring funding and legislation to bolster Emergency Response Services.  
**City Position:** Support legislative efforts that will allow for increased public protection from wildland fires, natural and person caused disasters, homeland security and normal emergency operations, through increased funding for equipment, personnel, local land use planning, vegetation management and the formation of fire safe alliances/councils.  
**Reason for Position:** To maintain the high standard of public safety, emergency service, and protection.
  
- **Issue: Emergency Medical Services**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**Summary:** The City supports efforts which authorize cities to prescribe and monitor the manner and scope of emergency medical services provided within their boundaries; and authorizing cities and fire districts at their discretion to increase the level of emergency medical services provided within their boundaries to include the provision of emergency medical transport through ambulance services.  
**City Position:** Support  
**Reason for Position:** Local control of vital public safety services.
  
- **Issue: Federal Homeland Security Funding**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal  
**Summary:** Congress annually appropriates funding for homeland security assistance to state, specified urban areas and critical infrastructure. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has provided this assistance to state, local governments, public and private entities. These programs have either an all hazards purpose or a terrorism preparedness purpose and are primarily used by

first responders, which include firefighters, emergency medical personnel, emergency managers, and law enforcement officers. Specifically, the appropriations for these programs provide for grants, training, exercises and other support. The Federal Emergency Management administers these programs for DHS. The City Fire/Emergency Management and Police Department have historically been recipients of the Homeland Security Grant Program which to date has not required any type of cost match. The FY 2018 President's Budget proposed establishing a 25 percent non-Federal cost match for FEMA preparedness grant awards that currently require no cost match. This did not come to fruition but may again be a future consideration.

**City Position:** Oppose legislative efforts that implement a cost match for FEMA preparedness grants

**Reason for Position:** This will add additional financial burden to our restricted general funding and limit our ability to acquire these grants.

## **D. LIBRARY AND RECREATION SERVICES**

- **Issue: Lack of Recreational Programs and Facilities Available to Residents in New Developments Outside the City Boundaries.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** County/Regional

**Summary:** Current City of Corona recreation and non-profit youth sports programs are impacted from development outside the City limits. Non-profit youth sports organizations within the City have territories that expand beyond the current City boundaries while the construction of sport fields and recreational facilities has not kept pace with demand in surrounding communities. Further, few County recreation programs are easily accessible to residents living near Corona. This leads to rapid growth of youth sports leagues and City recreation with inadequate facilities to serve them. Top priorities include:

1. Development of new sports facilities and community and senior centers.
2. increased funding for recreation programs.

**City Position:** Encourage all County development projects to provide youth programs and facilities to match the demand caused by this growth.

**Reason for Position:** The Corona residents should not bear the cost for providing recreational facilities and programs for non-residents.

## **E. HOUSING/REDEVELOPMENT**

- **Issue: State Legislation on Affordable Housing Bill**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Affordable housing legislation passed by the State Senate and Assembly are removing local control from cities and allowing by-right housing development in jurisdictions that do meet the number of assigned housing units in each Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) category and additionally are penalizing local jurisdictions financially by withholding public transportation monies if assigned housing units are not constructed.

**City Position:** Funding for affordable housing projects as public/private partnerships have become difficult due to the elimination of local Redevelopment Agencies and the limited funding opportunities available from the state, therefore, legislation should consider the financial constraints of local jurisdictions and should offer less competitive financial subsidies for affordable housing projects.

**Reason for Position:** To maintain local control on housing decisions.

- **Issue: Payment of Prevailing Wage for Affordable Housing Projects**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**Summary:** Payment of prevailing wages is required under Section 1720 of the Labor Code for publicly assisted capital development projects. Due to the increase in cost this adds to affordable housing projects, and given the State's declaration of an affordable housing crisis, the development of workforce housing and affordable housing to extremely-low to moderate income persons should be exempt from prevailing wage requirements.  
**City Position:** Initiate efforts, in conjunction with affordable housing advocacy groups throughout the State, to exempt affordable housing projects from prevailing wage requirements, regardless of funding source, in order to make affordable housing developments financially feasible.
- **Issue: Funding For Affordable Housing**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal and State  
**Summary:** The development of affordable housing is financially challenging, often requiring more public sector subsidy than is available. Federal and State financial resources need to be more flexible and plentiful to build the workforce and affordable housing needed for the Inland Empire. Furthermore, with the dissolution of redevelopment and its funding which included housing set aside funding, since 2011 there has been no local funds generated for the development and/or preservation of affordable housing. The State's position on the affordable housing crisis doesn't match its stance on eliminating the primary source of housing funds in the state. The state should reinstate housing set aside funds to local agencies to support affordable housing development.  
**City Position:** Support  
**Reasons for Position:** Maximize efforts that bring Federal funding to Corona's affordable housing projects.
- **Issue: CDBG and/or HOME allocations**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal  
**Summary:** CDBG and HOME funds in the Federal Budget.  
**City Position:** Support efforts to maintain CDBG and HOME funding in the Federal Budget.  
**Reason for Position:** The City and its non-profit community partners depend upon these funds to advocate for decent housing, increased economic opportunities, and suitable living environment for the extremely-low to moderate-income residents and areas of the City. Any reduction in funding will impact this population group in a disproportional manner.
- **Issue: Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Special Projects section**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal  
**Summary:** The City is the recipient of a five-year commitment of EDI funds beginning in 2004 for the renovation of the Historic Civic Center. In 2004, the City received \$223,673 and in 2006 (2005 program year funds) \$99,000. However, Congress did not approve EDI funds for 2006 program year.  
**City Position:** Support the City receiving a full 5-years worth of EDI funding for the renovation of the Historic Civic Center or proposed remodel of the former police headquarters into a city-wide community center and watch for opportunities for other projects.  
**Reason for Position:** Based upon the five-year commitment of EDI funds, the

City embarked upon a major, multi-phased project to renovate the Historic Civic Center. It is in the City's best interest to work to ensure continued funding for this project and to look for other funding opportunities for community development projects.

- Issue: Changes to the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative Grant (BEDI); specifically changing the requirement that a BEDI grant must be tied to a Section 108 Loan Guarantee.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** Currently, applicants for a BEDI grant must also obtain approval for a Section 108 Loan Guarantee from HUD. The Section 108 Loan Guarantee allows a CDBG Entitlement Community, such as Corona, to pledge up to five times the annual CDBG funding allocation as a loan guarantee for the project. It is felt in many jurisdictions that this requirement is impeding the remediation and subsequent reuse of brownfields throughout the Country and that by dropping the Section 108 requirement many more brownfields will be cleaned up and turned into viable, revenue producing areas.

**City Position:** Strongly support dropping the Section 108 requirement.

**Reason for Position:** Dropping the Section 108 requirement would allow the City to protect its future CDBG funds. Further, it would make BEDI funds simpler to apply for without impacting a jurisdiction's ability to use its CDBG funds.

## **F. PUBLIC UTILITIES**

- Issue: Electricity Availability, Rates and Regulations**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal

**Summary:** California de-regulated its electricity markets in 1996 because electricity costs in California were significantly higher than in other States. With the enactment of AB1890, customers could buy their power from a third party provider, or remain with their electric utility. This legislation also created several interrelated systems through which power is bought, sold and transmitted. For several years, California has faced soaring wholesale electricity costs. Generally these are due to increased demand, and lack of generating capacity in the State, among other factors.

By aggregating loads within the City, serving its own needs, and providing service to specific areas within the City, the City has created a competitive alternative for reliable, reasonably priced electricity for its customers. The City has developed an electric distribution service system to new developments (Greenfield developments) within Corona.

**City position:**

1. The City supports efforts that will allow for the continuation of direct access, community choice aggregation and development of new generation of electric power.
2. Support legislative efforts that allow for the continued operation and expansion of municipal utilities.
3. Support efforts that exempt municipal utilities from exit fees.
4. Support California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) sponsored legislation that would allow small Publicly Owned Utilities, providing less than 200,000 MWH of energy per year, to meet its Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) obligations using Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) only, similar to Small Investment Owned Utilities (IOUs).

**Reason for position:**

1. There must be a reliable supply of competitively priced electricity for residents, municipalities, and businesses alike. If not, it will drive commerce out of the State.
2. Increased electrical costs for the City's water and wastewater operations will result in rate increases to customers.
3. Increased electrical rates will result in increased operating costs for streetlight and landscape maintenance districts.
4. Capital Improvement Projects for the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance Districts are built with the reserves held in the district. Increased energy costs will erode the reserves and make it impossible to fund needed improvements.
5. Increased electricity costs will also impact the City's General Fund, thereby reducing available funding for basic City services.
6. It is a City's constitutional right to operate an electric utility. Municipalities operating electric utilities can bring needed revenue to the City and provide reliable, competitively priced rates to customers.
7. Exempting municipal utilities from exit fees would allow more cities to become energy providers that can offer competitive rates to customers.

- **Issue: Federal Bureau of Water Reclamation**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** The City will be applying for grants and loans for funding City-wide reclamation efforts which will enable us to provide reclaimed water to parks, landscape maintenance districts, schools, and landscaped freeway frontages and other water conservation efforts.

**City Position:** Support authorizations of grants for reclaimed water and water conservation purposes.

**Reason for Position:**

1. Better use of water resources.
2. Savings to taxpayers and school districts.
3. In line with adopted State Recycled Water Policy.
4. Assists in compliance with State's requirement to reduce potable water use 20% by 2020.
5. Helps ensure water supply reliability for Corona by matching water quality with water use.

- **Issue: Clean Water Act Reauthorization and Environmental Protection Act:**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** The Clean Water Act (CWA) was developed to restore and maintain the physical, chemical, hydrologic, and biological integrity of the nation's water. The national water quality criteria was developed to implement the CWA, however, it is designed to protect species that are non-existent within or non-representative of most ephemeral or effluent-dependent ecosystems and are thus, not appropriately utilized in the establishment of water quality standards for many parts of the United States. For example, western wastewater agencies are burdened with a regulatory system which presumes that wastewater facility discharges are entering the Great Lakes or the Mississippi River rather than dry streambeds and washes, and treats ditches and canals as if they were natural streams. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements of a maximum of three (3) sewer overflows per year, regardless of agency size is unattainable.

**City Position:**



1. Support passage of legislation which provides for the protection of arid west ecosystems with environmental regulations that are based on sound science.
2. Provide Federal funding for implementing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), currently an unfunded Federal mandate.
3. Continue to support and lobby to identify funds for Corona.

**Reason for Position:**

1. More efficient management of water supplies.
2. Reduces costs to treat water and wastewater resulting in savings to ratepayers.

- **Issue: Riverside-Corona Feeder Authorization Act and other Supply Reliability projects.**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** HR 3334 (H. Rpt. 108-643), the Riverside-Corona Feeder Authorization Act, was authorized in 2004. This project will authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Western Municipal Water District, to participate in the design and construction of a water supply project, which includes 20 groundwater wells and 28 miles of pipeline in Western Riverside County.

**City Position:**

1. Support projects that provide additional water supply to Western Riverside County.
2. Support Federal projects concerning water reliability and recycling that benefit the region through grants and low interest loans.

**Reason for Position:** Providing a reliable water supply is a priority for the economic well-being of Southern California.

- **Issue: Proposition 50: Safe Drinking Water**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, Water Code Section 79500, et seq., was passed by California voters in the November 2002 general election. Up to \$5 million dollars in grant funds are available for public water systems and public entities to help ensure safe drinking water for the public.

**City Position:** Support funding and protection of funding from state budget cuts and borrowing to balance the state budget.

**Reason for Position:**

1. The City has an interest in Proposition 50 to assist in funding for existing and proposed future projects.
2. DWP has obtained a funding agreement for the development of two new wells.

- **Issue: Proposition 84: Water Quality**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** This proposition authorizes \$5.388 billion for water-related projects. The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) has undertaken the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) grant proposal to fund regional projects, including projects submitted by Corona

**City Position:** Continue to lobby for fair share of funds and for protection of these funds from state budget cuts and borrowing to balance the state budget.

**Reason for Position:**

1. The City has numerous projects which could benefit from this funding.
2. Due to the agricultural history of the watershed, the City has to blend and treat some of its water supply before it is delivered to the customer's tap.
3. The City has numerous safe drinking water and water quality improvement related projects which could benefit from this funding.

- **Issue: AB 32: Greenhouse Gas Emissions**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State  
**Summary:** This signed State proposition caps California greenhouse emissions at year-1990 levels; it includes penalties for non-compliance and requires the State Air Resource Control Board to establish a program for statewide gas emissions reporting and monitor and enforce compliance with this program.  
**City Position:** Lobby for reasonable implementation of this law to ensure there are not negative financial impacts to the City, its residents and local businesses.  
**Reason for Position:**
  1. Increased global temperature and climate change may have an impact on water supply reliability for DWP customers.
  2. The costs to implement compliance with AB 32 are currently unknown.
  3. It is imperative for the livelihood of the City, its residents and local business that costs of implementation of AB 32 do not cause utility rates to soar.
  
- **Issue: Regulatory Salinity Management**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal  
**Summary:** Inland cities and counties face a challenge with high salinity in their groundwater. The cost of compliance with State and EPA salinity regulations is high.  
**City Position:** Support funding and continue to lobby for Corona's fair share.  
**Reason for Position:**
  1. The City should have the ability to manage groundwater salinity; currently there is high salinity in ground and imported water.
  2. Potential future avoided costs to our customers from not treating high salinity in our groundwater, reclaimed water and waste discharge streams.
  
- **Issue: Potable Water Supply, Conservation Measures, Reclaimed Water Production, Water Quality, Groundwater Augmentation**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal  
**Summary:** Identify and support legislation for the improvement of water reliability and quality, and funding to support water issues concerning the City of Corona.  
**City Position:** Support legislation and funding through grants and low-interest loans.  
**Reason for Position:** It is in the City's best interest to support and invest in additional sources of water and the efficient use of current resources to decrease our dependence on imported water.

## **G. MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

- **Issue: Parks**  
**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal  
**Summary:** Park development remains a top priority for Corona. Organized youth sports continue to be extremely popular and are putting significant constraints on existing facilities. The City continues to seek partnerships and funding opportunities to develop unfunded park projects. Top priorities include the following:
  1. Design and construction of an aquatic facility.



2. Design and development of community active and passive parks on the Army Corps of Engineer's Prado Basin property ("Borrow Site").
3. Support funding of urban forestry programs and projects.
4. Funding for design and construction of multi-purpose recreation trails and facilities.
5. Funding for design and construction of existing parks and recreation facilities requiring renovation.
6. Funding for design and construction or retrofitting existing parks with universally acceptable playground facilities.

**City Position:** Support legislation that will bring funding to parks programs and facilities.

**Reason for Position:** Increased demand on City facilities.

## H. **PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT**

- **Issue: Group Homes**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State and Federal

**Summary:** Municipal governments are responsible to ensure that land uses within their boundaries are appropriate, reasonable, and meet all foreseeable environmental, health and safety impacts. State and Federal law undermines a City's ability to fulfill its land use responsibility regarding the siting of group homes, specifically small group homes serving six or fewer persons. State law allows for the same regulations, taxes and fees as any other single family residence in the same zone. The only established siting criteria is that licensed homes be at least 300 feet from structure to structure.

**City Position:**

1. Support legislation that seeks reasonable changes to State law to provide local governments with sufficient flexibility to enable them to address, in a non-discriminatory fashion, any impacts of group home facilities which are not typically created by traditional single-family housing.
2. Support State legislation that would allow cities to require a conditional use permit (CUP) for all group homes. In the event a CUP requirement is not supported, the City supports the following actions:
  - a) Require State licensing of all group homes, including those with six or fewer residents;
  - b) Require all group homes, licensed or unlicensed, to register with the County citing their location, number of persons in residence, services provided, name of licensing agency (if applicable). The County would then be required to notify cities;
  - c) Require all group homes to be subject to the same business license requirements of any other home occupation, as stated in local ordinances; and
  - d) Require all group homes to be subject to local safety agency oversight on safety issues such as ingress and egress from buildings, proper working smoke alarms, fire alarm systems, prohibition of burglar bars on windows, etc.

**Reasons for Position:**

1. Local control to resolve issues associated with group homes;
2. Public safety.

- **Issue: Prado Basin Funding for Dike Construction, Rincon Road, and Agency**

**Coordination, Santa Ana River Trail.****Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** Federal funding has been allocated for the design and construction of several dikes necessitated by the recent capacity increases to Prado Dam. Modifications to Dam Embankment and Outlet Works started in Spring 2003. State Route 71 has been elevated and construction of State Route 71 dike completed. Staff will continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers and Orange County to ensure the alignment of the interior dikes maximize benefits to the City, as well as all utility placements are properly placed and disruption to Corona residents are minimized. The Army Corps circulated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) document which proposed an increase in the level of water conservation behind the dam. Staff have raised concerns regarding the impacts of this project on recreational facilities and opportunities within the basin.

**City Position:** City staff will continue ongoing dialogue to influence the outcome of the project design to properly mitigate impacts in Corona, including incorporating the design of the Santa Ana River Regional Trail into the dikes design. Staff will also continue to work with the Army Corps to finalize the basin recreation master plan, maximizing available lands in the basin for future parks and recreational use.

**Reasons for Position:** To ensure that impacts to Corona residents are minimized, avoided, or mitigated.

- **Issue: Local Zoning Authority and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rulings**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** Proposed rule-makings by the FCC seek to limit local authority over the siting of wireless communication and broadcast towers, zoning moratoria, and the ability of local governments to manage their public rights-of-ways.

**City Position:**

1. Support efforts to improve wireless communication service in the City.
2. Support efforts for local governments to retain essential zoning and land Use authority over the placement, construction and modification of personal wireless service facilities within the City, and in particular, decisions regarding facilities whose siting, scope, scale or design may result in undue impacts, whether aesthetically or otherwise, to adjacent businesses and residents.
3. Oppose actions of FCC to preempt and preclude local siting moratoria that do not specify a fixed length of duration.

**Reasons for Position:**

1. Preserve cities' ability to manage the public rights-of-way and to receive fair and reasonable compensation for use of the public rights-of-way by telecommunication providers; and
2. Preserve local zoning authority over telecommunication facilities.

- **Issue: Revisions to Endangered Species Act**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** The Environmental Species Act has provided protection for hundreds of species threatened with extinction in our Country over the past twenty-five years. Although the ESA is a federally mandated law, individual property owners and local governments are solely responsible for financing it. The City is supportive of revisions that would ensure that the spirit of the ESA is allowed to proceed in a responsible manner. Along with this, Corona supports regional habitat plans such as the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and "no surprise" clauses.

**City Position:** The City is supportive of reasonable revisions to the Endangered Species Act, but not limited to ensuring that:

1. Mitigation requirements not placed on routine maintenance activities or activities that occurred in the past;
2. Federal agency determinations are not based on insufficient data;
3. Federal agencies initiate consultation within 15 days of request of the permit or license applicant;
4. Cost of mitigation not exceed 10 percent of the total project costs; and
5. Mitigation requirements should allow for creative approaches, such as

Replacing trees, as opposed to acres, or allowing the creation of interpretive centers.

**Reasons for Position:**

1. Balance the needs of species protected by the ESA and people;
2. Ensure mitigation requirements are reasonable;
3. Ensure regulatory agencies are responsive to permit requests or applications.

## **I. ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL**

- **Issue: State Mandated Benefit Increases/Anti Business Legislation**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Increases in minimum wage, expansion of workers compensation and disability benefit levels, and similar benefit increases all have a tremendous impact on the City as well as the business community. Such mandated changes often eat away at operating revenues, decreasing available funds for needed operational funding, which often jeopardizes needed services as well as the viability of small businesses.

**City Position:** Oppose legislative action which mandates increases in worker compensation, disability/healthcare/pension costs, and unemployment benefit levels.

**Reason for Position:** Maintain fiscal stability by controlling the cost of government and business.

- **Issues: CALPERS PEMHCA Health Insurance Rates**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Cal PERS has implemented regional medical premium pricing which has provided some financial relief for agencies. We see dramatic fluctuations in the health premium rates. Comparing 2016 to 2019, some plans have been reduced by up to 26% while others have increased by as much as 31%.

**City Position:**

1. Support efforts to increase co-payments in an effort to mitigate escalating costs to Employers.
2. Support efforts to expand local government representation on the PERS Board and encourage CalPERS to aggressively seek rate reductions.
3. Support efforts to increase medical plans and hospital facilities.

**Reason for Position:** Maintain fiscal stability by controlling the cost of government.

- **Issue: Payment of the Prevailing Wage for Certain Maintenance Projects**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** Payment of prevailing wages is required for maintenance projects

under Labor Code Section 1771 and Section 16001(f), Title 8, of the California Code of Regulations. Although there are a few exceptions to this prevailing wage requirement, the nature of some work for which the City contracts out does not warrant the excessively high basic hourly rates required under current state law (e.g. landscaping, tree trimming, traffic signal maintenance).

**City Position:** Initiate or support efforts to:

1. Expand the number of exceptions to CCR Section 16001(f); and/or
2. Create a separate wage category for "maintenance project" that is not based on the wage rates for "Commercial Building, Highway, Heavy Construction and Dredging Projects" currently published by the Department of Industrial Relations, but which is based on industry practices.

**Reason for Position:** Protect and preserve the City's funding for much needed public services.

- **Issue: Cap on Medicare**

**Government Jurisdiction:** Federal

**Summary:** Currently there is no ceiling on the amount of employee and employer Medicare contributions.

**Position:** The City is supportive of efforts to place a cap on employer and employee Medicare contributions.

**Reason for Position:**

1. Align with Social Security wage base.
2. Limit taxes paid by employees and employers.

- **Issue: Workers Compensation Reform**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** In 2004, several bills were signed into law to help alleviate the rising cost of Workers Compensation. These reforms continue to come under attack and reform opponents are prone to support litigation and or new legislation that would seek to roll back prior legislative reforms.

**City Position:** Oppose legislative actions which are designed to reverse previous reforms to workers compensation.

**Reason for Position:** Maintain fiscal stability by controlling the cost of government and business.

- **Issue: Access to State Board of Equalization (SBE) records**

**Government Jurisdiction:** State

**Summary:** City and State Board of Equalization share information. This allows for business license and income verification of tax base for both agencies.

**City Position:** Support Access.

**Reason for Position:** Verifies information for municipal service support through business licensing efforts.

## **Economic Development**

- **Issue: Incentives and exporting support for manufacturers**

**Summary:** California is the #1 manufacturing state in the nation, yet most of our own manufacturers are not aware of this and do not feel like they receive federal and/or state support for their growth.

Manufacturing is a major part of our nation's and California's economy. For every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, another \$1.89 is added to the economy. Manufacturing has one of the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector. For every one worker in manufacturing, there are another four employees hired

elsewhere. Manufacturers need to be incentivized to expand and hire and to export goods more than import. Trade agreements with overseas partners are a vital part of this equation as well. Not only are these jobs in the US and in California, but manufacturing ensures better stability for our economy as a global provider of products.

**City position:** Support efforts and incentivize manufacturers to increase exports from Corona and California to the global economy; encourage continued support of overseas trade policies that support both exports and imports.

**Reason for Position:** To encourage job growth in California (and the nation) by encouraging the growth and success of our manufacturers.

- **Issue: Opportunity Zones**

**Summary:** The federal tax bill approved in December 2017 allowed the Governor to designate certain census tracts as “Opportunity Zones.” Investments made by individuals through special funds in these zones would be allowed to defer or eliminate federal taxes on capital gains. The U.S. Treasury Department issued an initial draft Opportunity Zones rules in October 2018 but the proposed regulations leave many issues unresolved. The details, guidelines, technical aspects and implementation, including a definition of terms will be critical for the successful adoption and use of Opportunity Zones.

**City position:** The City of Corona has two opportunity zones, one of which bleeds into unincorporated Western Riverside County because the zone follows the census track. Without having clear program details, it is difficult to promote and use this economic development tool to it’s fullest potential. Investors need to have a definitive IRS ruling on how Opportunity Zones will be viewed and the implications. Clear, concise and user-friendly guidelines are critical to successful adoption and implementation as well as leveraging this economic development tool to it’s maximum advantage.

**Reason for Position:** Corona has two opportunity zones that may help in revitalizing certain areas of town if appropriately utilized to their maximum potential. If appropriately utilized, Opportunity Zones could bring millions of dollars of investment to the Corona area.

- **Issue: Removal of Floodplain Designation from City Hall**

**Summary:** Riverside County Floodplain maps indicate that Corona City Hall is located in a 500-year floodplain zone. Several dikes have been built in the Prado Dam area as well as raising the height of the dam itself in preparation for rare and severe flood conditions, yet the federally adopted and approved maps do not reflect current conditions.

**City position:** The City of Corona may lease under-utilized office space at City Hall to other state or federal agencies. One such agency has expressed interest in leasing space at Corona City Hall but the lease agreement has stalled with this federal agency due to the designation on the floodplain maps. Updated, revised and federally adopted floodplain maps that reflect current conditions could allow City Hall to meet the required conditions for the federal agency.

**Reason for Position:** City Hall has extra office space that we would like to lease to a federal entity, but the floodplain designation has become an obstacle to that transaction. Leasing the vacant space would create a mutually beneficial outcome for the federal entity who is seeking office space and the local jurisdiction that has under-utilized space.