



City of Sacramento



2012 State Legislative Program

# STATE



# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS STAFF

**Mark Prestwich**  
**Legislative Affairs Manager**

**(916) 808-5380**  
[mprestwich@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:mprestwich@cityofsacramento.org)

**Kathleen Sall**  
**Administrative Assistant**

**(916) 808-1228**  
[ksall@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:ksall@cityofsacramento.org)

## **MAYOR**

Kevin Johnson

## **CITY COUNCIL**

Angelique Ashby	District 1
Sandy Sheedy	District 2
Steve Cohn	District 3
Robert King Fong	District 4
Jay Schenirer	District 5
Kevin McCarty	District 6
Darrell Fong	District 7
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## CITY OF SACRAMENTO'S 2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### PRIORITY ISSUES

Priority issues are those issues identified to have significant impact on City business and on which legislative advocacy efforts will be concentrated for the 2012 Legislative Session.

1. Redevelopment: Redevelopment agencies and tax increment financing are essential local tools for revitalizing Sacramento neighborhoods. The City opposes diminishing the current authority or financing capabilities of redevelopment agencies. The City supports legislation that provides funding for community revitalization efforts.
2. Flood Control: Improvements are needed to levees around the Natomas Basin to achieve an initial 100-year flood protection certification with the ultimate goal to achieve a 200-year flood protection in the future. Improvements are also needed to levee systems protecting areas of northern and southern Sacramento, including Downtown and Pocket areas to 200-year levels of flood protection. The City supports legislation that provides authorization and funding to achieve these flood protection goals.
3. Transportation: The Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility is a multi-phased project ready to proceed to Phase 2 which includes final design and construction. Improvements include structural and seismic strengthening of the existing historic station, upgrade of mechanical and electrical systems and internal circulation, site circulation and parking improvements and relocation of bus layover areas and Light Rail Train station. The City supports legislation and other viable opportunities to fund the improvements to and revitalization of the Sacramento Intermodal Transportation Facility.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PROJECTS OF SIGNIFICANCE (BY OPERATIONAL AREA)

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

##### **Legislative Guiding Principles:**

- Support legislation that increases the supply of affordable housing, including rental and homeownership opportunities through funding and/or program administration.
- Support programs and funding to eliminate homelessness, including funding for supportive services in permanent housing.
- Support legislation to reduce foreclosure rates and to provide relief for the community impacts of foreclosure.
- Support adoption of effective and clear green building standards in the California Building Code.
- Support adoption of accessibility standards in the California Building Code consistent with federal standards.

##### **Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:**

- Affordable Housing: The need for affordable housing is high, affecting working and disabled families and individuals and the community as a whole.
- Eliminating Homelessness: Sacramento has adopted its Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and implemented prevention and rapid re-housing, evidenced-based solutions with "housing first" as the centerpiece strategy.
- Foreclosure: In October 2011, Sacramento's foreclosure filing rate, one in every 176 households, ranked 7th in the nation for metro areas with more than 200,000 people. Foreclosure affects families, neighborhoods and the broader community. The City is making a concerted effort to address the foreclosure crisis, but support from the state and federal governments is key to a complete foreclosure recovery program.

- Housing Element: The Housing Element of the General Plan is the City’s housing “constitution,” directing land use, planning and funding for housing. It is important to have housing element laws that support the City’s ability to provide housing for all economic segments of the community.
- Sustainable Planning and Development: The City has applied for \$1 million each from the state Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Federal Community Challenge Planning Grant for the Green Development Code that will streamline and modernize zoning and development regulations. Additionally, the City supports environmental and regulatory streamlining on the state level to encourage sustainable infill development.  
A myriad of recent state regulations created confusion and uncertainty, and are sometimes contradictory. An example is when the State’s Energy Commission issued revisions to Title 24 for energy efficiency separately from the other revisions the Department of Housing and Community Development made to Title 24 regarding building.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Legislative Guiding Principles:

- Support funding and incentives for smart growth and sustainable development.
- Support legislation that provides for the establishment of green technology as well as for the development of programs that assist green businesses.
- Support legislation that supports any appropriate changes within the context of the overall state budget that will improve or strengthen economic development incentives and strategies that stimulate economic growth and revitalization in the region.
- Support legislation and funding for the repair, upgrade and new development of infrastructure in infill areas to facilitate the construction of higher density residential, commercial and mixed-use development.
- Support legislation that would make the region more competitive by improving the current business climate with respect to streamlined permit processing, access to capital and regulatory certainty.
- Oppose measures that would reduce or redirect tax increment.

### Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:

- Enterprise Zone: California’s Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program offers one of the state’s most significant economic development tax incentives, broadly applying to businesses of all sizes across virtually all industry lines.
- Regulatory Reform: Many State regulations are placing California businesses at a disadvantage and therefore inhibiting job growth.
- Small Neighborhood Commercial Centers: Support funding for revitalization of small neighborhood commercial centers that are not in redevelopment areas.

## ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY

### Legislative Guiding Principles:

- Support measures and funding for City programs and projects that address sustainability issues such as air quality improvement, energy efficiency, water efficiency, renewable energy, fuel efficiency, energy adequacy, and security while balancing the reduction of emissions with impacts on business.
- Support the representation of the Sacramento region on the California Air Resources Board (CARB).
- Pursue and support legislation and funding to maintain and expand the City’s Urban Forest.
- Support and monitor funding for implementation of AB 32 and SB 375 Climate Change requirements.
- Support legislation that provides reasonable regulatory fees and cost effective, balanced regulatory requirements with a direct correlation to water quality improvement.

- Support programs, legislation, regulations, grants and other funding sources that will support the City's efforts to meet the State's solid waste diversion requirement as promulgated under AB 341. This could include, but is not limited to funding for education, programs, infrastructure, extended producer responsibility (EPR) and organics diversion.
- Support increases in funding for education, programs, and infrastructure to meet regulatory obligations for banned materials such as batteries, light bulbs, e-waste and household hazardous waste.
- Support air quality efforts that emphasize the use of advanced technologies, market incentives, and incentives for the use of alternative fuels and the development of the infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles.
- Support legislation and grants that encourage the use of clean-burning alternative fuels for vehicles and that provide incentives and rewards for cities with innovative alternative fuel programs.

**Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:**

- Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Fueling Infrastructure: Funding is essential for projects and programs to extend and/or expand tax incentives to expand Alternative Fuel Vehicles and fueling infrastructure as well as alternative fuel dispensing or purchasing. The passage of legislation supporting alternative fuel would enable the City of Sacramento fleet to expand its use of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) beyond the refuse fleet to other Public Works vehicles, thereby reducing emissions and saving fuel expenses over diesel powered vehicles currently in operation.
- Permanent Sacramento Member on California Air Resources Board (CARB): The Sacramento region is the only "severe" or worse federal ozone non-attainment area that currently has no representative on the CARB.
- Permit Requirements: The City is under several regulatory permits, including prescriptive environmental management programs for stormwater quality, combined system, sanitary sewer overflows, residual disposal at the City's two surface water treatment plants, and groundwater protection at the historic 28<sup>th</sup> Street Landfill. Permit requirements should be reasonable, cost effective, and provide environmental benefits.
- Urban Forest: Maintaining and expanding a vibrant Urban Forest is a major public works endeavor for the City of Sacramento that results in air quality, public health, and quality of life benefits.

**FLOOD CONTROL**

**Legislative Guiding Principles:**

- Pursue and support legislation and funding for improvements.

**Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:**

- American River Common Features Project: Common Features Project providing for improvements to American River levee.
- South Sacramento County Streams: Project to help ease stream flooding near business and residential neighborhoods in southeastern Sacramento.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**Legislative Guiding Principles:**

- Monitor funding opportunities and pursue funds for rehabilitation and reconstruction of historic sites in Sacramento.
- Support legislation to expand use of tax credits for historic preservation.

**Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:**

- Historic City Cemetery: Reconstruction of a historic landmark: refurbish antiquated irrigation system to meet new water conservation requirements.
- Historic Depot Central Shops: Rehabilitation and reconstruction of the historic railroad structures including seismic retrofitting, stabilization and other rehabilitation.
- Old Sacramento Boardwalk: Reconstruction of the historic landmark in Old Sacramento to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE/FISCAL STABILITY AND LOCAL CONTROL****Legislative Guiding Principles:**

- Support legislation or ballot measures to prevent the state from borrowing, raiding or otherwise redirecting revenues from local government.
- Oppose measures making cities more dependent on the state for financial stability and policy direction.
- Oppose measures imposing state-mandated costs when there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.
- Oppose measures that would decrease local control, including the City's legal authority to provide essential services, reduce revenue sources that are required to maintain services, or mandate additional costs without providing reimbursement.
- Oppose changes in State law that would limit the ability of charter cities to preserve their local revenue base.

**Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:**

- Protect Local Revenues: In prior years, the Legislature has attempted to acquire local revenues typically slated for local government services. Due to the downturn in the economy, existing revenues for local governments are steadily declining and are therefore more vital than ever to maintain these existing revenue sources.
- Preserve, protect, and return Local Revenues: Preserve, protect, and return revenues taken by the state from cities to support and/or reinstate vital public services.
- Local Control: Each legislative session brings proposed bills to decrease local control over local matters.

**PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE****Legislative Guiding Principles:**

- Support legislation and grants to fund parks, recreation and capital improvements, and programs to increase the quality of life for Sacramento residents.
- Pursue legislation and seek funding opportunities for maintenance and operations of the Sacramento Riverfront and American River Parkway.
- Pursue legislation and seek funding opportunities for maintenance and operations of the American River Parkway.
- Protect After School Enrichment Services (ASES) funding by opposing legislation intended to repeal Proposition 49, the After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002.
- Support legislation and seek funding for improving early childhood literacy, environmental retrofitting for school facilities, and increased school and community safety.

**Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:**

- American and Sacramento River Parkways: Protect and enhance natural habitat and recreational uses of the Sacramento and American River Parkways and guide development to provide additional public access.

- Sacramento Parks and Recreation Master Plan Implementation: Sacramento lacks dedicated funding sources for some elements of the City’s public parks and recreation system, including regional parks, regional off-street trails and parkways and major destination attractions.
- After School Programming for Teens: Implement and maintain prevention / intervention programs for middle and high school teenagers during after school and summer evening hours. The rise of youth violence and crime in the City of Sacramento during non-school hours is a major concern. Quality programs and services for teens would promote positive changes in teen behavior.
- Outdoor Education and Recreation: Due to urbanization, everyone is increasingly detached from the natural environment and thus deprived of the benefits associated with exploring, engaging, and experiencing nature.
- Health and Wellness: There is significant need for awareness and action on issues related to health and nutrition to lead California’s effort to combat obesity, and make California the nation’s model for health, nutrition and fitness.
- Subsidized Quality Licensed Childcare: Develop a sustainable partnership that maximizes resources in support of an excellent public education and high quality of life for Sacramento children, families, and community through alignment between City services and district’s needs.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Legislative Guiding Principles:

- Support legislative efforts to grant state funding to supplement local law enforcement to increase staffing and equipment to improve the safety, security and the quality of life for Sacramento residents.
- Support legislation that seeks to reimburse the City for overtime costs paid to public safety personnel who are required to appear in State and/or County courts.
- Support legislation and grants which provide funding for public safety equipment upgrades, training and capital improvements.
- Support legislation and seek funding that will assist in reducing and preventing crimes, primarily related to drugs, gang violence and pedestrian safety.
- Support legislative efforts to improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
- Support legislation that provides funding at the local level to promote crime prevention, public outreach, and intervention programs.
- Seek funding for homeland security and emergency preparedness.

### Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:

- Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness: Continue to seek funding to refine and enhance the City’s response plan and strategies for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Crime Prevention and Reduction: It is imperative to continue to work toward preventing and reducing the number of crimes, with an emphasis on drugs, gang violence and pedestrian safety.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Legislative Guiding Principles:

- Support efforts to increase funding for transportation programs and projects within the City, including support for mass transit programs.
- Support measures to enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
- Support legislation providing increased State funding for preservation and maintenance of local roads.

- Support efforts to secure the maximum amount of State funding for the construction and maintenance of local roads, infrastructure, transportation projects and major corridors.
- Support initiatives to provide transit operations and maintenance funding to local jurisdictions.

**Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:**

- South Line Phase II - Light Rail Project: Extend Sacramento Regional Transit District’s (RT’s) South Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) service from its existing terminus at Meadowview Road south and east to Cosumnes River College (CRC). The LRT Project will add four new LRT stations, 2,700 park-and-ride spaces and a major new transit center at the CRC station near State Route 99.
- Downtown Natomas Airport (DNA) Light Rail Corridor: The DNA is a Regional Transit Project. The 13-mile, 13 station light rail transit corridor extends from downtown to the Sacramento International Airport, serving the future Intermodal Facility, Union Pacific Railyards development, River District Development Area and the communities of South and North Natomas.
- San Joaquin Regional/High Speed Rail Corridor Improvements: ACE and the CA High Speed Rail Authority are undertaking a corridor improvement project as part of the statewide High Speed Rail Initiative. The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission is working closely with representatives from Merced to Sacramento to plan and implement infrastructure improvements to provide higher speed rail in the Central Valley that can ultimately be utilized for Phase 2 of the CA High Speed Rail project in the future.
- 65<sup>th</sup> Street Transit Village Area: Neighborhood/university mixed-use district intended to provide a variety of housing types, retail and employment uses to increase transit use and to reduce vehicle trips. The plan envisions 65<sup>th</sup> Street as a pedestrian scale Main Street that connects California State University, Sacramento with the existing light rail station and the business community.

**WATER POLICY**

**Legislative Guiding Principles:**

- Monitor and engage in legislative and regulatory initiatives and processes to protect the City’s water rights and represent the City’s interests consistent with City Council adopted policies.
- Support regulatory processes that are not a one size fits all approach to maintain flexibility for the City to determine the best means of achieving conservation mandates.
- Support legislation that maintains flexibility for the City to determine the best means for providing water services to its residents and allow local control over reclaimed water, and take into account the costs versus the benefits of reclaimed water and regulatory considerations.
- Pursue funding to complete State mandated projects.

**Specific Projects and Issues of Significance:**

- Delta Plan: The Delta Stewardship Council was created by legislation in 2009. The Council is charged with developing a comprehensive management plan for the Delta to achieve the co-equal goals of providing more reliable water supply for California and protecting the Delta ecosystem.
- Water Meters: Per AB 2572, the City is required to install water meters on all properties by January 1, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$440 million.
- Water Conservation: Legislation passed in 2009 mandates a 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020. The City of Sacramento is committed to conservation through participation in the Water Forum, water conservation ordinance and education of the public regarding water conservation issues.
- Reclaimed Water: Reclaimed water involves the use of treated wastewater for landscaping and irrigation purposes and is a great alternative for areas with limited water supply. There are additional costs to treat and supply reclaimed water that can offset the benefits to the rate-payer. Current and future regulations for protection of groundwater quality and public health may affect feasibility.