




**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SIXTH DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 2015
TO: Mayor Kevin Faulconer
FROM: Councilmember Chris Cate 
SUBJECT: 2015 Legislative Priority Memo

I appreciate the opportunity to share my state and federal legislative priorities for 2016. I look forward to working collaboratively to address the City's most pressing issues and challenges. Also, in an effort to be more responsive to upcoming state and federal legislation, I request that a second round of legislative priorities be solicited in March 2016 after the state and federal legislature reconvene from spring recess.

State Legislative Priorities

Allocate funding for Noise Barriers in the State Transportation Improvement Program

Noise abatement for properties near freeways has been funded through a noise barrier retrofit program administered through the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and funded by the State Transportation Improvement Program. Currently, the state no longer funds this program despite many qualified properties remaining on a priority list. The City of San Diego urges the state legislature and governor to allocate funding for the SANDAG retrofit program in the upcoming fiscal year state budget.

Pursue Water Bond Funding for Local Water Supply Development Projects

In 2014, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 1, a \$7.5 billion general obligation bond measure to support a comprehensive statewide water plan. It is imperative that the City of San Diego continue to utilize all available options to secure state funding for the Pure Water program, local supply augmentation and stormwater capture and reuse to ensure a reliable water source for future generations.

Advocate for Amendments to Potential Drought Allocations

The statewide water reduction mandated by Governor Brown expires in February 2016. Discussions are now taking place with the State Water Resources Control Board regarding what next steps should be taken and evaluating current reduction targets. The City of San

Diego should continue to work with the State Water Resources Control Board to obtain amendments to any future mandated reductions that allows for credits for the creation of local controlled water sources, such as desalination and potable reuse.

Federal Legislative Priorities

Supporting California's and San Diego's Military Bases

The military bases in San Diego is one of the largest concentrations in the nation and is a critical economic driver for the region, creating 22 percent of all jobs and \$45 billion of gross regional product. Due to President Obama and all branches of the armed services calling for a Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) in the FY 2016 budget, California needs to be prepared for impending defense budget cuts and future rounds of a BRAC. As a result of a pending BRAC, the state established the Governor's Military Council (GMC) to evaluate all military installations and analyze potential threats/opportunities during a BRAC. In order to proactively address these key issues and fully develop a pre-BRAC plan, the City of San Diego should ask the state legislature to allocate and fund a Defense Infrastructure Grant to support the Governor's Military Council. This investment will ensure California and the San Diego region will be able to resolve any potential issue that may make a military installation vulnerable to a BRAC and greatly reduce the potential impact of possible defense budget cuts.

Oppose the Relocation of Guantanamo Bay Detainees to MCAS Miramar

A 2012 Government Accountability Office report evaluating facilities and factors for consideration should Guantanamo Bay Detainees be brought to the United States listed MCAS Miramar as a suitable relocation site. As a potential transfer could directly infringe upon the safety of service members and citizens within the surrounding areas, we request that the City of San Diego adamantly oppose the relocation and urge the Department of Defense, Congress and the President reconsider MCAS Miramar as a potential site.

Secure and Expedite NPDES Permit Approval

San Diego's Pure Water project seeks to provide approximately one-third of the city's water supply by 2035 while also reducing the outflows at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. To protect the economic viability of the program, it is imperative that the City ensure that the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant remain at its current level of advanced primary and avoid a costly \$2 billion dollar upgrade. The City of San Diego should then seek to expedite approval of the NPDES permit to provide much-needed certainty to the City as it seeks to move this innovative program to the next steps of implementation.

CC/jh