

THOUSAND OAKS CITY COUNCIL



Supplemental Information Packet

Cynthia M. Rodriguez

Agenda Related Items - Meeting of March 20, 2018
Supplemental Packet Date: March 20, 2018
2:30 P.M.

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed, typically a minimum of two—one available on the Thursday preceding the City Council meeting and the second on Tuesday at the meeting. The Thursday Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk Department, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2) Both the Thursday and Tuesday Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard.

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City Council
MEMORANDUM

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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT
CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS
MAR 20 AM 9:32

TO: City Council
FROM: Andrew P. Fox, Mayor
Joel Price, Councilmember
DATE: March 20, 2018

SUBJECT: 2018 National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference, and Annual Meetings with Congressional Representatives and Federal Agencies

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No Additional Funding Requested: Direct and indirect costs are included in adopted FY 2017-18 General Fund Budget.

BACKGROUND:

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States. Its mission is to strengthen and promote cities as centers of opportunity, leadership, and governance. Working in partnership with the 49 state municipal leagues, the NLC serves as a resource to, and an advocate for, the more than 18,000 cities, villages, and towns it represents.

While at the NLC Conference, City delegates conduct meetings on Capitol Hill as part of the City's continuing efforts to obtain federal support of local needs and priorities. Such meetings with federal officials have been successful in yielding financial support for various projects including (a) the widening of the S.R. 23 Freeway; (b) building the City's LEED Certified Transit Center; and (c) "seed money" toward the widening of the U.S. 101/S.R. 23 Interchange.

TO COUNCIL 3-20-2018
AGENDA ITEM NO. 12A1
MEETING DATE 3-20-2018

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

I. MEETINGS ON CAPITOL HILL

A. Meetings with Congressional Members and Federal Agencies

City delegates attended several meetings with Congressional officials prior to the NLC Conference to discuss City funding/policy interests that included the South Branch Floodplain Project, "The ART-ery-Cultural Gathering Space," Homeless Resources, and Opticom System (Attachment 1). In addition to funding interests, the City held meetings on grant interests and policy issues that included the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Southern California Metroplex project, the White House proposal on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and H.R. 2943 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program Act. Meetings with Congressional members and agency staff included Mayor Fox, Councilmember Price, and Legislative Affairs Manager Layba.

Thursday, March 9

Congresswoman Julia Brownley and Sharon Wagener, Legislative Director: Provide an overview of the City's federal agenda and have open discussion on City's top legislative priorities and opportunities. To follow up on FAA and the Southern California Metroplex project, White House proposal on the NPDES permit proposal and H.R. 2943 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program Act.

Congressman Salud Carbajal: Provide an overview of the City's federal agenda and create a connection between the City and the neighboring congressional district in the event that future regional projects would require cooperation and mutual support.

Jon Pawlow; Senior Counsel-Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources: Discuss potential changes to the NPDES permit requirements, a part of the White House Infrastructure Plan, that could affect local jurisdictions.

Stephanie Fila- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Relations; Jemine Byron - Deputy Assistant Secretary; Karen De Blasio - Division Director; Ralph Gaines - Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Community Planning and Development; John Gibbs - Senior Advisor, Community Planning and Development: Department

of Housing and Urban Development: Review HUD programs that assist the homeless and make connections with key program leaders.

Katherine Bray - Simons, Design Specialist - Our Town - National Endowment for the Arts: Review the conceptual idea of the “ARTery – Cultural Gathering Space” as part of the City’s Thousand Oaks Boulevard Specific Plan and determine fit for grant opportunities.

Senator Diane Feinstein’s Office: Josh Esquivel, Legislative Assistant on Appropriations: Provide an overview of the City’s federal agenda and have open discussion on City’s top legislative priorities and opportunities.

Friday, March 10

Brian Langdon, Manager and Katherine Howard - Deputy Assistant Administrator - Office of Government and Industry Affairs; George Gonzalez, Manager, Jim Arrighi, Manager, and Beth White, Senior Advisor – Air Traffic Organization; Raquel Girvin, Policy Advisor and Faviola Garcia, Senior Advisor – Western Pacific Region; Pat Wells – Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA – Southern California Metroplex/NextGen: Discuss recent concerns brought up by Thousand Oaks residents regarding the new Southern California Metroplex project and formally ask the FAA to hold a public meeting in Thousand Oaks.

Monica Pham, Legislative Counsel, Senator Kamala Harris’ Office: Provide an overview of the City’s federal agenda and have open discussion on City’s top legislative priorities and opportunities.

(Meeting was cancelled last minute; Legislative Affairs Manager and Federal Lobbyist rescheduled meeting for Wednesday, March 14.)

Mike Stoever – Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Barragan’s Office: Discuss support of H.R. 2943 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program.

II. NLC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The NLC Annual Conference was held on March 10 -14 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. City officials gather for leadership meetings, policy discussions, and legislative briefings to learn about current federal issues and priorities for America’s cities and towns. A delegation from the City of Thousand Oaks comprised of Mayor Fox, Councilmember Price, and Legislative Affairs Manager Layba, attended the Conference this year.

A. Key Note Speakers

- a) **Mark Stodola**, President, National League of Cities; Mayor, Little Rock, AK.
- b) **Bob Schieffer**, Former Moderator of Face the Nation; Former CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent.
- c) **Ben Carson**, Secretary, U.S. Housing and Urban Development.
- d) **Bill de Blasio**, Mayor, New York City, NY.
- e) **Thomas Donohue**, CEO - U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- f) **DJ Gribbin**, White House Special Assistant on Infrastructure Policy.
- g) **Jessica Rosenworcel**, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission.
- h) **R. Alexander Acosta**, Cabinet Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor.
- i) **Anna Marie Chavez**, Lawyer, Activist and Award-Winning Leader; Former CEO of Girls Scouts of the USA.
- j) **Tim Scott**, U.S. Senator, South Carolina.
- k) **Cory Booker**, U.S. Senator, New Jersey.

B. Sessions Attended:

- Energy, Environment and Resources Policy Committee Meeting.
- Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) Policy Committee Meeting.
- The Rising Tide of Preemption.
- Advocacy, Communications & Engagement 101: Understanding Federal Advocacy.
- What's Happening in the Courts? A Judicial Update for City Leaders.
- Resilience in the Face of Increased Threat from Natural Disasters.
- Tax Reform: What Happened and What Does It Mean for Cities?
- Advocacy, Communications & Engagement 201: Dealing with the Media.
- FirstNet: What Local Leaders Need to Know.
- Roundtable Discussion on Gun Violence: How are Mayors and City Officials Responding to Gun Violence and Mass Shootings?

C. National League of Cities 2018 Legislative Priority

The NLC presented only one national policy focus for 2018 and encouraged delegates to lobby federal officials on this as well as their own local priorities: ***Rebuild and Reimagine America's Infrastructure.***

1. **Sustainable Investment:** Together, cities and our federal partners must address the existing core infrastructure backlog, reestablish long-term funding, and use new technologies that will serve America's cities for the next 100 years.
2. **Locally Driven Projects:** Local leaders, from cities large and small, are best positioned to identify where infrastructure needs are greatest and should be given a stronger voice on how limited federal dollars are invested.
3. **Federal/Local Partnership:** Cities are already paying their fair share and need a steady federal partner to fund existing national programs and make significant capital investments for the long-term benefit of the economy.
4. **Expand Revenue Tools:** Cities should be given more flexibility to raise revenues and use innovative financing techniques while protecting existing tools, such as tax-exempt bonds, to drive regional investments that tie into the national network.
5. **Rebuild and Reimagine:** Cities are leading the way in building intermodal, sustainable, and interconnected infrastructure networks that support a modern economy. Congress must invest in cities' vision to rebuild and reimagine America's infrastructure.

D. Special Presentations

- **President's Award:** Congressman Randy Hultgren (R-IL) and Senator Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) were honored for their work in protecting "tax exempt municipal bonds" that support funding local infrastructure projects.
- **Disaster Recovery Panel:** Councilmembers from the Cities of Sonoma, CA, San Antonio, TX, and Ponce, Puerto Rico, provided insight to their disaster relief efforts and recovery from recent natural disasters.

E. NLC Board of Directors Meetings (March 11-12)

Councilmember Price was appointed to the NLC Board of Directors in 2017. He will serve a two-year term concluding in November 2019. Councilmember Price and Legislative Affairs Manager Layba attended Board of Directors meetings and briefings.

1. Membership Sub-Committee Meeting: Councilmember Price was appointed to the sub-committee.

- a) Seantae Byers, NLC Director of Membership and Engagement, announced that membership has grown from 1932 cities. This is a net growth of 63 new cities. The NLC's goal is to have 1975 cities by the end of 2018. The NLC launched a membership campaign in 2017 which included establishing new regional managers, creating affiliate membership programs, and new membership lunches.
- b) With the recent devastation in Puerto Rico, the NLC Executive Committee voted to encourage cities in Puerto Rico to become members by offering free membership dues from 2018-2019. NLC programs and education may provide these cities technical support as they rebuild. There is hope these cities will join after the grace period for their dues.
- c) The Committee discussed ideas for developing an associate membership program that offers membership at a reduced rate to various individuals or organizations (e.g. former elected officials, students, universities, international cities). This membership would give associate members access to participate in NLC conferences and programs. More research and planning will determine target associate memberships and rate. Focus groups or discussions at future conferences would be held to determine final details.
- d) As approved by the board of directors last year, dues will now have an inflationary index tied in to their annual amount. As warranted, the NLC will raise dues and send cities reminder letters with their new rate at least one year prior to the rate change in order to assist cities in budgeting.

2. Board of Directors Meeting:

- a) Consent Calendar: Minutes from the November 2017, Executive Committee Meeting and November 18, 2017, Board of Directors Meeting were reviewed and approved.
- b) State Leagues Committee: The State League Steering Committee reviewed issues that they could coalesce around which included marijuana and affordable housing. There are eight new state directors.
- c) Independent Auditor Report: Raffa, a non-profit independent audit firm, reported that there were no material weaknesses or significant

deficiencies in internal controls. Finances are in solid condition with \$28.1 million in assets.

- d) Executive Director Report: E.D. Clarence introduced staff and the senior executive team. Staff conducted numerous meetings with Congressional members and two hearings on local interests.
- Currently the NLC has 1932 members and a \$28.2 million consolidated budget for 2018 reflecting a 24% increase in dues.
 - In February, state league directors and the executive team held “fly-ins” to meet with legislators and staff to discuss federal advocacy focused on tax reform and infrastructure. At the conference, there would be discussions on gun violence and the census.
 - One area that the NLC would like to hold discussions on is skills, job training, and technology. In February, the NLC met with industry leaders in Silicon Valley to learn ways that would cultivate more innovation training.
 - The NLC is planning to have large cities convene in Chicago to talk about their issues. The NLC will also look at the “urban/rural” divide to study health, education, and economic impacts.
 - The NLC hired two new staff to focus on affordable housing including gentrification, vulnerable populations, homelessness, etc.
- e) Executive Committee: The Committee is in the process of overseeing the implementation of the NLC’s 2018 goals. The Committee discussed new commissioned studies, with one on rural communities. With the devastation in Puerto Rico, the Committee approved engaging Puerto Rican cities to participate free of charge for two years to assist with their economic recovery and provide technical resources.
- f) Membership Committee Report: The Committee discussed ways to increase membership by creating an affiliate program. Their membership goal for 2018 is 1975 members. Since 2017, 63 new members have joined. New regional representatives have been assigned.
- g) Policy and Legislative Action Committee Report: In 2017, discussions focused on the #FightTheCuts campaign to preserve the budget,

immigration, and tax reform. Currently the 2018-19 federal budgets will continue to deal with immigration and gun violence. Under telecom, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continues to push preemption. The White House infrastructure bill is "dead on arrival" but the NLC will continue to pursue this issue and bring cities into hearings to testify. Cities are being asked to fill out Advocacy Action Interest Forms to provide stories, write op-eds, etc., to tell the federal government how important it is to get funding to support local needs and close the infrastructure gap.

- h) Finance Committee Report: Current operating funds increased by \$1.3 million. The NLC continues to maintain fiscal health, even with recent capital outlays for real estate improvements. The Committee is in the process of working with the Clifton Larson Allen Firm to develop a five-year financial plan to create sustainability, deal with any future deficits, and use reserves. The plan would also create a building fund to help with any future real estate interests.
- i) Infrastructure Messaging and Strategy: Infrastructure is a national priority. The NLC was not only looking at funding, but also job training to allow essential public works functions to be met in the future. There is no dedicated funding source. There is no political will to increase the gas tax.

The NLC Supports:

- A long term fix to the Highway Trust Fund.
 - Increases to revolving loan funds for both water and transportation.
 - Investment by the federal government in Broadband expansion.
- j) City Summit - Los Angeles: Los Angeles City Councilmember and NLC 2nd Vice President Joe Busiciano announced that planning was underway for the City Summit. The closing night event will be at Universal Studios and spouse tours are being developed.
 - k) Future Board Meetings: Summer Leadership Forum in June - Little Rock, Arkansas.

F. Western Municipal Association Meeting

1. Speaker: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Mineral Management, U.S. Department of Interior, discussed the agency's interest to improve the national environmental review process. A team has been selected to look

at ways for better land use planning, limit the environmental review process to one year, and limit comments to 150 pages.

2. Speaker: Jeff Small, Executive Director, Congressional Western Caucus, introduced the organization's purview. The Caucus convenes annually to discuss regional interests, policies, and conducts tours.
3. Financial Report: The Association has \$14,000 in the bank. Dues shall be collected of member state league organizations in the next two months.
4. State league representatives presented briefs of key issues affecting their states.

COUNCIL GOAL COMPLIANCE:

Meets City Council Goal A:

- A. Provide municipal government leadership which is open and responsive to residents, and is characterized by ethical behavior, stability, confidence in the future, and cooperative interaction among civic leaders, residents, business representatives, and City staff, while recognizing and respecting legitimate differences of opinion on critical issues facing the City.

PREPARED BY: Mina M. Layba, Legislative Affairs Manager

Attachment:

Attachment #1 - Federal Funding Interests 2018

**Mayor**

Andrew P. Fox

CouncilmembersRob McCoy, *Mayor Pro Tem*

Joel R. Price

Albert C. Adam

Claudia Bill-de la Peña

City Manager

Andrew Powers

Federal Funding Interests 2018

1. **South Branch Floodplain Project:** Seek technical assistance and support by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in construction of additional conveyance capacity to existing Arroyo Conejo South Branch Channel. The additional capacity would reduce potential flooding hazards in the affected area. These enhancements would protect residential structures, businesses and schools from the threat of flood and destruction. City has received funding for Phase 1, a Federal Interest Determination Study. Awaiting approval for Phase 2 funding, which would support/pay for the Feasibility Study.
—*Solutions to be determined by U.S. Army Corp of Engineers via Feasibility Study*
2. **The ARTery-Cultural Gathering Space:** Seek grants and technical assistance to develop a public walkway in the core of the downtown revitalization area dedicated to public performances and art installations. The walkway or paseo will serve as a visual connector through the Business Improvement District, which is a half-mile stretch along Thousand Oaks Blvd. With the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza and park as a focal point, the paseo will be dedicated to free cultural gatherings, public performances and art education programs for children.
—*Technical assistance, federal funds, or grants*
3. **Homeless Resources:** Investigate federal opportunities such as grants and technical assistance to support homeless services, e.g. meals, mental health support, social services and shelters in collaboration with regional efforts.
—*Technical assistance, federal funds, or grants*
4. **Opticom System:** Seek grants to support the implementation of public safety Opticom system. System would allow for remote control access of traffic signals by police and fire during emergency response. The system will promote efficient response times and enhance public safety by slowing/controlling vehicular traffic during an emergency call.
—*Technical assistance, federal funds, or grants*

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Fiscal Considerations

The City of Thousand Oaks incorporated in 1964 without a general municipal property tax. Sales tax remains the primary source of revenue. This sales tax combined with fees, service charges, transient occupancy tax, vehicle license fees, business licenses, and investment earnings support government operations and services to the community.

Current Status

As a low-tax city, Thousand Oaks is built out. Despite the impacts of the Great Recession and the dissolution of redevelopment agencies, the economy has made modest improvements. The City has adapted to the new normal in its maintenance mode, with reductions in personnel and expenditures and little impact on core services to residents.

Potential Challenges

Although the local economy remains steady, with low unemployment rate and rising median home prices, there are potential impacts on the horizon that will challenge the City's sustainability:

- Shift in sales from brick and mortar stores to online outlets negatively impacts local point-of sale transactions.
- Maintenance costs outpacing *Streets and Roads Fund* and *Lighting and Landscaping Fund*
- Costs to comply with Storm Water and Wastewater Permits
- Costs to comply with solid waste diversion mandates
- Costs of pension obligations continue to grow

Federal and State Funding Impacts

Federal Changes Impacting Cities

- Continual reductions to Community Development Block Grants impact services to low-income residents and affordable housing projects.
- A moratorium on Congressional discretionary appropriations reduced local project funding opportunities.

State Level Changes Impacting Cities

- Dissolution of local redevelopment agencies shifted property tax increment shift in revenue to the State.
- Suspension of State-mandated funding, elimination of State library funding, and takeaway of motor vehicle license fee revenues.

Thousand Oaks City Snapshot

Thousand Oaks rests between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara in southern Ventura County, California.



A General Law City with a Council/Manager Government

- Population 131,457
- 56 square miles
- Surrounded by 35% designated open space
- Consistently Five-member Council selected from the city at large
- Councilmembers serve four-year staggered terms
- Appoints Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, and Commission members
- Responsible for adopting budget, enacting legislation, and basic City policy