

**CITY OF MORENO VALLEY  
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM**



**2013 / 2014 Legislative Session**



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## PURPOSE

This Platform outlines Moreno Valley's City Council-established legislative priorities and serves as a vehicle for the City Council and staff to pursue regional, state, and federal legislative objectives in the most efficient and effective way.

## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The City Council adopts a Legislative Platform for each legislative session. The Legislative Platform provides City officials and staff with direction as to the most important topics and issues to pursue with lobbying efforts. Platform guidance precludes the need for the City Council to review and take a position on each and every bill that is presented. The statements expressed herein are statements of existing City Council policy. They are stated in general terms (to the extent feasible) so they can be applied broadly to the many forms that legislative issues may take. Statements that reflect the City Council priorities are marked with an asterisk (\*) and are underlined.

City officials, staff, and legislative advocates will support the adopted policies when acting on behalf of the City. If individual positions are expressed by City Council members, any contrary positions are deemed individual opinions, and do not reflect or alter the policy of the City Council.

- A. Community and Economic Development:** To support activities that promote job creation and economic growth.
1. \*Support measures that clarify and streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to reduce the time and cost of compliance while ensuring that the environment is adequately protected / Support CEQA reform that protects our natural environment while reducing the current prevalence of frivolous lawsuits that result from inadequate safeguards written into CEQA regulations.
  2. **Support** State legislation to establish a new, locally-controlled economic development funding program to fill the void created by the elimination of redevelopment agencies.
  3. **Support** State legislation to establish a new, locally-controlled affordable housing funding program to fill the void created by the elimination of redevelopment housing set-asides.
  4. **Support** federal legislation that would appropriate funding to expand both active and reserve operations and the addition of necessary flight crews for March Air Reserve Base (March ARB).

CITY OF MORENO VALLEY  
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM  
2013 / 2014

---

5. **Support** federal legislation that would increase the joint services use of March ARB / **Oppose** legislation that would reduce the joint services use of March ARB or eliminate the base entirely.
  6. **Support** reform of the Endangered Species Act (Act) to include the following elements:
    - a. Act requirements are mandates that should be fully funded by the legislative body that imposes them;
    - b. All economic impacts of the Act should be considered before revising and/or amending the Act;
    - c. Mitigation required by the Act should be incentive-based; and
    - d. Preservation of habitats should support multiple species, as opposed to single species habitats.
  7. **Support** reform measures for housing law that:
    - a, Streamlines state approval of housing elements;
    - b. Sets reasonable minimum performance standards for all local governments.
  8. **Support** legislation that reduces the time period in which lawsuits may be filed to challenge a certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
  9. **Support** legislation that would require the party or parties that file a challenge to an EIR or NEPA certification to bear all costs associated with the lawsuit when such challenges do not prevail.
- B. Environment and Public Health:** To improve the environment and promote public health to create a more sustainable community.
1. **\*Support** the change of grant eligibility requirements so that granting agencies may assist challenged water systems in disadvantaged communities before there is a violation of drinking water standards.
  2. **Support** legislation that provides resources and funding to local governments for the implementation SB 375.
  3. **Support** the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, its processes, and funding.
  4. **Support** legislation for funding storm water infrastructure improvements and compliance with storm water quality regulations.
  5. **Support** funding for programs that reduce waste sent to landfills.
  6. **Support** legislation that funds the increase of the urban forest canopy.

CITY OF MORENO VALLEY  
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM  
2013 / 2014

---

7. **Support** state and federal funding for residential, business, and municipal energy efficiency projects.
8. **Support** state and federal implementation of climate change legislation that is practical, incentive-based and cost effective for businesses, residents, and local government. **Oppose** legislation that focuses on costly or impractical solutions and mandates.

**C. Fiscal Responsibility:** To maintain a balanced budget and ensure that assets and resources are properly safeguarded and deployed in a prudent, efficient manner.

1. **Support** legislative efforts to remove unjustified “cost recovery” charges by electric utilities that disproportionately amortize street light poles and related facilities.
2. **Oppose** efforts to exempt Internet telephonic services from local taxes and fees applicable to other telephonic services / **Support** legislation that preserves local authority to regulate Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services and collect any applicable revenues.
3. **Support** workers compensation reform to reduce the exposure of employers to questionable or frivolous claims.
4. **Support** legislation that will ensure that local sales tax revenues are maintained in their communities of origin. **Oppose** legislation that will further erode local governments’ ability to collect sales tax revenues.
5. **Support** efforts to simplify the collection of sales taxes nationwide and provide an equitable method for collecting sales taxes for Internet and catalog sales.
6. **Support** legislation that will provide the City with equitable compensation for revenues lost due to any miscalculation of property taxes by the County Auditor-Controller.
7. **Support** legislation that will restore City revenues lost through state actions. **Support** statewide reorganization of municipal financing to achieve equity among cities and provide a broad tax base for cities.
8. **Support** legislation that will clarify the implementation of Proposition 218 and protect existing City revenues.
9. **Oppose** any actions by the State to further reduce City revenues unless fully offset by either equal relief of mandates or equalized supplementation with other stable revenues.

CITY OF MORENO VALLEY  
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM  
2013 / 2014

---

10. **Oppose** local government financing reform that will result in an overall reduction of tax revenues to the City.
11. **Support** concept of "block grant" vs. categorical grants in order to reduce administrative costs.
12. **Support** regulatory reform that simplifies grant accounting standards to minimize administrative costs.
13. **Oppose** mandates for cities to pay fees for county services different than what is paid by county residents for such services (e.g., booking fees, property tax administrative fees).
14. **Oppose** legislation that would establish a standard utility user's tax for all jurisdictions.
15. **Oppose** waste management requirements that would put local jurisdictions at risk of not meeting their AB 939 waste diversion requirements or that create additional unfunded costs.
16. **Support** continuation of Gas Tax funding for local transportation projects. **Support** permanent removal of "maintenance of effort" requirements when funding is reduced in any way.
17. **Oppose** legislation that would limit the City's ability to hold contractors accountable for their work product, such as retention of progress payments. **Support** legislation that would make more reasonable the debarment process and protect cities from non-performing and unethical contractors.
18. **Support** legislation that allows cities to select other than the low bidder for public works projects.
19. **Oppose** the imposition of new fees upon municipal utilities.
20. **Oppose** Federal or State legislation that would have a negative impact on local government ability to issue tax exempt financing.

**D. Livability:** To enhance quality of life by supporting effective education programs, strengthening the City's neighborhoods, safeguarding community services and facilities, and promoting arts and culture.

1. **\*Support** legislative efforts that encourage collaboration between jurisdictions and education leaders to increase the high school graduation rate and the number of students who are college-ready, enroll and graduate from college and who achieve technical degrees.
2. **\*Support** funding for teaching job readiness and life skills at the high school level.

CITY OF MORENO VALLEY  
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM  
2013 / 2014

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3. **Oppose** state budget reductions that will reduce community services district revenues.
4. **Support** legislation fund childcare for pre-school and school-age children, including after-school programming.
5. **Support** legislation that would provide funding for recreation and youth programs.
6. **Support** legislation that provides additional funding to train and re-train individuals to enhance the local workforce by matching jobseeker skills with job opportunities.

**E. Local Control:** To preserve local governance and protect government revenue.

1. **Support** legislation that strengthens Home Rule and **Oppose** legislation that preempts local authority.
2. **Support** application of Brown Act to the state legislature to the same extent that it applies to local government.
3. **Oppose** state legislation mandating binding arbitration.
4. **Oppose** any legislation that would grant, to the State, any zoning or other land use controls in municipalities.
5. **Support** efforts to establish local control over placement of group homes within the City and require the state to disclose to cities the categories of placements that include sex offenders who would be placed in the homes.

**F. Public Safety:** To promote the general safety of all City residents.

1. **Support** legislation that increases the minimum distance from schools that registered sex offenders can reside.
2. **Support** legislation that prohibits any sex offender from residing with a child who was a victim of a sex offender.
3. **Oppose** any legislation imposing fines and penalties versus corrective action notices for safety violations.
4. **Support** legislation that increases penalties for traffic violations in school zones.
5. **Support** measures that would establish tougher penalties for graffiti vandals and strengthen cities' ability to be compensated for damages.
6. **Support** legislation that increases public safety through educational initiatives.

7. **Support** legislation that increases public safety through state and federal block grants.
- G. Public Utilities:** To preserve the local rate-making authority of municipally-owned utilities and promote voluntary compliance with CEC reporting.
1. **Support** legislation that establishes and preserves the role of cities in energy decisions for municipal utilities, including activities relating to electricity generation, supply, demand and conservation. **Oppose** legislation that preempts the authority and self-regulatory principles of municipal utilities.
- H. Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility:** To cultivate a city with safe, appealing, efficient, motor and non-motor transportation infrastructure to attract and retain small and large businesses, new entertainment and recreation, and residents, and to support growth in the goods movement industry.
1. \* **Support** efforts to improve the roadway and aesthetics along State Route 60 between Interstate 215 and Interstate 10.
  2. \* **Support** State Route 60 Improvements east of Interstate 215. The increase of commerce and economic growth requires improved highways in and around Moreno Valley and through the “Badlands.”
  3. **Support** legislation that provides regional, state and federal funds for transportation.
  4. **Support** legislation that increases the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
  5. **Support** privatization of Caltrans projects to allow rapid construction of priority projects.
  6. **Support** efforts to establish a high speed rail route along the Interstate 215 corridor in concert with the cities of San Bernardino, Riverside, and other nearby cities.
  7. **Support** funding for the mitigation and construction of the Heacock Channel Improvement Project.
  8. **Support** funding for the mitigation and construction of the Cactus Drainage Channel.

