



**Date:** January 14, 2008

**To:** State Legislation Committee Members

**From:** *fw* Patrick H. West, City Manager *PHW*

**Subject:** **Recommended Changes to 2008 State Legislative Agenda**

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Each year, City staff reviews the State Legislative Agenda and recommends changes to the State Legislation Committee and the City Council to ensure that the agenda is up-to-date and addresses the legislative concerns of the City. The 2007 agenda was sent to all department heads for their input, and was circulated among the Council offices. Attached for your review are staff's proposed changes. Below is a summary of those proposed changes, which helps describe why deletions and additions were made.

## **BUSINESS GROWTH & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

### *Item A: Workforce Development*

Per the request of the Community Development Department, this section was revised to better focus on maximizing the allocation of state funds for workforce investment activities, increasing the outcomes and relevancy of One-Stop Career Centers, ensuring that planning efforts and monetary resources that target post-secondary education are aligned to meet the needs of industries and residents, and supporting the EDGE Campaign in its efforts regarding workforce policy and education.

### *Item D: Enterprise Zones*

The second bullet regarding extending the life of the State Enterprise Zone was removed, as the City was recently awarded a new Enterprise Zone, which will be in effect for the next 15 years.

### *Item E: Economic Development*

A third bullet was added in support of legislation that would require the state's Employment Development Department to provide the same economic data they currently provide for counties to the ten largest cities in the state. This data would be helpful to the City's Economic Development Bureau.

### *Item G: The Boeing Company*

The first and second bullets were combined to better highlight the goal of creating a more competitive business environment for existing aerospace companies, as well as attracting new ones to the area.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### *Item B: Public Safety & Crime Prevention*

Two bullets were added to this section, the first of which supports the position the City Council took last year regarding protecting witnesses from intimidation before and after criminal proceedings. The second bullet, regarding banning the sale and use of fireworks throughout the State, with the exception of professional demonstrations, was moved here from another section of the legislative agenda for organizational purposes only.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

### *Item A: Air Quality*

This section was expanded to include two new bullets focused on adopting the most stringent and aggressive state air quality standards for mobile sources feasible, and implementing a port container fee. These positions are consistent with legislative positions the City Council has taken in the past.

The third bullet was revised to emphasize the City's efforts to support both the development and implementation of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Draft 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), now that the 2007 AQMP has been approved by the California Air Resources Board.

### *Item B: Water Quality*

This section was expanded to include supporting the exclusion of stormwater and urban runoff management fees and charges from the current approval requirements for the creation or increase of a property-related fee or charge, based on City Council direction earlier this year.

Two bullets, one on funding regional partnership accounts and resource protection, restoration, and recovery programs, and one opposing legislation that increases NPDES Permit Fees and/or tries to remove Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) language from MS4 permits, were moved here from another section of the legislative agenda for organizational purposes only.

### *New Item: Water Conservation*

This new section was added to highlight the City's commitment to water conservation efforts by supporting legislation and funding sources that replace/repair irrigation infrastructure and conserve water on municipal property.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

### *Item D: Parks, Recreation, and Marine*

The second bullet regarding supporting the development of a statewide park bond act was removed and replaced with supporting the implementation of Proposition 84, including criteria to put Long Beach at the best competitive advantage.

### *Item F: Drug and Alcohol Recovery Facilities*

Given the City Council's and the public's interest in addressing the issue of sober-living homes ("six-packs"), this section was expanded to include supporting legislative efforts that provide more local government control over these types of facilities, which are not currently required to register for city or state business licenses or obtain conditional use permits.

### *New Item: Shopping Carts*

This section, focusing on returning control over shopping cart retrievals to local governments, including the ability to remove carts after 24 hours of notice has been given to retailers, was moved here from another section of the legislative agenda for organizational purposes only.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### *Item A: I-710 Freeway*

Pursuing funding for the commencement and completion of the I-710 Early Action Projects was added to the agenda, with emphasis placed on the realignment of the Shoemaker Bridge and ramps.

## **YOUTH & EDUCATION**

### *Item E: Education and Workforce Readiness*

Based on feedback received from the Community Development Department, this section was revised to focus on three key areas: creating strong pathways to post-secondary education and careers for young adults; prioritizing career technical efforts, in conjunction with college preparatory programming; and improving strategies to actively engage troubled youth.

## **ADDITIONAL ISSUES OF STATE LEGISLATIVE IMPORTANCE**

### *Item C: Preemption of Local Authority*

A fourth bullet was added to focus on opposing legislative efforts to preempt campaign finance laws instituted by local ordinances, such as the City's Proposition M. This change was requested by the Elections Oversight Committee.

*Item I: Pension/Labor Relations/Health Benefits*

The sixth bullet, regarding allowing all CalPERS agencies to participate in CalPERS' newly established Annuitants' Healthcare Coverage Fund, was achieved in the 2007 legislative session and has been removed from the agenda.

*Items K through M: Stormwater, Fireworks Ban, and Shopping Carts*

The sections on Stormwater, Fireworks Ban, and Shopping Carts were moved to the Water Quality, Public Safety and Crime Prevention, and Neighborhood Development sections respectively, to better align them with their stated legislative goals.

**NEXT STEPS**

A State Legislation Committee meeting is expected to take place in mid-January to review and discuss these proposed changes. City Council discussion and approval of the Committee's recommendations is expected to take place in late January or early February.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tom Modica, Manager of Government Affairs at 8-5091.

cc: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Suzanne Frick, Assistant City Manager  
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager  
Tom Modica, Manager of Government Affairs  
Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison  
Mike Arnold and Associates

Attachment  
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# Draft 2008 State Legislative Agenda

JANUARY 14, 2008

Title	Section
<b>BUSINESS GROWTH &amp; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</b>	<p><b>A. Workforce Development:</b> <del>Support legislation that ensures flexibility for the City Council and avoidance of mandates in connection with any State actions to implement federal welfare reform and workforce development.</del></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><del>Support efforts to maximize allocation of State-allocated formula-driven resources locally, and prioritize statewide discretionary resources to be retained within the workforce investment/WIB system.</del></li><li><del>Support efforts to increase outcomes and relevancy of One-Stop Career Centers through resource integration with State "merit staff" systems and alignment of performance measures and goals among programs.</del></li><li><del>Support efforts to ensure that planning efforts and monetary resources targeting post-secondary education (specifically community colleges) are aligned and timed with the needs of industries and residents.</del></li><li><del>Support the EDGE Campaign, a broad-based coalition of entities, in its work to advance workforce policy around regional economic and workforce development strategies, access to post-secondary education, worker opportunities to obtain higher-paying jobs, and stronger education and workforce system alliances, to ensure that the State maintains a competitive advantage of skilled workers over other states.</del></li></ol> <p><b>B. Aerospace Industry:</b> Support legislation that creates a more competitive business environment for the Aerospace Industry.</p> <p><b>C. Space Technology:</b> Support legislation that promotes the development of space oriented technology for commercial uses, space-oriented development, and space exploration.</p> <p><del><b>D. Enterprise Zones:</b> Pursue and support legislation that protects and/or increases the value of State Enterprise Zones.</del></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><del>Pursue and support legislation that protects and/or increases the value of State Enterprise Zones, and</del></li><li><del>Support legislation that would extend the life of the State Enterprise Zone.</del></li></ol> <p><b>E. Economic Development:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support efforts to develop and promote policies that help urban areas foster greater economic opportunity.</li><li><del>Support efforts to retain, expand, and attract manufacturing, technology and other high value businesses.</del></li><li><del>Support legislation to require the state's Employment Development Department to provide the same economic data they provide for counties to the ten largest cities in the state.</del></li></ol> <p><b>F. Workers' Compensation:</b> Support efforts to reform workers' compensation statutes to simplify the system and reduce costs to employers while ensuring adequate protection for injured workers.</p> <p><b>G. The Boeing Company:</b> <del>Support legislation that creates a more competitive business environment for the Boeing Company and the aerospace industry overall, to attract new aerospace manufacturing to Long Beach.</del></p>

Proposals and policies consistent with this agenda will be supported by the City. Those policies or proposals inconsistent with this agenda may be subject to opposition by the City.

Title	Section
	<p><del>1. Support legislation that creates a more competitive business environment for the Boeing Company and the aerospace industry overall.</del></p> <p><del>2. Support efforts to attract new aerospace manufacturing to Long Beach.</del></p> <p><b>H. CalOSHA:</b> Support legislation that would ensure new safety regulations be made available for review and comment by employers prior to implementation.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY SAFETY</b></p>	<p><b>A. <u>Public Health:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation and grants that provide additional funding for public health programs, including substance abuse programs, services, infrastructure, debt service relief, seismic upgrades, and bio-terrorism response enhancements.</li> <li>2. Support the implementation of a pilot needle exchange program for the prevention of the spread of HIV disease and the provision of swift treatment to individuals impacted by HIV.</li> <li><u>3.</u> Support legislation and grants that provide for the reduction of youth obesity.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. <u>Public Safety &amp; Crime Prevention:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislative efforts to improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue, emergency medical services and disaster preparedness initiatives.</li> <li>2. Support legislation and pursue grants to fund new apparatuses, technology and equipment, improve existing apparatuses, technology and equipment, and replace obsolete apparatuses, technology and equipment for Police and Fire.</li> <li>3. Support legislation and pursue grants that would provide funding for maintenance and construction of public safety facilities.</li> <li>4. Support legislation that reduces the percentage required for passage of public safety bonds to the same percentage as school bonds (55%).</li> <li>5. Support legislation that provides immunity to public safety personnel who have been trained and assigned to take emergency calls from the public.</li> <li>6. 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.</li> <li>7. Support legislation to make state law enforcement grant funding less restrictive and allow more discretionary uses of funds for support staff within the jail, communications and records divisions.</li> <li>8. Support legislation that enhances the ability of local public safety units to respond to, prevent, and prepare for terrorist threats.</li> <li>9. Support legislation to strengthen penalties for those using motor vehicles to evade peace officers.</li> <li>10. Support legislation and grants that <u>enhance or</u> promote the efforts of the City's gang prevention, diversion, and intervention programs.</li> <li>11. Support legislation that would make it a specific crime to carry a weapon or engage in violent activity in or around a mass transit system and enact stronger penalties for violation of that law.</li> <li>12. Support legislation that provides more local government control on the regulation of re-entry points for sex offenders and parolees.</li> <li>13. Support legislation that will strengthen penalties for traffic violations in school zones in an attempt to reduce speed of drivers and protect youth.</li> <li><u>14. Support legislation that will protect witnesses from intimidation during and after criminal proceedings.</u></li> <li><u>15. Support legislative efforts to ban the sale and use of fireworks in the State of California, with the exception of professional demonstrations.</u></li> </ol>

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Title	Section
ENVIRONMENTAL	<p><b>A. <u>Air Quality:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation that improves the quality of air in the City of Long Beach by reducing particulate matter.</li> <li>2. Support legislation that seeks to improve the air quality and health issues associated with construction improvements and operations of the I-710 Freeway and the Port of Long Beach.</li> <li>3. Support ongoing efforts by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to increase regulatory control of stationary and non-stationary sources of air pollution in the Long Beach and greater Los Angeles air basin.</li> <li>4. Support efforts related to the development <u>and implementation</u> of the South Coast Air Quality District (SCAQMD) Draft 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), focusing on mobile source controls.</li> <li>5. <u>Support the adoption of the most stringent and aggressive state air quality standards for mobile sources feasible, including passenger vehicles, heavy-duty trucks, locomotives, and ships.</u></li> <li>6. <u>Support the implementation of a port container fee, which would provide a funding source for goods movement infrastructure and air quality improvements.</u></li> </ol> <p><b>B. <u>Water Quality:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support efforts to improve clean-up and capital improvements for beaches, rivers, and waterways that affect the City and impaired water bodies within the City.</li> <li>2. <u>Support legislation that excludes stormwater and urban runoff management fees and charges from the current constitutional approval requirements for the establishment or increase of a property-related fee or charge.</u></li> <li>3. <u>Support legislation that will fund regional cooperative conservation partnership accounts, natural resource protection and restoration programs, regional watershed protection and recovery programs, and watershed improvement programs.</u></li> <li>4. <u>Oppose legislation that increases NPDES Permit Fees and/or tries to remove Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) language from MS4 permits.</u></li> </ol> <p><b>C. <u>Naples Seawalls:</u></b> Support legislation that will enable needed maintenance and improvements to the Naples Seawall System, maximizing fair financial contributions from all responsible parties.</p> <p><b>D. <u>Beach Erosion:</u></b> Support legislation and pursue funding to protect our beaches and bluffs from erosion.</p> <p><b>E. <u>Ocean Channel Dredging:</u></b> Support legislation and grants, which fund the dredging of ocean channels to enhance navigation and recreation, and which allow cost-effective and safe methods of disposal of dredge materials.</p> <p><b>F. <u>SERRF:</u></b> Support legislation that protects the City's ability to efficiently operate SERRF.</p> <p><b>G. <u>Alternative Fuel/Energy:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. Support efforts that promote the use of solar/alternative energy within city facilities and promote solar energy solution programs for residents.</li> </ol>

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Title	Section
<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL (CON'T)</b></p>	<p>3. Support alternative energy proposals that further the utilization of environmentally friendly energy applications at both the customer and utility level.</p> <p><b>H. <u>Department of Boating and Waterways (DBAW):</u></b></p> <p>1. Advocate for the protection of the proper use of funds from DBAW for recreational uses.</p> <p>2. Oppose the use of these funds for unrelated purposes.</p> <p><b>I. <u>Oil Properties:</u></b></p> <p>1. Seek funding for existing infrastructure maintenance, repair and improvement.</p> <p>2. Support the full funding of the state's future obligation for abandonment and cleanup of oil fields located in the Long Beach Tidelands.</p> <p><b>J. <u>Wetlands:</u></b></p> <p>1. Support legislation and grants designed to acquire, restore and rehabilitate wetlands in the City of Long Beach and the surrounding region.</p> <p><b>K. <u>Water Conservation:</u></b></p> <p><u>1. Support legislation and grants designed to replace/repair irrigation infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>2. Seek funding for water conservation efforts on city property.</u></p>

Title	Section
<p><b>NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT</b></p>	<p><b>A. <u>Library Construction &amp; Development:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation and grant programs that provide increased funding for library construction, renovation and development.</li> <li>2. Support full funding of the Public Library Fund.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. <u>Arts:</u></b> Support legislation that assists the City in obtaining funding for community arts programming.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Homeless Assistance:</u></b> Support legislation to reduce homelessness, including housing assistance and case management service funding, including those related to mental health.</p> <p><b>D. <u>Parks, Recreation, and Marine:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation and grants to fund parks, recreation, and marine facilities, capital improvements, and programs to increase the quality of life for Long Beach residents.</li> <li>2. <u>Support the implementation of Proposition 84, including criteria to put Long Beach at the best competitive advantage.</u></li> <li>3. <del>Support the development of a statewide park bond act similar to Proposition 40, which emphasized urban parks.</del></li> </ol> <p><b>E. <u>Senior Services:</u></b> Support legislation, which provides funding for enhanced services such as facilities, social services, mental health services health care, supportive care, recreational programs and transportation to address the diverse needs of Long Beach’s senior community.</p> <p><b>F. <u>Drug and Alcohol Recovery Facilities:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation that provides more local government control on the regulation of drug and alcohol recovery facilities.</li> <li>2. <u>Support legislation that provides more local government control over the regulation of sober-living homes that rent up to six beds (“six-packs”) and are not currently required to register for city business licenses, obtain conditional use permits or state licenses.</u></li> </ol> <p><b>G. <u>Planning:</u></b> Oppose legislation that diminishes the City's local control over land use, planning, zoning, and development decisions, and oppose legislation in conflict with the City's adopted General Plan or other Council adopted land use policies.</p> <p><b>H. <u>Shopping Carts:</u></b> <u>Support legislation to restore local control of shopping cart retrieval, including the ability to remove carts after 24 hours of notice to retailers.</u></p>
<p><b>TRANSPORTATION</b></p>	<p><b>A. <u>I-710 Freeway:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pursue funding to improve, beautify, maintain, and increase the safety of the I-710 Freeway, which serves as a vital thoroughfare for residents, businesses and commerce.</li> <li>2. <u>Pursue funding to initiate and complete the I-710 Early Action Projects, beginning with the realignment of the Shoemaker Bridge and ramps.</u></li> </ol> <p><b>B. <u>Improve Freight Movement:</u></b> Support efforts to maintain and enhance funding for the Alameda Corridor, including enhanced connections for trucks to Alameda Street and the development of shuttle rail for local container movements.</p>

Title	Section
<p><b>TRANSPORTATION (CON'T)</b></p>	<p><b>C. <u>Long Combination Vehicles:</u></b> Support legislation that will ban Longer Combination Vehicles (LCVs) that consists of longer double tractor and triple tractor-trailers from traveling on state highways and freeways to improve traffic congestion and prevent fatal accidents.</p> <p><b>D. <u>Prop 42 Funding:</u></b> Strongly advocate for the State to repay previous loans from this source to cities and guarantee long-term preservation of these funds through ongoing annual appropriations, which are sorely needed by cities for local roads.</p> <p><b>E. <u>Transportation Funding:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support efforts to increase funding for transportation programs and projects within the City.</li> <li>2. Support efforts to increase funding for system preservation and relax funding requirements that prohibit the use of existing transportation funding for rehabilitation, resurfacing, and reconstruction of local streets.</li> <li>3. Support efforts to secure the maximum amount of state funding for the construction and maintenance of local roads, infrastructure, transportation projects, and major corridors.</li> <li>4. Support legislation that allows cities and/or jurisdictions to collect fees from parties responsible for detrimental impacts on transportation infrastructure.</li> <li><b>5.</b> Support legislation that seeks to improve the air quality and health issues associated with construction improvements and operations of the I-710 Freeway and the Port of Long Beach.</li> </ol>

Title	Section
<p><b>YOUTH &amp; EDUCATION</b></p>	<p><b>A. <u>Good Health:</u></b> Support legislation and grants that enhance the health services provided to children and young adults including pre-natal services, infant and early childhood health care, access to affordable medical, dental and mental health care and preventive and interventive services for children and youth who may be at risk for drug and alcohol dependency (including tobacco), -asthma, obesity, and other conditions that threaten health.</p> <p><b>B. <u>Safety and Survival:</u></b> Support legislation and grants that increase the level of safety and survival of youth, and support programs which reduce child abuse, accidental injury deaths, homicides of youth, gang involvement, misdemeanor and felony arrests and incidents of violence among youth.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Economic Well- Being:</u></b> Support legislation and grants that assure youth have access to resources such as food, shelter, employment opportunities and transportation and that aim to reduce the poverty level of the City's youth.</p> <p><b>D. <u>Social and Emotional Well-Being:</u></b> Support legislation and grants that enhance social and emotional well-being including literacy, childcare, teen pregnancy prevention, mentor, mental health, human dignity, foster and kinship care, after school and weekend enrichment activities, and other cultural enhancement programs.</p> <p><b>E. <u>Education &amp; Workforce Readiness:</u></b> <del>Support legislation, grants and partnerships that enhance education and work readiness, as well as create strong pathways to postsecondary education and careers, including career technical and vocational education programs, development of relevant education programs and curricula, youth workforce training, work experience and internships, and career exploration.</del></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>1. Support efforts to create strong pathways to post-secondary education and careers for young adults, including opportunities to gain work experience and participate in readiness activities.</del></li> <li><del>2. Support efforts to prioritize career technical education efforts, alongside college preparatory programming.</del></li> <li><del>3. Support efforts to bolster strategies to actively engage youth who are out-of-school, disconnected, gang-affiliated, and have had significant involvement with the justice system.</del></li> </ol> <p><b>F. <u>Meaningful Youth Engagement:</u></b> Support legislation and grants that increase the presence of youth participation in all levels of government decision making, such as local youth councils and board participation, voting and civic engagement.</p>
<p><b>HOUSING</b></p>	<p><b>A. <u>Housing:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the implementation of Proposition 46 and other efforts to maximize funding and funding flexibility for the development of affordable housing within the City.</li> <li>2. Support efforts to enhance access, accommodations, and visitability in dwellings and businesses for all of Long Beach's residents.</li> <li>3. Support efforts to ensure the fair allocation of tax credits for the Southern California region and prioritize local control over allocation of affordable housing tax credits.</li> <li>4. Support legislation and grants that promote the development and enhancement of affordable and/or accessible housing within the City.</li> <li>5. Support efforts to reform the Regional Housing Needs Assessment.</li> </ol>

Title	Section
<p><b>ADDITIONAL ISSUES OF STATE LEGISLATIVE IMPORTANCE</b></p>	<p><b>A. <u>City Revenues:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose legislation that would reduce City revenues.</li> <li>2. Support efforts to protect Vehicle License Fee (VLF) revenues currently allocated to cities. Vigorously oppose any effort to reduce the current allocation returned to cities.</li> <li>3. Support legislation that would favorably address the State/local government fiscal relationship, including the capping and or return of ERAF dollars to cities.</li> <li>4. Support League of California Cities sponsored initiative to protect city revenues from future seizure by the state for programs that would otherwise be funded by state agencies or the state general fund.</li> <li>5. Support efforts to protect City revenue sources from diversion by the State Legislature and the Governor.</li> <li>6. Oppose legislation that would reduce the City's autonomy and flexibility in dealing with the financing of public services.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. <u>Contractor/Consultant Liability:</u></b> Oppose legislation that shifts financial liabilities from contractors and/or consultants to the City.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Preemption of Local Authority:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oppose legislation that preempts the current authority possessed by the City and delegates that authority to the State or other government jurisdiction.</li> <li>2. Support legislation that protects and/or expands the City's authority and rights over its affairs.</li> <li>3. Oppose the regionalization of airports as it relates to the allocation of flights and the loss of local authority.</li> <li>4. <u>Oppose legislative efforts to preempt campaign finance laws instituted by local ordinances, such as the City's Proposition M.</u></li> </ol> <p><b>D. <u>Sales Tax:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation that would result in a more equitable distribution of sales taxes to the City.</li> <li>2. Support efforts to exempt cities from paying State sales tax.</li> <li>3. Support legislation that would result in an equitable distribution of taxes generated through Internet sales.</li> </ol> <p><b>E. <u>Telecommunications:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislative efforts to ensure that the City maintains right-of-way control and allows our City to collect fair compensation for its use.</li> <li>2. Support legislative efforts to ensure local taxation authority of products purchased through the Internet.</li> <li>3. Support legislation that provides discount Internet access to schools and libraries.</li> <li>4. Support legislation and grants to fund e-government initiatives.</li> <li>5. <u>Protect local government's ability to facilitate advanced communications services to their citizens.</u></li> <li>6. Protect local authority to negotiate and grant franchises to video providers.</li> </ol> <p><b>F. <u>Unfunded Mandates:</u></b> Oppose legislation that would place a mandate on the City without providing the funds necessary to carry out the mandated program.</p>

Title	Section
<p><b>ADDITIONAL ISSUES OF STATE LEGISLATIVE IMPORTANCE (CON'T)</b></p>	<p><b>G. <u>Water Department:</u></b> Consider support of legislation, initiatives and policies initiated and/or advocated by the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners, on behalf of the Long Beach Water Department, that are consistent with the Department's cost-effective long-term local water supply reliability objectives.</p> <p><b>H. <u>Business Licenses:</u></b> Oppose legislation that compromises the City's ability to impose and/or collect appropriate business license fees from Long Beach businesses.</p> <p><b>I. <u>Pension/Labor Relations/ Health Benefits:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support legislation providing more flexibility in pension benefits.</li> <li>2. Oppose legislation that precludes the City's right to negotiate for additional pension benefits.</li> <li>3. Oppose legislation that would mandate additional benefits.</li> <li>4. Pursue approaches to recapture PERS funds including, but not limited to, making Pension Obligation Bond payments.</li> <li>5. Monitor legislative efforts to mandate increases in health benefit levels or increase the City's costs for changes to benefit levels for active employees.</li> <li><del>6. Support legislation allowing all CalPERS agencies to participate in CalPERS' newly established Annuity's Healthcare Coverage Fund, which will allow government agencies to pre-fund their GASB 45 liabilities.</del></li> <li><del>7.6. Support efforts to promote equitable representation among State, County and local government officials on the Governor's new Commission on Public Employee Retirement Benefits.</del></li> </ol> <p><b>J. <u>Municipal Elections:</u></b> Support efforts that enable cities to maximize their ability to efficiently and effectively administer local elections.</p> <p><del><b>K. <u>Stormwater:</u></b> Oppose legislation that increases NPDES Permit Fees and/or tries to remove Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) language from MS4 permits.</del></p> <p><del><b>L. <u>Fireworks Ban:</u></b> Support legislative efforts to ban the sale and use of fireworks in the State of California, with the exception of professional demonstrations.</del></p> <p><del><b>M. <u>Shopping Carts:</u></b> Support legislation to restore local control of shopping cart retrieval, including the ability to remove carts after 24 hours of notice to retailers.</del></p> <p><del><b>N.K. <u>School District:</u></b> Support the rights of the community to elect their school board members and preserve the authority of local school districts.</del></p> <p><del><b>O.L. <u>Aquarium of Pacific:</u></b> Support legislation that will enhance the Aquarium of the Pacific's ability to provide maximum educational opportunities regarding aquatic life, facilities, recreation and local wetlands restoration and Los Angeles Basin watershed management.</del></p> <p><del><b>P.M. <u>Court Facilities:</u></b> Support legislative efforts that will provide the necessary funding for the proposed new Long Beach courthouse.</del></p> <p><del><b>Q.N. <u>Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples:</u></b> Support legislation that will allow marriage equality for same sex couples, defend same sex civil marriages, and protect the fundamental liberties of all families.</del></p> <p><del><b>R.O. <u>Gas and Oil Department:</u></b> Support legislation, initiatives and policies on behalf of the Long Beach Gas and Oil Department that are consistent with the City's long-term objectives for reliable, competitively priced energy supply.</del></p>