	City of Murrieta City Council Policy	
	POLICY: LEGISLATIVE POLICY	
	POLICY NO.: 100-02	DATE: October 8, 2008

PURPOSE

The City of Murrieta recognizes the need for a proactive state and federal legislative program to ensure that the interests of its residents and businesses are protected and/or enhanced.

BACKGROUND

Each year, there are a hundreds of bills introduced into the State Legislature and U.S. Congress that directly impacts the operations of the City of Murrieta. Often, the City needs to take a position on a particular piece of legislation that will have a negative or positive impact on the City. Past practices in providing City Council with an annual legislative agenda for State and Federal legislation has been limited to an annual report provided by staff in January each year, with the last report being presented in January 2004. In addition, the City currently utilizes two lobbyists to advocate on the City's behalf, one in Sacramento for state issues, and one in Washington D.C. for federal issues.

In April 2008, the City Council discussed and provided direction to staff to establish a proactive, comprehensive lobbying program. Staff responded with the 2008 Legislative Platform, an all-encompassing policy statement identifying issues that significantly impact the City of Murrieta, including such areas as local government finance, law enforcement, land use planning, resource conservation, and labor relations. The Platform supports legislation that consistently advocates home rule, stronger law enforcement and reduced regulations on local agencies. The Platform opposes legislation that would reduce City autonomy or imposes greater restrictions or requirements on local governments, such as unfunded mandates.

Through the adoption of the 2008 Legislative Platform, staff will be able to respond in a timely manner to pending legislation and have the City's position considered during hearings. Staff will utilize the Platform as a guiding policy when reviewing and analyzing bills introduced in the State Legislature and the U.S. Congress that have a potential impact on the City's interests. When significant legislation is identified, staff will provide the City Council with a brief summary of legislation during the City Manager's Administrative Update period of City Council.

It will be the responsibility of the City Manager's Office to interact with our State and Federal lobbyists and legislators to keep current with new and upcoming legislation.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the City of Murrieta to proactively monitor and advocate for legislation as directed by the City Council's annual Legislative Platform.

The City's legislative process involves interaction with our federal, state and local government entities and utilizes the three Ps – Platform, Protocol and Program. These three P's may best be defined as follows:

- Platform – The declared policies of the Murrieta City Council for the federal, state and local political processes.
- Protocol – The plan or course of action that the Murrieta City Council wants to engage in order to influence and determine decisions at the federal, state and local levels.
- Program – The specific resources the Murrieta City Council is willing to commit to accomplish its legislative goals.

Legislative Platform

The 2008 Legislative Platform is attached.

Legislative Protocol

A legislative workgroup shall be formed consisting of a designated representative of the City Manager and two members of Council. The duties of the workgroup are to review and revise the Legislative Platform on an annual basis (in conjunction with the City's lobbyists), to develop a long-term strategy to seek federal and state appropriations/earmarks, and to provide explicit direction to, and evaluation of, the state and federal lobbyists. When necessary, the workgroup will also review all Requests for Proposals for the services of City lobbyist. The workgroup will hold meetings with state and federal representatives and be available, if necessary, to travel in order to advocate for a City position, as discussed under Legislative Program.

The City Manager's Office shall exercise day-to-day oversight over legislative matters once the Legislative Platform is approved by the City Council. Staff will utilize the Legislative Platform as a guiding policy when reviewing and analyzing bills introduced in the State Legislature and the U.S. Congress that have a potential impact on the City's interests. Legislative bills will be monitored on a regular basis, and when significant legislation is identified, staff will provide the City Council with a brief summary of legislation during the City Manager's Administrative Update period of City Council. Simultaneously, staff will evaluate and recommend an action to be taken by the City Council. Such positions include:

Support – Legislation the City should support as drafted.

Oppose – Legislation the City should oppose as drafted.

Oppose until amended – Legislation the City should oppose unless amended in such a way as to avoid impacting the City unfavorably.

Watch – Legislation the City should continue to monitor for further activity.

For the positions of Support, Oppose, and Oppose until amended, the City Manger's Office will initiate letters, contact legislative staff and/or speak on behalf of the City regarding legislation. Unless urgent in nature (requires full execution of signatures within 24 hours), letters of support/opposition shall be signed by the Mayor. In cases of urgent nature, the City Manager has authority to sign letters. In all cases where a letter is written, the City's lobbyist shall receive a copy.

At the end of the legislative session, staff shall provide a complete written report summarizing activity related to the City's Legislative Program to the City Council.

Lobbyists

One of the duties of the City's lobbyists is to advocate on behalf of the City to legislators and administrations. The lobbyist serves as a presence in both Sacramento and Washington D.C. On an occasional basis, the City Council shall address, through a discussion item on an agenda, to what extent the need exists for the state and federal lobbyists and to what level of commitment. In addition, the City Council, through direction of the legislative workgroup, should provide regular updates and evaluation of the City's lobbyists.

In the future, both the federal and state lobbyists should be required to present to the City Council a minimum of once per year on legislative activity and precisely what action the lobbyists took on the City's behalf. The City will also be interested in the lobbyist's professional opinion of future trends in politics and the legislative process.

Legislative Program

As the City evolves into a legislatively active entity, more resources will need to be committed for effectiveness. Currently, the extent of the City's commitment is to retain two separate lobbyists for the purposes of advocating on the City's behalf. In addition, some members of City Council occasionally attend the annual League of Cities conferences.

A Legislative Program, at a minimum, should provide a commitment of regular meetings between the legislative workgroup and area elected officials at their district offices to discuss upcoming or pending legislation that has an impact on the City. These meetings are necessary to establish the most efficient and effective relationships between the City and legislators.

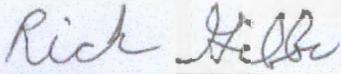
In the future, the legislative workgroup should consider a commitment of funds for:

- Travel to Washington D.C., as necessary, for each member of the Legislative Committee to meet with legislators and their staff and the federal lobbyist.
- Travel to Sacramento, as necessary, for each member of the Legislative Committee to Sacramento to meet with state legislators and their staff and the state lobbyist.
- Annual conference cost for the national League of Cities event.
- On-call trips to testify before committees or commissions.

Future Requests for Proposals and Agreements with lobbyists should also include a requirement to travel to the City of Murrieta for an annual formal presentation before the City Council

HISTORY

Adopted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Gibbs". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

RICK GIBBS

Mayor