

Guiding Principles for the 2017 City of San Marcos Federal Policy Program

Introduction:

The City of San Marcos recognizes the need for an active federal policy program to ensure that the interests of the City's residents and businesses are protected and enhanced. The City Council's federal outreach reflects the core values found in the City Charter's Statement of Goals and the City Council's Strategic Initiatives. As directed by the City Council, the City will participate in advancing the City's goals with the federal Congressional delegation and with federal agencies involved in the funding and regulation of assets and services provided by the City of San Marcos to the people of our community.

Guiding Principles

Disaster Recovery Efforts

- Support disaster recovery efforts by working with members of the Congressional delegation, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials on administering already obtained disaster related assistance and vital information on how the city could pursue additional federal funding through various federal programs at FEMA, HUD, the Economic Development Administration, etc. Additionally, in case of properties that experience repeated flooding to pursue alternatives that provide permanent solutions for both families and property owners, to include but not be limited to the acquisition or trades for said property(ies).

Support flood reconstruction and mitigation efforts by administering federal funding received through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service for five floodwater retarding structures, or dams, in the Upper San Marcos River Watershed.

- Support future flood mitigation strategies by working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate large scale river overflow project potential on Upper Blanco River.

Transportation

- Support federal action to provide necessary transportation funding, while protecting the environment, for better connectivity and to better keep pace with the City's priority infrastructure needs for air, highway, transit, pedestrian, bicycle, and rail transportation.
- Support the continued development of the municipal airport including: promoting new private flight training activity at facility; maintaining adequate staffing of the

control tower; identifying opportunities and challenges brought forth during the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that may impact the Federal Contract Tower (FCT) program and municipal airport; and continued development of airport infrastructure and capabilities.

- Support transportation infrastructure through identifying and advocating for policies in the reauthorization of federal transportation legislation.
- Support efforts related to the further development of efficient and economical mass transit options in the Austin – San Antonio Corridor.

Education and Workforce Development

- Support educational initiatives, including Pre-K through 16 education (ages 3-25), including higher education and career readiness, and out-of-school-time programs promoting youth development. This will include identifying related opportunities and challenges as Congress moves forward with implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the coming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA).
- Support adult education initiatives including facilitating partnerships with the Gary Jobs Corps and other efforts to ensure that citizens have the skills necessary for the jobs of the future. This will include working with Gary Job Corps, the national Job Corps program, and our Congressional delegation to explore ways to expand the benefits of the Job Corps program to adults beyond the current program's age parameters.

Neighborhoods, Culture, Housing and Sustainable Development

- Support continued federal funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program; support workforce housing development assisting low to moderate income residents; housing rehabilitation, veterans' housing and employment programs, and increase the availability of affordable housing.
- Support Sustainable Development through the continuation of grant programs such as CDBG, Livable Communities Act, Choice Neighborhoods and the Strong Cities, and Strong Communities Initiative, energy efficiency and water conservation initiatives, and other programs that promote innovative planning to further community development, while sustaining environmental, economic and cultural resources.

River and Environmental Protection

- Support federal action to encourage the protection and preservation of spring flows and the rivers in San Marcos; to protect the community's rare environmental resources and assets; provide new sources of funding for water infrastructure and water conservation and wastewater treatment and reuse; support reasonable

groundwater district rules related to the length of groundwater permits and timeframes to develop related infrastructure; protect the City's investment in water infrastructure for current and future use; and promote and develop alternative energy sources.

- Support opportunities to address wastewater reuse issues at the federal level. This includes providing support for existing targeted grant opportunities and identifying other potential funding streams or policies that impact these activities.

Economic Development

- Support Congressional action to promote economic development; identify and pursue related economic development funding opportunities through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration; provide incentives to cities to attract and retain businesses; increase funding for workforce training and programs to employ veterans; strengthen Pre-K to16 education; and increase funding for adult education and literacy.

Public Safety

- Support federal grant programs that advance police and fire public safety programs for assistance with equipment, training and personnel.