

City of Visalia, California 2022 Federal Legislative Agenda





Prepared by Thorn Run Partners for the

Visalia City Council

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Transportation and Infrastructure

Infrastructure Investment

Monitor implementation of the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act. **Support** all opportunities to secure funding for the City of Visalia's infrastructure priorities. **Support** continued federal investment in infrastructure, including water infrastructure and for the transition to electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, and electric grid reliability. **Support** the City's investment in public and active transportation priorities and any efforts to secure federal funding.

Alternative Fuel Tax Incentives

Support the retroactive extension of a \$0.50 per gallon equivalent tax incentive for natural gas when used as a motor fuel.

Federal Aviation Administration Authorization; Airport Improvement Program

Support adequate annual appropriations for the Airport Improvement Program. **Support** any City of Visalia airport grant proposals through the FAA's Airport Improvement Program.

Water Resources and Environment

Central Valley Water Resources

Support efforts to improve water resources in the San Joaquin Valley and the State of California, including supporting additional storage, protecting existing storage facilities, and supporting funding for water recharge, conservation efforts, and other tools that would help the Kaweah Basin reach its sustainability goals as outlined in the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Plan. **Monitor** Bureau of Reclamation water release proposals as they relate to the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

National Flood Insurance Program

Monitor Congressional activities related to the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, particularly with regard to the cost of flood insurance in Visalia. **Oppose** future attempts to force residual risk or other premiums onto homeowners behind certified flood control structures. **Monitor** FEMA's implementation of the Risk Rating 2.0 program. **Monitor** FEMA's next steps regarding changes to the NFIP Floodplain Management Standards.

Wildfire Policy

Support efforts to reform federal wildfire budgeting to enable the Forest Service to use more of their annual budget on forest management rather than fire suppression. **Support** using disaster funding to respond to forest fires and provide robust post-fire mitigation money to improve future fire prevention and forest health activities to improve air quality in the region and the health our forests.

Waters of the United States

Monitor activity related to the Waters of the U.S. rule. **Oppose** aspects of the rule that would negatively affect the City of Visalia.

Clean Air Act

Support the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's efforts to seek improvements to the Clean Air Act, including routine review of health-based air quality standards, clean air objectives that are technology-forcing, and clean-air deadlines that ensure expeditious clean-up and timely action. **Support**



amendments to the Act to eliminate current confusion, restore Congressional leadership in clean air policy, and maintain and strengthen the health protection core of the Act.

Public Safety

Federal Funding of Public Safety Programs

Support continued adequate funding for the wide variety of Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security grants, i.e., Community Oriented Policing Services, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, Emergency Management Performance Grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grants, and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants. **Support** the City of Visalia's application for these funds.

Police Reform

Monitor federal police reform proposals for impacts to local public safety officers.

Cannabis Legislation

Monitor federal marijuana policy that may impact the City of Visalia.

Social Services & Economic Development

Homeless Assistance

Support increased annual funding for Department of Housing and Urban Development Homeless Assistance Grants, including the Continuum of Care program, and for other types of funding that would assist local governments in helping address issues and provide options for people experiencing homelessness, including mental health funding. This includes supporting other agencies that may garner funding to be used locally, such as the Tulare/Kings Continuum of Care, which in FY 2020 received \$2.5 million in federal formula funding which was distributed to several local service providers to help address homelessness.

Affordable Housing

Support legislation to improve the availability of low-income housing, including through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program has been the most significant federal resource for creating affordable housing in the United States today. Created in 1986, the LIHTC gives State and local LIHTC-allocating agencies the equivalent of approximately \$8 billion in annual budget authority to issue tax credits for the acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of rental housing targeted to lower-income households. An average of almost 1,400 projects and 106,400 units were placed in service annually between 1995 to 2018. In California, the LIHTC-administering agency is the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

Department of Housing and Urban Development Formula Programs

Support adequate funding for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships programs for future fiscal years.

Economic Development Administration Programs

Support continued funding of the Economic Development Administration which often funds infrastructure projects, including several over the past decade in Visalia. **Support** City of Visalia Economic Development Administration grant applications.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Support funding of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to help food-insecure families, stimulate local economies, and relieve pressure on other human services programs.



General Government Issues

National Park Service – Sequoia Shuttle and Park Fees

Support the Sequoia Shuttle partnership between the National Park Service and the City of Visalia.

Oppose significant increases to park entrance fees that would negatively impact tourism and the ability of City residents to visit the Park.

Siting of Wireless Facilities

Oppose legislation that would preempt local government control and force local governments to lease publicly-owned infrastructure for the installation of “small cell” wireless towers.