County of Fresno

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Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	20-0132	**Name:**	Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform Updates
		In control:	Administrative Office
On agenda:	2/25/2020	**Final action:**	2/25/2020
Enactment date:		**Enactment #:**	

Title: Adopt recommended changes to the Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform; authorize the Chairman to execute letters of support, or opposition, in accordance with the platform; and authorize the County Administrative Office to work with the County's Federal Legislative Delegation, Washington lobbyist, and/or other necessary parties to support or oppose legislation in accordance with the platform

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. Agenda Item, 2. Attachment A1 - Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform, 3. Attachment A2 - Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform (Redlined), 4. Additional Information

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
2/25/2020	1	Board of Supervisors	Approved as Recommended	
2/25/2020	1	Board of Supervisors	Approved as Recommended	Pass

DATE: February 25, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Jean M. Rousseau, County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform Updates

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. **Adopt recommended changes to the Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform;**
2. **Authorize the Chairman to execute letters of support, or opposition, in accordance with the platform; and**
3. **Authorize the County Administrative Office to work with the County's Federal Legislative Delegation, Washington lobbyist, and/or other necessary parties to support or oppose legislation in accordance with the platform.**

The Legislative Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with Congress and Federal agencies. The Platform is also used as a guide for support letters related to grant applications. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

1. Make changes to recommendations or language in the Federal Legislative Platform.
2. Postpone updates to the Federal Legislative Platform.
3. Choose not to make changes and continue to work off the existing Federal Legislative Platform, last updated and approved on February 26, 2019.

If your Board chooses to postpone or not make updates to the platform, staff will need to bring items that are not currently included in the platform to your Board to be addressed on an individual basis.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no additional Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions.

DISCUSSION:

The Federal Legislative Platform is used by County officials and staff as policy guidelines for legislative action and to facilitate timely responses to requests from the County's Federal Legislative Delegation, the County's Washington Lobbyist, and interested citizens. The Board last updated the Federal Legislative Platform on February 26, 2019. This is the annual update to the Legislative Platform.

For letters of support or opposition, the platform serves as a guide for departments to easily identify if Federal issues they are working on fall within the County's Federal Platform. Consistent with Administrative Policy 21, any specific Federal issues falling outside of the platform and any letter requesting the signature of all five Board members would require an agenda item for presentation to your Board.
The proposed platform (Attachment A1) contains three sections:

I. Introduction - an explanation of the purpose of the legislative platform.
II. Major Legislative Issues - identifies significant issues for the County.
III. General Principles - provides positions that will guide County actions and advocacy efforts in specified categories of Agriculture; Community and Workforce Investment; Criminal Justice and Public Protection; Elections; Energy/Air Quality; Environmental Quality; Federal Lands and Installations; General Government and Finance; Human Resources, Library; Public Health, Mental Health, and Health Care Services; Social Services; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Water.

The primary recommended changes to the Federal Legislative Platform are highlighted in Attachment A2 and include the following:

- Agriculture - added a bullet regarding policies and funding for Nutria control programs.
- Criminal Justice and Public Protection - revised a bullet to include funding for reentry support for community reintegration.
- Environmental Quality - added bullets regarding increasing the acreage limit for the National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion on tree mortality projects and requesting simplification of the National Resource Conservation Service - Environmental Quality Incentives Program for homeowners to harvest dead trees.
- Library - added a bullet supporting the E-Rate program, which helps libraries obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.
- Public Health, Mental Health and Health Care Services - added a bullet regarding amending the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy to allow pre-trial detainees to have continued access to federal health benefits.
- Transportation and Infrastructure - added a bullet supporting reforming and streamlining the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise contracting rules across agencies for consistency.
- Water - deleted the bullet regarding the Waters of the U.S. rule as the final rule has been released. Added a bullet regarding long-term coordinated operations of the Central Valley and State Water Projects and updating existing Biological Opinions.

Approval of the recommended actions will adopt the updated Federal Legislative Platform, authorize the Chairman to execute letters of support or opposition in accordance with the platform, and allow the County

Administrative Office to express your Board's position on legislation in accordance with the platform.

OTHER REVIEWING AGENCIES:

The legislative platform was developed with the cooperation and input of County departments and the County's Washington lobbyist.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

BAI #5, February 26, 2019

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

Attachment A1 - Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform
Attachment A2 - Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform (Redlined)

CAO ANALYST:

Jeannie Z. Figueroa