

# *David Turch and Associates*

TO: Rialto City Council  
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RE: Federal Activities Report

In the past year, we have shared and promoted the City's legislative agenda and priorities with your congressional delegation – Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris and Representative Pete Aguilar and Representative Norma Torres. We have provided legislative updates on a host of federal initiatives including on appropriations bills, environmental and water related matters, defense spending, housing programs, telecommunications, and transportation funding and reauthorization proposals, just to name a few.

In the wake of the congressional earmark moratorium, it has become ever more important to pursue relevant federal grant opportunities. In this regard, we have regularly provided the City of Rialto with grant notices from various agencies and departments that focus on the City's federal priorities. These notice of funding opportunities (NOFO) are released on a weekly if not daily basis. We work with City staff in identifying special areas of federal interests. We monitor legislative developments that can affect, positively or negatively, Rialto's interests. For instance, we have coordinated our advocacy efforts on funding initiatives for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as well as identifying multi-agency, anti-homelessness programs. We also have been in regular contact with the Department of Health and Human Services to explore various at-risk youth programs.

City interests have included funding law enforcement personnel. For instance, we have held numerous meetings with officials from the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) regarding their programmatic activities and grant opportunities. Two grant programs of specific interest to the Rialto Police Department have been the COPS Hiring Program and the Community Policing Development Program. Other areas of interests involve funding programs administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) such as the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Program – in which the Rialto Fire Department recently secured a \$1.5 million award – and the Assistance to Firefighting Grants (AFG) Program.

Our executive branch work extends beyond the Department of Justice and FEMA, covering virtually every agency of the federal government including the Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration), Department of Homeland Security (interoperable communications and emergency/disaster preparedness), the Army Corps of Engineers (flood control and environmental restoration), the Environmental Protection Agency (regulatory and water issues), the Bureau of Reclamation (recycled/reclaimed water), the Department of Energy (green technology), Department of Labor (vocational training/workforce investment issues), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (library and museum funding). We monitor all federal grant announcements and share them with the City.

We also have coordinated our congressional legislative outreach with the US Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the American Public Transportation Association and other nationally based organizations representing issues that impact municipal priorities. Such initiatives have included advocacy to fund transportation, water/flood control, defense/aerospace, housing, homelessness, at-risk youth, job training, public safety and environmental programs. We also engage in and join coalitions advocating against federal regulatory and legislative preemption actions as well as administration proposed budgetary cuts to programs that benefit local governments.

### **COUNCIL FEDERAL WORKSHOP**

As part of our effort to strengthen the City's federal agenda, we recommend holding a federal workshop for the Council at a time of your convenience. We have found that these workshops act as a constructive way to get Council input and direction on the City's federal priorities and interests. We will provide an overview of the federal budget process, explore different Rialto priorities and delineate federal funding opportunities. We will adjust the City's federal agenda based on Council input and direction.

### **CITY ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON, DC**

We encourage the City to continue to remain engaged in the federal process through advocacy trips focused on key Rialto priorities. We have found that having elected officials make their case directly to federal policymakers in Washington, DC to be invaluable. If City conditions and scheduling permit, we encourage Rialto officials to participate in advocacy trip(s) to our nation's capital next year. We will organize meetings with your congressional delegation, relevant House and Senate committee members and staff and, of course, with various federal agencies.

### **LEGISLATIVE/POLICY/REGULATORY INITIATIVES**

Our work on behalf of the City has included:

- Planned and organized two Washington, DC advocacy trips this year in which meetings were scheduled with House and Senate congressional offices, House Energy and Commerce Committee members, and federal agencies including the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Reclamation, Health and Human Services, Economic

Development Administration, COPS Office and the National Endowment of the Arts. City officials discussed various priorities including transportation and water-related projects as well as issues covering economic development, public safety, homelessness, at-risk youth, cultural outreach and education, and drug abuse.

- Organized a US Department of Transportation debrief on the City's I-10 Freight Interchange and Riverside Avenue Corridor Project 2019 INFRA Grant application with the Assistant Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs and her staff. DOT received 193 grant applications requesting a total of \$9.8 billion – \$770 million was reserved for large projects (projects with total project costs of more than \$100 million). Out of the 193 applications received, 32 were from California entities. Debrief examined the following four primary assessment categories: 1) National Economic Vitality; 2) Leveraging of federal funds; 3) Innovation criteria; and 4) Performance and Accountability Rating. DOT discussed the application's strengths and weaknesses and encouraged the City to reapply in the next INFRA round in 2020.
- Reviewed with Rialto officials and the Federal Railroad Administration's Director of Government Affairs the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program as a potential source of federal funding for the s I-10 Freight Interchange and Riverside Avenue Corridor Project. The federal share of total costs for projects funded under this program will not exceed 80 percent, though FRA will provide selection preference to applications where the proposed Federal share of total project costs is 50 percent or less.
- Understanding the importance of open space/park interests for Rialto, particularly in light the ongoing renovations at Frisbie Park and other improvement/expansion plans, we contacted the Bureau of Interior's National Park Service about funding allocations and reauthorization activities for the Land and Water Conservation Fund – the main federal funding source for open space initiatives. We continue to monitor NPS programs for any direct funding opportunities.
- Under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations that began to take effect in January 2019, local governments are required to lease publicly owned infrastructure, eliminate local environmental and design review, and lose the ability to negotiate fair leases or public benefits for the installation of "small cell" wireless equipment on taxpayer-funded infrastructure. The FCC also has reduced the "shot clock" limits for local governments to process wireless industry applications to as few as 60- to 90-days. The combined effect of these FCC regulations serve to effectively undermine local governments' management of their own infrastructure and ability to receive adequate compensation for its use. We are monitoring several congressional bills sponsored by Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA), H.R. 530, and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), S.2012, that would overturn the FCC's regulations gutting local governments' jurisdictions to reasonably manage how their infrastructure is used by private sector interests in 5G wireless deployment.
- CDBG and HUD Section 8 Housing Assistance Funding – David Turch and Associates has worked with key congressional and committee members to ensure adequate funding for the Community Development Block Grant and Section 8 housing programs. Billions of federal

dollars have been and are at stake. The struggle to ensure that these vital programs continue to receive federal support is ongoing. In our advocacy work on behalf of these programs, we have coordinated the timing of our congressional outreach with the US Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities.

- We provide regular legislative updates to the City covering a myriad of federal issues involving congressional policy deliberations on budgetary and appropriations matters, immigration, housing, public safety, telecommunications and 5G deployment, EPA air and water regulations, transportation reauthorization and funding, tax reform, health care, autonomous vehicles and drone regulations, agriculture and school lunch programs, welfare reform and entitlement spending and gun control.