

David Turch and Associates

TO: Rialto City Council
Marcus Fuller, City Manager
City of Rialto

FROM: Jamie Jones
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RE: David Turch and Associates 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 Alex Padilla (and previously then Senator Kamala Harris), Representative Pete Aguilar and Representative Norma Torres. We have provided legislative updates on a host of federal initiatives including on COVID-19 relief and economic stimulus programs, appropriations bills, law enforcement and firefighter related grant programs, environmental and water related policy matters, housing programs, telecommunications, and transportation funding and surface transportation reauthorization proposals, just to name a few.

Federal Funding Successes

Earlier in 2021, we coordinated with the City in developing a list of funding priorities for congressional consideration for Community Project Funding (CPF) in the FY 2022 Appropriations process. We engaged and worked closely with the offices of Representatives Torres and Aguilar and Senators Feinstein and Padilla in advancing the City's project list. Our funding success, thus far, include the following:

- \$862,500 -- Representative Norma Torres has secured \$862,500 in the FY22 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for the City of Rialto Emergency Operations Center. The full House is expected to vote on the measure before the end of July. The Homeland Security spending bill may not be enacted into law until December 2021.
- \$700,000 – Representative Pete Aguilar has submitted to the House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee the City's funding request for Body Worn Camera Upgrades in the FY 22 Appropriations process. We should know before the end of July whether this funding request has been included in the CJS Appropriations bill.
- \$2,380,000 – Representative Pete Aguilar has submitted Rialto's Alder Avenue Improvements at SR-210 which has been included in H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America

Act, the five-year surface transportation authorization bill. The House passed H.R. 3684 on July 1, 2021. We expect the legislation to be wrapped up in a larger bipartisan trillion dollar infrastructure bill later this year.

- \$375,000 Department of Justice 2020 COPS Office Hiring Program award to hire three police officers. Worked with the City's Police Department and the COPS Office.

Federal Grant Notice of Funding Opportunities

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 been in regular communication 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 has secured funding – 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

As congressional offices and federal agencies begin to accept in-person meeting following COVID 19 mandated shutdowns, possibly as early as this fall, we encourage the City to continue to engage 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 either later this year or early next year. We will plan and organize meetings with your congressional delegation, relevant House and Senate committee members and staff and, of course, with various federal agencies that manage grant programs of specific interest to Rialto.

LEGISLATIVE/POLICY/REGULATORY INITIATIVES

- In the fall/winter of 2020, held meetings and conference calls with City staff to discuss the possible return of earmarks in the upcoming FY2022 congressional budget process. Reviewed strategies for the City's consideration with the objective of maximizing funding opportunities that cover transportation and non-transportation projects.
- Working in sync with a national coalition of municipal, county and state entities, we actively engaged in soliciting congressional support in securing \$350 billion to assist State and localities address revenue shortfalls due to their response to the pandemic.
- Understanding the importance of open space/park interests for Rialto, particularly in light the renovations at Frisbie Park and other improvement/expansion plans, we continue to monitor 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 review NPS programs for any direct funding opportunities.
- 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 have provided regular legislative updates to the City covering a myriad of federal issues involving COVID 19, 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.
- Have been working with Representative Norma Torres and her staff on revising her nitrous oxide bill aimed at protecting teenagers and young adults from the dangers of the recreational use of the drug. The revised bill, H.R. 3470, the Myles Edward Scott Act, was recently introduced in the 117th Congress.