



City of San Fernando

2023 Legislative Platform

In accordance with City Council Legislative Advocacy Policy No. CC-02212023

Revised February 2023

Guiding Principles

1. Preserve Local Funding

The City supports the protection of existing state and local funding sources and the authorities that provide revenues to the City of San Fernando. Such areas include the protection of state-shared revenues, assets of the former redevelopment agency, development impact fees, and the ability to collect compensation for the use of the public right-of-way or City-owned facilities. The City opposes any new mandates that are unfunded and/or inadequately funded.

At the federal level, the City supports the preservation and enhancement of federal assistance to local governments. This includes increasing federal funding for domestic discretionary programs that support residents in San Fernando.

2. Preserve Local Authority

The City supports local decision-making authority and opposes preemption of local control. Cities are voluntarily created by the residents of a community to provide local self-government and to make decisions at a local level to best meet the needs of the community. Each community has unique needs and characteristics that are best met by policies set by its local governing body. The City supports efforts that help municipalities maintain local control for reasonable development standards of land use regulation for housing, including accessory dwelling units and single family-zoned properties.

At the Federal level, the City opposes efforts to limit the ability of local governments to address matters such as the imposition of taxes and fees, enforcement of zoning and land use regulations, or the ability to ensure the safety of our residents.

City Strategic Goals and Legislative Platform

The City of San Fernando's 2022- 2027 Strategic Goals help frame the City's Legislative Platform, as follows:

- 1. Focus On Community First**
 - a. *Public Safety*
 - b. *Libraries, Parks, and Open Space*
 - c. *Public Health*
- 2. Cultivating A Stronger Local Economy**
 - a. *Economic Development*
- 3. Preserve Beautiful Homes And Neighborhoods**
 - a. *Housing*
- 4. Strengthen Climate Resilience And Environmental Justice**
 - a. *Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice*
- 5. Enhance Public Transportation To Move San Fernando**
 - a. *Public Transportation*
- 6. Build Resilient And Reliable Infrastructure**
 - a. *Infrastructure*
- 7. Forge Financial Strength And Stability**
 - a. *Budget and Municipal Finance*
- 8. Emergency Preparedness: Supporting The Community**
 - a. *Emergencies and Natural Disasters*

1. Focus On Community First

Public Safety

The safety of San Fernando residents is the City's highest priority. The City will track and take positions on federal and state legislation that impacts law enforcement, disaster preparedness training and safety.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation and funding to improve the safety, security, and quality of life for all San Fernando residents, businesses and visitors.
2. Reasonable criminal justice reform measures that are inclusive of concerns from prosecutors, victims' rights groups, and law enforcement agencies and do not hinder law enforcement's ability to protect the community.
3. Legislation that helps reduce recidivism, help rehabilitate recidivist offenders, and expand funding for these efforts.

4. Legislation that would take advantage of the latest technology to prevent and resolve crimes, such as the ability to use surveillance cameras, automatic license plate recognition, and DNA testing.
5. Legislation that provides local jurisdictions greater flexibility to set enforceable speed limits.
6. Legislation and funding to reduce and prevent gun violence, crimes, drug use, and gang violence, and to promote public outreach and intervention programs that specifically divert juveniles from the criminal justice system.
7. Legislation that would increase federal resources for law enforcement recruiting efforts, training particularly, as it relates to de-escalation and proportional use of force, and maintenance of body-worn camera programs.
8. Legislation that prevents and reduces crime by assisting and providing supportive services for individuals in need, and holding those accountable for crimes committed.
9. Legislation that ensures public safety through the assistance and rehabilitation of individuals challenged with mental illness and/or substance abuse, and resources for these efforts to increase awareness, public education, and training opportunities.

Libraries, Parks, and Open Space

The seven San Fernando park facilities and County-operated Public Library are crucial aspects of the community. They allow residents to learn, connect, and play, while strengthening the bonds among residents. The City will track and take positions on legislation in order to maintain and enhance the quality of parks, open spaces, and the public library.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation that provides funding for rehabilitation, development, and capital improvements of local parks, libraries, and community facilities.
2. Legislation that preserves and protects open space.
3. Legislation and funding that aim to support the development and maintenance of parks and green space.
4. Legislation and administrative actions that protect the ability for a local government to preserve open space in and around a local government's jurisdiction.
5. Full funding of the state's obligation to support local public libraries pursuant to existing formulas established in the state's education code.

Public Health

With the creation of the *Healthy San Fernando* initiative in 2014, the City revamped its efforts to support the health of its residents. The successful "100 Citizens Outdoor Adult & Senior Fitness Program" facilitated conversations about healthy eating, and offered spinning, yoga, and pilates classes, among other programming, for community members. Improving the health of residents through citywide programming, increased funding in public health institutions, and more equitable access to the health care system, will frame the positions the City takes on federal and state legislation throughout 2023.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation that creates options and opportunities for access to affordable healthcare.
2. Legislation that protects the rights of diverse populations, the LGBTQ+ community, and of women (including reproductive rights), to support improved health outcomes.
3. Legislation and local funding opportunities to increase access to subsidized meal programs for older adults and youth.
4. Legislation that helps foster independence, well-being, and access to resources for older adults.
5. Legislation which provides state and federal funding opportunities to increase access to childcare for the community.
6. Legislation to improve access to programs and services for mental and behavioral health.
7. Legislation that aims to identify and resolve the effects of institutional racism that drive health inequities in the population.
8. Legislation to improve health coverage in a comprehensive manner provided adequate funding and cost controls are in place.
9. Legislation and local funding opportunities to increase access to subsidized meal programs for older adults and youth.

2. Cultivating a Stronger Local Economy

Economic Development

San Fernando's downtown business corridor and rich cultural history provide a strong foundation for sustained economic development and prosperity. With nine new businesses including restaurants, auto shops, a shipping store opening in 2022, and a Target set to open in the summer of 2023, we must leverage this momentum to bring in more businesses, create more jobs, and strengthen our local economy. The City will track and take positions on federal and state legislation that impacts our workforce and business community.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation that would provide State or Federal aid and assistance in the development of local and regional economies.
2. Legislation that would provide local officials more discretion in the use of State and Federal funds.
3. Legislation that would eliminate the matching dollar requirements for economic development state grants.
4. Legislation that enacts and expands state tax incentives that assist City economic development and community revitalization efforts.
5. Legislation that would increase opportunities for environmentally beneficial jobs.
6. Legislation that authorizes a local agency the authority to regulate the delivery of cannabis or cannabis products within its jurisdictional boundaries.

The City Opposes:

1. Legislation or regulatory action that seeks to limit or eliminate municipal authority to regulate or ban commercial growing, processing, licensing, sale, or transport of cannabis or cannabis products for recreational or medical use.

3. Preserving Beautiful Homes and Neighborhoods

Housing

The City of San Fernando has taken measures to preserve the safety and beauty of our residential areas and create housing opportunities for low-income residents. As the City prepares to develop home rehabilitation programs, maintaining property standards, historic homes, and local control of planning and zoning will further strengthen San Fernando's charm and growth. The City will track and take positions on legislation that impacts local control of housing, planning, and zoning.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation and programs that provide funding and housing assistance programs at all income levels, including extremely-low and very-low income households.
2. Legislation and programs that assist the public and private sectors in funding workforce housing.
3. Legislation to streamline historic preservation regulations and procedures for the designation of properties as historic resources.
4. Legislation that protects property ownership and prioritizes small property owners over institutional investors.
5. Legislation that provides support services and housing services to seniors and disabled residents.
6. Legislation that changes the current State Density Bonus law to restore local control.
7. Legislation that provides additional resources for the development of affordable housing programs and/or expand code enforcement programs to protect existing housing stock.
8. Changes to state law that recognizes the production and protection of all housing types in the City for the State's RHNA purposes.
9. Legislation and grant opportunities that preserve or increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
10. Legislation that authorizes funding to assist local agencies in the development of affordable housing.
11. Legislation, regulatory, or administrative efforts that provide additional authority or funding for municipalities to address homeless issues within their communities.
12. Legislation that ensures state and regional initiatives to address homelessness and mental health crisis care, as well as grant programs that provide direct funding to cities to implement local strategies.

The City Opposes:

1. Legislation and regulations that preempt local governments' land use authority.
2. Legislation that removes local control, allows for irresponsible housing development in San Fernando, and interferes with protection of residential neighborhoods.
3. Legislation that reduces administrative fees for housing assistance to non-income earning clients (seniors and the disabled).
4. Legislation that creates inefficient processes or other obstacles to the provision of homeless services, as well as any new legislation that would abridge or limit local regulatory mechanisms designed to increase affordable housing production (e.g., inclusionary housing programs).
5. Legislation that proposes to convert the Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA) from a planning process to a production standard.
6. Legislation that seeks to circumvent local control and local circumstances when addressing homelessness.

4. Strengthen Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice

Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice

With the development of the *San Fernando Park Infiltration Project*, the *Calles Verdes* storm water capture project, the Pacoima Wash Bike Path, and a Citywide goal to increase tree canopy coverage by 33% by 2027, San Fernando is actively engaged in ensuring the community is resilient in the face of climate change. These efforts are in conjunction with the City's installation of five electric vehicle charging stations and one compressed natural gas station. The City will track and take positions on federal and state proposed legislation that impacts these projects as well as those that affect their climate resilience and environmental justice goals.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation that prioritizes the environment and balances the needs of the community.
2. Legislative efforts to increase climate resilience and adaptation funding for impacted communities like San Fernando.
3. Legislation that provides funding for electrification initiatives (i.e. electric charging stations).
4. Initiatives that avoid duplicative climate policies and are designed to lower greenhouse gas emissions, while urging consideration of technical feasibility, costs to ratepayers, as well as the time that it will take utilities to come into compliance with proposed initiatives.
5. Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector through increased incentives for electric vehicles and funding for associated infrastructure.
6. Financial incentives for renewable energy, such as the Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) program.
7. Changes to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program to provide assistance toward 100% of the cost of a project. In addition, the City is supportive

of the WIFIA program for local and regional water supply projects that help protect against drought related shortages or supply interruptions.

8. Legislation that would provide resources to address severe western drought conditions, including increased funding for non-potable water infrastructure and storage.
9. Legislation that would provide funding to improve California's headwaters, which provide flow to surface and groundwater supplies, and are critical to sustain local watersheds. Funding to implement local strategies will help create more resilient forests, improve wildfire mitigation, and help provide communities with clean, reliable water.
10. Legislation that improves air quality.
11. Legislation that ensures and conserves safe drinking water.
12. Legislation aimed at standardizing the resin code labeling on plastic packaging to make it easier to locate on the item and easier for the consumer to read.
13. Legislation aimed at reducing disposable products and packaging, including product and disposal bans for environmentally problematic materials. Legislation that does not overly burden municipalities with data capture, reporting, and enforcement, which does include reasonable phase out periods is ideal.
14. Legislation that would reform Proposition 218 and enhance the ability of public water agencies to finance storm water and recycled water infrastructure, provide flexibility for the establishment of conservation-based tiered rate structures, prevent cost shifts from one customer group to another, and allow public agencies - at their discretion, to implement lifeline water rates for low-income households.
15. Legislation that would maximize efficient water use and reduce water waste in California while reflecting local conditions, demand hardening, and historic conservation efforts.
16. Legislation and regulation that promotes responsible groundwater and surface water management.
17. Legislation that revises water quality testing standards based on scientific data as well as legislative and regulatory activities that will help ensure a fair and balanced compliance and enforcement structure for potable and related water discharges.
18. Legislation, regulatory proposals, or grant opportunities for local governments that provide funding for developing or enhancing alternative fueling stations for vehicles.

The City Opposes:

1. Green House Gas emissions reduction legislation that adds financial risk, creates regulatory uncertainty, impacts participation in the Cap and Trade Program, penalizes early voluntary action, or reduces the allocation of Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits.
2. Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) legislation that extends California Energy Commission ("CEC") jurisdiction over Publicly Owned Utilities ("POU"). Local elected governing bodies, such as the City Council, are best positioned to determine the appropriate means for local utilities to achieve GHG reductions.
3. RPS or GHG reduction targets that adversely impacts electric reliability, including any prohibitions on using natural gas-fired generation as necessary to mitigate electric transmission and distribution system constraints. Targets must be practical so that

utilities are able to protect both ratepayer funds and public safety while encouraging environmental protection.

4. Air quality legislation that restricts the land use authority of cities.
5. Legislation redirected the funds authorized by Health and Safety Code Section 44223, which are currently used by local governments for locally based air quality programs.
6. Legislation that would preempt local land use authority over solid waste facilities, would restrict the ability of a city to issue a land use permit for a solid waste facility or would restrict the ability of a city to condition such facilities through conditional use permit process.

5. Enhance Public Transportation to Move San Fernando

Public Transportation

With the East San Fernando Valley Regional Light Rail and Metrolink track expansion projects on the horizon, public transportation options for San Fernando residents will continue to increase over the next decade. The San Fernando Trolley and Mission City Transit currently provide affordable services for residents and visitors to move around the City, and the Trails Network is in place to diversify residents modes of transportation to meet intersecting climate and transportation goals. The City will track and take positions on legislation that impact these projects, while also ensuring that all transportation projects do not negatively affect the daily lives of San Fernando residents.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation that increases affordable public transit.
2. Legislation that provides incentives for the development of local transportation corridors.
3. Local, regional, State, and federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory efforts that will expand and/or supplement funding for maintaining transportation service program funds for employee benefits or for specific Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) transportation programs and passenger rail service.
4. Local, regional, State, and federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory efforts that will expand and/or supplement funding for maintaining and upgrading major thoroughfares in the City.

The City Opposes:

1. Failing to account for safety, parking impacts, local traffic impacts, and economic and social justice concerns when regional transportation projects are planned within the City.

6. Build Resilient and Reliable Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Investing in infrastructure improvements is an investment in our residents' safety and quality of life. The City will track and take positions on federal and state proposed legislation that impacts their ability to build resilient and reliable infrastructure.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation that allocates additional state funding for the upgrade, replacement, and construction of needed infrastructure at the state and local level.
2. Legislation and direct grant funding to local governments for a federal investment in transportation, water resources, housing, and community development.
3. Legislation to develop infrastructure for local performing art centers, parks, and recreational facilities.
4. Legislation, programs, and funding to close the digital divide and maximize access to broadband and 5G technologies.

The City Opposes:

1. Legislation that limits or eliminates local discretionary review of the installation of small cell wireless equipment or any wireless technology facilities on public infrastructure or in the public right of way.
2. Regulatory efforts by Congress or the Federal Communications Commission to erode, limit, or eliminate local government authority regarding siting of cellular communications towers, transmission sites, or other infrastructure.

7. Forge Financial Strength and Stability

Budget and Municipal Finance

Financial sustainability is dependent on consistent sources of revenue and balanced financial management practices. The City will track and take positions on federal and state legislation that impacts local control of financial revenue sources and decision-making.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation or ballot measures that prevent the State from redirecting local government funds (i.e. local taxes, sales tax, property taxes, etc).
2. Legislation that promotes increased flexibility for the utilization of municipally generated revenues.
3. Legislation that changes the allocation of sales tax for online purchases from the County pool and reallocates it to the city where the purchase is made.

4. Direct fiscal assistance to local governments of all population sizes to address the loss of revenue from the COVID-19 pandemic and similar natural disasters.
5. Legislation that would restore the tax break for advanced refunding bonds.
6. Legislation to allow local governments to collect sales taxes on remote sales, such as online and catalog purchases based on the delivery address. California alone loses over \$4 billion annually in uncollected sales and use taxes on remote sales.
7. Legislation, regulatory proposals, or administrative actions to assure timely reimbursements of mandated reimbursements owed to the City of San Fernando by the State of California.
8. Legislation that maintains or enhances the City's ability to keep and protect existing state and local funding sources providing revenues to the City of San Fernando.

The City Opposes:

1. Legislation or initiatives that would undermine voter-approved initiatives to guarantee ongoing revenue sources for local governments.
2. Legislation that undermines and preempts local authority over local taxes and fees.
3. Efforts to eliminate, or cap, the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, as it's a tool for local governments to finance large capital projects.
4. Legislation that imposes limits on governmental deferred compensation plans.
5. Legislation that limits local authority by prohibiting state and local taxes and fees in areas such as wireless services, video services (including but not limited to, internet protocol ("IPP") enabled, streaming, and over-the-top services), and the sale of digital goods.
6. Legislation that mandates participation in Social Security for local government employees covered by other retirement and/or pension systems.

8. Emergency Preparedness: Supporting the Community

Emergencies and Natural Disasters

The City will track and take positions on federal and state proposed legislation that impacts local governments emergency preparedness capabilities.

The City Supports:

1. Legislation that directs fiscal assistance to local governments of all population sizes to address the catastrophic loss of revenue resulting from the COVID-19 global pandemic and similar natural disasters.
2. Legislation that directs fiscal assistance to publicly owned utilities to credit delinquent utility bills for their customers.
3. Legislation that encourages disaster preparedness and emergency planning, including funding to develop a permanent Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to further emergency management preparedness efforts. Seek direct and flexible funding to

localities to sustain core services and provide community recovery programs while responding to public health emergencies and natural disasters.

4. Legislation that helps fund emergency management training as well as equipment and technology purchases necessary for day-to-day operations, disaster planning and operation of a fully capable Emergency Operations Center.
5. Legislation that increases the Fire Department's ability to provide Emergency Medical Services; fire suppression and rescue services; hazardous material spill mitigation; fire prevention; arson investigation; and public education.
6. Legislation and regulation that contributes to increasing the seismic safety of buildings including seismic retrofit, retrofit funding, or higher levels of structural resilience of buildings.
7. Legislation that encourages disaster preparedness and emergency planning, including funding opportunities for emergency operations centers, emergency management training and facilities, backup generators, fire safety equipment and maintenance inspections, vegetation management, and increased staffing needs.