



February 6, 2025

TO: LOCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Ron Munds, General Manager

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 7F – 02/06/2025 Board Meeting**
Adopt Resolution No. 2025-03 Establishing the 2025 Legislative Policy Platform.

President

Christine M. Womack

Vice President

Matthew D. Fourcroy

Directors

Charles Cesena
Tom Cross
Richard Hubbard

General Manager

Ron Munds

District Accountant

Robert Stilts, CPA

Unit Chief

John Owens

Battalion Chief

Paul Provence

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DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Legislative Advocacy policy is to guide Los Osos Community Services District's (District) Board of Directors and staff in considering legislative or regulatory proposals that are likely to have an impact on the District, and to allow for a timely response to important legislative issues. The District's first legislative platform along with the Legislation Advocacy Policy was adopted in August 2020. The policy requires that the platform be updated at the beginning of each calendar year.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item will be approved along with the Consent Calendar unless it is pulled by a Director for separate consideration. If so, staff recommends that the Board adopt the following motion:

Motion: I move that the Board:

Adopt Resolution No. 2025-03 establishing District's Legislative Advocacy Platform for 2025.

DISCUSSION

The purpose for identifying the Legislative Advocacy Platform is to establish priorities and clear direction to District staff with regard to monitoring and acting upon bills during state and federal legislative sessions. The Legislative Advocacy Platform will provide the Board President, District General Manager, or other designee, discretion to advocate in District best interests in a manner consistent with the goals and priorities adopted by the Board of Directors.

The first District legislative platform along with the Legislation Advocacy Policy was adopted in August 2020. The policy requires that the platform be updated at the beginning of each calendar year. After conferring with the California Special Districts Association and reviewing the 2024 platform, it is recommended that the 2025 Legislative Advocacy Platform be adopted as presented in Exhibit A to Resolution number 2025-03.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no direct financial impact associated with the recommended actions.

Attachment

Resolution No. 2025-03

Exhibit A

Tracked Changes Exhibit A

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT ESTABLISHING THE DISTRICT’S LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR 2025 AND APPOINTING THE BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF PERSON TO ACT AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND THE CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, an objective of the Board of Directors is to adopt legislative advocacy priorities which strengthens local government, promotes District goals and defends the District against legislative actions by State and Federal governments that would weaken local government and/or take away traditional revenue sources; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the fiscal health and the self determination of the District to effectively communicate with State Legislators and Federal representatives in order to favorably influence State and Federal legislation, regulations and grant requests; and

WHEREAS, the California Special Districts Association conducts a legislative analysis and advocacy program on behalf of cities for State issues and major Federal issues; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to be proactive and involved in the governmental decision- making processes directly affecting the District’s legislative priorities identified in Exhibit "A," and other selected issues as may from time to time be recommended by the California Special Districts Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

1. Establish the Legislative Advocacy Priorities for 2025 as set forth in the attached "Exhibit "A and authorize the Board President and General Manager to take positions on legislation generally consistent with the Legislative Advocacy Priorities and such other resolutions and recommendations of the California Special Districts Association as may be from time to time presented to the Board.
2. Appoint Board President to act as Board member’s legislative liaison and General Manager Ron Munds to act as staff legislative liaisons with the California Special Districts Association.

On the motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____, and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: _____
 Noes: _____
 Abstain: _____
 Absent: _____

The foregoing resolution is hereby passed, approved, and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Los Osos Community Services District this 6th day of February 2025.

 Christine Womack
 President, Board of Directors
 Los Osos Community Services District

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 Ron Munds
 General Manager and Secretary to the Board

 Craig A. Steele
 District General Counsel

LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM FOR 2025

The following reflects those legislative matters on which the Board of Directors majority authorizes the Board President and General Manager to engage in legislative advocacy on behalf of the District. Per the District's Legislative Advocacy Policy, the Board's authorization extends only to advocacy for or against generally applicable legislative proposals being considered by local, regional, state and/or federal policy makers or regulators and does not extend to advocacy on any other matter unless specifically noted herein.

Revenue, Finances and Taxation

1. Supporting meaningful fiscal reform that allows each level of government to adequately finance its service responsibilities while continuing to support efforts to protect the District from loss of revenues due to State take-aways and unfunded State or Federal mandates. Emphasis should be placed on the ongoing suspension of recognized mandates, the flawed reimbursement process, and the evolving interpretations of subvention eligibility by the Commission on State Mandates.
2. Opposing initiatives that unduly burden and/or prohibit local government ability to support essential services to the community.
3. Support opportunities that allow the district to compete for its fair share of regional, state, and federal funding, and that maintain funding streams. Opportunities may include competitive grant and funding programs. Opportunities may also include dedicated funding streams at the regional, state, or federal levels that allow the district to maximize local revenues, offset and leverage capital expenditures, and maintain district goals and standards.
4. Engage with the Legislature, Administration, CalOES, other State agencies as appropriate, and Congress to ensure coordination and collaboration on efforts related to climate adaptation and resiliency, emergency response and disaster preparedness, and other issues, to promote equal funding considerations for special districts.
5. Support the protection and preservation special districts' property tax allocations and revenue authority, including, but not limited to, capacity and connection charges, development impact fees and Quimby or other "in- lieu- fees."

Human Resources and Personnel

1. Supporting California Special Districts Association positions on human resources issues such as workers' compensation reforms, pension and retiree health benefits reform efforts and other related initiatives.
2. Engage with the CalPERS Board and Legislature on pension issues to ensure the integrity of the CalPERS Fund, and seek opportunities to provide special districts with additional tools to address rising pension costs.

Infrastructure, Innovation and Investment

1. Supporting increased availability of grant funding to repair or replace aging infrastructure of all types, e.g. water, parks, and storm sewer systems, community facilities such as fire stations, etc.
2. Supporting increased funding for flood protection, clean storm water and low impact infrastructure projects.
3. Supporting cooperation and prompt approval from Federal and State regulatory agencies (such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Fish & Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board) for necessary projects involving District projects.
4. Supporting water conservation best management practices.
5. Supporting the expansion of recycled water production and use.
6. Supporting the protection of water resources.
7. Supporting regional water resiliency initiatives.
8. Supporting federal and statewide funding of water infrastructure projects.

Climate Adaptation and Community Resiliency

1. Support policies, legislation and partnerships with stakeholders to achieve common goals for all disaster-impacted and disaster-prone areas within special districts including:
 - Wildfire Mitigation Management
 - Drought Impacts
 - Extreme Weather Events
 - Cybersecurity
 - Emergency Preparedness

California Special Districts Association – Tier 2 Priorities

1. Promote local-level solutions, decision-making, and management concerning service delivery and governance structures while upholding voter control and maintaining LAFCO authority over local government jurisdictional reorganizations and/or consolidations.
2. Promote transparency and accountability while defending against costly and unnecessary changes to the California Public Records Act, Brown Act, or public agency oversight requirements where the value of perceived greater transparency does not outweigh the costs to special districts.
3. Defend against costly and unnecessary expansions to labor policy changes at the cost of public employers.

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Tracked Changes

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