



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager
DATE: March 7, 2023
SUBJECT: Discussion and Direction on Sending a Legislative Delegation to Washington D.C. and Sacramento

Description Discussion and direction to staff on potentially sending a legislative delegation to Washington D.C. and Sacramento to lobby for funding for capital improvement projects.

Background and Analysis:

At the February 21, 2023, City Council meeting, Council awarded a contract to David Turch and Associates for lobbying services in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, the Mayor requested that staff return with an item on tonight's agenda to discuss the details of sending a delegation to not only Washington, D.C., but also to Sacramento.

Washington, D.C.

In discussions with our Federal lobbyist, the week of April 24, 2023, would be an ideal week for our delegation to be in Washington, D.C. (Attachment A). The House of Representatives will be in session beginning April 25, 2023, and the City's delegation could spend up to four days meeting with various elected officials and Federal agencies during that week.

Sacramento

CalCities is hosting a City Leaders Summit in Sacramento from April 12-14, 2023, and included in that event is a full day of meetings with legislators to discuss the most pertinent issues affecting our cities. An added benefit to that event includes two days of in-depth educational session to explore local solutions to statewide problems.

Having face-to-face meetings with our elected officials is one of the most powerful ways to advocate for Beaumont's most important projects. Furthermore, it promotes Council's ability to build a valuable relationship with not only our direct representatives, but our neighboring representatives and staff from State and Federal agencies that directly affect projects here in Beaumont.

In considering the size of the delegation, the City Attorney has opined that the Brown Act does not allow for a quorum or more of the Council to attend private meetings with elected representatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. to discuss issues of City concern. Options would be to have less than a quorum attend the meeting or alternatively notice the meeting as a public Brown Act meeting.

It is recommended that Council hold a discussion, appoint members to the delegations and confirm dates of attendance for each trip. Staff will then coordinate with our respective lobbyists to compile a package of pertinent information and schedule appropriate meetings to hand deliver to various elected and staff representatives.

Fiscal Impact:

The current budget includes an allocation of \$32,000 to 100-1235-7066-0000 specifically for travel to Washington, D.C. Additional funding is included in the budget for Council to travel to Sacramento for CalCities events.

Recommended Action:

Discuss and give direction to staff.

Attachments:

- A. House Calendar