

**MEMO**

**To:** City of Dinuba  
Mayor and Council Members  
Luis Patlan, City Manager

**From:** Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.  
Christopher Townsend, President  
Richard Harmon, Director

**Date:** June 28, 2016

**Subject:** Monthly and Fiscal Year Report—June 2016

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**SUMMARY**

This memo is an overview of activities undertaken by Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) over the last month and fiscal year, working on behalf of the City of Dinuba, including the following subjects:

- **Legislative Activity and Updates**
  - *State Update*
    - Legislative Activity
    - Budget Status
  - *Federal Update*
    - Legislative Activity
    - Supreme Court Decision
    - Resignation
    - Appropriations
- **Project Activity and Updates**
  - Dinuba Police Department
  - Dinuba Fire Department
  - Historical Records Preservation
  - Planning and Infrastructure Development
  - Transportation
- **Upcoming Funding Opportunities and Funding Opportunity Matrix**



## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY AND UPDATES

### State Update

#### Legislative Activity

The Legislature has adjourned for its Summer Recess and will return at the beginning of August for the final four weeks of Legislative Session. In that month, the Legislature will not only need to dispense with the hundreds of bills that will be awaiting consideration in the respective Houses, but will also need to resolve remaining budget issues, including cap and trade expenditures and affordable housing proposals.

#### Budget Status

On June 15 and 16, the Legislature approved the Budget Act of 2016 and a package of bills that will implement the budget agreement reached between the Governor and Legislature. The Governor signed the budget on June 27. The compromise will establish a General Fund budget of \$122.5 billion spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year, which is based on the Administration's overall revenue projections for the coming year and are in alignment with the Governor's May Revision. Specific highlights include:

- **Steady Reserves**—the budget shifts an extra \$2 billion (for a total of \$8.5 billion) into the State's Rainy Day Fund, which is beyond the automatic contributions that was mandated by voters in 2014.
- **Investment in Public Education**—the budget includes an increase of \$3.5 billion in Proposition 98 funding from the Budget Act of 2015, bringing the funding level to \$71.9 billion. In addition, the budget includes a \$100 million increase for child care and preschool programs in the coming year, including increased access to preschool, raised reimbursement rates for providers, and the preservation of transitional kindergarten. This \$100 million is expected to grow to \$527 million annually by fiscal year 2019-20.
- **Investing in Safer Communities**—the budget seeks to support criminal justice and safety by reducing jail populations and encouraging community treatment centers, such as through the provision of \$68 million in community treatment centers, to deal with issues in a non-incarcerated setting.

Despite this on-time approval of the budget, the Legislature's actions didn't include several issues:

- **Affordable Housing**—the budget included \$400 million for affordable housing, but the funding is contingent upon the Legislature approving the Governor's "by right"



proposal. The proposal is drawing a lot of fire from local agencies (although several of the Big Ten cities have expressed the willingness to support the proposal if changes are made) and Legislators on both sides of the aisle are still having trouble with it.

- **No Place Like Home**—the Senate’s proposal to redirect bond proceeds from Proposition 63 to address issues related to mentally-ill individuals and homelessness is still pending. The proposal will require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, creating a need for Republican support.
- **Cap and Trade**—we are not expecting any sort of action on cap and trade expenditures until the end of Legislative Session. There is another carbon credit auction on August 16, and the Governor and Legislature are waiting to see if last month’s dismal auction was an anomaly or not.
- **Transportation**—there is still no movement on a funding proposal and optimism is declining as we approach the end of Session and the November elections.

## Federal Update

### Legislative Activity

In the U.S. Senate, while many members made public statements in favor or opposing gun control legislation, Sen. Christopher Murphy’s (D-CT) dramatic filibuster effort to force votes on the issue quickly took center stage (at fifteen hours, his filibuster was the ninth longest in U.S. history).

Sen. Murphy and Senate Democrats sought to amend the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill (H.R. 2578) to include gun control legislation. The CJS appropriations bill had been scheduled for floor consideration prior to the shooting, but Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had not planned to allow amendments to the bill on the floor. After the filibuster, McConnell held votes on four gun control amendments, all of which failed:

Sponsor	Number	Description	Vote
Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	Amdt. No. 4751	Would have authorized annual appropriations of \$125 million from 2016 through 2020 to improve the nationwide system for instant criminal background checks of would-be gun buyers. It would have aimed to provide for prompt notification to federal and local law enforcement whenever somebody who has been investigated as a known or suspected terrorist in the previous five years tries to buy a firearm. It would require the attorney general to devise a plan for federal agencies to provide relevant records to the background-check system.	Failed



Chris Murphy (D-CT)	Amdt. No. 4750	Would have set up procedures for improving the national instant background-check system and would penalize states for failure to meet annual benchmarks. It would have tightened the definition of people deemed mentally incompetent to purchase a firearm.	Failed
Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX)	Amdt. No. 4749	Would have barred for 72 hours the sale of guns to someone who had been under investigation for terrorism in the previous five years. That three-day delay would have aimed to give the government time to obtain an injunction to permanently bar the purchase by showing a judge there is probable cause to believe the would-be purchaser has committed or attempted to commit an act of terrorism.	Failed
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	Amdt. No. 4720	Would have prevented people from buying a gun if they'd been on the terror watch list in the past five years. Feinstein's amendment would have empowered the attorney general to deny the sale of a gun if there is a "reasonable suspicion" that the would-be purchaser has engaged in preparing for or assisting an act of terrorism.	Failed

On June 22, approximately 80 Democratic congressmen, as well as some senators in solidarity, staged a sit-in on the U.S. House Floor in an effort to force Republicans to allow a vote on a plan to ban suspected terrorists from buying guns. Democratic leadership was supportive of the sit-in, lead in part by civil right leader, Congressman John Lewis of Georgia.

Since the House has no equivalent of the Senate's filibuster, the sit-in was used as an alternative tactic. Republican leaders, who control the C-SPAN cameras, shut off the feed to the House floor soon after the sit-in began, but Democrats continued their protest. The protesting members left a few hours after the Speaker of the House recessed the chamber through Independence Day, but Democrats vowed to renew their efforts when recess ends.

After the sit-in in the House, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell took a vote to table (or kill) a fifth provision by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), considered to be the provision with the best chance of passage. Although the vote to kill the provision didn't pass, it failed by a slim enough margin that would not be filibuster-proof if the vote had been on the inclusion of the legislation. McConnell announced that he considered it a "test vote" on the legislation, that it proved the amendment would not pass, and that he no longer had to offer a vote on the legislation itself.



Sponsor	Number	Description	Vote
Susan Collins (R-ME)	Amdt. No.	Would give the attorney general the authority to deny firearms sales to individuals who appear on the No Fly List or the Selectee List. Would provide a process for Americans and green card holders to appeal a denial in U.S. Court of Appeals and to recover their reasonable attorney's fees if they prevail. Would set forth a procedure for protecting classified information during the appeal. Would protect ongoing FBI counter-terrorism investigations by giving the attorney general the discretion to allow gun sales to go forward to individuals covered by this Act. Would include a "look-back" provision that ensures prompt notification to the FBI if a person who has been on the broader Terrorism Screening Database (TSDB) within the past five years purchases a firearm.	Test vote failed

### Supreme Court Decision

A divided Supreme Court voted 4-4 to keep in place a lower court order that prohibits President Obama from granting "deferred action" status to undocumented immigrants. The President's program targeted up to 5 million undocumented immigrants—individuals with children that are U.S. citizens and/or who have a green card—and sought to make them eligible for work permits. The decision could also impact President Obama's 2012 initiative, "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals," whereby "deferred action" status and work permits were issued to undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children (also known as "Dreamers.")

### Resignations

A top Democratic appropriator, Chaka Fattah (D-PA) resigned after being found guilty of racketeering by a Philadelphia jury.

### Appropriations

Several appropriations bills moved these past two weeks, including the following:

**S. 2837, Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Act for FY 2017.** *Status: Approved by committee; currently being considered in the Senate (under the number H.R. 2578)*

Department	Appropriations	Compared to FY16	President's Request
Commerce	\$9.32 billion	+\$70.8 million	-\$411.7 million
Justice	\$29.2 billion	+\$156.4 million	-\$581.9 million
Science Programs	\$26.8 billion	+\$67.3 million	+\$989.7 million



*Relevant Appropriations:*

- National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund – no new funding
  - Rejects the administration’s proposal to provide \$10 million in new funding for grants awarded through the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund, which was established by the fiscal 2016 appropriations law, Public Law 114-113. Instead, the committee urged NOAA to use existing funds appropriated for regional coastal resilience grants.
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants - \$384 million
  - With \$5 million set aside for a new program to train police how to handle incidents involving people with a mental illness.
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Program - \$100 million
  - Reimburses state and local governments for incarcerating undocumented immigrants. The administration proposed eliminating the program.
- DNA collection and analysis - \$125 million
  - With a requirement for the department to prioritize DNA testing to reduce rape kit backlogs. The committee said it was “extremely disappointed” that the department proposed a \$20 million reduction from the fiscal 2016 enacted amount.
- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) - \$121.3 million, including:
  - Grant program to help law enforcement agencies investigate the distribution of heroin and illegal diversion of prescription opioid drugs - \$10 million (the administration proposed eliminating the program)
- Community Trust Initiative to improve police-community relations - \$70 million, including:
  - Grants for law enforcement body-worn cameras - \$22.5 million
- Offender reentry programs under the Second Chance Act of 2007 - \$75 million (\$7 million more than FY2016)
  - Includes the Smart Reentry Grant Program

**S. 3001, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017. *Status:* Reported by appropriations committee**

Department	Appropriations	Compared to FY16	President’s Request
Homeland Security	\$41.1 billion	+ \$100 million	+\$432 million
FEMA	\$7.3 billion	+\$60 million	equivalent
Coast Guard	\$10.3 billion	- \$670 million	+\$141.4 million

*Relevant Appropriations:*

- Domestic and international investigations programs, including human trafficking - \$2.1 billion
- Detention and removal programs, including Criminal Alien Program operations - \$3.2 billion



- FEMA first responder grants - \$507.2 million
- FEMA preparedness grants - \$2.6 billion, including:
  - State and Local grants - \$1.3 billion
  - Firefighter assistance grants - \$690 million
  - Emergency Management Performance Grants - \$350 million

**S. 3068, Interior, Environment Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017.** *Status: Reported by appropriations committee*

Department	Appropriations	Compared to FY16
Department of the Interior	\$12.16 billion	-\$200 million
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	\$1.24 billion	+ \$6 million
National Park Service (NPS)	\$2.74 billion	+\$68 million
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	\$1.49 billion	-\$11.9 million
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	\$1.06 billion	+\$6 million
Office of Surface Mining (OSM)	\$236.8 million	-\$3.7 million
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	\$8.1 billion	-\$31.2 million
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	\$5.2 billion	= 10-year average
Wildland Fire Suppression	\$3.78 billion	-\$418 million (but disaster cap adjustment authorized)
National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities	\$148 million for each Endowment	+\$500,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	\$400 million	-\$50 million

**Relevant Appropriations:**

- State and Tribal Wildlife Grants - \$62 million
- OSM pilot program to help address reclamation and economic development in areas negatively affected coal policies - Continued (\$90 million)
- The Water Infrastructure Finance Act (WIFIA) program - \$30 million
- Rejects \$25 million in grants to support state implementation of climate change rules.
- Offsets include 50 percent reduction to environmental education programs.

**Looking Ahead**

The House is already in recess, but the Senate will convened the last week of the month to consider the following:

- Conference Report for the FY2017 Military Construction-Veterans Affairs and Zika appropriations bill;
- FY2017 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill;



- PROMESA bill, which establishes a federal oversight board to oversee Puerto Rico’s finances, and to restructure Puerto Rico’s \$70 billion debt.

After the Independence Day holiday, both chambers return for approximately a week and a half of session before recessing for party conventions and the August break. In that week and a half, we can expect them to focus on:

- *Appropriations*—with the September 31 end of the fiscal year looming, members have less than 30 days in session to pass and conference all 12 appropriations bills. Only three bills have been completed in either body, none of which have been conferenced. Given the House’ difficulty passing the relatively non-controversial Energy and Water bill, the prospects of a continuing resolution seems increasingly likely.
- Gun Control—House Democrats have vowed to resume their sit-in, and the fate of Senator Collins’ compromise amendment is still uncertain.
- FAA Reauthorization—the current FAA authorization expires July 15, the same day Congress intends to break for its summer recess. While the Senate has passed its version of the bill, the House has yet to move a bill to the floor, suggesting another temporary authorization will be necessary. This bill will have significant implications for local government in terms of their ability to regulate drones in their jurisdiction and potentially addressing community concerns about new flight paths and related airport noise.



## PROJECT ACTIVITY AND UPDATES

### **Dinuba Police Department**

TPA submitted an application to the **Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Program** at the U.S. Department of Justice in June 2015 to seek grant funding for an officer position. The additional position would target the increase in the number of residential and commercial burglaries in the City over the last few years. This year's application was successful, with the City being awarded **\$125,000** in September 2015.

### **Dinuba Fire Department**

Last December, TPA worked with Fire Department staff on an application to the **Assistance for Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program** at the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to seek grant funding for fire equipment. The revised application was submitted on January 15.

FEMA has begun announcements of awards, with new awards released every Friday. In case we are not successful, FEMA has announced an expedited round of funding in August.

### **Historical Records Preservation**

Townsend Public Affairs continues to work to secure funding for the purchase of storage cabinets for a collection of historic photographs and other materials through the National Endowment for the Humanities. We worked with staff to submit an application to the **Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections Program** in December 2015 for the purchase of storage cabinets for a collection of historic photographs and other materials, but were unsuccessful, due in large part to the particular focus of the program.

In January, TPA presented at a meeting with the Dinuba Historic Advisory Commission to discuss the grant efforts and ways to improve the funding applications. We worked with City staff to revise the project with additional strategy and activities around the photographs and materials to be preserved, and submitted an application to the **Preservation Grants for Smaller Institutions Program** on May 3.

Award announcements are expected in early fall.

### **Planning and Infrastructure Development**

Last year, TPA and the City submitted an application to the **Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program** from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). TPA worked with City staff to submit two applications by the December 31 deadline. One application would assist with planning efforts for infrastructure in the North Alta area of the City, and the second application would help with a citywide bicyclist and pedestrian safety study.

We received notification this month that the City was not awarded a grant. In fact, only one City in the Central Valley—the City of Fresno—received an award.



TPA will be conducting a debriefing with Caltrans and will work with City staff on the two planning applications for possible resubmittal this fall.

### **Transportation**

Townsend Public Affairs worked with City staff on three submittals to the Tulare County Association of Governments' (TCAG) **CMAQ Program**. The applications were due on April 15, and we submitted for the Alta/Nebraska Roundabout, a replacement transit bus, and Alta/El Monte Traffic Signal Synchronization.

This month, TCAG announced funding being awarded for the new transit bus (**\$132,795**) and Alta/El Monte Traffic Signal Synchronization (**\$375,367**). They are also tentatively holding construction funding from the next CMAQ cycle for the roundabout project.

TPA also worked with City staff on applications for the **Active Transportation Program (ATP)** through the California Transportation Commission (CTC), with submittals on June 15. These applications included submittals for the:

- Kamm/Greene Traffic Calming and Safe Routes Project; and
- Roosevelt Elementary Safe Routes to School Project.

The CTC is expected to announce funding awards later this year.

Similarly, we are working with the City on an application for the **Highway Safety Improvement Program** through the California Department of Transportation. This application is due on July 12 and will also focus on the Kamm/Greene traffic calming improvements which were part of an ATP application.



## UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Townsend Public Affairs anticipates a very busy next few months as several grant programs open up for applications. Included below is a list of some of the grant programs and due dates:

- ***Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEMP) Program (July 12)***—The EEM Program funds projects that contribute to mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities. The EEM Program encourages projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water use efficiency, reduce risks from climate change impacts, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state and community entities. Eligible projects must be directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of the modification of an existing transportation facility or construction of a new transportation facility. Grants are awarded in the following categories:
  - Urban Forestry Projects are designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants.
  - Resource Lands Projects are for the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of resource lands (watersheds, wildlife habitat, wetlands, forests, or other significant natural areas) to mitigate the loss of or detriment to such lands within or near the right of way for transportation improvements.
  - Mitigation Projects Beyond the Scope of the Lead Agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement.
- ***CRT Settlement Fund Grant Program (July 15)***—The purpose of this grant program for purchase of computer and technology equipment representing the next generation after cathode ray tubes (CRT), enabling new and improved operational capabilities. For example, the purchase of tablets, smart phones, computer lab equipment, or improved sewer system video technology, are all viable options. The funds are part of a settlement agreement with Samsung.
- ***Highway Safety Improvement Program (August 12)***—Funding from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is intended to fund work on any public road or publicly-owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail that improves safety for users. All proposed projects must lead to, and complete, the construction of safety improvements, and be consistent with California’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- ***FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (August)***—The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations,



and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA) for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

- ***California Urban Rivers Grant Program (October 3)***—Projects funded under the California Urban Rivers Grant Program must be multi-benefit watershed and urban rivers enhancement projects in urban watersheds that increase regional and local water self-sufficiency. Projects must meet at least two of the following five statutory objectives:
  - Promote Groundwater Recharge and Water Reuse
  - Reduce Energy Consumption
  - Use Soils, Plants, and Natural Processes to Treat Runoff
  - Create, or Restore Native Habitat
  - Increase Regional and Local Resiliency and Adaptability to Climate Change
  
- ***California Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program (November 1)***—The Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program funds recreation projects specifically related to the following; soccer, baseball and softball fields and basketball courts. The program allows for supporting amenities such as lighting, irrigation, turf and field installation, etc., although unlike in years past, the program no longer funds land acquisition, due to the smaller amount of total funding available. Eligible applicants include cities and counties, school districts, park and recreation districts and community based organizations.
  
- ***California Water-Energy Grant Program (November)***—Under the 2016 Water-Energy Grant Program, each water-efficiency measure within a proposal must demonstrate that it will directly reduce GHG emissions and also reduce water and energy use. The Department of Water Resources will only fund projects where the energy use reduction is directly linked or connected to the reduction in water use at the project’s location. Residential projects are not eligible for funding in this round.



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY MATRIX

Townsend Public Affairs will track various priorities and needs for the City, as well as potential funding sources. This is meant to be an organic list and we welcome additions or other suggestions. We will also update funding opportunities as they are identified.

Department/Policy	Project	Funding Opportunity	Comments
Historic Advisory Commission	Collection Storage and Accessibility	Preservation Assistance for Smaller Institutions (NEH)	Applied for this grant on May 3
		Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (NEH)	Solicitation will occur in Fall 2016
Information Technology	Agenda Software and Services		
	Council Chamber Microphone System		
	City Hall VOIP System		
Fire Department	Thermal Imaging Equipment	Assistance for Firefighters (FEMA)	Solicitation will occur Summer 2016
	Self-contained Breathing Apparatus	Assistance for Firefighters (FEMA)	Applied for this grant in January 2016
	Compressor	Assistance for Firefighters (FEMA)	Solicitation will occur Summer 2016
	Mobile Dispatch Terminals	Assistance for Firefighters (FEMA)	Solicitation will occur Summer 2016
Police Department	Vehicles		
	Roof/Parking Lot		



Public Works/Transportation	Smart Meters	Water-Energy Program (DWR)	Solicitation will occur in Summer 2016
	Customer Rebate Programs	Water-Energy Program (DWR)	Solicitation will occur in Summer 2016
	Heavy Duty Trucks	CMAQ (TCAG)	
	CNG Bus	CMAQ (TCAG)	Applied for this grant in April 2016; <b>awarded funding</b>
	Alta/Nebraska Roundabout	CMAQ (TCAG)	Applied for this grant in April 2016; funding reserved for 2019
	Alta/El Monte Traffic Signal Synchronization	CMAQ (TCAG)	Applied for this grant in April 2016; <b>awarded funding</b>
	Waste Water Expansion	State Revolving Fund (SWRCB)	Applied for this funding in Fall 2015
	Storm Water Infrastructure	Storm Water Grant Program (SWRCB)	Solicitation will occur in 2018
	Kamm/Greene Traffic Calming	Active Transportation Program (CTC)	Applied for this grant in June 2016; also applying in August 2016
	Roosevelt Safe Routes to School	Active Transportation Program (CTC)	Applied for this grant in June 2016
	Ventura Pedestrian Crossing	Active Transportation Program (CTC)	Additional work with railroad and PUC needed
	Library Parking Lot Rehabilitation		



Parks and Recreation	Park Facilities	Land and Water Conservation Fund (DPR)	Solicitation will occur Fall 2016
	Youth Recreation	Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program (DPR)	Solicitation will occur Summer 2016

