



Rules Committee: 4-14-04

Item:

# Memorandum

**TO:** RULES COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Betsy Shotwell

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** April 12, 2004

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Approved

Date

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**SUBJECT: FEDERAL LOBBYIST REPORT**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Accept the attached report for January – March 2004 from the City's Federal lobbyist firm of Patton Boggs, LLP, in Washington, D.C.

## **BACKGROUND**

Included in this summary of activity on behalf of San Jose are the firm's efforts to continue the ongoing coordination of efforts with the Valley Transportation Authority and the Santa Clara Valley Water District on critical projects and appropriations of mutual importance. In addition, Patton Boggs assisted in the planning and preparation of the City's visits to Washington, D.C. in February and in March and the City's strategy for its' Congressional and agency meetings as described in detail in the attached report.

## **ANALYSIS**

Each year, the City of San Jose attends the National League of Cities Congressional Conference in Washington, D.C. in March and participates in meetings with key Congressional offices, Federal Agencies, and Administration officials to promote the City's programs and projects that are critically in need of Federal support and financial assistance. At the March Conference, the National League of Cities' (NLC) federal advocacy priorities were presented to the delegates which included:

**Transportation**—increased funding, greater local control, and added flexibility in Federal transportation programs to meet local and regional highway and transit needs and sufficient funding for Amtrak. The NLC has launched a grassroots advocacy and media campaign in support of an adequately funded six-year transportation reauthorization bill arguing that a six-year bill will improve the economy, save jobs as well as create new jobs, reduce congestion and enhance homeland security. As Chair of NLC's Transportation, Infrastructure and Services Committee, Vice Mayor Dando and her TIS committee members participated in numerous meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress involved in the transportation reauthorization process.

**Homeland Security** – continued Federal support to protect hometown America including direct funding to cities and/or regions with populations larger than 100,000;

**Public Safety** – reauthorization of and continued funding for programs that enhance local public safety efforts including the Community Oriented Policing Services and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant programs and bills dealing with gun safety, drug control, and fighting gang violence;

**Children and Families** – increased or full funding for Head Start, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the No Child Left Behind Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

**Housing** – continued funding for the Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnerships, and HOPE VI programs;

**Internet Tax Moratorium** – extension of the Internet tax moratorium for two years in a manner that does not jeopardize local governments’ taxing authority; and

**MTBE Liability** – continued efforts to block, in any legislation, a provision that would impose a \$29 billion unfunded mandate on local governments forced to clean-up MTBE-polluted water.

While in Washington, D.C. during the NLC Conference in March, the City also met with representatives of Congress and Federal agency staff on a number of topics including: pending legislation to expand homeownership in high cost states, H.R. 3507; advocating for homeland security funds going directly to cities; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding the Guadalupe River and Upper Penitencia Creek flood control projects; and continued Bureau of Reclamation funding for the South Bay Water Recycling Program. The status of these and other Federal matters of interest to the San Jose, including the summary of the City’s February trip to the Capitol concerning BART funding are detailed in the attached lobbyist’s report.

## **COORDINATION**

This report was coordinated with our Washington, D.C. lobbyist firm of Patton Boggs, LLP.

BETSY SHOTWELL  
Director, Intergovernmental Relations