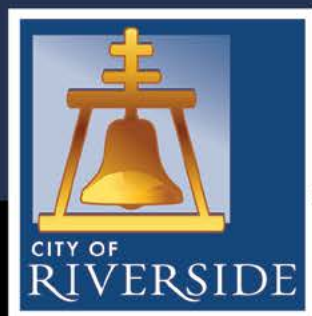




# State Legislative Agenda 2013



RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA



*City of Arts & Innovation*



## City of Riverside 2013 State Legislative Platform

In 2012, Riverside enjoyed positive signs of economic recovery. According to Beacon Economics, expectations for improved employment growth in the region were realized during 2012. The pace of growth has picked up in the last six months, and the average year-over-year growth rate in employment has increased to 1.6%, which is on par with Los Angeles County, and only slightly below the state average, Orange County, and San Diego County. Considering that Inland Southern California was one of the hardest hit regions during the recent downturn, this is a very positive sign for the future.

Riverside is the twelfth largest city in the state and has over 300,000 residents representing the “hub” of Inland Southern California. Policy decisions at the state level will continue to affect a broad range of economic indicators including job creation, homeownership, public safety, the environment, a continuing need for upgrades to transportation infrastructure and the City’s overall quality of life. Riverside will continue work to protect the City against future revenue incursions by the state.

In outlining our 2013 legislative platform, the City of Riverside is guided by the principles detailed in the Seizing Our Destiny agenda and actions that will support local control for municipalities across California.

### The 2013 legislative priorities are:

1. **Local Control:** Riverside seeks to preserve local governance and protect local government revenue. **This issue is the City’s first and foremost legislative priority.**
2. **Economic Development:** Riverside urges support for activities that promote economic growth.
3. **Transportation Infrastructure:** Riverside supports a thoughtful approach to regional infrastructure planning and seeks funding to mitigate the disproportionate share of negative impacts on the City related to national goods movement.
4. **Public Safety:** Riverside seeks funding and tools to promote the safety of City residents and to support public safety employees.
5. **Public Utilities:** Riverside supports preserving the local rate making authority of municipally-owned utilities and promotes voluntary compliance instead of direct oversight of State agency governance.
6. **Livability:** Riverside seeks the resources, including bond and grant funding, to further the City’s revitalization efforts and to protect and enhance the City’s neighborhoods.
7. **Environment and Public Health:** Riverside supports activities that improve the environment and promote public health while maintaining residents’ quality of life.

Focus areas under each priority are specifically described in this document, but due to the dynamic nature of State politics, additional issues are likely to arise during the upcoming year. The overarching principles will serve as guidance to direct staff as these additional issues require attention.

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## Community Profile

People who know and appreciate Riverside think the greatness of their City is not yet known. Riversiders believe it is, unfortunately, the “best kept secret in Southern California.” The hometown feel with big city amenities, attractive and historic downtown, diverse neighborhoods and year-round climate that promotes outdoor living all add up to a place residents are proud to call home.



### National Recognitions:

Riverside was named as Intelligent Community for 2012 (Intelligent Community Forum, 2011).

Emerald City designation - the first ever given for sustainable green initiatives and renewable energy (State of California Department of Conservation, 2009)

Riverside is one of only four cities to achieve “Silver” status as a California Green Community for its commitment to sustainability (California Green Communities, 2012).

Riverside was recognized as one of the world’s most livable communities (by an international panel of judges at the 2010 International Awards for Livable Communities).

Riverside received the Playful City USA Award for the fourth year in a row (for American cities that have made innovative play for children a priority for the community, 2011).

For the fifth year in a row, Riverside was named in the Top Digital Cities in the United States. (in 250,000 or more population category, Digital Cities Survey, 2011).

Riverside was chosen by the Smithsonian to have a formal affiliation with the City and the Riverside Metropolitan Museum – the only municipality in the nation to be so honored.

### Residents:

Population, 2012: 308,511

Population Growth, 2002-10: 12%

### Employment:

Number of Jobs, Q4 2012: 147,900

Total Workforce, Q4 2011: 166,500

Job Growth 2002-10: 3%

### Household Income:

Average Household Income, 2010: \$66,923

### Retail Sales:

Sales Tax Revenue 2010: \$4.3 billion

Sales Tax Revenue Growth 2008-11: 6%

**Year of Incorporation:** 1883

Square Miles: 85

### Home Values:

Median Single Family Home Price,

January 2013: \$225,500

Transportation Corridors: I-215, Riverside (91) & 60 Freeways,  
BNSF & UP Railways, LAWA - Ontario International Airport,  
Riverside Municipal Airport, March Inland Cargo Port



# City of Riverside

## 2013 State Legislative Priorities List

- 1. Local Control:** Riverside seeks to preserve local governance and protect local government revenue. This issue is the City's first and foremost legislative priority.
  - Support funding consistency for local government programs
  - Support local control of municipal programs to reflect unique local needs and to promote innovation
- 2. Economic Development:** Riverside urges support for activities that promote economic growth.
  - Support efforts to encourage program flexibility and fiscal assistance to create local jobs
  - Support efforts that provide regional/local economic competitiveness
- 3. Transportation Infrastructure:** Riverside supports a thoughtful approach to regional infrastructure planning and seeks funding to mitigate the disproportionate share of negative impacts on the City related to national goods movement.
  - Obtain funding for grade separations to mitigate the impact on City residents
  - Promote fairness and competition for transportation infrastructure funding based on impact
- 4. Public Safety:** Riverside seeks funding and tools to promote the safety of City residents and to support public safety employees.
  - Seek protection against negative impacts of realignment
  - Increase State and local tools to deter vandalism crimes, including graffiti, and increase criminal sanctions
  - Seek funding for gang intervention and enforcement
  - Seek funding to reduce threat of fire
- 5. Public Utilities:** Riverside supports preserving the local rate making authority of municipally-owned utilities and promotes voluntary compliance instead of direct oversight of State agency governance.
  - Protect local control by preserving the municipal rate making authority
  - Support local control by allowing municipalities flexibility to proactively implement programs and policies that best suit our communities
  - Maintain and protect reliable, affordable energy and water delivery to the City

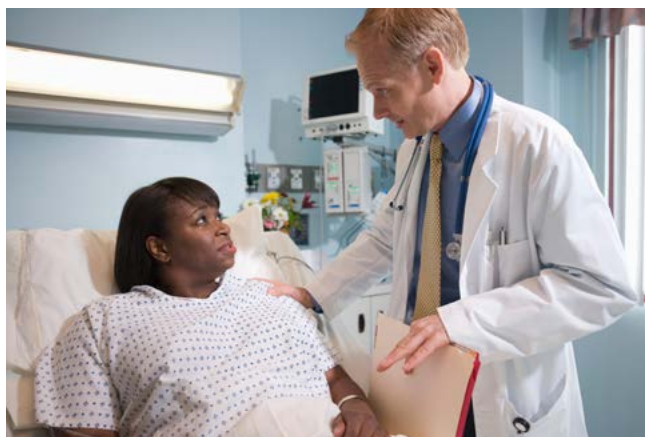


**6. Livability:** Riverside seeks the resources, including bond and grant funding, to further the City's revitalization initiatives and to protect and enhance the City's neighborhoods.

- Promote policies that increase quality housing, expand homeownership, and reduce foreclosures
- Seek funding to support transit-oriented development
- Seek funding for library and park development, improvements and programs
- Support ongoing efforts to protect California Citrus State Historic Park
- Support investment in youth programs and vocational education
- Seek legislation to require the relocation of the National Guard Armory from Fairmount Park
- Support fully funded, efficient, and effective public transit systems operating in a balanced transportation network

**7. Environment and Public Health:** Riverside supports activities that improve the environment and promote public health while maintaining residents' quality of life.

- Riverside advocates for non-punitive incentives, at the State level, to assist municipalities in creating more sustainable communities
- Support policies to promote a strong, well-funded local health care system, including wellness initiatives and programs



# LOCAL CONTROL

Riverside seeks to protect local government revenue and preserve local self-governance. This issue is the City's first and foremost legislative priority for 2013.

## FOCUS AREA #1: Support funding consistency for local government programs

While there is no easy answer to the State's ongoing financial challenges, borrowing or taking local government revenues to fund shortfalls in the State budget is neither sound fiscal policy nor in the best interest of residents who rely upon local government to provide basic quality-of-life services.

### State Action Items:

- Protect local government revenues from State takings or borrowing
- Promote predictable funding levels for local programs, especially public safety, to allow cities to plan for program administration and staffing

## FOCUS AREA #2: Support local control of municipal programs to reflect unique local needs and to promote innovation

A one-size-fits-all statewide approach rarely offers the best solution for programs that need to account for local economic and geographic conditions. City leaders are in the best position to understand the needs of local residents, and the challenges associated with delivering key services. Decision making must recognize this direct link found only at the local level. It is important for policy leaders to recognize which issues can be most effectively addressed on the regional level, such as initiatives to create jobs and develop transportation.

Local programs are also an excellent testing ground for new technologies and process improvement. Local flexibility allows these innovations to flourish and leads to new best practices.

### State Action Items:

- Protect local governments from new regulations which increase the cost of services without a proportionate benefit to local communities
- Reform legislation that would promote regulatory approaches or mandates that transfer state responsibilities to local agencies without constitutionally protected funding sources
- Discourage duplicative reporting requirements



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Riverside urges support for activities that promote economic growth.

With the elimination of redevelopment and other funding reductions in 2012, local budgets are further squeezed to provide basic quality-of-life services. It becomes more critical that municipalities are provided the necessary tools to thrive in today's competitive marketplace. State governments need to recognize that providing cities with programs that help create new jobs while recruiting existing jobs is essential to helping cities recover from the recent downturn and avoid back to back recessions.

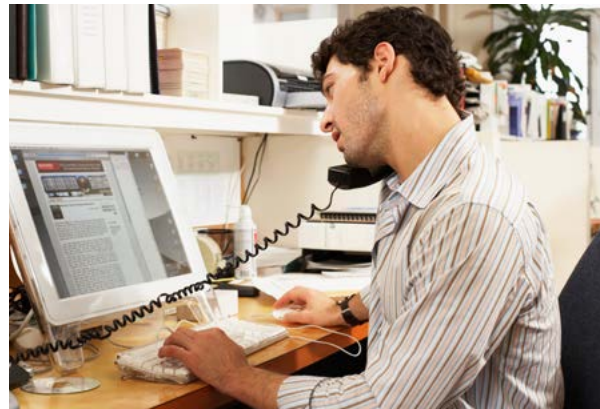
### FOCUS AREA #1: Support efforts to encourage program flexibility and fiscal assistance to create local jobs

#### State Action Item:

- Support funding or tax relief programs for business recruitment and retention

### FOCUS AREA #2: Supports efforts that provide regional/local economic competitiveness

- Support efforts to promote Ontario International Airport
- Support UCR Medical School
- Urge regulatory and permitting reforms that improve California's business climate and competitiveness
- Support CEQA reform to facilitate public projects providing essential services
- Support March Air Reserve Base development programs, such as ensuring the follow on mission of the MQ-9 Reaper for the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing and assignment of the Boeing KC-46A tanker at March Air Reserve Base – a key logistics site for Inland Southern California and a jobs generator for the region



# TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

**Riverside supports a thoughtful approach to regional infrastructure planning and seeks funding to mitigate the disproportionate share of negative impacts on the City related to national goods movement.**

With Riverside County growth anticipated to develop exponentially in the next several decades, it becomes more important to approach transportation planning in our region strategically and without delay. For example, goods movement is a national issue that disproportionately impacts Riverside residents. More than half of the nation's freight moves through west coast ports, and 85% of the rail freight exiting the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach travels through Inland Southern California to destinations throughout the United States. Residents are already seeing railroad crossing gates down for as long as 6 hours per day as 128 freight trains pass through Riverside on an average day, soon exceeding 2030 delay estimates in several locations.

Within the City of Riverside, 19 grade separations are still needed to improve emergency service providers' response times, mitigate the public danger of fast moving trains, combat gridlock, and reduce greenhouse gas causing pollutants from idling vehicles stopped for train crossings.

Historically, strategic discussions related to goods movement have been dominated by the ports and major coastal cities, with insufficient attention paid to the Inland Southern California's environmental, safety, infrastructure, and employment concerns. The City of Riverside seeks to educate lawmakers and leaders on the disproportional impact of goods movement on the City and the mitigation required.

In California, many funding streams in the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, known as Proposition 1B, remain subject to the conditions and criteria the Legislature may set in statute.

## **FOCUS AREA #1: Obtain funding for grade separations to mitigate the impact on City residents**

### **Regional Action Item:**

- Conceptually support regional collaboration with surrounding municipalities and transportation agencies to the extent that Riverside's disproportionate impact is recognized

### **State Action Items:**

- Actively pursue State funding for priority at-grade crossings in Riverside
- As appropriate, seek to advance additional legislation that includes dedicated funds for grade separations





## FOCUS AREA #2: Promote fairness and competition for transportation infrastructure funding based on impact

### State Action Items:

- Seek Riverside County's fair share of State discretionary funding made available for transportation grants or programs
- Support legislation that gives priority to self-help counties such as Riverside and regions that utilize matching transportation dollars (i.e. Riverside County's Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee) when allocating bond and other transportation funding
- Support legislative efforts to continue or increase funding for local and regional transportation projects, increase local flexibility in the allocation of transportation capital funds, and encourage the use of design-build in construction projects
- Support legislation which designates regionally balanced funding allocations for transportation projects submitted to the CTC
- Support funding to refurbish California's aging transportation infrastructure
- Support public-private partnerships that protect the public interest while leveraging private investments in infrastructure



## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Riverside seeks funding and tools to promote the safety of City residents and to support public safety employees.**

The City of Riverside's Fire and Police Departments provide essential services for residents and local businesses. As the nature of protecting the public changes, legislative action is required to help these public safety professionals meet the challenges they face.

### **FOCUS AREA #1: Seek protection against negative impacts of realignment**

AB 109 was signed into law April 4, 2011 and transferred responsibility for supervising specified lower level inmates and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to counties. Riverside County will be responsible for Post-Release Community Supervision and non-violent, non-serious and non-high risk sex offender inmate populations. The Realignment funding structure established a primary fund for 2011 which fell short of prior funding to the State for the same program.

#### **State Action Item:**

- Support regional efforts to ensure local government protection in implementation of all realignment services

### **FOCUS AREA #2: Increase State and local tools to deter vandalism crimes, including graffiti, and increase criminal sanctions**

Vandalism impacts local communities by diverting already limited public funds away from safety and public service programs to pay for clean up and replacement costs. The Public Works Departments spends approximately \$1.3 million annually on graffiti removal.

#### **State Action Item:**

- Support more stringent graffiti laws to stiffen penalties and hold parents accountable for acts committed by juveniles



### FOCUS AREA #3: Seek funding for gang intervention and enforcement

The City of Riverside has been recognized for its comprehensive approach to gang prevention, intervention, and suppression administered by the Riverside Police Department and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. Allied agencies include the Riverside and Alvord Unified School Districts, County Probation, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office and the Countywide Gang Task Force.

A highlight of these programs is Project BRIDGE (Building Resources for the Intervention and Deterrence of Gang Engagement). Formed in 1995, Project BRIDGE aims to reduce the incidence of youth gang violence, gang membership, and gang-related activities in the City of Riverside. Based at César Chávez Community Center, the program provides services to participants between the ages of 12 – 22, including outreach, employment development, education, mentoring, and tattoo removal.

#### State Action Items:

- Support the City's efforts to obtain grant funding from sources such as the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) initiative
- Support additional funding for gang prevention, intervention, and enforcement



### FOCUS AREA #4: Seek funding to reduce threat of fire

#### State Action Item:

- Seek funding for life safety enforcement, community risk reduction and public education programs



## PUBLIC UTILITIES

**Riverside supports preserving the local rate making authority of municipally-owned utilities and promotes voluntary compliance instead of direct oversight of State agency governance.**

As a publicly-owned utility, the Mayor, City Council and Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) local governing board work to protect and enhance the value of the utility for Riverside residents. Unlike the customers of investor-owned, State regulated utilities, every RPU customer is a utility owner, with a direct stake in policies that affect rates and services. Lower rates, community involvement, public accountability, local decision-making and full attention to customer service are some of the benefits of local control. Independence from the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utility Commission is critical to preserving the integrity of this system of local governance.

### **FOCUS AREA #1: Protect local control by preserving the municipal rate making authority**

As a customer-owned utility, governed by a local city council, it is imperative that public power entities maintain their ability to set all rates. By their very nature, customer-owned utilities or not-for-profit utilities, cannot be governed in the same way as investor-owned utilities which are subject to State regulators. Therefore, these differences must be addressed appropriately with local control being the primary foundation of municipally-owned utilities.

#### **State Action Items:**

- Oppose efforts allowing state agencies such as the California Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission, and the California Public Utilities Commission to assert their jurisdiction over publicly-owned utilities
- Oppose all efforts by the State to set any municipally-owned utility rate
- Oppose any State mandated feed-in-tariff that gives the State authority over Power Purchase Agreements, or that seek to establish a rate and rate making method that would result in a solar subsidy for non-participating customers
- Support a thoughtful approach to encouraging distributed generation (DG) in which the security of the utility is never compromised, local control is fully maintained, and the rates of the local ratepayers/owners are not higher as a result of DG in a service territory, or that the public's interest is outweighed for a generator



## **FOCUS AREA #2: Support local control by allowing municipalities flexibility to proactively implement programs and policies that best suit our communities**

Attempts by State agencies to exercise jurisdiction over and regulate municipally-owned utilities would have a significant impact on the rate setting authority of the City Council local utility board support of local programs and services, and the approval of utility sites and facilities.

### **State Action Items:**

- Encourage greater incentives for local water use efficiency programs that include alternatives in achieving the end goal of water conservation
- Implement a reasonable renewable energy portfolio standard that does not compromise reliability, does not jeopardize existing or future out-of-State contracts for renewable energy, recognizes the need for greater access to transmission, and provides cost containment mechanisms
- Promote maximum competition in regional renewable markets
- It is essential that each utility be allowed to implement programs voluntarily and with the utmost flexibility because each municipally-owned utility is vastly different from the other, this is primarily due to varied customer bases/communities, climate, and local distribution systems
- Oppose efforts that specifically target utilities based on their size
  - By targeting utilities based on a specific size or other such criteria, the targeted utilities and their customers bear a disproportionate amount of the regulatory and cost burden

## **FOCUS AREA #3: Maintain and protect reliable, affordable energy and water delivery to the City**

Regulatory and geographic hurdles continue to put greater strains on the State's grid as it struggles to meet the growing demand for water and power. Despite these challenges, Riverside embraces its obligation to provide reliable energy and water delivery to its customers by proactively maintaining the local distribution system, protecting valuable infrastructure, supporting the enhancement of the statewide electric and water conveyance system, and securing new reliable sources of water and energy.

### **State Action Items:**

- Support reasonable water use efficiency measures with greater incentives for local recycled water projects
- Support a robust water conveyance system
- Support interagency collaboration to support reliability on a regional level
- Support tax expansion and renewable resource development with a cost-conscious framework
- Oppose efforts to eliminate "once through cooling" generators
- Support legislation which develops and communicates. The appropriate risk assessments and standards for all drinking water contaminants.
  - Ensure that through the regulatory process, a protective public health standard for hexavalent chromium, and other drinking water constituents, be established using the best available scientific and technological data
- Support legislation that encourages a streamlined approach to recycled water regulations and funding that recognizes each community and their diverse approach to using recycled water as a critical component to their ongoing efforts to provide reliable sustainable water supplies and conservation of drinking water



## LIVABILITY

Riverside seeks the resources, including bond and grant funding, to further the City's revitalization initiatives and to protect and enhance the City's neighborhoods.

Riverside faces an increasing need to invest in quality of life initiatives and amenities to serve a diverse and active community.

### FOCUS AREA #1: Promote policies that increase quality housing, expand homeownership, and reduce foreclosures

Riverside is dedicated to providing quality housing for all of its residents. The City's housing program is comprehensive in its approach to empowering residents to become homeowners, protecting the safety and integrity of neighborhoods, providing shelter and access to services for the homeless, and ensuring quality affordable housing options for residents at all socio-economic levels. The City supports efforts to expand and protect homeownership for local residents.

While there are some positive signs of housing recovery, the State can play a pivotal role in helping to stabilize the housing market and assisting homeowners affected by the mortgage financing crisis.

#### State Action Items:

- Support increased tools for local governments to help stabilize neighborhoods in crisis and assist local residents
- Support legislation that promotes owner-occupied primary residences over investors making it easier to transform foreclosed properties into opportunities for first-time homeownership
- Pursue affordable housing financing and homeownership grant programs



## FOCUS AREA #2: Seek funding to support transit-oriented development

The City places a high priority on transit-oriented development projects that take advantage of existing infrastructure, increase walk-ability by contributing to safe and attractive pedestrian environments, and create new opportunities for mixed-use neighborhoods.

Proposition 1C (The Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006) provides funding for housing-related programs with a portion of the funds allocated for transit oriented development. However, given the State's economic condition and the volatility in the legislature, uncertainty remains.

### State Action Item:

- Support the City's efforts to secure funding from Proposition 1C's Transit-Oriented Development Account to support multi-modal transit-oriented, mixed-used projects within the Riverside Marketplace and other transit-oriented areas to create affordable rental and ownership opportunities for low and moderate income families
- Support CEQA reform efforts to facilitate public projects for essential services, including transit and transportation

## FOCUS AREA #3: Seek funding for library and park development, improvements and programs

In a time of unprecedented unemployment and foreclosures and challenges with our State's Budget, parks and libraries are critical to our residents' quality of life. The City of Riverside seeks to help improve regional and State park resources within the City to promote economic development and recreational opportunities for residents. The California Citrus State Historic Park and the Santa Ana River Crest to Coast Trail are examples of this commitment. In addition, the Riverside Public Library promotes personal competency in seeking and evaluating information and presents quality educational and recreational programs.

### Neighborhood Parks

With the end of the Riverside Renaissance Initiative which directed close to \$152 million toward park projects over five years, additional refurbishment and revitalization needs remain. The Renaissance added new parks and expanded overused parks providing recreational access to underserved communities by building new soccer, baseball, and football fields, basketball and tennis courts, adult and youth sports complexes, and aquatic centers.

While the Riverside Renaissance Initiative has been instrumental in completing large-scale capital and improvement projects, additional refurbishment and revitalization needs remain. State bond and grant funds will complement significant local investment to enhance neighborhood parks.

### State Action Items:

- Support City efforts to aggressively seek competitive grant funds for local and regional park projects



## **Santa Ana River Crest to Coast Trail**

The Santa Ana River has been recognized for its regional significance in providing recreational and educational opportunities, supporting wildlife and associated native habitats, and addressing water quality issues. In 2006, the Counties of Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino formed a partnership to facilitate planning, project implementation, cost sharing, reporting, and accountability as the 100-mile long regional recreational parkway along the Santa Ana River is further developed. As this long-envisioned project moves towards completion, State support is required.

### **State Action Items:**

- Continue to urge the State Coastal Conservancy to finish the remaining gaps in the Santa Ana River Trail
- Support funding for the Local and Regional Parks and the River Parkways Programs
- Support funding for interpretive trails

### **Neighborhood Libraries:**

While the Governor's 2013-14 budget preserves library funding, he also stresses the importance of "living within our means" for the next four years, particularly due to the unknown impact of the federal budget decisions on California and the remaining economic uncertainties.

Last year (2012-13) CLA secured \$4.7 million for library funding in the State Budget, to maintain literacy services and protect the basic integrity of the library systems throughout the state. These dollars also helped to preserve approximately \$12.5 million in important corresponding federal funds that funded essential programs such as the Braille and Talking Books program which has been preserved in the Governor's budget release. Library funding is still at risk as the legislature will begin reviewing the Governor's Budget in the coming months. We must urge support for continued funding or face a direct negative impact of available resources to the community.

### **State Action Items:**

- Support legislation providing for full funding of the California Public Library Fund (PLF) as part of the State budget process
- Support full funding for the California Libraries Services Act (CLSA) which provides for California Cooperative Library Systems and resource sharing through Transaction-Based Reimbursement (TBR) as part of the State budget process





#### FOCUS AREA #4: Support ongoing efforts to protect California State Historic Citrus Park

The mission of the California Citrus State Historic Park is to preserve a part of the once thriving and robust citrus industry Riverside was famous for. The park maintains citrus groves and illustrates the role citrus played in the development of California between 1870 and 1940, known as the State's "second gold rush." This State park has been developed through collaborative efforts between the State Parks Department, the City of Riverside, the County of Riverside, Sunkist Growers, Inc. and the Non-Profit Management Corporation established for the Citrus Park.

##### State Action Item:

- Support activities to make the park system viable and sustainable
- Encourage extending the two-year moratorium on state park closures established by AB 1478

#### FOCUS AREA #5: Support investment in youth programs and vocational education

According to the California Employment Development Department, the unemployment rate in the Inland Empire is currently 11.6% in November 2012, higher than the 9.6% statewide rate. With an unpredictable and ever-evolving economy, Californians need multiple pathways to rewarding and productive careers. For this reason it is vitally important to expand opportunities for high school and community college students to take high-quality, academically rigorous career technical education (CTE) courses. A strong investment in CTE programs will provide students with additional options and opportunities and help to meet the changing demands of California business and industry.

The Youth Opportunity Centers in the City are a valuable resource for learning life skills, career counseling, obtaining tutoring and educational support, and for developing leadership and civic responsibility.

##### State Action Items:

- Support maximum funding in the State budget to expand CTE course offerings and programs, especially with regards to Community College base funding for CTE programs
- Seek additional workforce development funding and youth program funding



**FOCUS AREA #6: Seek legislation to require the relocation of the National Guard Armory from Fairmount Park**

The City requests that the California National Guard relocate its maintenance shop operations and Guard unit functions at the Riverside Armory (Armory) to the March Air Reserve Base (MARB). Consolidation of operations between the Armory and MARB will eliminate existing redundancies in the operations at each facility, and enable the City to reclaim and redevelop the location to allow for expansion and revitalization of Fairmount Park, a regional resource.

The City has made significant investments in improvements to Market Street and intends to continue this level of investment in and around Fairmount Park. It is critical to the success of these plans, that the space currently occupied by the Armory be available to the city for uses compatible with Fairmount Park.

Relocation of the facility is predicated upon the construction of a new facility at MARB at an estimated cost of \$9.6 million. Funds for the construction must be requested as a top priority by the California National Guard and included in the Department of Defense budget request submitted to Congress as part of the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP). The Armory relocation remains a high priority for the California National Guard. Funding must be obtained to implement the move. The City will continue to work with the California National Guard and the National Guard Bureau to secure appropriations.

**State Action Item:**

- Support legislation that will provide funding and cooperation between the City and the California National Guard to relocate the Armory



## FOCUS AREA #7: Support fully funded, efficient, and effective public transit systems operating in a balanced transportation network

An effective bus and passenger rail system helps residents get to work, school, shopping centers and public services. This infrastructure is vitally important for those who cannot drive or who do not have reliable access to a vehicle and to comply with AB 32 and SB 375.

Additionally, as more commuters choose to take public transit, there are important benefits for the community. Fewer cars on the freeways and increased public transit use result in reduced travel time for everyone, cleaner air, and better access to key job centers in Southern California. A strong public transit system helps make Riverside a destination for employers and employees.

### State Action Items:

- Support the Riverside Transit Authority and Riverside County Transportation Commission's efforts to promote further investment in bus and passenger rail service
- Support expansion of passenger rail capacity along with freight rail capacity expansion
- Support legislative reform and funding for planning, implementation of pedestrian, bike and streetcar infrastructure



# ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Riverside supports activities that improve the environment and promote public health while maintaining residents' quality of life.

In the 21st Century, environmental health and public health are now recognized as essential components of a sustainable, vibrant city. However, public and private interests often complicate these issues, and public policy leaders must continually work to advance balanced solutions.

**FOCUS AREA #1: Riverside advocates for non-punitive incentives, at the State level, to assist municipalities in creating more sustainable communities**

## Clean and Green Initiative

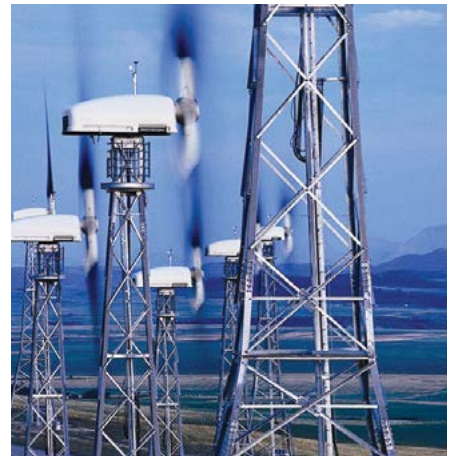
The City of Riverside is actively engaged in creating an environmentally friendly and sustainable future for our residents. To that end, the City Council approved the Green Riverside Action Plan which includes 19 goals for the City to achieve in energy, greenhouse gas emissions, waste reduction, urban design, urban nature, transportation, water, and healthy communities. This, in combination with additional citywide environmentally sustainable programs, led the California Department of Conservation to name Riverside as the State's first Emerald City in January 2009.

Additionally, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) is on track to meet or exceed the California Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). RPU will reach the 33% renewable energy target by 2020. Increasing the procurement of renewable energy into the City's portfolio compliments RPU's past commitment to reducing the use of fossil fuel as outlined in the California Global Warming solutions Act (AB 32, 2006).

The City seeks to lead by positive example, developing pilot projects that explore cutting edge ideas for sustainable action.

## State Action Items:

- Pursue local funding to meet the goals set forth in the Green Action Plan
- Support specific green initiatives which reward innovation, conservation and sound practices, instead of adding restrictions and penalties



## Encourage The Development of Green Renewable Energy and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

### State Action Items:

- Support a balanced and fair implementation of AB 32, by protecting the local interests of Riverside’s ratepayer customer and owners
- Support greenhouse gas emissions reduction initiatives that fully integrate the unique circumstances of each municipally owned utility
- Advocate the development of compliance guidelines for laws regulating greenhouse gas emissions, including CEQA, to emphasize clarity and consistency with other State laws and City Council policies
- Advocate for the fair implementation of the State RPS ensuring that municipally owned utilities are not regulated in the same way as investor owned utilities, but rather, that the unique differences among municipally owned utilities are recognized and appreciated
- Advocate for the California Cap and Trade Program revenue to be allocated back to municipally owned utilities to be utilized for renewable energy projects, research and development, energy efficiency measures, and other utility specific projects which lead to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and encourage renewable energy
- Support legislation which supports and creates incentives for:
  - Green building programs and sustainable landscaping
  - Recycling and sustainable wastewater treatment projects
  - Alternative fuel fleet vehicles
  - Solar power systems to serve the community



## FOCUS AREA #2: Support policies to promote a strong, well-funded local health care system

Access to emergency and trauma services in California has reached a critical point. Emergency treatment wait times have increased and a number of emergency rooms and trauma centers in California have closed in the last decade. Under the provisions of the Federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act hospitals must provide emergency health care services to anyone who seeks treatment in an emergency department.

The Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino represent more than 10 percent of California's population, greater than 22 states of the union. These two Counties represent the fastest growing region in the State, yet the area is projected to have a shortfall of 1,140 physicians, 53 percent less than needed by 2015. The region also has the lowest number of primary care and specialist physicians per 100,000 residents in the State.

### State Action Items:

- Support funding for the School of Medicine at UC Riverside
- Monitor legislation that increases funding for county healthcare expansion programs and provides greater assistance to local hospitals to cover the costs associated with treating uninsured patients
- Support funding for research and/or programs to improve health and behaviors related to obesity and heart disease, two of our community's major health issues

