

City of Elk Grove Federal Advocacy Trip Meeting Notes for March 3, 2009

Meeting with Patrick Scandling (Senator Boxer's Office)

- Mayor Hume introduced the delegation from Elk Grove and gave Patrick background on Elk Grove.
- Mayor Hume discussed the City's Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations requests.
- E-tran is the number one request the City is asking Senator Boxer to focus on.
 - The Fiscal Year 2010 request is for \$4,000,000 which would help the City purchase 10 new buses.
 - Mayor Hume and Vice Mayor Scherman discussed the history of the e-tran program, the growth in ridership since its inception and the success the City has had with the program.
- Emergency Operations Center is the number two request the City is asking Senator Boxer to focus on.
 - Mayor Hume and Vice Mayor Scherman discussed the regional need for the Emergency Operations Center.
 - Elk Grove would serve as a hub for South Sacramento County in the event of a disaster or terrorist attack.
- The City briefly discussed their other appropriations requests for Kammerer Road, Grant Line Road and Searchable Surveillance Technology.
- Patrick said that the City had submitted good requests and the Senator will do her best to be helpful.
- Action items: none

Meeting with Sandra Wiseman and Peter Tateishi (Congressman Lungren's Office)

- Mayor Hume thanked Sandra and Peter for working with the City to develop their Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations requests.
- Emergency Operations Center is the number one request the City would like the Congressman to focus on.
 - The City emphasized the regional nature of this Center; that it would serve as a hub for South Sacramento County in the event of a disaster or terrorist attack.
 - Sandra stated that this project has a very strong and clear Federal nexus, which is very important to Congressman Lungren.
 - The City informed Sandra that they would be visiting staff on the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee to discuss this project.
- E-tran is the number two request the City would like the Congressman to focus on.
 - Mayor Hume and Vice Mayor Scherman shared the history of the e-tran program and how successful the City has been with operating this service.
 - Sandra suggested that the City look into trying to get funds from the stimulus bill to help purchase some new buses.
- Searchable Surveillance Technology is the number three request the City would like the Congressman to focus on.
 - Sandra mentioned that the information gathered using this technology could be shared nationwide, resulting in a strong Federal nexus.

- Sandra praised the City for their hard work on assembling their projects and said the City submitted a very good list of projects for the Congressman's consideration.
- Action items: none

Meeting with Dan LesStrang and Ben Nicholson (House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee)

- Mayor Hume introduced the delegation from the City and provided some background information about Elk Grove.
- Mayor Hume and Vice Mayor Scherman discussed their Emergency Operations Center request and how it would benefit the Sacramento region.
- Dan and Ben provided some insight into the appropriations process for the Homeland Security subcommittee.
 - There are only two accounts in the Homeland Security appropriations bill that are earmarked: the Emergency Operations Center account and the Predisaster Mitigation account.
 - Chairman Price (who is chair of the Homeland Security subcommittee) is supportive of funding Emergency Operations Centers.
 - In Fiscal Year 2009, the subcommittee had a funding cap of \$1,000,000 per Emergency Operations Center.
 - Dan and Ben are hopeful that the Fiscal Year 2010 process will return to normal order.
- Dan and Ben gave some advice to the City about their request.
 - Make sure that the Center is not in an area that is prone to flooding.
 - Provide Congressman Lungren with as much detail as possible about the project.
- Action items: none

Meeting with Congressman Dan Lungren

- Mayor Hume and Vice Mayor Scherman chatted with Congressman Lungren about what is going on in Elk Grove.
- The City discussed the Emergency Operations Center and the Searchable Surveillance Technology projects with Congressman Lungren.
 - Congressman Lungren inquired about possible privacy issues with the Searchable Surveillance Technology request.
 - Congressman Lungren echoed Sandra's sentiments earlier that both projects have a strong Federal nexus.
- Congressman Lungren shared his thoughts about the upcoming year in Congress.
 - He stated he is unsure about the funding cycle this year, including the role of earmarks.
 - He received 14 earmarks in the Fiscal Year 2009.
 - He stated he does not yet know what his position on earmarks will be for the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill.
 - He believes the Federal government is spending too much money.
- Congressman Lungren said that Elk Grove has always provided him with good information for their project requests.

- Action items
 - The City will work with Pete Evich to set up a tour for Congressman Lungren of the communications center during his town hall meeting
 - VSA will follow up to ensure Rep. Lungren's office has all the relevant information it needs to properly submit a City project(s) to the House Appropriations Committee.

Meeting with Gabe Horowitz (Congresswoman Matsui's Office)

- The City had a brief meeting with Gabe to discuss their Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations requests.
- Gabe was very interested in all of the City's projects and said he and the Congresswoman would do what they could to help out the City.
- Action items: none

Meeting with Ryan Hunt (Senator Feinstein's Office)

- The City discussed their number one request for the Senator, the e-tran bus request.
 - Mayor Hume and Vice Mayor Scherman discussed the history of the bus program and the dramatic increase in ridership since its inception.
 - Ryan asked about the fair box recovery.
 - The City discussed their recent decision to raise rates.
- Ryan informed the City that he will be handling the transportation authorization bill later this year. He suggested the City try to combine both the Kammerer Road and Grant Line Road projects into one request for the transportation reauthorization bill.
- Action item:
 - Provide Ryan regional transit request list that shows e-tran bus purchases are on the list.