



ENERGY LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND ISSUES

Overview

The City's electric utility, Silicon Valley Power (SVP) has a mission to be a progressive, service-oriented utility, offering reliable, competitively priced services for the benefit of Santa Clara and its customers. Additionally, SVP has an adopted Strategic Plan that is intended to address the challenges facing the utility over a ten-year period. The Strategic Plan contains over thirty strategic initiatives in four distinct areas: Utility Performance Excellence; Customer Engagement and Satisfaction; Progress and Innovation Focus; and Community and Environmental Stewardship. The Legislative Advocacy Position works to further the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan, and complements the other Legislative Advocacy Positions adopted by the City.

Guiding Principles

The City follows the below guiding principles for all areas of legislative advocacy:

- Support the positions of the League of California Cities, and National League of Cities, on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services that benefit the City of Santa Clara and its residents.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies, such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, and the Climate Action Plan.

Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to ensure the City can provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to ratepayers, while operating in an environmentally and fiscally conscious manner, the City will:

- Monitor PG&E's rate-making and regulatory activities to ensure it meets its obligations and agreements and advocate for changes that would mitigate adverse impacts to SVP and other publicly owned utilities (POUs).
- Support policies that will help ensure that transmission level Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS) events do not unnecessarily burden local communities that are dependent on investor owned utility (IOU) transmission infrastructure.
- Support legislation that would provide local public agencies with financial resources to prepare for, and mitigate the impacts from, planned power outage events.
- Support efforts to align wildfire-related liability with fault, safeguarding public utility customers against exorbitant rate increases when their utility acts prudently.
- Monitor the development of new market initiatives from state and regional grid operators which may result in new energy-related products and changes to electric grid operations. Staff will advocate for changes that would benefit or protect SVP ratepayers.
- Monitor and participate with federal, state and local governments and stakeholders in the development of new regulations and advocate for changes that enhance system reliability and mitigate operational and ratepayer impacts.

- Support transitioning from diesel backup generators to battery-based backup generators.
- Monitor and support transmission related activities focusing on enhancing the reliability and deliverability of clean energy resources and advocating for greater transparency and assurance that transmission access charges are allocated equitably between the various beneficiaries.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Overview

As a city that is consistently named one of the safest cities in the country, Santa Clara is committed to promoting a living and working environment that allows for the best quality of life. The City believes that crime prevention and enforcement efforts are integral to creating and maintaining a safe environment for residents and visitors. At the same time, the City recognizes that crime prevention and enforcement efforts alone cannot foster community safety and wellness; education, intervention and prevention efforts on various public safety topics, such as gun violence, gang activity, alcohol and tobacco use, pedestrian, driver and bicycle safety, and driving under the influence, are equally important.

As the State and region continues to experience civil unrest and an unprecedented number of natural and man-made disasters, the City recognizes the importance of a comprehensive risk management approach to emergency preparedness.

Guiding Principles

The City of Santa Clara's guiding principles for legislative advocacy include and are not limited to:

- Support the League of California Cities and National League of Cities positions on priority bills that benefit Santa Clara.
- Protect local revenue sources and prevent unfunded mandates.
- Protect and/or increase funding for specific programs and services.
- Protect and/or increase local government discretion.
- Advance approved policies such as the City's Statement of Values, the General Plan, or the Climate Action Plan.

Legislative Advocacy Position

In order to maintain public health and safety, and promote the best quality of life, the City will:

- Support legislation that seeks to impose stricter gun violence laws and/or requires the safe storage of unattended firearms.
- Support legislation that toughens penalties for chronic criminals.
- Support efforts to reduce the list of who can seek early parole and re-classify some theft crimes from misdemeanors to felonies by reforming Assembly Bill 109 (approved by the Legislature in 2011), Proposition 47 (approved by voters in 2014) and Proposition 57 (approved by voters in 2016).
- Support the expansion of the number of crimes where DNA is collected, a list that was limited when some crimes were reclassified from felonies to misdemeanors.
- Support legislation that preserves, or expands, funding levels for public safety programs, services, and equipment, such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants.
- Support legislation that addresses crime trends and attempts to curb illegal activity, including but not limited to, illegal street racing and sideshow activity and thefts from automobile burglaries, all of which are growing trends in our region.

- Support efforts to test speed enforcement cameras and corresponding legislation to mitigate traffic-related injuries and deaths.
- Oppose public safety legislation that imposes unfunded mandates on local agencies for new programs or increased service levels.
- Support legislation that identifies new funding sources for fire and law enforcement agencies to promote public safety, wellness and employee training.
- Support legislation that recognizes the importance of a comprehensive risk management approach to emergency preparedness, fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency medical services.
- Support legislation that provides funding for emergency preparedness, including community risk reduction strategies like community education programs (e.g., CERT, CPA), staff training, interagency cooperation, and enhanced equipment and technology.
- Support legislation that expands the implementation and testing of emergency alert systems.
- Support legislation that enhances public safety professionals' ability to respond to all types of emergencies and communicate within, and across, jurisdictions.
- Support measures that aim to return revenue generated from the enforcement of crimes back to the originating agency to sustain their efforts.
- Support the local regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAVs), including the right to authorize use of UAVs by public safety agencies and the right to restrict or prohibit UAV use that interferes with, or poses a threat to, emergency operations or public safety.
- Support legislation that aims to assist individuals in crisis, including those who may be homeless, be the victim of human trafficking, domestic violence victims and survivors, and other vulnerable populations.
- Support legislation and efforts that recognizes the importance of developing a comprehensive preparedness strategy (e.g. mutual aid, unified command, interoperability, cyber disobedience, critical infrastructure, social media, etc.) to respond to civil unrest with input from emergency responders and allied stakeholders for local response.
- Support more funding for mental health and substance abuse.
- Support training of public safety to handle mental health issues.
- Support background checks **and training requirements** for gun sales.