

City of Scottsdale

2013 Federal Legislative Agenda



Overview of the City of Scottsdale

The City of Scottsdale is a vibrant and diverse community nestled in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. The City is included within the Phoenix Metropolitan area of Maricopa County. Scottsdale is the State's sixth largest city with a population of 217,385, and encompasses one hundred and eighty-three (183) square miles. Scottsdale is bordered by Phoenix, the nation's fifth largest City on the west and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on the east.

Local Governance and Authority

Cities and towns are voluntarily created by the residents of a community to provide local self-governance. Efforts that would create unfunded mandates or preempt the ability of local governments to set appropriate policy at the local level should be opposed.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Human Services

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

The City of Scottsdale uses its annual CDBG allocation (\$942,333 in FY 2012/13) for critical services such as housing rehabilitation for the elderly and working poor, meals for the elderly, transitional housing, mentoring for children, employment training for the disabled, domestic violence shelters, and homeless assistance. CDBG funding is important because the City receives more funding requests for eligible services than its annual allocation can fund.

Request: Support continued funding of the CDBG entitlement program.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is critical for providing and sustaining affordable housing options in the community. Scottsdale currently provides assistance to 735 low and very low income families through the HCV program, with another 408 families on the waiting list. Approximately \$5.6 million in rental assistance will be provided to Scottsdale families in FY2012/13.

Request: Support the continued funding of the Section 8 HCV program.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The City of Scottsdale supports funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Due to the current funding formula, Arizona remains one of the lowest per capita recipients of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds each year. Scottsdale's Vista del Camino services center uses an allotment of these funds to provide residents with emergency utility payments. In FY 2011/12, Scottsdale was able to assist 676 Households with \$375,365 in assistance. Without this assistance many residents spend the summer months in non-air conditioned homes and

risk illness or even death, or make trade-offs in their spending and often go without other basic necessities such as food.

Request: Support continued funding for LIHEAP.

Request: Support changes to the LIHEAP funding allocation to recognize the summer energy needs of citizens living in the Southwest region of the country.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program funds anti-poverty Community Action Agencies (CAA). Last year, Arizona's 11 Community Action Programs (CAPs) provided services such as emergency food, job training, affordable housing, foreclosure mitigation, financial educational, and assistance programs for housing support to vulnerable senior citizens, displaced workers, children and low-income people.

In FY 2011/12, Vista del Camino, the designated Community Action Program for Scottsdale, provided emergency services to 2,663 unduplicated households which included \$146,209 in rent/mortgage assistance for 228 households and \$406,838 in utility assistance for 839 households.

Request: Support continued funding for the CSBG program.

Weatherization

The energy conservation resulting from Weatherization efforts in Arizona and nationwide of state and local agencies help our country reduce its dependence on foreign oil and decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes. Because the energy that make up weatherization services are long lived, the savings add up over time to substantial benefits for weatherization clients and their communities and the nation as a whole. In 2011/2012, 63 households in Scottsdale received \$366,266 in assistance from the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Request: Support Weatherization Assistance Program funding.

Information Technology

Municipal Right-of-Way/Broadband Services

The City is generally supportive of efforts to encourage the deployment of broadband services. However, the City is opposed to any efforts that would preempt a local jurisdiction's rights to manage and receive fair compensation for the use of its right-of-way, easements, and property. It is essential that local governments retain the authority and responsibility for zoning, controlling and managing the installation of the infrastructure required to provide wireline and wireless broadband services.

Request: Oppose any efforts that would preempt a local jurisdiction's rights to manage and receive fair compensation for the use of its right-of-way, easements, and property.

FCC Public Safety Narrowband Requirements

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that public safety land mobile radio systems operating in the 700 MHz radio bands must begin operating on “narrowband” channel bandwidths by December 31, 2016.

The City of Scottsdale is a member of the Regional Wireless Cooperative (RWC). The RWC is an independent, multi-jurisdictional organization which manages and operates a regional radio communications network built to seamlessly serve the interoperable communication needs of first responders and other municipal radio users in and around Central Arizona. The RWC members, as well as other Arizona-based regional wireless cooperatives, operate public safety radio systems on 700 MHz frequencies.

The City of Scottsdale believes that the 700 MHz frequencies in this region are currently being allocated and used effectively and the requirement to narrowband is costly and largely unnecessary at this time. The estimated cost to the Phoenix metropolitan region to implement this new requirement will likely exceed \$150 million.

The RWC is seeking a waiver from the FCC narrowbanding requirements and the City is supportive of these efforts. If a waiver is not obtained, the City is supportive of extending the implementation deadline to December 31, 2020.

Request: Oppose the requirement to narrowband public safety frequencies.

Request: Support efforts to grant a waiver from the narrowbanding requirements for members of the Regional Wireless Cooperative.

Request: Support extending the narrowbanding implementation date to December 31, 2020.

Preservation

McDowell Sonoran Preserve

The City of Scottsdale is actively pursuing the acquisition of Arizona State Trust land to complete the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Once complete, the 34,000 acre Preserve would permanently set aside approximately one-third of the City’s land mass for preservation and recreational enjoyment.

Request: Support the restoration of funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a valuable funding tool to assist local recreation, conservation and preservation programs. While Congress originally intended for \$900 million annually in offshore drilling revenues to be directed to the LWCF, the program receives only a small fraction of the amount each year.

Public Safety

Flexibility of Public Safety Funding

The City of Scottsdale is concerned about the increasing local costs of maintaining and operating equipment that has been provided through national security funding and grants.

Request: Support more flexibility in the use of federal homeland security funds to include maintenance and operations of existing federally funded equipment.

Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) program supports integration of emergency management, health, and medical systems into an organized response to mass casualty incidents such as nuclear, biological or chemical terrorist incidents. MMRS funds provide resources to reduce the potential costs of a mass casualty incident during the initial stages of an incident by having proper coordinated response systems, such as equipment and supplies procurement, emergency triage and pre-hospital treatment/emergency medical services.

Request: Support the continued funding of the Metropolitan Medical Response System program at the Department of Homeland Security.

Public Safety Communications Systems

Effective emergency management and incident response activities rely on flexible communications and information systems that provide a common operating picture to emergency management/response personnel and their affiliated organizations. It is essential to establish and maintain a common operating picture which ensures continued accessibility and interoperability. Properly planned, established, and applied communications enable the dissemination of information among command and support elements and, as appropriate, cooperating agencies and organizations.

Request: Support efforts to enhance a national framework for public safety communications, interoperability, and consistent operational standards.

Regulatory Affairs

Clean Water Act – Proposed Guidance

The City is highly concerned about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recent announcement of guidelines for determining federal waters that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act.

The City is opposed to actions by the EPA to expand the definition of “waters of the United States” through Guidance or other non-legislative mechanisms. If the EPA’s proposed guidelines are allowed to go into effect, they will most certainly cause uncertainty for the future of Scottsdale’s developing and undeveloped lands and jeopardize the proper application of local planning efforts.

Request: Oppose actions by the EPA to expand the definition of “waters of the United States” through Guidance or other non-legislative mechanisms.

Clean Air Act -- PM-10

The City of Scottsdale has been an active participant in the region's efforts to reduce PM-10 emissions within the Maricopa County non-attainment area and has implemented additional dust control measures as part of the region's Five Percent Reduction Plan. The City believes that it is desirable to implement reasonable controls to protect public health, however, the region should not be held accountable for PM-10 exceedances due to events that are beyond control at the time of the event.

Request: Support efforts by the EPA and/or the Congress to revise the flawed Exceptional Events Rule for PM-10, giving more flexibility to western States that are susceptible to natural dust-emitting meteorological events.

Navajo Generating Station

The City is opposed to efforts by the EPA to impose unnecessary emission controls at the Navajo Generating Station that could cost the Central Arizona Project, Salt River Project and other partners as much as \$1 billion to install and operate. The costs to install and operate this technology will result in substantial rate or property tax increases for CAP customers and residents of Maricopa, Pinal and Pima Counties.

Request: Oppose efforts by the EPA to impose unnecessary emission controls at the Navajo Generating Station.

Water Resources

Water Resources; Regulations

The City of Scottsdale supports efforts to protect and enhance the City's ability to provide safe, reliable water and wastewater services to the citizens of Scottsdale at a reasonable cost. The City opposes unfunded and/or burdensome regulations that would unnecessarily increase water delivery costs disproportionate to the benefit received by Arizona water users.

Request: Oppose unfunded and/or burdensome regulations that would unnecessarily increase water delivery costs disproportionate to the benefit received by Arizona water users.

Forest Restoration

The City of Scottsdale supports efforts to enact effective and large-scale forest restoration efforts for Arizona and other western forests to improve forest health, protect water supplies, and reduce the risks from catastrophic wildfires. New policies such as the 4 Forests Restoration Initiative and the Wallow Fire Recovery and Monitoring Act are needed to initiate cost-effective and large-scale restorations to address the growing forest health problem. Because state and federal financial resources are currently limited, the use of commercial operations should be considered as a means of providing cost-effective forest restoration efforts.

Request: Support efforts to enact effective and large-scale forest restoration efforts for Arizona and other western forests to improve forest health, protect water supplies, and reduce the risks from catastrophic wildfires.

For more information, contact:

Brad Lundahl, Government Relations Director, City of Scottsdale
(480) 312-2683, Blundahl@ScottsdaleAZ.Gov

Approved January 8, 2013