



News from

Council President Todd Gloria

City of San Diego • District Three

NEWS RELEASE

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Council President Requests Update on Lagging Contracts

City's Voice Missing from Critical Conversations in State, National Capitals

SAN DIEGO, CA (August 14, 2013) – Council President Todd Gloria today sent a memorandum to Mayor Bob Filner requesting an update on contracts for the City's representation in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Shortly after becoming Mayor, Filner terminated contracts with the firms contracted to lobby state and federal officials on the City's behalf. Lobbyists have made key contacts in the past that have benefited San Diego, including the successful passage of a state bill that preserved local canyonlands and appropriations for transit projects like the Mid-Coast Trolley Extension.

The City's current lack of representation could have a major impact on the City's finances. A future round of military base closures, federal sequestration, the unwinding of redevelopment, a future water bond, and conflicts between SB 820 and Proposition A are ongoing concerns outlined in Council President Gloria's memo (attached). Each could impact the City's budget and force the City to make reductions that could harm neighborhoods, and justify the need for professional services to articulate the City's position to lawmakers and bureaucrats.

“As a former member of Congress, Bob Filner knows that major decisions are made daily in Washington that impact cities and their citizens. It is beyond me why he has allowed San Diego to not be represented over the last eight months,” said Council President Gloria.

Council President Gloria raised the idea of moving intergovernmental relations responsibilities to the jurisdiction of the City Council. Similar concerns were raised by Councilmember Lorie Zapf in a separate memo sent earlier this month to the Mayor's Office about its handling of the legislative agenda approved by the City Council.


Council President Gloria will be visiting Washington, D.C. at the end of September to meet with federal representatives and advocate for programs and projects important to San Diego.

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OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT TODD GLORIA
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 14, 2013
TO: Mayor Bob Filner
FROM: Council President Todd Gloria 
SUBJECT: Representation of San Diego's Interests

I am writing to request an update on the status of the City's contracts for representation related to state and federal issues. Since you terminated the former contracts in January, the Council has repeatedly asked your staff for information on when new vendors would be engaged to represent the City's interests in Sacramento and Washington. In each instance, your staff indicated that contracts would soon be awarded. Sadly, eight months have passed without any substantive public action on your part, and the City remains without a voice in our state and national capitols, as far as I'm aware.

Professional representation in Sacramento and Washington should be a priority. Throughout the calendar year, the Council has taken positions on state and federal legislative issues that are important to San Diego. From the legislative package adopted in February to resolutions demanding action on comprehensive immigration reform, creation of new affordable housing funding sources, and saving the Miramar Air Show, the Council has identified topics that need daily attention.

The lack of representation could have a major impact on the City's finances. A future round of military base closures, federal sequestration, the unwinding of redevelopment, a future water bond, and conflicts between SB 820 and Proposition A are ongoing concerns. Each could impact our budget and force the City to make reductions that could harm neighborhoods. All justify the need for professional services to articulate the City's position to lawmakers and bureaucrats.

While your staff had previously assured me that the Council would be consulted in the selection of professional representation, I have never been contacted by your office on this matter. Additionally, based on comments made by multiple Councilmembers at a recent public hearing on a state legislative matter, you should be aware that we may act to move the City's intergovernmental relations responsibilities under the Council's direct authority if appropriate action on this critical matter is not taken in the near future. Again, I would appreciate an update from you on the status of the City's contracts for professional representation and advocacy.

cc: Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney
Honorable City Councilmembers
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Dennis Gakunga, Director, Purchasing and Contracting