

February 27, 2024

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**To:** Ara Mihranian, City Manager  
Shaunna Hunter, Administrative Analyst  
City of Rancho Palos Verdes

**From:** Sharon Gonsalves  
Director of Government Affairs  
Renne Public Policy Group

**RE: Renne Public Policy Group Legislative Efforts**

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The Renne Public Policy Group (RPPG) began its work with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes officially on March 1, 2022. As part of our initial on-boarding process, our team set up a number of meetings in order to better understand the City's unique culture and local initiatives as well as state policy and funding goals. Sustained and consistent review and legislative tracking is critical in assessing the thousands of measures introduced each legislative year. These meetings have played a critical role in enabling our team to assist the City in building out its legislative advocacy strategy. For all bills the City takes a position on, RPPG drafts and submits position letters for each committee, testifies in all relevant policy committees, and will meet with the Governor's office to express the City of Rancho Palos Verdes' position on bills when applicable.

**Federal and Local Engagement:** In addition to providing state legislative advocacy services, we work tirelessly throughout the year to assist the City of Rancho Palos Verdes in any way we are able. This includes helping to solve local issues that have a state nexus, working with staff on new policies of relevance, and providing education and awareness to City Council and staff. In 2022, in addition to tracking and positioning on legislation, RPPG provided multiple updates and engagement on federal issues specific to COVID-19 relief and the Federal Infrastructure package. Although not federal advocates, RPPG worked closely with staff to screen potential projects for Community Project Funding (CPF) requests to Senators Feinstein and Padilla and Rep. Lieu office for the FY 23 federal budget development cycle. This included a thorough review of CPF program guidelines and an assessment of which available funding accounts aligned with the different project concepts and reviewing and editing applications.

To understand the magnitude of the Portuguese Bend Landslide Remediation Project, RPPG traveled to the City in the winter of 2022, where staff provided a tour of the proposed project in preparation for key stakeholder meetings in 2023.

**State Budget Process:** Apart from timing deadlines enshrined in the State's constitution, the state budget process is a nuanced and often convoluted process. Timing for when requests should be submitted is often dependent upon each individual legislative office. While some legislative offices prefer that requests come to their State Capitol office, others prefer that all budget earmarks are submitted through a lawmaker's district office. With respect to the City's legislative delegation, each office used a combination of approaches outlined above. Regional earmarks in 2022 budget included:

- \$1,500,000 to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes for a wildfire detection system for the Palos Verde peninsula
- \$5 Million for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy for open space acquisition
- \$500,000 for the Palos Verdes Peninsula School District for facility upgrades

**Frequent Client Communication:** Client communication is a critical component in our overall advocacy approach. We pride ourselves in working hand in hand with our clients to provide detailed as-needed analysis on legislation, regulatory issues, and the overall legislative process. Since we have been engaged with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, RPPG has conducted bi-weekly Zoom meetings and as needed calls and emails and has provided detailed memos in order to stay in close contact with the City. In addition, we meet regularly with the City's Legislative Sub Committee and with the City Manager's Office. Moreover, our team has provided Monthly Activity Reports, which detail every interaction RPPG has made on behalf of the city.

**Detailed Legislative Analysis:** The last two years, RPPG has provided detailed analyses of several pieces of legislation. These analyses have been critical in helping the City assess potential implications that pending legislation may have on operations, local discretion, and/or authority. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Side-by-side comparison of the specific interconnections between AB 2011 (Wicks) and SB 6 (Caballero)
- Standalone analysis on AB 1951 (Grayson)
- ACA 1 and ACA 13 and Interfacing with the CBRT measure, Combined Analysis
- Standalone analysis of the proposed Government Transparency Act
- Standalone analysis of Proposition 1: Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024

**Updates on the Legislative and Fiscal Process:** RPPG has provided timely informational updates during critical stages of the budget and policy processes. These updates provide the City with the necessary situational awareness of statewide trends, fiscal updates, what the City is positioned on, and how RPPG is engaging on its behalf. Examples include but are not limited to reports on:

- Bill introduction deadline
- House of Origin deadline
- Suspense file updates
- End of session legislative update
- Budget updates: January proposal, May-Revise, June budget update, and final budget update
- Budget Trailer bill update: Governor's infrastructure package from 2022

**Client-Specific Webinar on 2023 New Housing Laws:** In an effort to provide unique value to the City, our team hosted a client-specific "new housing law" webinar on November 9, 2023. The 75-minute session aimed to drive awareness on the most impactful pieces of legislation, provide insight on implementation, and answer any questions clients may have on a specific issue. Our team also provided a comprehensive power point presentation as well as additional analysis on recent changes to the Surplus Lands Act.

**Sacramento Lobby Day:** In January of each since being retained, RPPG accompanies members of the City Council and the City Manager in a meeting with Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi to discuss the ongoing matter of the Portuguese Bend Landslide

Remediation Project and a funding opportunity from FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. Additionally, RPPG assisted with scheduling and participated in meetings with representatives from Senator Padilla and Congressman Lieu's offices.

**Client Debrief with City staff on labor related bills signed into law in 2023:** At RPPG, one of our goals is to ensure that the City knows how to implement laws that have gone into effect. At the request of staff, RPPG provided a debrief of labor and human resources legislation that were signed into law in 2023. This not only provided an opportunity to discuss the nuances of how a bill is amended to address concerns, but also provided the City an opportunity to ask questions and for RPPG to learn more about City operations which will assist to further our advocacy efforts.

**Legislative Advocacy:** At its core, legislative advocacy is working with individual lawmakers (both within the City's legislative district and out), committee staff, the Governor's administration, and regulatory officials to support the City's policy goals. Equally important, is the ability to work with those same stakeholders to mitigate legal, operational, or fiscal impacts state legislation may have on the City.

Successful legislative advocacy is predicated on raising awareness and education. Being able to empower City Council, staff and by extension its advocacy team, is critical in any effort to advance legislative efforts. In Sacramento, direct advocacy among other aspects ranges from working personally with a legislator, an aide, policy committee staff and the Administration on the wording of a bill, to mobilizing broad coalitions that align with the City's cause. This includes educating legislators, supporters, and the public about the issue; working with the media; continuously seeking out allies; and being persistent over long periods of time.

Over time, a sustained legislative advocacy effort will help the City form strong allies. Working with lawmakers and familiarizing them with your concerns often results in lawmakers even outside of a city's legislative district to become champions for your specific issues. Establishing personal relationships with legislators both in the City's legislative district and outside of its district provides the City with credibility needed to have a meaningful impact in the legislative process. While there is no guarantee that a sustained effort will lead to success on one particular issue of importance; a lack of a sustained effort will lead to State policies that will remove local decision making and/or create new financial, legal, or operational challenges for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Examples over the last two years include but are not limited to:

**SB 1338 (Umberg) Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Program (City Position, Support) – 2022**

Creating solutions to address extreme mental illness was a priority for the City Council. CARE Court sought to implement Governor Newsom's proposal, which would allow civil courts to order those suffering from certain mental illnesses into treatment programs at the community level, similar to today's Assisted Outpatient Treatment under the LPS Act, but with, hopefully, more community-based supports and services, and more court oversight. On behalf of the City, RPPG worked with a large coalition of local government stakeholders, including our relationship with the "Big 13" Mayors and League of California Cities to help advance this major piece of legislation. In addition, RPPG drafted support letters, testified in all relevant policy committees,

and met with the Governor's office to express the City of Rancho Palos Verdes' strong support for the bill.

**On September 14, Governor Newsom signed SB 1338 into law.**

**SB 1444 (Allen) South Bay Regional Housing Trust (City Position, Support) – 2022**

This bill sponsored by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments authorizes the establishment of the South Bay Regional Housing Trust to help fund affordable housing in the South Bay. Although this uncontroversial measure was on consent throughout the committee and floor process, RPPG ensured a current letter of support was provided to each committee and a Request for Signature letter was sent to the Governor's office.

**Governor Newsom signed SB 1444 on September 28, 2022.**

**AB 309 (Lee) The Social Housing Act (City Position, Oppose Unless Amended) – 2023**

On July 13, Assemblymember Alex Lee (D, San Jose) significantly amended his AB 309 which would have created a statewide Social Housing Act pilot program. In short, the measure would have required the California Department of General Services (DGS) to build three social housing projects on state-owned land. Moreover, the pilot program raised several policy questions and provided virtually zero requirements that local agencies be consulted prior to project approvals. RPPG provided the City with a detailed policy analysis on the amended measure and engaged directly with the Assemblymember, the Senate Appropriations staff and the Newsom Administration to express concerns about such a drastic policy shift leading into the last month of the legislative session. We also worked with DGS to highlight the cost drivers to their agency prior to the Senate Appropriations analysis. As a result, the Department of Finance assessed costs ranging from \$350-400 million to comply with the measure. Despite the new costs to the State, AB 309 did advance to the Governor for his consideration. RPPG met with the Administration in advance of the bill passing out of the Legislature to express our policy concerns with this approach.

**On October 7, Governor Newsom vetoed AB 309. In his veto message the Governor States: "This bill infringes on state sovereignty over state-owned real property... and could potentially cost the state several hundred million dollars in capital expenditures... This bill creates new additional cost pressures and must be considered in the annual budget in the context of all state funding priorities."**

**AB 1484 (Zbur) Temporary public employees (City Position, Oppose) – 2023**

RPPG received confirmation early in the year that the Governor was planning on signing AB 1484. This required our team to shift its approach from simply trying to stop the measure, to ensuring that the most problematic provisions of the measure were either eliminated or reduced. Throughout the year, we worked with several public and private stakeholders to build a strong opposition coalition. We engaged with the author and sponsor several times to negotiate amendments, drafted opposition letters, Floor Alerts and testified in all appropriate policy committees. In addition, we worked from a messaging standpoint to tie AB 1484 to the broader "labor package" advancing this year—measures included SB 799 (Portantino), AB 452 (Addis), and SB 558 (Rubio). The goal was to try and persuade Governor Newsom to veto these bills on

behalf of the Broader coalition. While AB 1484 ultimately advanced, our efforts resulted this bill being substantially amended to remove the grievance process language entirely—as well clarify that the provisions do not apply to contracted employees secured through third party staffing entities.

**On October 10, Governor Newsom signed AB 1484 (as considerably amended) into law.**

**SB 423 (Wiener) Land use: streamlined housing approvals: multifamily housing developments (City Position, Oppose) – 2023**

At introduction SB 423—among various other provisions would have:

- Eliminated the sunset provisions in the SB 35 streamlining program.
- Permitted virtually unfettered development in high-fire and coastal zones.
- Authorized the Department of General Services (DGS) to approve projects on any land owned by or leased to the State of California—without complying with CEQA, labor provisions or the review provisions required for any other SB 423 project.

Leveraging the expertise of RPPG’s senior policy advisors and staff, our team pulled together several policy-based analyses, including specific side-by-side comparisons to existing law. This enabled agency staff to assess the potential impacts that the measure, as introduced, would have had on the City. Moreover, our advocacy team worked directly with Senator Weiner, the Assembly Housing and Community Development committee and the California Carpenters Union to secure an amendment to eliminate the ability for DGS to develop on land leased to the state and requires the State to follow the same procedures outlined for local government with respect to CEQA and Labor provisions. Finally, working with the California Fire Chiefs, California Coastal Commission, several environmental groups and poverty rights advocates, RPPG was successful in providing reasonable guardrails for responsible development in environmentally sensitive areas—while restoring a reasonable sunset period.

While the measure is still problematic, RPPG’s sustained engagement on behalf of the City reduced many of the most challenging provisions while restoring some of the local decision making back into the bill.

**On October 11, Governor Newsom signed SB 423 (as amended) into law.**

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