

## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF REQUEST TO ALLOW MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE LAS VIRGENES-MALIBU COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS TO VOTE ON REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ITEMS**

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On January 17, 2023, the Governing Board (Board) for the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments (COG) held their regularly scheduled meeting via Zoom. During the meeting, Board President Eniko Gold from the City of Hidden Hills raised a question about whether COG Board members should have more flexibility to vote on legislative matters without needing to first consult with their respective City Councils in order to make timely decisions on issues of regional importance.

Councilmember Penny Sylvester, who serves as the City's designated member on the COG Governing Board expressed, she would need to first have a discussion and receive direction from the Agoura Hills City Council before providing a response. This item seeks that feedback and direction on the City's stance regarding COG President Gold's request.

As a related reference, the City Council adopted a Legislative Platform in 2021, and it serves as an invaluable tool that is used each year to make timely responses and take critical positions on pressing issues without delay, so long as the matter is covered by one of the agreed-upon statements of support or opposition in the Legislative Platform.

That said, staff believes one option worth considering for the City Council would be to authorize the City's designated member on the COG Governing Board to vote on matters that are covered by the City's approved Legislative Platform. Procedurally, this would be achieved by the City Manager reviewing the posted COG agenda in advance of the meeting, and conferring with the City's designated member to determine if any of the legislative related agenda items requesting a vote are addressed in the Legislative Platform. Any COG agenda items not covered by the City's Legislative Platform would still need to be discussed by the entire City Council prior to a vote being made at a COG Governing Board meeting.

Staff is seeking feedback on the option above, as well as any other options the City Council would like to consider. Once direction is received on how to proceed, staff will work alongside the City's COG Board member to deliver the message to the COG Governing Board and Executive Director.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council discuss and provide direction regarding the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments President Gold's request to consider allowing COG Governing Board members more flexibility to vote on legislative matters without needing prior direction from the respective City Council bodies.