
M E M O R A N D U M

To: **The Honorable Barbara Lee, Mayor, City of Oakland**
Jestin Johnson, City Administrator

From: **Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.**
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Date: **September 3, 2025**

Subject: **State Advocacy Successes with the City of Oakland**

This memo provides a detailed overview of the numerous state funding and legislative successes that Townsend Public Affairs has achieved in partnership with the City of Oakland over the course of the firm's 19 year legislative engagement.

STATE FUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The TPA team has collaborated closely with State Legislators and the City of Oakland to secure over \$743 million in state funding in support of the City's priority projects, including:

State Allocation/Grant	Amount	Year
State Budget Earmark: Port of Oakland Freight and Passenger Enhancements	\$280,000,000	2021
Redevelopment Agency Dissolution Rebate	\$44,000,000	2013
Redevelopment Agency Dissolution Rebate	\$40,000,000	2016
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention	\$28,446,565	2024
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention	\$26,044,615	2023
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention	\$24,066,822	2022
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention: Large City Allocation	\$20,066,172	2019
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention	\$19,697,548	2020
Proposition 1C: Infill Infrastructure Grant/Allocation: MacArthur Transit Village Project	\$17,300,383	2008
Proposition 1C: Transit-Oriented Development Grant: MacArthur BART Station Project	\$17,000,000	2008
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Discretionary Grant/Allocation	\$15,000,000	2012

Airport Fuel Rebate	\$13,000,000	2016
State Budget Earmark: Oakland MACRO Project	\$10,000,000	2021
State Budget Earmark: Local Jurisdiction Assistance: Cannabis equity program	\$9,905,020	2021
Proposition 1C: Infill Infrastructure Grant: Central Business District/Uptown Project	\$9,903,000	2008
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention	\$9,311,568	2021
Homeless Emergency Aid Grant/Allocation: Large Cities fund	\$8,671,116	2018
Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)	\$8,671,116	2019
Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)	\$8,600,000	2018
Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)	\$8,600,000	2017
Proposition 1C: Transit-Oriented Development Grant: Coliseum BART Station Project	\$8,485,000	2008
State Budget Earmark: Oakland Fund for Public Innovation for the California Entrepreneurship Capital in the Community Initiative	\$8,000,000	2021
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program	\$7,782,240	2012
Proposition 1C: Transit-Oriented Development Grant: Lion Creek Crossing Project	\$7,527,592	2008
Oakland ERF	\$7,200,000	2024
Go-Biz: Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions: cannabis business support services	\$6,576,706	2020
Proposition 84 Statewide Parks Program: West Oakland Center	\$5,000,000	2010
Proposition 84 Statewide Parks Program: Golden Gate Rec Center	\$5,000,000	2012
State Budget Earmark: Fire Station #4	\$5,000,000	2024
State Budget Earmark: Teachers Rooted in Oakland Program	\$5,000,000	2022
Caltrans: Clean California Local Grant/Allocation: Oakland Mini Parks Beautification	\$4,992,380	2022
Oakland School for the Arts: Charter School Facilities Program	\$4,983,922	2005
State Budget Earmark: Parole preparation public safety projects	\$4,000,000	2019
Business, Consumer, and Housing Agency: Encampment Resolution Fund: Encampment Cleanup Efforts	\$3,600,000	2022
Department of Social Services Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (CRISES) Pilot Grant/Allocation	\$3,500,000	2023
Local Seismic Safety Program	\$3,000,000	2015
Proposition 84 Statewide Parks: Rainbow Recreation Center	\$2,984,981	2011
Oakland School for the Arts: Project Grant/Allocation Round 1	\$2,877,500	2004
Redevelopment Agency Dissolution Rebate	\$2,800,000	2015
Department of Parks and Recreation: Statewide Parks Program: Sobrante Park Renovation	\$2,600,000	2020

Department of Parks and Recreation: Statewide Parks Program: Tyrone Carney Park Renovation	\$2,469,155	2020
Proposition 84 Statewide Parks Program: Cesar Chavez Park	\$2,250,000	2010
Caltrans: Clean California Local Grant/Allocation: Courtland Creek	\$2,033,575	2022
Public Safety Budget Directed Grant	\$2,000,000	2014
Low and Moderate Income Housing Project	\$1,700,000	2013
Workforce Housing Reward Program	\$1,280,992	2007
Oakland School for the Arts: Project Grant/Allocation Round 3	\$1,064,250	2007
Proposition 84 Statewide Parks Program: Durant Mini Park	\$1,050,000	2012
State Budget Earmark: Support for Student Bus Services	\$1,000,000	2019
CalHome Grant	\$1,000,000	2007
Henry Robinson Multi-Service Center: Emergency Housing and Assistance Program	\$999,998	2007
Public Safety Budget Directed Grant	\$900,000	2016
Safe Routes to Schools Grant	\$803,700	2008
Regional Crime Task Force Grant	\$606,000	2016
Oakland School for the Arts Project Grant/Allocation	\$600,000	2006
Recreational Trails Program: Historic Cryer Boathouse Bay Trail Gap Closure	\$600,000	2008
California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program	\$559,541	2009
Oakland School for the Arts Planning Grant/Allocation Round 4	\$500,000	2010
Fund for the Improvement of Education: Expansion of Arts & Technology	\$409,000	2008
California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program	\$400,000	2008
Office of Neighborhood Investment: Oakland Fox Theater	\$400,000	2010
California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program	\$382,639	2010
Regional Crime Task Force Grant	\$325,000	2016
State Budget Earmark: Calli Americas Poster Collection Digitizing and Cataloguing Project	\$250,000	2022
Safe Routes to Schools Grant/Allocation	\$216,000	2012
Friends of Oakland Parks and Rec: Stewardship Council Youth Infrastructure Grant/Allocation	\$150,000	2008
Oakland School for the Arts: Charter Schools Act	\$44,263	2004
GRAND TOTAL	\$743,188,359	

STATE ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

TPA has successfully sponsored, drafted, amended, and shepherded 37 City of Oakland proposals into law:

Legislative Issue	Description
Animal Protection	TPA sponsored AB 96 (Atkins) on behalf of the Oakland Zoo (East Bay Zoological Society) and City of Oakland, with the Humane Society of the United States. The bill prohibited the importation or sale of ivory and rhinoceros' horns in California. AB 96 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
	TPA sponsored SB 1062 (Lara) on behalf of the City of Oakland and Oakland Zoo. The bill prohibited the use of bull hooks and other barbaric devices to train or control elephants. SB 1062 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law. The City's ordinance was the foundation of this state law.
Affordable Housing	TPA co-sponsored AB 744 (Chau) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill reduced the standard for the Density Bonus Law, which required a maximum of one parking space per bedroom, for certain niche projects where it could be demonstrated that fewer parking spaces were necessary. AB 744 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
	TPA sponsored AB 2031 (Bonta) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill authorized any city or county that formed a redevelopment agency (RDA) to approve the issuance of affordable housing bonds to be paid for with any portion of its "net available revenue" without voter approval. AB 2031 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
Automated Speed Enforcement	TPA played a leading role in securing a major public safety legislative win through AB 645 (Friedman, 2023) . This long-sought measure established a pilot program authorizing the use of automated speed enforcement systems in six California cities, including Oakland. After nearly four legislative cycles of resistance and delay, TPA galvanized support for the bill by assembling a coalition of six pilot jurisdictions, providing Oakland with critical traffic collision and fatality data, and offering direct technical assistance to the author's office and transportation policy staff. TPA provided lead testimony in multiple legislative committees, drafted coalition support letters, worked to negotiate amendments that addressed concerns raised by stakeholders and legislators, and orchestrated media and public support to counteract entrenched opposition. Once signed into law, TPA collaborated with the City of Oakland and the bill's co-sponsors to prepare public messaging and implementation plans that underscored the law's potential to improve pedestrian safety and reduce fatal crashes in high-injury corridors.
Enterprise Zone Regulations	TPA worked with the City of Oakland on the renewal and expansion of their Enterprise Zone into Berkeley and Emeryville. TPA worked with the Office of the Mayor, Redevelopment Staff, and the California Housing and Community Development (HCD) to seek support, approval, and direction on the renewal of Oakland's Enterprise Zone status and then the subsequent expansion of the boundaries into neighboring Berkeley and Emeryville.

Cannabis	<p>TPA sponsored AB 2020 (Quirk) on behalf of the City, which authorized the Bureau of Cannabis Control to issue a temporary state license to provide on-site sales and consumption of cannabis as a temporary event located at a venue expressly approved by a jurisdiction. Previously, these events were only permitted on County Fairgrounds. TPA served as the lead advocate working with Assembly Member Quirk's office and provided expert testimony in four policy committee hearings. TPA shepherded the bill through six committees, three floor votes, secured bi partisan support, 2/3rds support in both houses, and ultimately negotiated the final language with the Governor's office. This bill was signed into law.</p>
	<p>TPA Co-sponsored SB 1294 (Bradford) on behalf of the City. This legislation aimed at reversing some of the damaging impacts cannabis prohibition has had on individuals from disadvantaged communities and is the first social equity cannabis measure in the United States. This bill provided \$10 million for cities with equity problems. TPA was part of a small coalition working with Senator Bradford's office to push this bill forward. We provided expert testimony in committee hearings, identified, and briefed targeted offices, coordinated with the Senate Budget Office and Senate Pro Tem's Office. This bill was signed into law.</p>
Economic Development	<p>TPA worked to sponsor AB 734 (Bonta) on behalf of the City, which established special procedures for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, additional conditions for certification, and expedited judicial review for a proposed baseball park and mixed-use development in the City of Oakland. This bill would only apply if Howard Terminal was determined to be the site of development. TPA, on behalf of the Mayor, worked closely with Assembly Member Bonta, Assembly Member Thurmond, Senator Skinner, and the Oakland Athletics to get this bill to the Governor's desk. Our efforts included, but were not limited to, working closely with multiple policy committee staffers, meeting with the offices of Senate and Assembly Members, working with the Construction and Building Trades to support the bill, working with East Bay legislative leaders and other associations to support the bill, and other efforts. This bill was signed into law.</p>
	<p>TPA worked with the Legislature and the Governor's office to pass AB 1191 (Bonta) into law, which authorizes the State Lands Commission to engage in a land exchange with the City for lands at Howard Terminal, settle boundary disputes, and approve the Development on the final trust lands. Our efforts included, but were not limited to, drafting support letters, strategically organizing various coalitions, working closely with multiple policy committee staffers, meeting with the offices of Senate and Assembly Members, working with the Construction and Building Trades to support the bill, working with East Bay legislative leaders and other associations to support the bill, and discussing the bill's process with the State Land Commission, amongst other efforts.</p>
	<p>Another major step towards the creation of a new ballpark for the Oakland Athletics, TPA, on behalf of the Mayor, worked closely with Senator Skinner's office to advocate for the passage of SB 293 (Skinner), which permits the City of Oakland to form an IFD, which is an essential tool and funding source for redevelopment. Actions included meeting with numerous Senate and Assembly offices to discuss the provisions of the bill, testifying in policy and fiscal committees, and pushing for passage via letters and further</p>

	discussions, once on the Governor's desk. The Governor signed the bill, effectively amending IFD law for the local benefit of the City of Oakland.
Homelessness	TPA worked closely with the Mayor, her office, and the Big City Mayors Coalition to sponsor AB 3171 (Ting) that sought to provide cities with additional funding and resources. TPA had ongoing discussions with the Assembly and Senate authors, their respective staff members, and committee staff on how to advance the legislation. TPA arranged an Oakland tour for the Governor's office and the Department of Finance to see first-hand the City's challenges prior to the final budget. The passage of this bill resulted in the creation of the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), which allocated significant portions of flexible homeless assistance dollars to the City of Oakland. This bill was signed into law.
	TPA worked closely with the Mayor's office, and the Office of Assembly Member Ting, to amend AB 932 (Ting) to include the City of Oakland in its provisions. This bill created a pilot program which allowed a small handful of cities the authority to suspend planning and zoning standards, procedures, or laws in order to build shelters more expeditiously for the duration of the shelter crisis. Once the bill was amended, TPA worked closely with the author's office to brief committee members, testify in support of the bill, explain the City's needs to committee staff, and then work with the Governor's Office to address any concerns.
	TPA sponsored AB 3139 (Bonta) on behalf of the City of Oakland, which allows local governments to lease vacant unused parcels of land from Caltrans to put them to productive use specifically for emergency shelters. TPA was the lead working with Assembly Member Bonta's office and provided expert testimony in two committee hearings, including navigating the bill through four policy committee hearings, three floor votes, and helping to negotiate final language with the Governor's office.
	The foundation of the HHAP program was laid through AB 101 (2019) , which provided one-time flexible funding to support urgent homelessness challenges and incentivize regional coordination. TPA worked closely with Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Assembly Budget Chair Phil Ting, and Senate Budget Chair Nancy Skinner to secure the bill's passage. TPA's efforts included organizing strategic advocacy days for the Big City Mayors coalition, preparing and delivering testimony in both the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees, drafting tailored talking points for mayors and legislative champions, and coordinating direct engagement with the Governor's Office to ensure Oakland's needs were reflected in the final legislation.
Homelessness	Building on this success, TPA helped lead the charge on AB 140 (2021) , which allocated \$1 billion for HHAP Round 3 and instituted stronger accountability measures by requiring jurisdictions to submit detailed local action plans with measurable goals. Once again, TPA worked hand-in-hand with Mayor Schaaf, key budget leaders, and the Big City Mayors to drive the legislative and budget process forward. These efforts included organizing unified regional advocacy, refining messaging to emphasize performance-

	<p>based planning, and ensuring that Oakland was positioned to both shape and benefit from the enhanced structure of the program.</p> <p>The following year, the state budget included Assembly Bills 154 and 180, which authorized another \$1 billion in HHAP Round 4 funding. TPA continued its leadership role by facilitating direct advocacy with senior legislative leaders, coordinating city-level participation in statewide budget hearings, and helping develop statewide consensus to support the continuation of flexible, needs-based homelessness funding.</p> <p>In 2023, AB 129 marked another significant evolution of the HHAP program. In addition to allocating \$1 billion for Round 5, AB 129 transitioned administrative oversight from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), signaling a stronger focus on program performance, alignment with housing production efforts, and improved outcomes for vulnerable populations. TPA played a pivotal role throughout this process, supporting Oakland's advocacy efforts, guiding legislative engagement to maintain local flexibility, and advising on implementation provisions to preserve equity-driven approaches while meeting new state standards.</p>
Local Government	<p>TPA sponsored AB 2001 (Swanson) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill allowed local governments to establish whistle-blower hotlines and additional provisions to protect their identity and was a good government bill. AB 2001 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.</p>
Public Safety	<p>TPA sponsored SB 67 (Perata) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill cracked down on "sideshow" reckless driving and provided local law enforcement with additional tools to deal with these activities. SB 67 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.</p> <p>TPA sponsored AB 2567 (Bradford) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill authorized a local public agency to utilize an automated parking enforcement system that used equipment installed on street sweepers to take digital images of parking violations occurring in street-sweeping parking lanes during designated street sweeping hours. The measure also provided local public agencies with an effective tool to help reduce urban runoff into the local storm water drain system. AB 2567 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.</p> <p>TPA advocated for the City of Oakland's inclusion in AB 1206 (Bocanegra), which provided tools to select cities to combat sexual exploitation and was signed into law by the Governor. This two-year pilot program gives Oakland, Los Angeles and Sacramento the authority to tow vehicles used in the commission, or attempted commission, of specified offenses related to prostitution. TPA worked closely with multiple City Council offices, the Oakland Police Department, City staff, and the office of Assembly Member Bocanegra to amend the bill to include Oakland. Once the bill was amended to include Oakland, TPA worked with the Mayor's Office and the City Council Offices to build a large local coalition, draft letters of support, brief legislative offices, meet with committee staff, testify in support of the bill in hearings, meet with the Governor's Office to express the need for this legislation,</p>

Public Safety	highlight what had been done in the past, explain why Oakland needed this additional power, and provide data to demonstrate the extent of the problem. This has been a City priority for the last few years and it succeeded as a result of great team effort.
	TPA sponsored AB 48 (Skinner) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill made it a crime to purchase or receive a large-capacity ammunition magazine and prohibits the sale, purchase or import of repair kits designed to convert regular ammunition magazines into illegal large-capacity magazines. AB 48 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
	TPA sponsored AB 767 (Levine) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill allowed counties to increase their local vehicle registration surcharge from \$1 to \$2 per vehicle to directly fund these law enforcement programs to go after stolen vehicles. AB 767 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
	TPA sponsored SB 962 (Leno) for the City of Oakland. The bill sought to curb the theft of smart-phones, which was an epidemic in the area, through the creation of a “kill switch” on all new models of smart-phones that would render the devices useless once activated. SB 962 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
	TPA sponsored AB 2485 (Dickinson) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill supplemented the City’s own nuisance eviction ordinance that had been in place for over a decade. The ordinance had been effectively leveraged by the City Administrator to send notices to landlords to evict tenants engaged in illegal drug sales and more serious weapons related offenses. The bill increased the number of public safety tools at the City’s disposal when working to protect their citizens against the destructive influence of illegal drugs in the City. AB 2485 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
Public Safety	TPA sponsored AB 1439 (Salas) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill closed the loophole that allowed illegal cafes to operate by prohibiting a person from operating a gambling-themed or simulated gambling electronic video monitor in a business establishment that gives cash or other prizes of value. It also permitted the California Attorney General, district attorneys, and city attorneys to bring civil suits to subject operators and civil penalties for violations. AB 1439 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
	TPA worked in partnership with the City of Oakland Attorney Barbara Parker, Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas, and Assembly Member Bonta to include the City in AB 2310 (Ridley-Thomas) . The bill broadened the scope of legal standing and allowed notices generated from the City Attorney to deal with the pervasive influence of illegal drug and weapons activities that can blight entire neighborhoods. AB 2310 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
	TPA co-sponsored SB 869 (Hill) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill required a person, when leaving a handgun in a vehicle, to secure the handgun by locking it in the trunk of the vehicle or locking it in a locked container and placing the container out of plain view. SB 869 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.

	TPA sponsored SB 1446 (Hancock) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill prohibited the possession of large-capacity magazines. SB 1446 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
Recycling & Illegal Dumping	TPA sponsored SB 254 (Hancock) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill required mattress manufacturers to establish and implement market-based collection and recycling programs for used mattresses. SB 254 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
Redevelopment Regulations	TPA successfully secured an amendment to SB 1206 (Kehoe) on behalf of the City of Oakland. These amendments excluded a major redevelopment tool that the City needed for two areas it was trying to fuse into one combined Redevelopment Area.
	TPA successfully secured amendments to AB 113 (Committee on Budget) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The original language changed the definition of a loan, which would have negated \$2.8 million from previous redevelopment agency (RDA) work in West Oakland. After months of intense lobbying on behalf of the City, TPA was successful in securing changes to the dissolution proposal that specifically protected the City.
	In tandem with the Mayor's Office, Office of the City Manager, City Attorney's Office, and the master developer of the Oakland Army Base, TPA worked closely with the Governor's Office, Senator Hancock, Assembly Member Skinner, Assembly Member Bonta and the Department of Finance to overturn a previous decision by the Department of Finance and reallocated over \$44 million for the Oakland Army Base project. Additionally, numerous land parcels were also transferred back to the project to ensure the project moves forward.
Seismic Retrofitting	TPA sponsored AB 184 (Swanson) on behalf of the City of Oakland. The bill gave local governments the authority to loan money to homeowners for seismic safety improvements. The bill also made seismic retrofits more affordable by providing homeowners with a financing option that removes much of the upfront expense. AB 184 enjoyed bi-partisan support and was signed into law.
	On behalf of the City of Oakland, TPA drafted a new \$10 million program in SB 837 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) during the development of the 2016-17 State Budget. The program sought to give local government agencies the opportunity to access funds for the specific use of retrofitting multifamily buildings. The approved program provided a revolving loan program to property owners for seismic retrofitting.
TOTAL	37 PIECES OF LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW