



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA ☐ HACN ☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

Title: Letter of Support of Permanent Implementation of Daylight-Saving Time

Background: On June 28, 2022, the City Council gave direction to city staff to research the City's ability to adopt the permanent implementation of Daylight-Savings time.

In November 2018, California voters endorsed a legislative proposal that paved the way for the adoption of year-round Daylight Saving Time (DST). Nevertheless, the permanent implementation of DST in California necessitates a two-thirds majority vote in the state's legislature, along with approval from the U.S. Congress.

On November 6, 2018, Proposition 7 received the approval of California's voters, with a 60% majority. This proposition sought to overturn a 1949 ballot initiative that had originally established the practice of Daylight-Saving Time in California. Its primary objective was to establish a framework for transitioning to year-round DST, granting authority to the state legislature, contingent upon federal government approval, to determine the state's timekeeping practices.

A significant development occurred when the U.S. Senate passed the Sunshine Protection Act of 2021 on March 15, 2023. This act is scheduled to take effect on November 5, 2023, signaling a federal-level effort to address DST-related issues.

The process of implementing a different time zone for Needles involves coordination among several key agencies:

1. **California State Legislature:** This agency plays a pivotal role in this process by passing a bill that either amends or repeals the existing time zone law.
2. **Governor's Office:** After the bill successfully passes both chambers of the California State Legislature, it requires the approval of the Governor, who must sign it into law.
3. **California Department of Transportation:** This agency is essential for ensuring that any changes in timekeeping practices align with and do not disrupt transportation schedules within the state.
4. **The Department of Transportation:** The Secretary of Transportation, at the federal level, plays a critical role by giving their approval and endorsement.
5. **United States Congress:** As timekeeping falls under federal jurisdiction, securing approval from the United States Congress is a necessary step in this process.

The collaborative efforts of these agencies are crucial in successfully implementing a different time zone for Needles, ensuring a smooth transition and compliance with both state and federal regulations.

Recommended Action: Approve Letter from the Mayor in Support of Permanent Implementation of Daylight-Saving Time

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, Assistant City Manager

City Management Review: For

Date: 9/6/23

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: 23



City of Needles

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Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake

City Manager Rick Daniels

September 12, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Enactment of Proposition 7, year-round observance of Daylight-Saving Time

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing to you on behalf of the City Council of the City of Needles to express our strong support the enactment of Proposition 7, which calls for the year-round observance of Daylight-Saving Time (DST) in California.

We believe that adopting DST year-round will have numerous benefits for our community and the entire state. This proposition aligns with the preferences of our residents and provides several advantages, such as increased energy efficiency, improved public safety, and enhanced quality of life.

For a city like Needles, which experiences extreme temperatures during the summer months, the extra hour of daylight in the evenings can significantly enhance the well-being of our residents. It encourages outdoor activities, promotes local businesses, and reduces energy consumption during peak cooling hours.

Furthermore, the elimination of the biannual clock changes will lead to fewer disruptions for our citizens, contributing to better sleep patterns, and reducing the risk of accidents associated with the abrupt shift in time.

We understand that the implementation of Proposition 7 requires careful consideration, but we believe that the benefits it offers far outweigh any potential challenges. By choosing to make Daylight Saving Time permanent in California, we can improve the lives of our residents and create a more stable and prosperous environment for our community.

We respectfully urge you to support the enactment of Proposition 7 and work towards making DST year-round a reality for the state of California. Your leadership in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. We look forward to a brighter and more consistent future for all Californians.

For all of the reasons stated above, the City Council of the City of Needles supports the enactment of Proposition 7, year-round observance of Daylight-Saving Time.

Sincerely,

Janet Jernigan
City of Needles, Mayor

Cc: Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Cc: State Senator Steve Padilla
Cc: Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz
Cc: Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe