

Agenda Report

DATE: April 2, 2001

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF STATE BUDGET PRIORTIES

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council support and forward to State Legislators the attached list of projects for potential funding in the State budget.

BACKGROUND:

Every year the City proposes a number of projects for funding in the State budget. Projects proposed are those that are not fully funded through City or other resources, but are priorities for the community. The following projects are recommended for State funding in 2002:

- 1. Installation of Fluorescent Yellow Green Signs and Thermoplastic Pavement Markings in School Zones Citywide** **\$230,000**

The goal of this project is to increase the safety of school age children (pedestrian and bicyclists) in school zones throughout the City. The project proposes to install fluorescent yellow green school zone signs and thermoplastic pavement markings to enhance the visibility of school zone markings, which will in turn increase motorists awareness resulting in greater safety for children, pedestrians and bicyclists. The City has identified 38 public and private schools for which this type of program would be most effective. Many of these schools are located adjacent to/or in the immediate vicinity of major arterial roadways carrying significant volumes of traffic.
- 2. Brookside Park – ADA Improvements** **\$200,000**

The City is committed to providing the disabled community access to all park areas and equipment. The requested funding will allow the City to make improvements that will remove many of the barriers which currently limit accessibility in City parks by the disabled community. Additionally, these improvements will make the parks safer and more usable for all visitors.

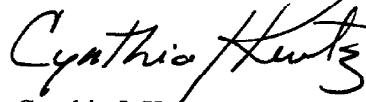
- 3. Victory and Hamilton Parks – ADA Improvements \$200,000**
The City of Pasadena is committed to providing the disabled community access to all park areas and equipment. The requested funding will allow the City to make improvements which will remove many of the barriers which currently limit accessibility in City parks by the disabled community. Additionally, these improvements will make the parks safer and more usable for all visitors.
- 4. Battery Back-up System for Traffic Signals \$160,000**
The current energy shortage in the State has resulted in numerous rolling power blackouts, and traffic signals in residential areas have been subject to loss of power. The proposed power back-up system would provide energy to dark traffic signals for the short time during a rolling power blackout. With the use of the battery back-up systems, traffic signals equipped with all light emitting diode (LED) signal faces can function normally due to their low power use and signals with incandescent lights can be powered in flashing red operation. A total of forty locations were selected as major intersections most susceptible to power blackouts. These traffic signals are located in residential areas and are on residential power grids.
- 5. Computerized Central Irrigation System for Parks \$285,000**
This project provides for the installation of a centralized irrigation controller system that will allow the City to control and monitor the water usage at various park sites throughout the City from one central location. Specifically, forty-four controllers will be connected to a central system located at the City Yards. Currently, City staff manually adjusts these systems in the event of fluctuating weather. However with this type of system in place, City staff can monitor and adjust the sprinkler systems from the centralized controller and thereby conserve water and reduce maintenance costs.
- 6. Community Library Computer Lab – La Pintoresca Branch \$ 97,000**
This project will provide for the establishment of a computer lab at the La Pintoresca Branch Library to help bridge the “digital divide”. Access to current technology is critical for those from low-income backgrounds that do not have the resources to afford equipment and software at home. The lab would be constructed in an existing staff workroom and will require electrical and computer cabling, ten multi-media computers, educational software and computer furniture.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If successful, up to \$1,172,000 could be awarded to the City to implement one or more of these important City projects. If funding is received, staff will return to City Council for appropriation of funds to the budget.

State Budget Priorities
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Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz,
City Manager

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