

# Agenda Report

DATE: January 22, 2001

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL  
**THROUGH:** LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORTIES FOR  
2001-2002 REGULAR SESSIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that City Council approve the attached list of priority issues for the federal 2001 regular legislative sessions.

**BACKGROUND:**

In an effort to create a focused, pro-active legislative strategy, the City prepares a list of legislative priorities each year. These priorities are forwarded to the City's legislative advocates in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. and help to inform elected officials of Pasadena's needs, priorities and positions on critical issues. The State priorities will be forwarded in a future report.

In addition to the issues listed in this report, the City will need to take positions on a number of bills proposed during the year unrelated to the issues listed below. As in past years, staff will return to Council with recommendations on new issues that may impact Pasadena.

The City's federal legislative advocate, Carolyn Chaney, has reviewed these priorities and is in full agreement.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORTIES:**

*Water Quality Testing and Standards*

Staff recommends that the City support the development of future water quality testing and standards based on clear scientific research and with proven technical feasibility. In addition, staff recommends that the City support regulations that consider the financial impacts of new regulations on water customers and allow a reasonable time frame to implement new programs to satisfy standards.

### Funding for Affordable Housing

The City seeks programs that support housing for low- and moderate-income families and individuals, including housing for the homeless. A substantial portion of City funds to provide shelter for the homeless and provide rental subsidies is federal funding. Staff recommends that the City support legislation that would increase or expanding funding available to provide greater service to families in Pasadena.

### Funding for Transportation

- La Loma Bridge Retrofit: The historic La Loma bridge crossing the Arroyo is in need of seismic retrofit or replacement to ensure safety and stability. Although some funds have been approved, additional funds are needed: \$6.6 million for retrofit, \$1.1 million for replacement.
- Blue Line/Sierra Madre Villa Station: This multi-modal facility will be the easterly most transit station in Pasadena. Ten bus lines will provide direct service to the station and a 1,000-car parking structure will be available for park-n-ride commuters. It is essential that the station be designed in a manner that encourages bicycles, pedestrians, automobiles and transit to fully utilize and interface with rail transit.
- Regional freeway traffic mitigation: Several traffic and transportation improvements are necessary to mitigate the impact of regional freeway traffic on the local street systems. The southwestern portion of the City has two freeway ends that attract regional traffic. Management of this traffic onto appropriate mobility corridors is important to community livability. In addition, improvements that increase capacity to the existing freeway are needed.
- Special Event Access mitigation – Major events at the Rose Bowl attract millions of visitors to the Arroyo Seco each year. Traveler information systems such as changeable message signs, way finding signage and internet-based travel information, and traffic control systems such as closed circuit television and adaptive traffic signal control, would significantly improve police traffic management of these events and minimize impacts of Pasadena streets and freeways.
- General transportation funding – The City has a variety of transportation issues related to single auto travel and community livability. Assistance is needed for programs that will reduce the reliance of single auto use, including neighborhood traffic calming, increased local transit and comprehensive transportation planning.

### Funding for Parks and Open Space

There are 44 partially or completely unfunded park projects in the FY 2001-2006 Capital Improvement Program. Staff recommends that the City support legislation to provide HUD and other funding for urban parks.

Library Filtering Legislation

HR4577, which includes a rider requiring Internet filtering software in libraries that receive and federal funding, was passed by the House of Representatives on December 15, 2000. The Senate also passed the bill on a voice vote. Known as the Children Internet Protection Act, the legislation is expected to meet with some legal challenges because of the vague wording and difficult implementation provisions. Staff recommends that the City support any effort to modify or repeal this legislation, as it is a mandated program that flies in the face of local control and does not provide any provision for funding should the filtering software be required.

FCC Petition on Cable Franchise Fees

The City currently has a petition pending before the FCC protesting Charter Communications' practice of charging cable TV customers for franchise fees paid to the City for advertising and home shopping club revenues. The City has worked diligently on this issue, and it is important that it be brought to the attention of new representatives.

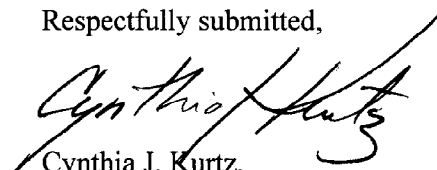
Appropriations for the Fire Act

End-of-the year budget legislation approved by Congress last year included \$100 million in FY2001 for a new fire services grant program at FEMA. FEMA will now be developing regulations for the grant program and begin the application process. Advocacy on behalf of the City could increase opportunities to receive funding.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**


Funds for the federal legislative advocate are included in the City Council operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,



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City Manager

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