



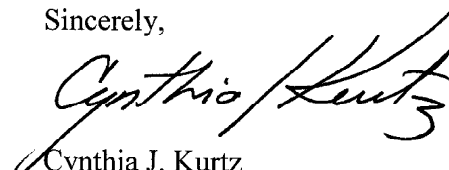
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

November 18, 2002

TO: City Council  
FROM: City Manager  
SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR STATE LEGISLATION FOR 2003 SESSION

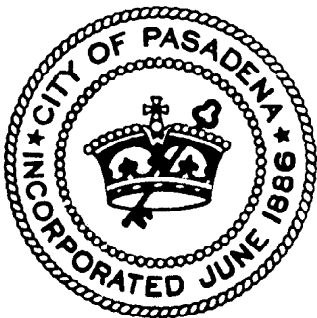
On November 5, 2002, the Legislative Policy Committee reviewed the attached report and recommended that in addition to soundwalls the City also make a request for legislation to provide funding for upgrades to local water infrastructure. Portions of the City's water infrastructure date back to the 1800s and total renovation is estimated at \$235 million over eighteen years.

Sincerely,



Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

11/18/2002  
5.C.4.



# Agenda Report

November 18, 2002

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE (11/5/02)

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: **REQUESTS FOR STATE LEGISLATION FOR 2003 SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council request that State legislators sponsor legislation to dedicate a portion of transportation funds specifically for soundwall projects that mitigate new environmental impacts on residential areas exposed to increased traffic and noise.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the beginning of each new legislative session, elected officials ask the City for written requests for new legislation, budget appropriations and legislative priorities. Requests for new legislation are generally submitted in November, and appropriations and legislative priorities submitted in January as the City's legislative platform.

It is asked that requests for new legislation be focused on issues that are specific to the City of Pasadena and seek to resolve problems that can be addressed only through legislation.

**Funding for Soundwalls**

The City has been working with Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to coordinate the construction of soundwalls along the Route 210 from Orange Grove to Wilson Avenue and Route 210 from North Arroyo Boulevard to Orange Grove. The Orange Grove to Wilson segment of Route 210 was placed on MTA's Phase I project list because the soundwalls are a required mitigation for the construction of HOV lanes along this stretch of freeway. These soundwalls are currently in preliminary design phase and are expected to be complete by October 2005. The segment along the North 210 was relegated to Phase II

because it was not associated with HOV lanes. Phase II projects are currently unfunded and therefore unscheduled.

The neighborhoods along the North 210 freeway were in existence when the freeway was constructed in the 1970s. Some soundwalls were constructed at that time, however, they are inadequate to mitigate the current level of traffic and noise. Traffic volume in this area has increased significantly since the freeway was built and Caltrans has confirmed that the noise level is now at a level that meets the requirements for additional soundwalls. The surrounding community is intensely concerned with the problem. Community members and representatives of the City have worked diligently to alert the MTA of this pressing need, however, MTA maintains that all HOV related soundwalls must be funded and completed before any other projects will be considered.


Staff recommends that the City advocate that a percentage of any new transportation funds be set aside for soundwall projects where existing residential areas are exposed to new environmental impacts as a result of increased traffic. Potential sources could be the Federal Highway Trust Fund or Proposition 42 which would require, beginning July 1, 2003 that existing revenues resulting from state sales and use taxes on the sale of motor vehicle fuel be used for transportation purposes such as public transit and mass transportation, city and county street and road repairs and improvements and state highway improvements.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

Prepared by:



Stephanie DeWolfe  
Assistant to the City Manager