

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

June 23, 2005

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Manager  
RE: City of Pasadena's Relationship with the San Gabriel Valley Council  
of Governments

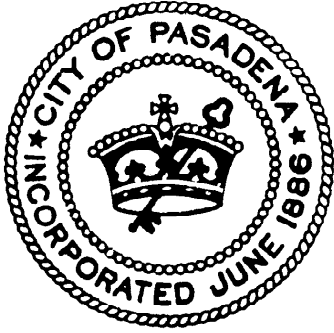
An Agenda Report (for information only) on the City of Pasadena's Relationship with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments was originally scheduled for the City Council meeting of March 21, 2005, but was held for future meeting.

Please find attached the March 21, 2005 report, which is scheduled for this Monday's meeting.

CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

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Attachment



# Agenda Report

March 21, 2005

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** CITY OF PASADENA RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

## BACKGROUND

The following is an overview of the role of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG) and how the COG assists or affects the City of Pasadena's municipal functions. This information is provided in response to the City Council's request to review the City's relationship with the COG.

The mission statement of the COG is: "To ensure our Valley's fair share of scarce Federal, State and Local resources by fostering consensus among cities in the San Gabriel Valley regarding policies and programs that address issues relating to land use, air quality, transportation, solid waste and other matters deemed essential to our cities".

Toward this end, the COG helps identify issues of common interest to its 31 member cities through its committees and provides an additional level of advocacy – depending on the degree of consensus reached. This is the primary benefit to Pasadena by being a COG member.

Below, staff has outlined the direct impacts of COG involvement and the potential impact on various municipal services and functions if the City were not a member.

### Transportation

Department of Transportation staff regularly attends and actively participates in the following COG committees:

- Transportation Committee
- Public Works Officials Technical Advisory Committee
- Gold Line Phase II Technical Advisory Committee

The COG has been effective at successfully lobbying for state and federal funding for regional transportation projects such as Alameda Corridor East. The COG has also consistently been an advocate for the inclusion and prioritization of Valley transportation projects in Regional Transportation Plans produced by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).

An example of the effectiveness of the COG's leadership was the formation of the San Gabriel Valley Transit Zone Interim Joint Power Authority. Under the COG's leadership, the cities examined the feasibility of forming a transit zone. While the zone did not prove viable, the pressure from the process resulted in the MTA examining how it delivers service and allows for local government input. The MTA implemented the Sector program with governing councils. Our COG representative, Vice Mayor Sid Tyler, was active in both the transit zone activities and now sits on the governing council for the sector.

### Housing and Land Use

In addition to its emphasis on funding for transportation in the San Gabriel Valley, the COG provides a forum for cooperation among Valley cities on land use and housing issues. In April 2002, the COG organized and hosted Housing Summit 2002, so Valley leaders might discuss housing issues that affect their communities. To provide greater control and understanding in the 1998-2005 Regional Housing Needs Assessment, the COG accepted delegation from SCAG of responsibility for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers in the Valley. With insight gained in that process, the COG contracted for development of a Housing Strategic Plan.

The future of growth in the San Gabriel Valley affects all thirty-one cities in the sub-region. The COG held a Growth Visioning Summit in March 2004, which allowed commissioners, council members, and other residents to consider how future growth in the Valley might be distributed.

The COG has also been involved in designing model smart growth projects in the Valley cities, mapping Valley land use, understanding the Valley's economic structure, and identifying brownfield and development sites, among other land use projects. Pasadena staff has participated in all of the projects described here.

SCAG relies on the sub-regional bodies, such as the COG, for analysis and comment on projections of future growth. The COG has given special attention to the concerns of its cities and contracted for consultant assistance in commenting on those projections. For the last RHNA, the COG accepted delegated responsibility for working with the cities to agree on RHNA totals, as noted above. Several years ago, Pasadena requested that SCAG include projections for Pasadena with the projections for the COG, rather than with the Arroyo Verdugo Sub-region, where they had previously been for a brief period.

### Engineering

The Department of Public Works is currently a member of the Public Works Officers Technical Advisory Committee that meets monthly in Monrovia. It is a good venue to meet and discuss Public Works issues in the San Gabriel Valley with other City Engineers and Public Works Directors.

Pasadena City Engineer, Dan Rix, currently represents the COG on the MTA's Technical Advisory Committee. These meetings are valuable to staff because of the contacts made and the exchange of information that occurs.

### Integrated Waste

The City of Pasadena's Solid Waste staff participates in the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Solid Waste Committee. Staff also regularly attends the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee and participates as a member of its Public Education Information Subcommittee.

The main difference for the City of Pasadena between the two task forces is that, with the COG, jurisdictions are participatory members with voting rights. The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force is comprised of appointees representing: industry, the Sanitation Districts, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Los Angeles County, the City of Los Angeles, the City of Long Beach, the League of California Cities, and environmental organizations. The Task Force is staffed by Los Angeles County Public Works employees. There is an opportunity for public input at the end of each meeting, but you must be an appointed member to be part of the dialogue and vote. The Los Angeles County Task Force and the COG usually agree on the same course of action. Staff's perception is that the City's voice is not as critical to the Los

Angeles County Task Force, although letters and resolutions from individual cities are encouraged to be sent to the Legislature on critical issues. Councilmember Paul Little raised a number of questions. Staff has addressed each with information available. If more details are needed, staff needs some clarification from the Committee.

#### Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

The San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy is a state agency created through the strong advocacy of the COG in 1999. The mission of this agency is to preserve urban open space and habitat in order to provide for low impact recreation and education uses, wildlife and habitat restoration and watershed improvements within its jurisdiction. The City received funding in the amount of \$331,544 through their first grant cycle for implementation of the Washington Park Master Plan. The COG has two appointees on this board of 13 members to represent the cities of the region. If not a member of the COG, the City would be represented on this board by the single member from the County Board of Supervisors. This could substantially reduce Pasadena's opportunities for future funding.

In addition, Councilmember Paul Little requested some specific information be included. This is summarized below.

#### Financial Information and Information on Process Used for Hiring Executive Staff

The City of Pasadena's annual dues for COG membership are \$30,000. Attached is a copy of the 2004-2005 budget as presented to the Governing Board. A total budget of \$447,948 was recommended with two consulting contracts paid from this amount.

Arroyo Associates, Inc.	\$344,448 – Annual Retainer
Burke, Williams & Sorensen	\$ 20,000

Arroyo Associates, Inc. is the firm that is responsible for day-to-day management of the COG, staffs the Board Policy Committees, Technical Committees and oversees events such as the Growth Visioning. Arroyo Associates, Inc. has a five-year contract that was signed on July 1, 2004. It can be terminated by either party with 180 days notice. Burke, Williams & Sorensen serves as legal counsel.

The contract with Arroyo Associates, Inc. and the report from the evaluation committee to the Board, and the minutes from when it was approved, are attached.

### **COG Advocacy and Coordination with Pasadena's Advocates**

Staff spoke with both Carolyn Chaney and David Jones, who both attested to minimal contact with COG representatives. Pasadena has never sent our federal or state platforms to the COG or requested their assistance.

### **Federal and State Agencies**

A request was made to contact federal agencies. Staff was unclear which agencies to contact. Additional details on agencies and projects would assist in getting to the correct information.

### **COG Positions**

*Rose Bowl NFL* – The COG agendized this item and discussed the possibility of taking a position on the best site for Southern California NFL team but ultimately, did not take any action.

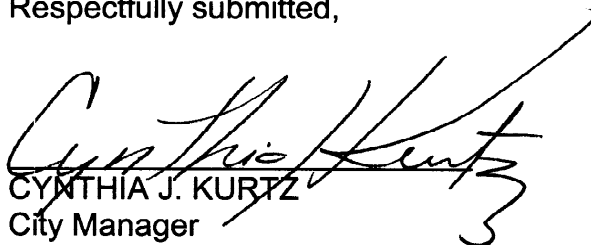
*Problem Alcohol Outlets* – Staff had not previously requested COG's involvement in this initiative, but working with Vice Mayor Sid Tyler, who represents Pasadena on the COG Board of Directors, staff will request their assistance.

*Traffic Congestion in Pasadena* – The COG has been of assistance with improving bus service within the San Gabriel Valley and was a strong supporter of Phase I of the Blue Line. Both of these projects assisted the region in traffic congestion. Staff has not requested support on local initiatives to manage traffic, but could request the role of the Public Works Officers Technical Advisory Committee be expanded so cities were also sharing information on traffic management plans.

*LA IMPACT* – LA Impact includes all cities within Los Angeles County. Its governing board is made up of Los Angeles City Police Chiefs who hire a director. There is also a small number of Police Chiefs from through out the County who serve on the Executive Board. Staff does not believe there is a role for the COG within this structure.

Also for City Council's information, attached are the February Monthly Progress Report, 2004-2005 Workplan, and a presentation on the COG provided by Vice Mayor Sid Tyler.

Respectfully submitted,



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

**Attachments:**

- A. 2004-2005 Proposed Budget
- B. Information Related to Hiring Arroyo Associates and Contract
- C. February Monthly Progress Report
- D. 2004-2005 Workplan
- E. COG Presentation