

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: Legislative Committee

March 16, 1999

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill 117 (Murray) - Transportation Facilities:
Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution and authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the appropriate officials *supporting* Senate Bill 117 (Murray) - Transportation Facilities: Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.

BACKGROUND

Under existing law, the state legislature began allocating \$10,000,000 annually for 10 years in July 1991 to the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Demonstration Program Fund. Senate Bill 117 would delete the 10-year limitation of the existing law and continue to allocate \$10,000,000 annually to the Fund which would be renamed the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Fund.

Under these provisions, local, state, and federal agencies and nonprofit entities may apply for and receive grants, as specified, for environmental and mitigation projects related to the environmental impact of modifying existing transportation facilities or for the design, construction, or expansion of new transportation facilities. Projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Highway landscaping and urban forestry projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide;
2. Acquisition or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within the right-of-way acquired for proposed transportation improvements;
3. Roadside recreational opportunities, including roadside rests, trails, trailheads, and parks; and

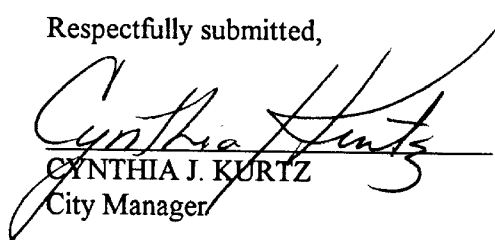
4. Projects to mitigate the impact of proposed transportation facilities or to enhance the environment, where the ability to effectuate the mitigation or enhancement measures is beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement.

Staff supports this effort to provide an influx of funds to address sorely underfunded environmental needs. Since the existing law was adopted in 1991, the City of Pasadena has successfully applied for and been awarded EEM grants. The EEM grants have helped to fund various tree replanting capital improvement program projects throughout the City. The City has also assisted the Arroyo Seco Foundation in securing EEM funds for the planting of native trees and vegetation in the Arroyo Seco Park.

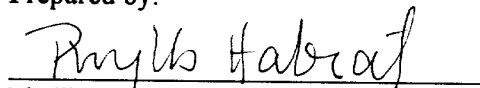
FISCAL IMPACT

Passage of Senate Bill 117 would make available \$10 million annually for environmental and mitigation projects related to the environmental impact of modifying existing transportation facilities or for the design, construction, or expansion of new transportation facilities.

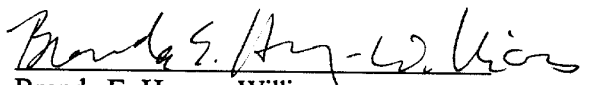
Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

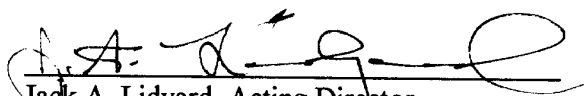
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