

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

July 26, 2004

THROUGH: Legislative Committee (July 20, 2004)

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Support Assembly Bill 2690 (Hancock) *Public Works: Funds*

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council support AB 2690 (Public Works: Funds) as amended, and authorize the Mayor to send letters to the appropriate authorities stating Pasadena's position.

BILL SUMMARY

AB 2690 specifies that the provisions of existing law dealing with the payment of prevailing wages on public works projects do not apply to work performed by a volunteer, a volunteer coordinator, members of the California Conservation Corps or a certified Community Conservation Corps.

- Specifies that these provisions shall apply retroactively to otherwise covered work concluded on or after January 1, 2002, to the extent permitted by law.
- Specifies that these provisions are repealed January 1, 2009 unless a later enacted statute, enacted prior to January 1, 2009, deletes or extends that date.

BACKGROUND

Existing law requires prevailing wage rates to be paid to all workers on public works projects with a valuation over \$1,000. The existing law provides a limited exception for projects utilizing volunteer labor that meets certain specified criteria, including work that is performed entirely by volunteer labor.

This bill would amend the provisions of existing law to specify that the payment of prevailing wages on public works projects does not apply to work performed by a volunteer or volunteer coordinator, or to work performed by members of the California Conservation Corps or a certified Community Services Corps.

AB 2690 addresses an issue that affects all cities that utilize volunteer labor on public works projects. As amended, AB 2690 provides cities and counties the ability to use

volunteers as a creative option to its public services and leverage limited funding. In addition, several competitive grants sources offer additional points for projects that utilize the services of volunteers. The City of Pasadena has been successful in securing such grants because of utilization of volunteers. Requiring the City to pay prevailing wages and not use volunteers would severely impact the City's ability to secure grants and complete projects sorely needed in Pasadena. The Parks and Natural Resources Division has employed volunteers and the California Conservation Corps for projects such as the Annual Tree Plantings and the Arroyo Stream Course Restoration.

This bill is was passed by the Assembly 77-0 and is currently in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and is supported by the League of California Cities, the California Labor Federation, and the cities of: Clayton; Concord; Elk Grove; Fremont; Manteca; Poway; Roseville; San Pablo; Shasta Lake; and Sunnyvale.

FISCAL IMPACT

AB 2690 would allow the City to leverage limited available funds through the use of volunteer workers.

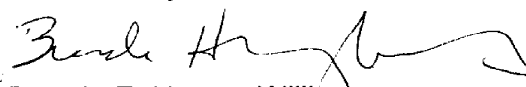
Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

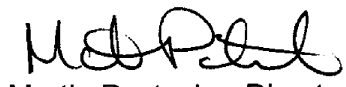
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