

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: May 4, 2004

THROUGH: LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL AB 2446 (MONTANEZ):
EXPANDING THE LIST OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR JOINT USE FUNDING TO ALSO
INCLUDE PARKS, RECREATION CENTERS, CULTURAL ARTS
CENTERS, TECHNOLOGY CENTERS, HEALTH CLINICS AND
ATHLETIC FIELDS.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Support AB 2446, (MONTANEZ) which expands the list of school construction projects eligible for joint use funding to also include parks, recreation centers, cultural arts centers, technology centers, health clinics and athletic fields; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to send letters of support to the appropriate authorities stating this position.

BACKGROUND:

Proposition 47, which was approved by the voters in November of 2002, created a fund for joint-use projects know as the School Facility Program. Approximately \$33.8 million has been allocated for joint-use projects. An additional \$50 million will be allocated from the passage of the March 2004 school bond. However, the current joint-use program limits the types of projects school districts are eligible to apply for to multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, child care facilities and libraries. AB 2446 expands the list of eligible projects to include recreation centers, technology centers, health clinics and athletic fields.

School districts in communities with overcrowded schools frequently encounter problems in procuring land for new school sites, because the schools located in overcrowded areas are most likely located in dense neighborhoods. AB 2446 seeks to ease some of the challenges for districts with limited physical resources by supporting the development of joint-use facilities that would serve both school and other facility needs in the local community. This concept is matched by the Board of Education's commitment to open a new primary center in the north west area of Pasadena by Fall of 2007, which can serve jointly to ease the school district's overcrowding as well meet the community's need for

additional facilities. Additionally, the bill requires the State Allocation Board to evaluate the need for each proposed joint-use project based on an "Educational Empowerment Zone Map" that school districts are required to submit as part of the application process. An Educational Empowerment Zone Map is a five-mile radius map from the proposed project area that analyzes key demographic factors in the surrounding community. Priority will be given to projects from school districts who Zone Maps demonstrate the greatest need for additional facilities because of overcrowding.

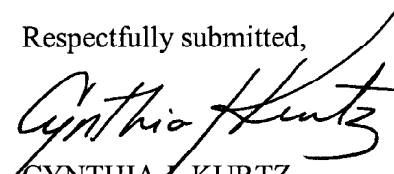
This new legislation will encourage positive cooperation and collaborative between school districts, non-profits agencies and local government agencies in leveraging resources to create schools as centers of neighborhoods, especially in the areas with the greatest overcrowding. AB 2446 addresses the lack of adequate recreational and educational facilities in lower income neighborhoods and recognizes that students want to attend school and participate in out of school activities in their own neighborhoods. This bill promotes strategies which improve not only the quality of education provided to children but also the quality of the environment in which the children live and recreate.

The Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education will be considering a resolution of support for AB 2446 at their regular meeting of May 25, 2004.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Passage of Assembly Bill 2446 may provide additional funds available through a grant application process to the Pasadena Unified School District for construction of a joint-use facility within the District.

Respectfully submitted,



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