

# Agenda Report

August 6, 2012

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Legislative Policy Committee (July 25, 2012)

**FROM:** Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT: AMEND THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM TO ADD A NEW PRIORITY SUPPORTING THE TIMELY SALE OF STATE OWNED PROPERTIES WITHIN THE SR-710 CORRIDOR**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the following proposed actions are exempt from review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3); and
2. Amend the State Legislative Platform to add a new Legislative Priority supporting the timely sale of state owned properties within the SR-710 corridor.
3. Authorize the Mayor or Vice Mayor to send a letter to state legislators in support of this legislative priority.

## **LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

At their July 25th meeting, the Legislative Policy Committee considered a motion recommending the City Council support Senate Bill (Liu) 204 with the following two amendments;

1. SB 204 establishes a timeline for the sale of excess properties based on a "trigger" event, such as the elimination of a surface freeway alternative from further consideration in the environmental review of the SR-710 North Gap Closure Project; and
2. SB 204 includes a provision that the proceeds from the sale of excess properties will be available for local transportation priorities determined jointly with the cities in which any excess properties are located.

During the committee's briefing on State Legislative Matters with David Jones the committee learned that Senator Liu has proposed several amendments to SB 204 which may address the recommended amendments. The amendments to SB 204 are not scheduled to be released until August 6. Committee Chair Madison recused himself from the item due to a potential conflict of interest associated with ownership of property near the affected Caltrans properties. The committee did not take action on the proposed staff recommendation to support SB 204 with amendments.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 204 (SB 204) as introduced by Senator Liu and amended on June 7, 2012 would authorize the development of a Local Alternative Transportation Improvement Program (LATIP) to facilitate the sale of excess property owned by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the State Route (SR) 710 Study Area in Los Angeles County.

Since the late 1960's, Caltrans has owned approximately 145 properties in Pasadena. Caltrans purchased these homes with the intent of demolishing them to allow for the construction of the 710 Freeway. The homes have been rented to various residential, commercial and educational tenants over this time. Because the properties are owned by the State of California, property taxes are not collected. SB 204 would require Caltrans to sell the properties thus allowing the properties to return to private ownership, which would return the properties to tax rolls.

Since the core issue for the City of Pasadena is to expedite the return of the Caltrans owned properties to private ownership staff believes that amending the City Council adopted State Legislative Platform is the most effective way to support all legislative efforts to achieve that goal. With a Legislative Priority supporting the timely sale of state owned properties within the SR-710 corridor included in the State Legislative Platform the Mayor, or his designee, would be able to send a letter of support for SB 204 (with recommendations for amendments if necessary) or any other legislation that supports the sale of the Caltrans properties.

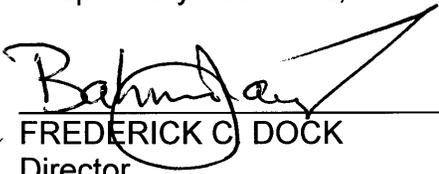
**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The proposed amendment to the State Legislative Platform supports the City Council Strategic Planning Goals to maintain fiscal responsibility and stability.

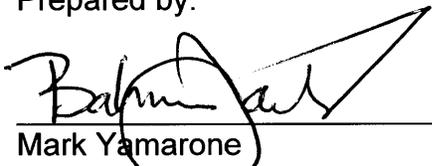
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The proposed amendment to the State Legislative Platform would have no fiscal impact for the City. When Caltrans sells the excess properties and the homes are returned to private ownership, the City will benefit from the increase in property taxes collected on those properties.

Respectfully submitted,

*for*   
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FREDERICK C. DOCK  
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Prepared by:

*for*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Yamarone  
Transportation Administrator

Approved by:

  
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MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

Attachment: Map of Caltrans Owned Properties in the SR-710 Corridor



CalTrans owned

CalTrans owned (surplus)



12.10.02



