

# Agenda Report

December 12, 2011

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** Legislative Policy Committee (December 6, 2011)  
**FROM:** Assistant City Manager  
**SUBJECT: 2012 FEDERAL & STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the Federal Legislative Platform and the State Legislative Platform for 2012.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In conjunction with the City's lobbyists CapitalEdge (Federal) and Emanuels Jones and Associates (State), staff prepares federal and state legislative platforms annually that become the foundation for focused advocacy strategies with the respective government entities. Each platform outlines the City's positions on a range of current issues and provides staff and the lobbyists with direction to pursue advocacy on these matters.

The City of Pasadena 2012 Federal Platform (Attachment A) includes requests and or reauthorizations in areas outlining specific community needs and describes the City's support of or opposition on other areas of interest. The 2012 requests are:

A. Specific Community Needs – It is expected that in 2012, Congress will continue its current moratorium on earmarks. As a result, it is recommended that the City present the congressional delegation with a list of community priorities that could be funded by any appropriate vehicle – be it the congressional appropriations process, competitive grants, or any other distribution of federal discretionary spending.

- Emergency Operations Center
- Robinson Park Rehabilitation and Renovations.
- Clean Fuel Bus Purchases
- Smart Grid Study
- Rose Bowl Renovations

- Healthy Pasadena
- Seismic Upgrades to Fire Facilities

B. Surface Transportation Reauthorization - These are projects that would be included in the multi-year reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs (2005 SAFETEA-LU law) that expired in September 2009 which has been extended in a series of short-term measures since then.

- Bridge Repair
- Intelligent Transportation System Improvements

C. Water Resource Development Act - Projects that would be included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which authorizes flood control, navigation, and other water-related projects. WRDA bills are traditionally considered by Congress every two years, but Congress is not required to do so (there was a seven-year gap between WRDA bills between 2000 and 2007). Once a project is authorized in a WRDA bill, subsequent requests must be made through the annual appropriations process for funding:

- Water System Improvement Program

The 2012 State Legislative Platform (Attachment B) does not include specific community needs but similar to the federal platform outlines the City's position on state and regional legislative issues. Given that 2012 is the second year of a two-year session and that many legislative bills were carried over, no significant were made to the State Platform in 2012.

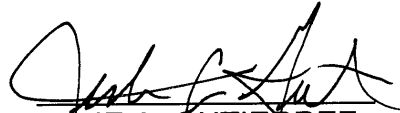
### **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION**

Approval of the subject recommendation represents a continuation of the annual policy/practice of devising federal and state legislative platforms as the advocacy strategies for regional, legislative and funding request priorities supported by the City of Pasadena.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funds for the legislative advocates are included in the City Council operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,



JULIE A. GUTIERREZ  
Assistant City Manager

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

Attachments:

- Attachment A - Federal Legislative Platform
- Attachment B - State Legislative Platform

## CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

### 2012 Federal Priorities – Part I

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#### A. Specific Community Needs

##### Emergency Operations Center

The City of Pasadena currently operates two temporary Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs): one which serves in the event of general disasters, and a second facility, activated in the event of a seismic incident. Pasadena has constructed a new building at the City Yards that will house a new, consolidated EOC facility to ensure the continuity of Pasadena's government operations during and after a disaster or catastrophe. When not used as an EOC during an emergency, the room will function as a dedicated operations center (DOC) and training/meeting facility by the Pasadena Water and Power Department. The new building is being constructed and funded through the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget; however, budget constraints make it impossible to fund the equipment and technology upgrades necessary to operate a fully-capable EOC facility.

- *Need: \$1,000,000.*

##### Robinson Park Community Center Rehabilitation and Renovation

The City of Pasadena is seeking assistance with the implementation of a Master Plan that proposes significant modifications to the existing Robinson Park in Northwest Pasadena. The Plan concludes that this seven acre park, which serves residents of nearby low and moderate income neighborhoods each weekday and substantially more on weekends, no longer meets the needs of the community in its current state. Robinson Park improvements are also part of the City's ongoing efforts to curb youth violence by offering safe and effective alternatives to crime. Activities at the Park Community Center include piano and computer classes and other educational programs, after school clubs and drill teams, sports leagues, weight room, exercise programs, and martial arts programs.

The project has been divided into two phases. Phase I, which has been completed with \$5.8 million in local funds, consisted of the purchase and demolition of the former Highland Plastics Building and installation of a synthetic turf athletic field on the site. The City is seeking federal funds toward the design costs related to the replacement of the deteriorated Community Center at the Park, which is the centerpiece of Phase II of the project. The facility is one of the key hubs of activity in Northwest Pasadena. When completed, the renovated park will contain various recreational facilities in addition to a computer learning center and space to house other important after-school activities.

The City is also seeking a HUD Section 108 loan to fund construction of Phase II of the project.

- *Need: \$650,000 towards design costs.*

### **Clean Fuel Bus Purchases**

The City is committed to seeking viable and efficient alternatives to automobile travel for its residents. In August 2001, the City Council conceptually adopted an expansion plan for the Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS) that calls for nine bus routes with 10 minute frequencies. Since this date the ARTS service has seen significant growth. The ARTS system provides more than 1.7 million passenger trips annually and provides commuters with an important link to the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line light rail system. In order to meet local and regional goals for reducing emissions, the City needs to replace the diesel buses in its fleet with clean fuel buses.

***Need: \$3.5 million for the replacement of 9 buses***

### **Smart Grid Study**

The City is requesting federal assistance with a study that would examine the use and integration of existing Automated Meter Reading devices into “Smart Grid” technology. The Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) Department is completing the last year of a 6 year meter replacement plan to the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) meters as part of the adopted Power Master Plan. Since 2003 the City has spent over \$3 million on this meter replacement project. Smart metering technologies are in their infancy and the City’s concern is that it may be too early to commit to one technology when competing technologies are certain to evolve in the future. State legislation has been proposed for the last two years regarding establishing a smart grid deployment plan without providing much flexibility and time to establish the process and the timeframes for compliance.

PWP is also planning to fund a full-time Engineer position to specifically coordinate and deal with the transition to smart grid integration. Given that it has been estimated that it will cost PWP \$39 million to transition to Smart Meters and replace the current billing system, the City would like to explore whether any recent technological investments would be compatible with emerging Smart Grid technology. The City is also in discussions with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and California Energy Commission (CEC) to participate in the study.

- ***Need: \$1,000,000***

### **Rose Bowl Renovations**

The City of Pasadena promotes the restoration of its historic properties and is seeking funding for improvements to the Rose Bowl. As the City moves forward with renovations of the Rose Bowl using \$152 million in local resources, any other federal programs that would assist with enhancing public safety and infrastructure improvements needed in light of a shortfall, possibly through the FEMA pre-disaster mitigation fund or other Department of Homeland Security resources.

### **“Healthy” Pasadena**

The City of Pasadena is currently examining ways to take a more comprehensive approach to public health, recognizing that there are a number of factors that have an impact on the

health of the community. As a result, the City is looking at a multi-departmental approach to addressing public health, from youth violence programs at the Police Department, to recreation and child care programs in the Human Services Department, to connecting transportation and affordable housing improvements, and beyond. In addition, these plans extend to outside of the City boundaries and include neighboring jurisdictions. The City seeks any federal assistance with these plans to develop a public health model that expands, enhances, and coordinates current initiatives.

#### **Seismic Upgrades to Fire Facilities**

The City has recently determined that seven of the eight fire stations in the City are in need of seismic upgrades. The condition at one of the stations was so dire that the City closed it immediately. In addition to placing firefighters and other public servants in danger, the situation threatens the City's ability to offer fire protection should the facilities deteriorate further. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$60 million to safeguard these facilities, and federal assistance with this effort could allow the City to address the unsafe conditions at a faster rate than is now possible.

**Need: \$60 million**

## **B. Surface Transportation Reauthorization**

#### **Transportation**

The City urges Congress to reauthorize the 2005 SAFETEA-LU law governing federal surface transportation programs with serious discussion regarding the manner in which federal transportation programs are funded. With growth in contributions to the federal Highway Trust Fund lagging, additional sources of revenue must be considered to meet the staggering infrastructure needs of the nation. In addition, it would be effective for Congress to consider alternative ways in which federal transportation funding flows to states and local governments with a particular emphasis on the metropolitan planning process as an effective way to direct funding to projects that best fit the needs and priorities of individual communities.

#### **Bridge Repair**

The Holly Street Bridge and the San Rafael Bridge each span the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena, CA, a tributary of the Los Angeles River and one of the region's most valued open-space resources. Both bridges have been found to have seismic deficiencies and the deteriorated and damaged concrete is in need of repair. The bridges serve as important links for public safety vehicles in connecting the eastern and western section of the Arroyo Seco and for those visiting the Rose Bowl. The cost of the Holly Street Bridge is estimated at approximately \$7.8 million, while the San Rafael would cost \$2.8 million.

- ***Need: \$8.5 million***

### **Intelligent Transportation System Improvements**

This project will expand the City's main communication infrastructure system as shown on the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Communication Master Plan. The project includes the installation of additional closed circuit television cameras at two key arterial locations, minor detection systems (video or inductive technology) and other soft operational updates such as signal synchronization and strategic signal timing solutions along nine arterial segments. This ITS Project will close critical fiber optic communication gaps that accounts for over ten miles of fiber along nine corridors. This project will expand the City's traffic management capabilities to provide priority treatment of all vehicles along major arterials within the City.

- ***Need: \$3 million***

## **C. Water Resources Development Act**

### **Water System Improvement Program**

The Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) Department provides water to all residents within the City of Pasadena and, as a result, the integrity of the water delivery system is essential to providing safe and efficient levels of service. Currently, the majority of the PWP facilities were installed over 70 years ago, with many water valves over 90 years old. Given that the useful life of a cast-iron pipeline is 50 to 70 years, these facilities are beyond their design life and are in desperate need of replacement. The City estimates it will cost between \$20 million and \$30 million per year over the next several years to protect and enhance its water delivery system.

Planning, design and construction of water infrastructure projects would include a distribution system, a storage booster station, pipeline rehabilitation and supervisory control, data acquisition system upgrades, and the design and construction of a reclaimed water transmission and distribution system.

- ***Request: \$2.475 million authorization from the Corps of Engineers Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure Program in the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to be considered by Congress.***

## **CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

### **2012 Federal Priorities – Part II**

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#### **Regional Priorities**

##### **Metro Gold Line Light Rail (Phase 2B – Foothill Extension)**

The City of Pasadena strongly supports Phase II of the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line and urges Congress to provide sufficient funds through the reauthorization and/or annual appropriations processes to ensure that the project is completed in a timely manner. Additionally, the City urges Congress and the Federal Transit Administration to work with the Gold Line Construction Authority to ensure that work can proceed on “Phase II(a)” of the project with local Measure R funds without prejudice to using those funds toward the local match when pursuing federal funds for “Phase II(b).” The City strongly supports funding for completion of Phase II(b).

##### **Los Angeles Regional “America Fast Forward” Public Transit Initiative**

The City is supportive of the proposal to use the long-term revenue from the Measure R sales tax as collateral for long-term bonds and a federal loan which will allow the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority to build 12 key mass transit projects in 10 years, rather than 30. In addition to the Foothill extension of the Gold Line, the initiative would accelerate the completion of a Regional Connector Transit Corridor, which would provide residents of Pasadena with easier access to downtown Los Angeles and visitors to the region with easier access to Pasadena.

##### **Southern California Foothill Communities Water Reliability Program**

A collection of Southern California communities, including Pasadena, are involved in a long-term, comprehensive effort to enhance the area’s water supply. Among those projects is a proposal to recharge the Raymond Basin, an aquifer whose levels are dropping between three and six feet per year. In addition to safeguarding the drinking water supply of the area, the water recharge will help prevent the migration of perchlorate from the Raymond Basin into the Northwest portion of the San Gabriel Basin and allow water producers to use blending to meet Safe Drinking Water Act standards. One proposed project will fill the un-used portion of the Basin’s storage capacity to help to ensure an uninterrupted water supply in the event of a disruption of Colorado River or State Water Project supplies. The City supports the efforts of the Raymond Basin Management Board to assist the Water Supply Reliability Project (WSRP).

##### **Arroyo Seco Watershed**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have initiated a Feasibility Study to examine potential water resources and environmental restoration plans for the Arroyo Seco Watershed. Eight miles of the 22-mile Arroyo Seco corridor extend through the City of Pasadena, and its resources are valued highly by the community as the largest open space in the City.

According to the Corps of Engineers, the San Gabriel Mountains are among the most erodible mountains in the world, releasing large amounts of sediment into the Arroyo each



year and threatening highly diverse habitats of wildlife and vegetation as well as popular recreational areas. The Feasibility Study would evaluate various options for restoration of the Arroyo and ultimately recommend a final plan for authorization by Congress. The City supports sufficient funding in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers budget to complete this important feasibility study.

**Interagency Communications Interoperable System (ICIS)**

The Pasadena Fire and Police Departments are currently participating in a regional interoperable communications system that will connect a number of area public safety agencies under a common radio network. Known as the Interagency Communications Interoperable System (ICIS), the project will help to solve one of the most significant problems facing public safety agencies in times of crisis. The City supports the efforts of all of the participating communities to secure funding for the considerable capital costs of the program based on the benefit ICIS provides to the entire region for both safety and efficiency. At this time, ICIS provides the fastest way to achieve interoperability, while the technology the City is using will allow for connections to future regional interoperability projects. In Pasadena alone, the City has dedicated \$7 million is needed to connect the Police, Water and Power, and Public Works Departments to ICIS.

**NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory**

In partnership with the California Institute of Technology and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is one of the most important federally-funded research and development centers in the country. As a result, JPL is a significant economic engine for the area, and Pasadena benefits tremendously from its presence. The City supports a reinvigorated commitment to the Science and Space missions at NASA with enhanced budgets in these areas, particularly those functions that fund operations at JPL.

**CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**  
**2012 Federal Priorities – Part III**

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**Legislative Priorities**

**Guiding Principles**

**Preserve and Enhance Federal Assistance to Local Governments**

Pasadena is interested in protecting and enhancing existing funding and authorities that impact revenues to the City. We hope to seek opportunities to utilize federal resources when it is appropriate and consistent with our local priorities.

**Oppose Preemption of Local Authority**

Cities such as Pasadena are created voluntarily by the residents of the community to provide local self-governance. Pasadena in general would be concerned with most Federal proposals – by legislation, regulation, or Executive Order -- that would result in unfunded mandates or preempt the ability of local governments to enforce policies, provide services, or protect assets traditionally handled on the local level.

**Perchlorate Contamination**

The City continues to negotiate with NASA regarding drinking water contamination at the City's Sunset Reservoir Wells, and seeks the assistance from the congressional delegation in ensuring that the responsible parties finance the remediation effort. The City strongly supports legislation to assist communities in dealing with remediation of drinking water contamination, such as proposals to create a trust fund at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide grants to communities that have experienced severe perchlorate contamination.

**Pasadena Reclaimed Water**

The City's Water and Power Department is working toward the implementation of the Pasadena Reclaimed Water Project, which would provide the City with access to water at the Los Angeles/Glendale Water Reclamation Plant that could be used for a non-potable use such as irrigation and reduce the City's reliance on water from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District. Congress provided an authorization for the project in 1996 that allows the City to seek federal assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation at the Department of Interior. The City is currently in the process of renewing a contract with the City of Glendale for reclaimed water, and is requesting federal assistance toward the cost of a feasibility study and environmental assessment for the project that would provide for a delivery system for the reclaimed water.

**Energy Efficiency**

The City supports full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant at the Department of Energy. This program -- which is authorized at \$2 billion annually and is designed to award formula grants to states and local governments for the design and

implementation of energy efficiency programs – would provide great benefits for a number of ongoing activities within the community. A guaranteed source of funding through climate change legislation would allow local governments such as Pasadena to engage in the long-term planning that is vital to the success of energy efficiency programs.

The City also supports legislative and regulatory efforts that would strengthen the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, in which local governments make loans to homeowners to cover the cost of energy improvements. Since homeowners repay the loans through a special property tax assessment that stays with the home regardless of the owner, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have discouraged banks from making loans on properties that would participate in such agreements.

### **Homeland Security**

The presence of the Rose Bowl, Tournament of Roses Parade, and NASA Jet Propulsion Lab presents the City of Pasadena with unique challenges in protecting its citizens from terrorist threats. Like many other communities, the City believes that there is a role for the federal government to assist localities; preferably with flexible, threat-based homeland security funding (block grants) that can be tailored to the specific needs of each community. Pasadena participates in the Los Angeles area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and supports funding for the area at least at FY 2010 levels.

### **Fire Services**

The City supports the continued funding of the Firefighter Assistance Grants program at the Department of Homeland Security, which serves as a valuable tool for both homeland security and local fire safety purposes. In addition, the City urges Congress to fully fund the SAFER program to provide firefighter hiring grants. However, budget constraints often make meeting local match requirements in the Firefighter Assistance program difficult and firefighter salaries that are high in relation to other states hinder the City's ability to consider the limitations that come with SAFER grants.

The City also is concerned with the continued reduction of Medicare reimbursement for ambulance service and strongly urges the federal government, either by legislative or regulatory means, to set reimbursement rates for ambulance services at the actual cost of the transport. Current Medicare reimbursement rates do not come close to covering the cost of the service and are an unfunded mandate on local ambulance providers that ultimately results in local taxpayers subsidizing the Medicare program.

### **Community Development/Affordable Housing**

The City strongly supports HUD programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Section 108 loan guarantee program, the HOME Investment Partnerships, Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care, and Section 8 Tenant-based and Project-based Programs and urges the congressional delegation to oppose any attempts to: 1) reduce funding for these popular assistance programs, 2) change their formulas, 3) scale back administrative caps, or 4) convert them into state block grants. Pasadena receives in excess of \$15 million annually from the combined programs, which funds a variety of community projects and services vital to our low-income residents.

In addition, federal funds for homeless assistance programs and investment in affordable and workforce housing that recognizes inflated fair market rents in high-cost areas, such as California, are crucial to the City's goals of addressing the housing affordability concerns of our residents . Currently, the City has a waiting list of over 4,000 residents for Section 8 vouchers, and there is concern that the need will only increase as more Section 8 housing is converted to market-rate. The City also opposes efforts to reduce available funding or place restrictions on the use of administrative fees to implement the Section 8 Housing Assistance Program at the local level, and supports reforms to the Section 202 elderly housing and Section 811 disabled housing programs that would allow for gap financing and other vehicles that would assist in expanding those offerings.

Finally, the City encourages the federal government to increase the tools available to local governments to deal with affordable housing. This would include the creation of a federal affordable housing trust fund, as well as efforts to extend and expand the New Markets Tax Credit program in a manner which encourages its use for affordable homeownership projects. Also, extending and expanding provisions from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that encourage investment in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit market would continue to stimulate the production of affordable rental housing in communities such as Pasadena. Because it has been highly effective, the City opposes any efforts to eliminate or reduce the low income housing tax credit

### **Workforce Development**

Workforce development is a critical policy area that directly links the ability of California companies to compete in the global market. It provides cities and regions with the ability to retain and grow key industries and provides people with the opportunity to develop the skills needed to prosper in a changing economy.

The City supports reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) with continued flexibility and the primacy of the one-stop system as the presumed deliverer of employment and training services. Sustained funding and enhanced policy development for workforce development initiatives are essential to a healthy employment and training system. The City supports a continued strong, locally-based, business-led workforce development system, including local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) membership on State Boards, local boards and local elected official participation in regional planning, maintenance of current funding levels to local areas, and protection of workforce areas designated as high-performing.

The City supports financial incentives – such as payment of salaries – to encourage small businesses under 10 employees to hire youth, ages 16-21, during the summers. Additionally, the success of locally-funded summer youth programs such as Pasadena's Rose Program, which also benefitted from federal economic stimulus funding in 2009, demonstrates the need for a federal Summer Youth Jobs Program. The program is having a measurable positive impact on Pasadena youth and a federal contribution would help communities meet the growing need for providing non-violent alternatives for youth. The City supports a long-term Federal investment in summer youth employment in WIA

Reauthorization that would be linked to locally-developed and supported summer jobs and internship efforts.

The City opposes reductions in the local control and governance of workforce development areas, particularly where consolidation of existing workforce investment areas to create larger regions would be instituted without regard to the effective performance of existing workforce areas and governing bodies.

With regard to the commitment toward energy efficiency and environmental quality, the City is interested in exploring any opportunities to promote job training for “green” industries, particularly in conjunction with the City Water and Power Department.

### **Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Renewable Energy**

The City owns and operates a municipal electric utility through its Department of Water and Power. As climate change legislation is considered by Congress, the City would urge that a sufficient amount of emissions allowances related to a cap and trade system are provided for public power providers, which cannot compete with private interests for such allowances on the open market. Pasadena is aggressively seeking to increase its utilization of renewable energy resources to provide power to its residents and hopes that climate change legislation will provide adequate resources to assist public power agencies in meeting any mandates in that area. In addition, we encourage Congress to support other proposals to assist on the federal level, such as: 1) an increased commitment to the Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) program; 2) expansion of the Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) program, 3) extending and expanding Treasury Department grants in lieu of tax credits for companies that invest in renewable energy development, and 4) the introduction of legislation that would fund studies and demonstrations to examine ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on coal-fired plants.

### **Taxation**

In general, the City is concerned that the federal government has attempted to impose itself into the area of local taxation, a matter traditionally handled on the local level. Pasadena officials are better suited than the federal government to understand the needs of the community, and should have all the tools necessary to ensure the safety and health of the public while properly maintaining the public’s largest investment, its infrastructure.

The recent financial crisis has had a negative effect on the ability of local governments such as Pasadena to issue municipal bonds. The City is supportive of efforts by the federal government to increase the liquidity of the municipal bond market, and thus create additional jobs through increased capital projects. Creating a program to allow the federal government to support municipal bonds through a letter of credit, as opposed to banks, would provide considerable savings for communities such as Pasadena. The City strongly opposes any efforts to eliminate the tax benefits of investing in municipal bonds, a scenario that would have a chilling effect on the municipal bond market and remove one of the only tools available to local governments to finance large scale capital projects.

Pasadena is also concerned with attempts to exempt online travel companies (OTCs) from collecting state and local bed taxes when they resell hotel rooms to consumers shopping at their sites. There are several lawsuits now pending across the country challenging the current practice of OTCs of remitting taxes to states and local governments based on the discount cost of purchasing hotel rooms in bulk, rather than the higher price that they charge their customers.

The City has concerns about legislation that would have severely limited the ability of local governments to impose business activity taxes, as well as legislation that would eliminate local authority to impose taxes on wireless communications providers.

In addition, the City is using the Build America Bond (BAB) program to finance Rose Bowl renovations, and would support an extension of BABs, as they have had a positive effect on economic development job creation throughout California and the nation.

Finally, the City supports legislation that would allow states and local governments to collect sales taxes from remote sales such as online and catalog purchases. Such legislation would level the playing field between online merchants that do not have to collect sales and use taxes, and Main Street businesses that do not enjoy that advantage.

### **Telecommunications**

The City opposes legislative and regulatory efforts to curb the ability of local governments to charge fair and reasonable compensation for the use and maintenance of public rights-of-way. Pasadena taxpayers have made significant investments in the City's infrastructure, and it is the duty of the City to protect those investments. In addition, the City opposes any federal intrusion into local permitting and zoning laws with respect to siting of telecommunications facilities. The city also supports the Community Access Preservation (CAP) Act, which would ensure funding for communities to offer accessible public, educational, and governmental (PEG) programming.

### **Public Health**

In October 2009, the Pasadena City Council approved a set of principles to guide Congress in its debate over comprehensive health care reform:

- Reduce long-term growth of health care costs for families, individuals, businesses and government
- Protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs
- Guarantee choice of doctors, hospitals and health plans and the choice of a private or public health care plan
- Invest in prevention and wellness
- Improve patient safety and quality of care for all Americans
- Maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job
- End barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions
- Eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in government health programs

- Hold insurance and drug companies accountable by ensuring that people are not overcharged for prescription drugs, or discriminated against for pre-existing conditions
- Support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health coverage may still receive care, and so that surge capacity is available in case of public health emergencies; and so that the cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed health care system.

The City encourages the federal government to continue to provide adequate resources to strengthen the existing public health infrastructure to: 1) help address the growing number of uninsured individuals without access to care; 2) develop effective and coordinated community mitigation, preparedness, and response systems for bioterrorism, emergence of new infectious disease threats and other public health emergencies, and 3) assist with the reduction of health disparities, examination of environmental influences on health and wellness, and expansion of substance abuse recovery programs. A risk based allocation of bioterrorism and emergency preparedness funding, rather than a population based formula, would more appropriately address the public health needs in Pasadena.

The City supports continuation of the Ryan White Care Act and opposes any restructuring that would negatively impact the allocation to Los Angeles County. The City also opposes reductions in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as this would shift the cost of care for individuals in these programs to the state and local jurisdictions.

The City is interested in opportunities through the new health care law to fund local efforts to enhance disease prevention and control activities and provide residents with increased access to health care. The City also supports federal initiatives that strengthen the safety net for underserved populations, such as immunization efforts, the WIC program, community health centers, and the Maternal and Child Health Care Block Grant program.

### **Environment**

The City of Pasadena is seeking to increase its role in promoting environmental stewardship and urban sustainability through activities such as the endorsement of the United Nations Green Cities Declaration, the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and the adoption of the Urban Environmental Accords Action Plan.

In the context of striving to balance long-term economic and social impacts of our decisions and actions, the City supports legislation that improves the availability of renewable energy; increases energy efficiency; reduces greenhouse gas emissions; reduces waste to landfills; reduces the use of non-renewable resources in the manufacture of products; supports green buildings; advances urban planning while protecting wildlife habitats and preserving and maximizing open space; improves opportunities for securing environmentally beneficial jobs; supports the environmental benefits of organic food production; eliminates chemicals and/or compounds that pose risks to living things; enhances parks and recreational opportunities; increases the urban forestry canopy;

increases affordable and accessible public transit; supports cleaner emissions from vehicles; improves air quality; ensures safe drinking water supplies; conserves water resources; and supports sustainable urban watershed and wastewater planning and implementation.

### **Public Safety**

The City of Pasadena has found that providing law enforcement with the resources to implement a combination of prevention, intervention, and enforcement programs is vital to effective crime reduction strategies. On the prevention side, federal assistance to create more robust prisoner re-entry programs or to address the growing problems facing homeless veterans would have positive effects in Pasadena, as would family reunification programs and community courts to deal with at-risk youth. The Police Department is currently seeking to expand a program with fellow City departments, community partners, and neighboring jurisdictions on a parole re-integration initiative that assists interested parolees in finding long term employment that is key to ending the cycle that see so many re-incarcerated.

To improve enforcement, the Pasadena Police Department would benefit from tools that would allow for more advanced crime analysis, as improved technology can be particularly helpful when budget constraints make it difficult to add personnel. The City is also supportive of regional efforts to collaborate in areas such as interoperable communications.

### **Employee Compensation and Terms of Employment**

The City supports the retention of local decision-making authority and opposes the preemption of local control over employment-related decisions regarding wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment, and employee rights and privileges. Federal items of concern include legislation that would preempt state law enacted thirty years ago and impose standards for collective bargaining rights for local public safety employees, as well as Internal Revenue Service regulations that would invalidate existing state public employee retirement benefits.

### **Land Use**

The City opposes federal intrusions into local land use regulations, such as restrictions on the use of eminent domain or determining the sites of telecommunications facilities such as cellular towers. Local governments are best positioned to work with residents to determine appropriate land use and zoning procedures tailored for each community.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Maintaining and enhancing the City's parks and recreational system is a high priority for Pasadena residents, and the City has committed significant resources to offering safe and accessible recreational opportunities. Although federal assistance in the areas of recreation, preservation, and conservation has declined sharply, the City believes there is a federal role for assisting local governments with these matters and urges Congress to restore funding for important programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). While Congress originally intended for \$900 million annually in offshore



drilling revenues to be directed to the LWCF, the program receives only a small fraction of that amount each year, and LWCF state formula grants remain on the brink of elimination. Similarly, in prior years, funding was eliminated for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program where the City believes the small federal commitment provided great benefits to a number of communities across the country.

### **Senior Services and Persons with Disabilities**

A broad combination of Federal and State programs and subsidies are essential to the quality of life for seniors in Pasadena. The City opposes any cuts to funding for health care subsidies or related senior programs, with particular concern for reductions in funding for or delivery of support services that enable seniors and persons with disabilities to live independently or in the most appropriate but least restrictive setting. Further, the City supports the inclusion of seniors as one of the preferential groups for consideration of public housing funds.

### **Human Relations Issues**

The City realizes that prejudice, intolerance and discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, parental status, gender, age, or cultural background are root causes of hate crimes and affect the lives of every resident in Pasadena. The City supports legislation and regulations that would eliminate hate crimes.

### **Women's Issues**

The City of Pasadena is actively involved in promoting networks and programs that advance women's issues. The City supports: 1) legislation and regulations that would improve women's access to quality healthcare; 2) protection for domestic violence victims (including the availability of domestic violence shelters); 3) expanding resources to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace; 4) legal assistance for women who are forced into slavery, prostitution and pornography (human trafficking); and, 5) strengthening of laws that encourage equal pay without regard for gender.

### **Library Services**

Given the increasing importance of accessing the Internet for library customers without the means to do so at home, the City is supportive of any efforts to expand broadband funding. The City supports full funding for the Library and Technology Act (LSTA) programs at the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The City also supports continued IMLS funding of National Leadership grants for Library and Recruitment for Librarians for the 21st Century, and early childhood literacy programs that involve partnerships between libraries, the local school district and other community-based agencies. In addition, with the growing popularity of electronic media, the City is supportive of efforts that allow for increased flexibility with regard to copyright laws and electronic book offerings.

### **Arts and Culture**

The Pasadena community benefits from a wealth of cultural opportunities that makes the community an attractive place to live, work, and learn. In order to better harness the creative spirit of the community, residents began a process that has resulted in an action

plan, or Cultural Nexus, for the next ten years. The Cultural Nexus aspires to: 1) increase participation in Pasadena's cultural life; 2) leverage Pasadena's cultural assets for economic growth; 3) communicate Pasadena's unique cultural heritage to the world; and 4) ensure a sustainable support system for arts and culture in the community. The City believes that a federal role in these activities is appropriate, and supports continued funding of arts education initiatives, cultural outreach activities, and programs at agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities.

### **Immigration**

The City of Pasadena strongly believes that immigrants strengthen the community economically and culturally, and welcomes their contributions to society. With regard to federal legislation aimed at reforming federal immigration laws, the City would urge Congress and the President to reaffirm that addressing unlawful immigration in a compassionate manner is the primary responsibility of the federal government, and that sufficient resources must be committed on the federal level for this purpose. Local governments should not be mandated to enforce federal immigration laws, particularly when resources necessary to enforce local laws are stretched.

## **CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 2012 State Priorities – Part I**

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### **Guiding Principles**

#### **Preserve Local Funding**

The City supports the protection of existing state and local funding sources and the authorities that provide revenues to the City of Pasadena. Such areas include the protection of state-shared revenues, redevelopment tax increment, and the ability to collect compensation for the use of the public right-of-way or city-owned facilities. The City opposes any new mandates that are unfunded and/or inadequately funded.

A current proposal to eliminate Redevelopment Authorities and Enterprise Zones creates an unusually serious concern. This proposed action is inconsistent with the priority of economic development, job growth, affordable housing production and community investment. Eliminating these programs would shift an exceptionally difficult financial burden on local government and would send the wrong message to businesses that create jobs.

#### **Preserve Local Authority**

The City supports local decision-making authority and opposes preemption of local control. Cities are voluntarily created by the residents of a community to provide local self-government and to make decisions at a local level to best meet the needs of the community. Each community has unique needs and characteristics that are best met by policies set by its local governing body. Recently, several pieces of high-profile legislation have been introduced which serve the purpose of superseding local discretion and land use controls generally established to maintain the immediate community's quality of life standards. Statewide efforts to remove the ability to set policy at the local level should be opposed.

## **CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

### **2011 State Priorities – Part II**

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#### **Legislative Priorities**

##### **Environment**

The City of Pasadena is seeking to increase its role in promoting environmental stewardship and urban sustainability through activities such as the endorsement of the United Nations Green Cities Declaration, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and the adoption of the Urban Environmental Accords Action Plan.

The City supports legislation that: 1) improves the availability of renewable energy; 2) increases energy efficiency; 3) reduces greenhouse gas emissions; 4) reduces waste to landfills; 5) reduces the use of non-renewable resources in the manufacture of products; 6) supports green buildings and advances urban planning while protecting wildlife habitats; 7) improves opportunities for environmentally beneficial jobs; 8) enhances parks and recreational opportunities; 9) increases the urban forest canopy; 10) increases affordable public transit; 11) supports cleaner emissions from vehicles; 12) improves air quality; 13) ensures and conserves safe drinking water, and 14) supports sustainable urban watershed and wastewater planning and implementation. The City also supports renewable energy derived from sustainable resources such as wind, geothermal (steam), landfill gas (methane produced from decomposing waste), solar, and hydroelectric facilities.

The City supports legislation regarding better air quality which may include strategies to mitigate emissions. The City supports port operations which reduce air pollution as well as relieves traffic congestion. This is best demonstrated in our purchases of alternative fuel vehicles for the city transit service and the recognition that more State attention should be focused on the ports and the movement of goods.

As a founding member of Green Cities California, Pasadena, in collaboration with the other member agencies, also supports legislation that: reduces or eliminates single use bags and promotes reusable bags statewide; proposes or supports funding to local governments to assist in implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 - 2006 Global Warming Solution Act; preserves funding for transit; and establishes extended producer responsibility for waste reduction.

##### **Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Renewable Energy**

The City fully embraces greenhouse gas reduction and has adopted an aggressive 40% greenhouse gas reduction goal for its municipal electric utility, Pasadena Water and Power. To meet this goal, the City has adopted goals to achieve a 40% renewable portfolio standard by 2020, reducing electric loads by 1.3% annually through utility-sponsored conservation programs, and reducing its

current reliance on coal-fired generation by about one-third. Achieving these goals will impose a considerable burden on the City's electric rate payers.

As renewable portfolio standard legislation is being considered, the City urges that its renewable energy and biomethane fuel resources be grandfathered for statutory compliance consistent with the City Council's intent. Additionally, since renewable resources are zero carbon resources, they should not have to bear any greenhouse gas compliance burden. Similarly, as climate change and "cap and trade" legislation is being considered, the City urges that a sufficient amount of emission allowances be allocated to retail electric utilities, such as Pasadena Water and Power, to offset the added burden of emissions costs under a cap and trade system. The City supports the policy of administratively providing free emission allowances to retail electric utilities in proportion to their expected future emissions.

#### **Abatement of Nuisance Liquor Stores**

Several nuisance liquor stores in the City had been cited for illegal activities including selling to minors. With the passage of SB 148 (Scott) a process exists to commence the elimination of nuisance liquor stores and the associated impacts from the affected communities. The City continues to request our legislators initiate legislation that would provide local government with more control over the abatement of nuisance liquor stores.

#### **Rose Bowl Renovations**

The City of Pasadena promotes the restoration of its historic properties and is seeking funding for the renovation of the Rose Bowl. As the City moves forward with renovations of the Rose Bowl, any other state funding that would assist with enhancing public safety and infrastructure improvements are welcomed.

#### **California Vehicle Code**

The City seeks legislation to amend the language of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) related to the definition of local streets in the section pertaining to speed traps and setting speed limits. The changes are sought to provide greater flexibility in setting speed limits on residential collectors and arterials in cities with older street systems. Modifying the CVC to make the language less restrictive with regard to how a local street is defined would restore a measure of local control. If a city had the option to use the criteria in paragraphs A-C of CVC 40802 (2) (b) (1) rather than being forced to use functional classification, streets that are local in design would be considered "local" regardless of functional classification and would be exempt from having to comply with the requirement to conduct an engineering and traffic survey to set the speed limit.

#### **Density Bonus Law**

The City supports changes to the current State Density Bonus law that will restore local control. These changes should allow cities to maximize their ability to protect local quality of life and retain the unique character of their

communities. The City supports special consideration in meeting the State Density Bonus law for cities like Pasadena that have consistently invested in affordable housing projects/programs. Cities that have achieved appropriate housing goals, demonstrated commitments to affordable housing, complied with zoning requirements, etc. should not be penalized by the imposition of State law which diminishes local authority. The City supports compliant cities being granted relief and/or flexibility in response to the State Density Bonus law with greater regulatory attention focused on non-compliant jurisdictions to address their affordable housing needs.

### **Telecommunications**

In 2009, California enacted legislation that shifted franchising of video service providers from the local to the state level. While the legislation largely preserved local governments' ability to regulate placement of telecommunications infrastructure in the public rights-of-way, cities lost control in several other areas of telecommunications regulation. Clean-up legislation may be necessary in the upcoming legislative session. In addition, states other than California have adopted legislation that prohibits cities from providing telecommunications services, as well as legislation to limit regulation of private-sector telecommunications firms' use of the public rights-of-way.

The City supports legislation clarifying regulation of video service providers to preserve: Public Educational & Government (PEG) funding and channels; cities' rights to collect and audit franchise fee payments; local regulation of placement of telecommunications infrastructure in the public rights-of-way; and local government input in the state franchising process.

The City opposes any legislation that would further diminish the City's ability to make future decisions to offer telecommunications services directly or to control the use of the public rights-of-way by the telecommunications industry.

### **Workers Compensation**

Recent improvements to the workers' compensation system were the result of many individual efforts seeking to resolve specific issues. The system needs additional work to continue to move toward fair and equitable programs.

The City supports legislation that would control medical and legal costs. The City opposes legislation that would repeal the recent workers compensation reforms, or that would exempt public safety employees from those reforms.

### **Employee Compensation and Terms of Employment**

The City supports local control over employment decisions not already preempted by State law. Each year the legislature introduces numerous bills which have the effect of eroding local control over employment, including such things as compensation and benefits, collective bargaining agreements, and employee rights and privileges. Inasmuch as each city is unique, it is important to maintain local control over the discretionary nuances of employment that are

not already regulated by State or federal law or regulation. The City opposes legislation that would preempt local control over employment, compensation and benefits, collective bargaining and employee rights and privileges. More specifically, the City opposes any bill to establish citizen compensation commissions or committees, or such compensation commissions or committees of combined membership with private citizens and any other persons or entities, when said commission or committee is charged with regulating local decision making with regard to compensation of local officials or employees. The City also opposes any bill that would limit local control over determining its own pension plans, pension financing, or the right to contract with the State Public Employment Retirement System for appropriate pension formulae and benefits available under State law.

### **Support for Affordable Housing**

The City has implemented an aggressive and creative program to maximize the use of resources for the creation of housing for low and moderate-income individuals and families, including the implementation of an effective citywide inclusionary housing ordinance.

The City supports legislation that would provide additional resources for the development of affordable housing programs and/or expand code enforcement programs to protect existing housing stock. The City supports legislation that would require municipalities to provide assistance to homeless individuals that reside within their jurisdictions either directly or through the financial support of homeless service agencies that provide services within or directly adjacent to their jurisdictions. The City opposes new regulations that would create cumbersome processes or other obstacles to the development of affordable housing and/or the provision of homeless services, as well as any new legislation that would abridge or limit local regulatory mechanisms designed to increase affordable housing production (e.g., inclusionary housing programs).

### **Expanded Health Coverage**

In Pasadena, an estimated one out of every four residents does not have adequate health coverage. Some are uninsured children who are eligible, but not enrolled in available programs. Many are working poor whose employers do not provide insurance or have reduced their coverage due to increasing health care costs. People who are uninsured and underinsured face significant barriers in obtaining needed health services, often leading to needless death, disability, and increased costs of care. Social, economic, racial and ethnic factors also contribute to significant health disparities. To address these issues, the City supports legislation to improve health coverage in a comprehensive manner provided adequate funding and cost controls are in place. Expansion in health insurance programs would also help to reduce the burden of unreimbursed care provided by local emergency services, which has led to a crisis in the emergency medical system in Los Angeles County.

The City recognizes that several health care reform mechanisms have been introduced by the Governor and in the Legislature. The City supports enhancement to state sponsored health care mechanisms consistent with the set of principles approved in October 2009 by the Pasadena City Council to guide comprehensive health care reform:

- Reduce long-term growth of health care costs for families, individuals, businesses and government;
- Protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs;
- Guarantee choice of doctors, hospitals and health plans and the choice of a private or public health care plan;
- Invest in prevention and wellness;
- Improve patient safety and quality of care for all Americans;
- Maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job;
- Assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans;
- End barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions;
- Eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in government health programs;
- Hold insurance and drug companies accountable by ensuring that people are not overcharged for prescription drugs, or discriminated against for pre-existing conditions;
- Support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health coverage may still receive care, and so that surge capacity is available in case of public health emergencies; and so that the cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed health care system.

The City also encourages the state government to provide resources to strengthen the existing public health infrastructure by: 1) helping to address the growing number of uninsured individuals without access to care; 2) developing effective and coordinated community mitigation, preparedness, and response systems for bioterrorism, emergence of new infectious disease threats and other public health emergencies, and 3) assisting with the reduction of health disparities, examination of environmental influences on health and wellness, and expansion of substance abuse recovery programs.

#### **Protection of Children against Sexual Predators**

Although the Police Department continues to monitor registered sex offenders, not all released offenders comply with registration requirements. The failure of offenders to register, places an additional strain on Police Department resources due to the resultant need for investigations and the issuance of warrants.

The City supports legislation to increase periods of incarceration for people who commit sex crimes against children, as well as additional law enforcement tools to track sex registrants after they are released from prison.



**Incorporate the Region's Needs in Emerging Climate Change and Sustainability Programs**

As Climate Change legislation is being developed and implemented the City of Pasadena supports legislation that provides funding for infrastructure needed to support Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Support efforts to encourage smart growth and TOD that preserve the authority of local agencies. Support initiatives that promote demand management and other green house gas reduction strategies. Support legislative efforts which advocate for the connection between sustainable community strategies and funding for the projects and programs needed to support increased non-auto travel.

**Group Homes**

The City supports legislation that would provide increased oversight by the State and/or reduce the potential for over-concentration of group homes within a defined geographic area. The City also supports neighborhoods and has concerns regarding residential care facilities that serve as "sober living" homes. Since federal law classifies recovering drug and substance abusers as handicapped and allows unrestricted location of group homes for the handicapped, local governments have little control over the placement of these sober living facilities in their communities. While the City does not oppose the presence of residential group homes in Pasadena, we believe that, like any other home or business, we should have some say over their placement within the community.

## **CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

### **2012 State Priorities – Part III**

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#### **Funding Priorities**

##### **Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2B**

The second phase of the Gold Line is a much-anticipated addition to the transportation system throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. Phase 2B of the Gold Line Foothill Extension will extend the light rail line from Azusa to Montclair. This extension will relieve congestion in the area and provide a greater modal choice for residents of the San Gabriel Valley. The City also supports funding and/or legislation that would expedite the completion of Phase 2B of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension. The City advocates that San Gabriel Valley cities continue to have a role in the administration of the construction of the Gold Line.

##### **Completion of the 710 Freeway**

Many of the major north/south arterial streets in the southwest portion of the City are operating at capacity during peak hours with overflow traffic spilling onto residential streets. In March 2001, Pasadena voters supported completion of the 710 Freeway through this area of the City. However, the Caltrans Notice of Determination for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) associated with the originally contemplated surface transportation project to complete the 710 freeway was withdrawn by a vote of the Commission on April 8, 2004 and is no longer under consideration in favor of a tunnel solution to this critical traffic concern. The City supports this approach along with the feasibility studies currently underway regarding the possible tunnel solution as well as the voters approved funding to perform further studies included in Measure R.

##### **Protection of the State Water Project**

The State Water Project is the primary drinking water source for more than 18 million Southern Californians. 61% of Pasadena Water and Power's water supply is imported from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, whose primary water source comes from the State Water Project. The City supports funding opportunities and legislation that will improve the State Water Project in the following areas:

- Water quality
- Water supply
- Water conveyance and facilities

##### **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)**

Long term water resources management planning is a major concern for the state. The City supports grant funding for programs, projects and implementation. The IRWMP is a regional effort that will address water supply and water quality

needs and objectives by integrating strategies and projects that may include water conservation and recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, flood management, storm water and urban runoff quality, wastewater quality, habitat restoration and protection, wetland enhancement and creation, recreation, open space, sustainable urban watershed and other water resources management initiatives.

### **Reclaimed Water**

The City supports all legislation and funding that supports the implementation, construction and use of reclaimed water as an alternative water supply for irrigation, landscape and industrial purposes. The City supports funding opportunities for the implementation and construction of a reclaimed water distribution system.

### **Reservoir Rehabilitation**

The City's 2002 Water System Master Plan has identified the City's reservoir facilities as being potentially subject to seismic damage from an earthquake occurring in the Sierra Madre fault system. Rehabilitation of the City's reservoir facilities will increase the water system's reliability and water quality. The City will seek state funding assistance with seismic rehabilitation of water facilities.

### **Safe Drinking Water**

Regulations on safe drinking water are becoming increasingly stringent on local jurisdictions with water departments and local and regional water districts. The City seeks funding to assist it in meeting safe drinking water requirements as regulations become ever more stringent. The City supports funding opportunities for contaminated groundwater treatment facilities in order to comply with new water quality regulations. The City supports legislation that revises water quality testing standards that are based on scientific data.

### **Energy Efficiency and Demand Reduction**

The City believes that energy efficiency and demand reduction programs provide a significant amount of energy savings and peak demand reduction. The City supports funding opportunities and incentives for the evaluation and initiation of new cost-effective demand reduction programs to offset residential and commercial energy use and costs.

### **Green Job Training**

In conjunction with the City Water and Power Department and the City's commitment toward energy efficiency and environmental quality, the City is interested in exploring any opportunities to integrate green skills and certifications into existing traditional utility jobs, including "career pathway" programs and promoting job training for green industries, including smart grid and solar industries.

### **Public Health Services**

As one of three cities in the state with its own public health department, the City provides infectious disease surveillance and control, community health assessment and planning, health promotion and policy development, direct clinical services, and environmental health protection and enforcement activities. The Public Health Department plays a critical role in identifying and responding to outbreaks of disease and other threats to the public's health, including threats from a bioterrorist incident or other emergency.

The City supports any funding that strengthens core public health capacities in all relevant areas and opposes any cuts to funding. The City also supports the practice of designating the award of specific funds directly to local health jurisdictions, rather than through county distribution processes. The City supports continued state funding to local health department jurisdictions in support of preparedness, response, and recovery activities in the event of an infectious disease occurrence such as a pandemic influenza.

### **Soundwalls**

The process for prioritizing soundwall projects needs to be changed to allow the flexibility to address areas of greatest community concern and highest decibel reading. In 1998, the responsibility for soundwall projects was transferred from Caltrans to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). The MTA changed the prioritization criteria to focus on high occupancy vehicle (HOV) related projects first, which exhausted all available funding. Projects of community concern, frequently with higher decibel readings, will not qualify for funding for an unknown number of years. The City would like to see legislation to amend the priority criteria for soundwalls to address areas of community concern.

### **City Parks**

Pasadena recently adopted a citywide Park Master Plan that identified a need for park land across the city as well as acquiring open space. There are 24 parks in the City of Pasadena. Presently, there are approximately \$70 million in unfunded park projects in the City's Capital Improvement Budget. These projects include implementing park master plans for our regional, community and neighborhood parks. In addition, the City is also home to the Arroyo Seco. The Arroyo Seco is on the western edge of the City of Pasadena and extends 8 miles through the City. This segment is a part of a longer 22 mile corridor that makes up the entire Arroyo Seco, a major tributary of the Los Angeles River. It is the City's largest natural open space and physically described as a deeply cut canyon linking the San Gabriel Mountains to the Los Angeles River. Pasadena supports legislation that directs state bond funds to assist with the completion of park projects and the acquisition of additional parkland and open space.

**Public Libraries**

The City of Pasadena supports continued funding for California's public libraries. The programs currently delineated in Governor Brown's proposed budget cuts include support for literacy programs, the provision of shared collections through transaction-based reimbursement to lending libraries, and public library direct per capita funding. At risk is also the library consortia program which provides low cost regional continuing education, materials delivery to borrowing libraries, and negotiated vendor rates. The loss of State funding for these programs would be difficult to replace from our municipal budget funds.