

# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL DATE: June 1, 1998

FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL 663 (Ortiz)  
Support of an Act to Amend Section 101230 of the Health and Safety Code,  
Augmenting Funding for Health and Communicable Disease Control

## **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* Assembly Bill 663 (Ortiz – An act to amend Section 101230 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health and communicable disease control) which would provide additional support for basic communicable disease prevention, control and surveillance activities at the local health department level.

## **BACKGROUND**

Local public health departments provide the foundation of communicable disease control in the state through diagnosis, case investigation, management and intervention, health education, and disease surveillance. In 1947, the State legislature allocated \$3 million for these core disease prevention and control functions. The allocation has significantly decreased to a current annual level of \$708,000 statewide.

This erosion of financial support has occurred in spite of the increasing complexity of communicable disease problems and the dramatic increase in the population of the state. California has been designated as the state most likely to experience the appearance of new disease threats. California is faced with the public health consequences of having developed previously unpopulated areas, the globalization of our food sources, multiple international ports of entry and a rapidly evolving private and public health care delivery system. The number of infectious diseases newly emerging or re-emerging has increased sharply in just the past few years.

The Pasadena Public Health Department's (PPHD) ability to deal with new and re-emerging infectious diseases will be tenuous, since our current infrastructure to prevent and control communicable disease is severely strained and under funded. The PPHD share of the current

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**Support of AB 663, Increasing State Allocation for Core Disease Prevention and Control Functions**

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allocation is \$227, which does very little to support the Department's communicable disease prevention and control functions.

Assemblyman Ortiz introduced Assembly Bill 663, which would augment the base funding for the control of communicable diseases in local health jurisdictions. The funding increase would be made operational by changing the current state subvention formula

from: sixty cents (\$0.60) per capita or sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) per local jurisdiction, whichever is less;

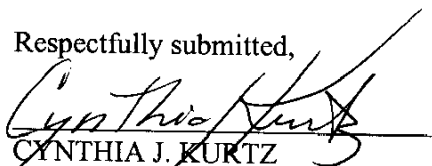
to: sixty cents (\$0.60) per capita or one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per local jurisdiction, whichever is more.

Staff recommends support of AB 663 because it would result in additional financial support to the Pasadena Public Health Department. As currently framed, the legislation would result in an annual allocation of \$100,000 for communicable disease prevention and control. This enhanced funding would allow us to significantly improve the PPHD infrastructure, including our professional and scientific capability to perform communicable disease control and surveillance activities.

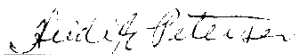
**FISCAL IMPACT**

Passage of Assembly Bill 663 would result in an additional allocation of up to \$100,000 to the Pasadena Public Health Department's Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Division.

Respectfully submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
Acting City Manager

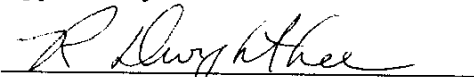
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