

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

February 28, 2000

THROUGH: Legislative Committee

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill 244 (Solis) – *Surface Mining and Reclamation*

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council support Senate Bill 244 and authorize the Mayor to send letters to the appropriate authorities stating Pasadena's position.

BACKGROUND

On January 26, 1999, Senator Solis introduced SB 244, *Surface Mining and Reclamation*. This bill serves to clarify and enhance the *Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975* ("SMARA"). In 1975, the legislature enacted SMARA in recognition of the reclamation of mined lands and their impact on the environmentally safe growth of mining communities. However, in its current state, SMARA does not sufficiently address the problems including groundwater contamination, slope failure, illegal dumping, and personal injuries.

Senate Bill 244 would specifically:

1. Allow periodic review of reclamation plans and allow for limited revisions to plans in certain circumstances.
2. Modify SMARA to clarify that mined land will be reclaimed to a useable condition that is readily adaptable to alternative land uses, and in a configuration similar to that when mining commenced.
3. Make it clear that the end use of a reclaimed site be established by the local agency's general plan.

4. Allow local regional water authorities the opportunity to review and comment on reclamation plans prior to their approval, where mining will occur in groundwater.

On January 31, 2000, Senate Bill 244 passed out of the Senate and has been forwarded to the Assembly.

On January 4, the City received a letter requesting support on this bill from the City of Irwindale. Irwindale requests that we, along with other cities throughout the state let our Legislature know that it is important that we support SB 244.

FISCAL/IMPACT:

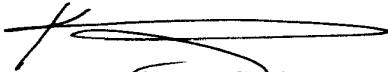
Passage of this bill would have no fiscal impact on the City.

Respectfully submitted,



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:



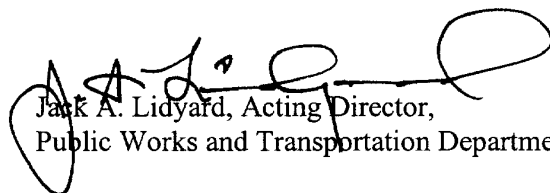
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