

# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

March 30, 1998

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: AB 1686 (Murray)  
Support for Soundwall Construction Funding

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the attached resolution supporting AB 1686 (Murray) which would fund soundwall construction in Los Angeles County.

## **BACKGROUND**

Assemblyman Murray, Chair of the Transportation Committee, has introduced AB 1686 which would amend SB 45 (Kopp) to fund soundwall construction. Senate Bill 45 was approved by the legislature in the last session, and transferred soundwall funding responsibility from the Department of Transportation through a formula to the local counties.

Assembly Bill 1686 would amend this resolution to require that expenditures for constructing soundwalls on a specified priority list (established by the Department of Transportation on May 3, 1989) be funded prior to making state transportation funds available for interregional and regional capital improvement projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

The 1989 priority list was created after scoring every segment of freeway in California based on noise and other factors. Los Angeles County freeway scores were lower than many other parts of the State and were at the bottom of this priority list. As funding dwindled over the years, Los Angeles County was left with the largest number of unfunded soundwall needs (approximately \$100 million) and would therefore benefit significantly from this proposed legislation.

The Transportation Committee of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments voted at their February 12, 1998 meeting to support AB 1686.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Assembly Bill 1686 would provide the funding needed to construct soundwalls throughout Los Angeles County, including two projects that are within the Pasadena city limits. Specifically, funding for soundwalls in Pasadena include the following segments:

- Westbound 210 freeway between Marengo Avenue and just east of El Molino Avenue;
- Eastbound 210 freeway between Los Robles Avenue and Wilson Avenue.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has identified \$4,486,000 to fund construction along the 210 freeway (from the 134 interchange to the Sunflower exit in Glendora), but the majority of the costs are not funded (\$10,958,000). Assembly Bill 1686 would fund the entire cost (\$10,958,000) of all the soundwalls on the 210 freeway and other Los Angeles County freeways. Adoption of Assembly Bill 1686 would also keep other newly-identified projects from pushing back these long-identified projects.

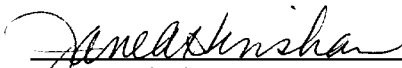
It should also be noted that two additional requests for soundwalls in the Pasadena area have been made recently. One request came from the Norton Simon Museum, and the other from the East Arroyo Resident's Association (west of the 210 and north of Mountain Street). When a request is made for a soundwall and is not included on the priority list of soundwalls identified for construction, the Department of Transportation conducts a noise study. If the noise study shows that the area meets the criteria for a soundwall, funding and construction schedules are identified. The Norton Simon Museum request did not meet the State's noise criteria, and the East Arroyo Resident's Association's request is still being reviewed.

Respectfully submitted,



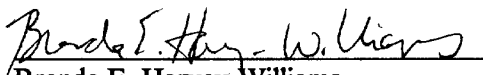
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