

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: May 24, 1999

FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: SB 269 (ORTIZ)
SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999
FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Adopt the attached resolution and authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the appropriate officials supporting Senate Bill 269 (Ortiz – Local Public Health Administration: State Aid) which would enact the Public Health Improvement Act of 1999 and increase the basic funding allotment to \$100,000 per local health jurisdiction or \$.60 per capita, whichever is greater; and
- (2) Authorize support for any other legislation that would augment public health funding or that would appropriate additional revenue to the City of Pasadena for the services it delivers as a qualifying local health jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND:

A core function of public health departments statewide is to work in partnership with the state and other jurisdictions in the control of communicable diseases. The Pasadena Public Health Department, along with its colleagues, is responsible for defending the health of all Californians through vigilant disease surveillance systems, diagnostic capabilities, disease intervention, health education and a broad disease prevention program. This includes having adequate numbers of employees with current scientific and professional expertise. Media and professional attention are spotlighting the fact that new and re-emerging infectious diseases are on the rise. City and County health departments must assess capacity and ensure that they are prepared to effectively meet the challenges posed by communicable disease threats.

In 1947, the Legislature allotted three million dollars to local health jurisdictions for basic disease prevention services. Over the past several decades, the allotment has decreased significantly.

Currently the State allocates a meager \$708,000 statewide for support of fundamental public health activities. This existing subvention allocation has been static despite population growth, increasing complexity of public health issues, and new threats of infectious disease. As a result, communicable disease control and surveillance programs in public health have eroded over time. The Pasadena Public Health Department receives an annual allocation of \$227, an amount that is clearly insufficient financing for a strong communicable disease prevention and control infrastructure.

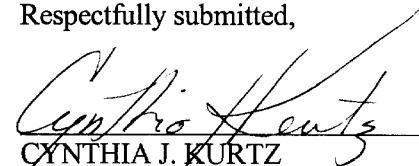
Senate Bill 269, authored by Senator Ortiz, would increase the basic funding allotment for local public health administration to \$100,000 per local health jurisdiction or sixty cents (\$.60) per capita, whichever is greater. The existing formula allots sixty cents (\$.60) per capita or \$16,000 per local jurisdiction, whichever is less. After decades of neglect, this bill will generate additional funding for basic communicable disease control and surveillance activities at the local level. The bill distributes the funds in a reasonable manner to invest in the capacity of local health departments to control communicable diseases and administer core public health functions.

Passage of SB 269 will amend Section 101230 of the Health and Safety Code relating to public health administration and enact the Public Health Improvement Act of 1999. The City of Pasadena will receive an allotment of \$100,000 based on population. Supporters of this bill include the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC); the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC); the American Lung Association; and the California Hispanic Healthcare Association. No opponents are registered on the legislative bill analysis.


FISCAL IMPACT:

Passage of this legislation could result in \$100,000 in additional Health Fund revenues during Fiscal Year 2000 with ongoing appropriations in subsequent fiscal years.


Respectfully submitted,


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