



2010 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

CITY OF PASADENA



CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 2010 Federal Priorities – Part I

A. FY 2011 Appropriations Requests

Emergency Operations Center

The City of Pasadena currently operates two temporary Emergency Operations Centers (EOC); one which serves in the event of general disasters, and a second facility, activated in the event of a seismic incident. Pasadena is currently working on upgrading a new office 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 are making it difficult to fund the furnishings, equipment and technology upgrades necessary to operate a fully-capable EOC facility.

- ***Request: \$1,000,000 from the Emergency Operations Centers category of the State and Local Programs account in the FY 2011 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill.***

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 non-potable uses 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.

- ***Request: \$1,500,000 from the Title XVI Water and Related Resource account at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the FY 2011 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill.***

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 the City has fully funded at \$5.8 million, will open in January 2010 and consists 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 a swimming pool, basketball courts, picnic facilities, a gymnasium, recreation and meeting rooms, and a kitchen in addition to a computer learning center and space to house other important after-school activities.

- ***Request: \$650,000 toward design costs for the new community center at Robinson Park from FY 2011 Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriations through the Economic Development Initiative (EDI).***

Transit Maintenance Facility

The City of Pasadena is aggressively implementing the expansion for the City's local transit system, the Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS). The ability of the City to expand the capacity of the ARTS is currently constrained by the size of the existing number of buses and the vehicle maintenance and storage facility. For that reason the City is seeking the development of a new Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility that will accommodate the planned expansion of the City's local transit system and dial-a-ride services. The City is proposing the preparation of a facility needs assessment and final design for the Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System (ARTS) Vehicle Maintenance and Storage Facility.

- ***Request: \$1 million in FY 2011 Department of Transportation appropriations through the Bus and Bus Facilities account for the design of the new Pasadena Transit Maintenance Facility.***

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 Department 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 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.

- ***Request: \$200,000 from the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account from FY 2011 Department of Energy appropriations.***

Sewer Pipe Relining

The City is currently in the process of relining miles of aging concrete sewer pipes. The City is requesting assistance for a phase of this project that would install 16,000 feet of pipe liner at various locations in the eastern part of the City. The liners will be installed through sewer manholes to reinforce pipes that are over 80 years old. Over time, gases generated in the sewer have caused the concrete pipes to decompose. Lining the pipe is the cost-effective manner in which to restore the structural integrity of the pipe and protect ground water from leaks that may occur. Federal assistance would be used to reline up to 16,000 feet of damaged sewer pipe.

- ***Request: \$1,200,000 from the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account from FY 2011 Environmental Protection Agency appropriations.***

Pasadena Healthcare Link

Pasadena Healthcare Link (PHL) is a 24/7 nurse advice, case management, and referral line sponsored by the Pasadena Public Health Department and a consortium of local health care providers. Initial project support is from a Healthy Communities Access Program (HCAP) grant, Bureau of Primary Care, Health Resources Services Administration; but funding was eliminated for the program in the FY 2006 Federal Budget. PHL has had a tremendous positive impact on access to care, coordination of services, cost savings, and in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the local health care system.

The program is designed to coordinate healthcare services and referrals that will provide uninsured and low-income people increased access to healthcare and decrease inappropriate emergency department use for non-urgent conditions. The goal is to increase the number of Pasadena area residents who have regular and consistent doctor visits and provide a reliable network of healthcare for the uninsured residents of the greater Pasadena area. The service area for the project is the cities of Pasadena, Sierra Madre and Altadena. The target population for the project is the 37,880 uninsured and low-income individuals living within this service area.

The call center has received over 2,000 calls per month, and the number of uninsured that have been served almost doubled from 2006 to 2008. In addition, a consortium of local health care providers and service agencies assist the Pasadena Health Department with

the project, including: Young and Healthy, Bill Moore Clinic, Community Health Alliance of Pasadena (CHAP), Huntington Hospital, Pasadena Unified School District, Planned Parenthood, Pacific Clinics.

- *Request: \$200,000 from FY 2011 Department of Health and Human Services appropriations to support the Pasadena Healthcare Link project.*

Neighborhood Outreach Workers Program

The City of Pasadena and various community partners are involved in a joint effort to reach out to area youth (ages 16-24) who are identified with gangs but are open to opportunities that may change their violent culture. The Pasadena Police, Prosecutor's Office, and Human Services Departments and Western Justice Center started the Neighborhood Outreach Workers (NOW) Program because – while local gang prevention and policing programs were strong -- they saw a gap in intervention strategies for youth already involved with gangs who may want to get out. The federal funding requested would pay for an additional 15 outreach workers. This request represents the second year funding for the continuation of the NOW Program.

- *Request: \$250,000 from the FY 2011 Department of Justice appropriations bill.*

B. Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Transportation

The City hopes that as Congress seeks to reauthorize the 2005 SAFETEA-LU law governing federal surface transportation programs that serious discussion will occur 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 Rafel 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 Rafel would cost \$2.8 million.

- *Request: \$8.5 million in the reauthorization of the 2005 SAFETEA-LU law with jurisdiction over federal surface transportation programs.*

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 would like to replace the diesel buses in its fleet with clean fuel buses.

- ***Request: \$2.8 million in the reauthorization of the 2005 SAFETEA-LU law with jurisdiction over federal surface transportation programs for seven new clean fuel buses.***

Intelligent Transportation System Improvements

This project will complete the City's main communication infrastructure system as shown on the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Communication Master Plan by closing all gaps in the existing fiber communication network. In addition, the project also 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

- ***Request: \$3.74 million in the reauthorization of the 2005 SAFETEA-LU law with jurisdiction over federal surface transportation programs***

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 design and construction of a reclaimed water transmission and distribution system.

- *Request: \$2,475,000 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

2010 Federal Priorities – Part II

Regional Priorities

Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line Light Rail (Phase II – 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).”

In addition to serving Pasadena residents seeking a transit alternative east of the City, Phase II of the Gold Line will alleviate the anticipated traffic buildup in East Pasadena that is expected from commuters across the region approaching the current terminus of the line. The project is currently the most important transportation project in the region, it is “ready-to-go,” and communities such as Pasadena are committed to offering viable and efficient transportation choice for residents of the San Gabriel Valley.

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) through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and a \$1 million request in FY 2010 appropriations.

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 erodable 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 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
2010 Federal Priorities – Part III

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 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.

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 federal programs that would assist with enhancing public safety and infrastructure improvements would be welcomed.

In addition, the City is interested in using the Build America Bond program from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to finance the proposed project but is concerned that the program will expire before they can be utilized. An extension of at least one year for the Build America Bonds program and related tax provisions in ARRA would serve to further increase economic development and job creating opportunities throughout the country.

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.

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 current levels.

Related to the Rose Bowl, the Pasadena Police Department has sometimes had problems in securing Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) in the airspace surrounding the stadium for events that will fill the facility that seats almost 100,000, as well as the Parade route on New Year's Day. Given the extremely high profile of this venue and the international television coverage that its events attract, it seems reasonable that the Police Department would seek temporary control of the airspace to ensure the safety of the spectators and community. The City would support efforts to develop standards at the Federal Aviation Administration that would clearly govern the issuance of a TFR at high-profile, high attendance events, not just sporting events. If the FAA determined that the agency requires direction from Congress, the pending FAA reauthorization bill would be a good vehicle from such language

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.

Community Development/Affordable Housing

The City strongly supports HUD programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 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, or 3) 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. The City would also not support efforts to substitute the Neighborhood Stabilization Program for the basic CDBG program.

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. 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.

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.

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 board 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 Department of Water and Power.

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 hope 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, and 3) 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 is supportive of efforts to repeal a provision in the 2005 Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act (TIPRA) that would require state and local governments that spend more than \$100 million annually on goods and services to withhold from vendors a three percent federal tax beginning in January, 2011. In addition to the administrative burdens of this unfunded federal mandate, the provision will ultimately result in increased costs of goods and services to local governments as vendors raise their rates to make up for the tax.

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.

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.

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
- 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 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 continued support for 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 supports public policies and funding opportunities that improve access to and coordination of health care. The City also encourages the development of new federal grant opportunities to sustain and expand programs that had received resources through the Healthy Communities Access Program (HCAP), which has not received funding since FY 2005. HCAP programs developed in Pasadena and throughout the country have had a tremendous positive impact on cost savings and in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of local health care systems.

Finally, the City is interested in opportunities through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to fund local efforts to enhance disease prevention and control activities.

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 believes that Homeland Security not only means protection from foreign agents but also the day to day safety of its citizens. Local public safety programs such as COPS, the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, and the Byrne State and Local Law

Enforcement Assistance Program have either been reduced or rolled into state block grants to the point of rendering them ineffective.

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.

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 also 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.

The City also opposes federal intrusions into local land use regulations with regard to determining the sites of telecommunications facilities such as cellular towers.

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

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.

Persons with Disabilities

The City recognizes that education, healthcare, housing, recreation and employment opportunities are major factors in establishing independent lifestyles for persons with disabilities. The City opposes funding reductions for programs that assist persons with disabilities in establishing independent lifestyles.

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) encourage strengthening of laws that enforce equal pay without regard for gender.

Library Services

The Pasadena Public Library hopes to access funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to expand the availability of broadband technology. 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 the ARRA 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.

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. Overseen by the City's Cultural Affairs Division of the City Manager's Office, 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.

Jobs Bill

The City strongly urges Congress and the White House to consider direct assistance to local governments as they craft provisions to reduce unemployment. Bypassing unnecessary layers of bureaucracy would allow local governments such as Pasadena to infuse capital into the economy and create jobs at a swift and effective manner. There are numerous transportation, water infrastructure, and energy efficiency projects in the community that are "ready-to-go" and will result in immediate job creation. Small businesses in Pasadena also stand ready to take advantage of expanded loan programs and tax incentives to employ area residents.