

CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

2016 State Priorities

Part I - Guiding Principles

1) Preserve Local Funding

The City supports the protection of existing state and local funding sources and the authorities that provide revenues to the City of Pasadena. Such areas include the protection of state-shared revenues, assets of the former redevelopment agency, and the ability to collect compensation for the use of the public right-of-way or city-owned facilities. The City opposes any new mandates that are unfunded and/or inadequately funded.

2) Preserve Local Authority

The City supports local decision-making authority and opposes preemption of local control. Cities are voluntarily created by the residents of a community to provide local self-government and to make decisions at a local level to best meet the needs of the community. Each community has unique needs and characteristics that are best met by policies set by its local governing body. Recently, several pieces of high-profile legislation have been introduced which serve the purpose of superseding local discretion and land use controls generally established to maintain the immediate community's quality of life standards. Statewide efforts to remove the ability to set policy at the local level should be opposed, while promoting legislation that allows flexibility in the City's effort to cost-effectively meet energy goals and mandates.

Part II - Legislative Priorities

Abatement of Nuisance Liquor Stores

Several nuisance liquor stores in the City had been cited for illegal activities including selling to minors. With the passage of SB 148 (Scott) a process exists to commence the elimination of nuisance liquor stores and the associated impacts from the affected communities. The City continues to request our legislators initiate legislation that would provide local government with more control over the abatement of nuisance liquor stores.

California Vehicle Code

The City seeks legislation to amend the language of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) related to the definition of local streets in the section pertaining to speed traps and setting speed limits. The changes are sought to provide greater flexibility in setting speed limits on residential collectors and arterials in cities with older street systems. Modifying the CVC to make the language less restrictive with regard to how a local street is defined would restore a measure of local control. If a city had the option to use the criteria in paragraphs A-C of CVC 40802 (2) (b) (1) rather than being forced to use functional

classification, streets that are local in design would be considered "local" regardless of functional classification and would be exempt from having to comply with the requirement to conduct an engineering and traffic survey to set the speed limit.

Density Bonus Law

The City supports changes to the current State Density Bonus law that will restore local control. These changes should allow cities to maximize their ability to protect local quality of life and retain the unique character of their communities. The City supports special consideration in meeting the State Density Bonus law for cities like Pasadena that have consistently invested in affordable housing projects/programs. Cities that have achieved appropriate housing goals, demonstrated commitments to affordable housing, complied with zoning requirements, etc. should not be penalized by the imposition of State law which diminishes local authority. The City supports compliant cities being granted relief and/or flexibility in response to the State Density Bonus law with greater regulatory attention focused on non-compliant jurisdictions to address their affordable housing needs.

Telecommunications

In 2006, California enacted legislation that shifted franchising of video service providers from the local to the state level. While the legislation largely preserved local governments' ability to regulate placement of telecommunications infrastructure in the public rights-of-way, cities lost control in several other areas of telecommunications regulation. Clean-up legislation may be necessary in the upcoming legislative session. In addition, states other than California have adopted legislation that prohibits cities from providing telecommunications services, as well as legislation to limit regulation of private-sector telecommunications firms' use of the public rights-of-way.

The City supports legislation clarifying regulation of video service providers to preserve: Public Educational & Government (PEG) funding and channels; cities' rights to collect and audit franchise fee payments; local regulation of placement of telecommunications infrastructure in the public rights-of-way; and local government input in the state franchising process.

The City opposes any legislation that would further diminish the City's ability to make future decisions to offer telecommunications services directly or to control the use of the public rights-of-way by the telecommunications industry.

Workers Compensation

Recent improvements to the workers' compensation system were the result of many individual efforts seeking to resolve specific issues. The system needs additional work to continue to move toward fair and equitable programs.

The City supports legislation that would control medical and legal costs. The City opposes legislation that would repeal the recent workers compensation reforms, or that would exempt public safety employees from those reforms.

Employee Compensation and Terms of Employment

The City supports local control over employment decisions not already preempted by State law. Each year the legislature introduces numerous bills which have the effect of eroding local control over employment, including such things as compensation and benefits, collective bargaining agreements, and employee rights and privileges. Inasmuch as each city is unique, it is important to maintain local control over the discretionary nuances of employment that are not already regulated by State or federal law or regulation. The City opposes legislation that would preempt local control over employment, compensation and benefits, collective bargaining and employee rights and privileges. More specifically, the City opposes any bill to establish citizen compensation commissions or committees, or such compensation commissions or committees of combined membership with private citizens and any other persons or entities, when said commission or committee is charged with regulating local decision making with regard to compensation of local officials or employees.

The City also opposes any bill that would limit local control over determining its own pension plans, pension financing, or the right to contract with the State Public Employment Retirement System for appropriate pension formulae and benefits available under State law. The city will continue to be proactive in tracking changes to the recently passed pension reform bill to protect and enhance the positive aspects of the recent changes and to ensure the maximum flexibility in local decision making for the city and its employees.

Minimum Wage

The City finds that income inequality is a substantial economic and social issue facing Pasadena. When employees do not receive a sufficient wage for their labor, the community and taxpayers bear associated costs in the form of increased demand for taxpayer-funded services, including emergency medical services, homeless shelters, and other social services and community-based services. Therefore the City has an interest in promoting an employment environment in Pasadena that protects government resources while promoting the health, safety and welfare of workers by ensuring they receive a reasonable wage for the work they perform. The City has taken a position to support a minimum wage that is more aggressive than the State and supports legislation that aligns the State with the city's minimum wage increases.

The City supports legislation that would provide funding and support to cities that established a minimum wage different from the State-mandated minimum wage, in regards to enforcement and wage theft.

Additionally an unintended consequence of having a minimum wage different from the State-mandated wage relates to reimbursements from State funds. For example non-profits who received State funds will only be reimbursed for hours worked at the State-mandated minimum rate and not at the higher minimum wage set by the City of Pasadena. This delta between the two rates can be substantial for smaller sized non-profits. The City would support legislation that allows for State to reimburse labor at the minimum wage required by the city in which the work is performed.

Support for Affordable Housing

The City has implemented an aggressive and creative program to maximize the use of resources for the creation of housing for low and moderate-income individuals and families, including the implementation of an effective citywide inclusionary housing ordinance.

The City supports legislation that would provide additional resources for the development of affordable housing programs and/or expand code enforcement programs to protect existing housing stock. The City supports legislation that would require municipalities to provide assistance to homeless individuals that reside within their jurisdictions either directly or through the financial support of homeless service agencies that provide services within or directly adjacent to their jurisdictions. The City opposes new regulations that would create cumbersome processes or other obstacles to the development of affordable housing and/or the provision of homeless services, as well as any new legislation that would abridge or limit local regulatory mechanisms designed to increase affordable housing production (e.g., inclusionary housing programs). The City also supports legislation to strengthen local inclusionary housing ordinances and protects them from legal challenges.

Expanded Health Coverage

In Pasadena, an estimated one out of every four residents does not have adequate health coverage. Some are uninsured children who are eligible, but not enrolled in available programs. Many are working poor whose employers do not provide insurance or have reduced their coverage due to increasing health care costs. People who are uninsured and underinsured face significant barriers in obtaining needed health services, often leading to needless death, disability, and increased costs of care. Social, economic, racial and ethnic factors also contribute to significant health disparities. To address these issues, the City supports legislation to improve health coverage in a comprehensive manner provided adequate funding and cost controls are in place. Expansion in health insurance programs would also help to reduce the burden of unreimbursed care provided by local emergency services, which has led to a crisis in the emergency medical system in Los Angeles County.

The City recognizes that several health care reform mechanisms have been introduced by the Governor and in the Legislature. The City supports enhancement to state sponsored health care mechanisms consistent with the set of principles approved in October 2009 by the Pasadena City Council to guide 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 also encourages the state government to provide resources to strengthen the existing public health infrastructure by: 1) helping to address the growing number of uninsured individuals without access to care; 2) developing effective and coordinated community mitigation, preparedness, and response systems for bioterrorism, emergence of new infectious disease threats and other public health emergencies, and 3) assisting with the reduction of health disparities, examination of environmental influences on health and wellness, and expansion of substance abuse recovery programs.

Protection of Children against Sexual Predators

Although the Police Department continues to monitor registered sex offenders, not all released offenders comply with registration requirements. The failure of offenders to register, places an additional strain on Police Department resources due to the resultant need for investigations and the issuance of warrants.

The City supports legislation to increase periods of incarceration for people who commit sex crimes against children, as well as additional law enforcement tools to track sex registrants after they are released from prison.

Incorporate the Region's Needs in Emerging Climate Change and Sustainability Programs

As Climate Change legislation is being developed and implemented the City of Pasadena supports legislation that provides funding for infrastructure needed to support Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Support efforts to encourage smart growth and TOD that preserve the authority of local agencies. Support initiatives that promote demand management and other greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Support legislative efforts which advocate for the connection between sustainable community strategies and funding for the projects and programs needed to support increased non-auto travel. SB 743, enacted September 2013, eliminated auto delay (in the form of Level of Service) as an environmental impact under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and charged the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) with determining an alternative methodology for analyzing transportation impacts for infill and TOD projects. OPR has proposed the use of vehicle-miles of travel (VMT) per capita as the replacement

metric. The City supports the use of VMT per capita for analyzing transportation impacts under CEQA.

Group Homes

The City supports legislation that would provide increased oversight by the State and/or reduce the potential for over-concentration of group homes within a defined geographic area. The City also supports neighborhoods and 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.

Inverse Condemnation Law Clarification

The City supports an implementation law to give public entities guidance on the types of "public improvements" that are considered subject to inverse condemnation laws, rather than just traditional rights of action under the Government Claims Act.

Part III - Funding Priorities

Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2B

The second phase of the Gold Line is a much-anticipated addition to the transportation system throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. Phase 2B of the Gold Line Foothill Extension will extend the light rail line from Azusa to Montclair. This extension will relieve congestion in the area and provide a greater modal choice for residents of the San Gabriel Valley. The City also supports funding and/or legislation that would expedite the completion of Phase 2B of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension. The City advocates that San Gabriel Valley cities continue to have a role in the administration of the construction of the Gold Line.

SR 710 North Study

Many of the major north/south arterial streets in the southwest portion of the City are operating at capacity during peak hours with overflow traffic spilling onto residential streets. In March 2001, Pasadena voters passed an uncodified initiative known as Measure A. This measure resulted in an ordinance passed by the Pasadena City Council which in parts indicates that (1) The policy of the City of Pasadena favors completion of the SR 710 Freeway between the 1-210 and Freeway and the I-10 Freeway, and (2) This ordinance shall not be repealed or amended except by a vote of the people. The California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Notice of Determination for the previous Environmental Impact Report (EIR) associated with the originally contemplated surface transportation project to complete the SR 710 freeway was withdrawn by a vote of the California Transportation Commission on April 8, 2004.

Caltrans, as the lead agency, is working with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to prepare environmental documents related to the current proposals being studied in the SR 710 North Study. The City supports multi-modal solutions, as proposed by the Pasadena 710 Working Group, for the completion of the 710 Freeway. The costly tunnel alternative would divert important transportation resources to one project at the expense of other important infrastructure improvements in the region in addition to the negative impacts on Pasadena neighborhoods.

Public Health Services

As one of three cities in the state with its own public health department, the City provides infectious disease surveillance and control, community health assessment and planning, health promotion and policy development, direct clinical services, and environmental health protection and enforcement activities. The Public Health Department plays a critical role in identifying and responding to outbreaks of disease and other threats to the public's health, including threats from a bioterrorist incident or other emergency.

The City supports any funding that strengthens core public health capacities in all relevant areas and opposes any cuts to funding. The City also supports the practice of designating the award of specific funds directly to local health jurisdictions, rather than through county distribution processes. The City supports continued state funding to local health department jurisdictions in support of preparedness, response, and recovery activities in the event of an infectious disease occurrence such as a pandemic influenza.

Soundwalls

The process for prioritizing soundwall projects needs to be changed to allow the flexibility to address areas of greatest community concern and highest decibel reading. In 1998, the responsibility for soundwall projects was transferred from Caltrans to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). Metro changed the prioritization criteria to focus on high occupancy vehicle (HOV) related projects first, which exhausted all available funding. Projects of community concern, frequently with higher decibel readings, will not qualify for funding for an unknown number of years. The City would like to see legislation to amend the priority criteria for soundwalls to address areas of community concern.

City Parks

Pasadena recently adopted a citywide Park Master Plan that identified a need for park land across the city as well as acquiring open space. There are 24 parks in the City of Pasadena. Presently, there are approximately \$91 million in unfunded park projects in the City's Capital Improvement Budget. These projects include implementing park master plans for our regional, community and neighborhood parks. In addition, the City is also home to the Arroyo Seco. The Arroyo Seco is on the western edge of the City of Pasadena and extends eight miles through the City. This segment is a part of a longer 22 mile corridor that makes up the entire Arroyo Seco, a major tributary of the Los Angeles River. It is the City's largest natural open space and physically described as a deeply cut canyon linking the San Gabriel Mountains to the Los Angeles River. Pasadena supports

legislation that directs state bond funds to assist with the completion of park projects and the acquisition of additional parkland and open space.

Rim of the Valley

The City supports the National Park Service proposal to protect additional lands and habitats in the area by adding the “Rim of the Valley” corridor to the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, with the understanding that the proposal retains existing local land use and regulatory authorities, fire prevention policies, water rights, and utility infrastructure systems.

Public Libraries

The City of Pasadena supports continued funding for California’s public libraries. The programs delineated in Governor Brown’s budget for 2013 included only \$4.7 million to support adult literacy and the library consortia located throughout the state which provide low cost regional continuing education, materials delivery to borrowing libraries, and negotiated vendor rates. Maintaining funding at this very basic level ensure no further reduction in IMLS (federal) funding, but does not provide adequate support levels for either the California State Library or public libraries. Municipal and other local funding entities are called upon to make up the losses incurred by this budget reduction. For these reasons, the City therefore supports the following State budget recommendations for fiscal year 2015-2016: \$2.25 million as an ongoing appropriation to connect public libraries to a high-speed fiber broadband network; \$1.82 million as an ongoing appropriation for California Library Services Act, with an additional \$2.0 million to continue the 2014-2015 appropriation for the California Library Services Act. This is currently used to shore up regional library systems, including the Southern California Library Cooperative, which directly benefits the Pasadena Public Library by linking our users to other collections and services.”

Affordable Housing

The City of Pasadena supports the creation of a permanent source of State funding for affordable housing to replace the housing funds lost through the dissolution of Redevelopment.

Part IV - Energy and Water Priorities

Environment

The City seeks 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 U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and the adoption of the Urban Environmental Accords Action Plan.

The City supports legislation that: 1) improves the availability of renewable energy; 2) increases energy efficiency; 3) reduces greenhouse gas emissions; 4) reduces waste to landfills; 5) reduces the use of non-renewable resources in the manufacture of products; 6) supports green buildings and advances urban planning while protecting wildlife

habitats; 7) improves opportunities for environmentally beneficial jobs; 8) enhances parks and recreational opportunities; 9) increases the urban forest canopy; 10) increases affordable public transit; 11) supports cleaner emissions from vehicles; 12) improves air quality; 13) ensures and conserves safe drinking water, and 14) supports sustainable urban watershed and wastewater planning and implementation. The City also supports renewable energy derived from sustainable resources such as wind, geothermal (steam), landfill gas (methane produced from decomposing waste), solar, and hydroelectric facilities that can be cost-effectively procured for residents and businesses.

The City supports air quality legislation that may include strategies to mitigate emissions as well as port operations which reduce air pollution as well as relieve traffic congestion. This is best demonstrated through Pasadena's use of alternative fuel vehicles for the city transit service and the recognition that more State attention should be focused on the ports and the movement of goods.

As a founding member of Green Cities California, the City, in collaboration with the other member agencies, also supports legislation that reduces or eliminates single use bags and promotes reusable bags statewide, proposes or supports funding to local governments to assist in the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 - 2006 Global Warming Solution Act; preserves funding for transit, and establishes extended producer responsibility for waste reduction.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Pasadena supports responsible and transparent requirements for hydraulic fracturing to ensure that such processes continue in a safe and environmentally responsible manner that considers public health, the water supply, and the environment. Pasadena supports and acknowledges the critical role that natural gas plays in the economic and reliable integration of renewable energy generation and the displacement of higher-emitting generating resources.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

The City fully embraces greenhouse gas ("GHG") reduction and has adopted an aggressive goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 60% from 1990 levels by 2030 for Pasadena Water and Power, its municipal electric utility. Achieving this goal through a combination of aggressive energy efficiency, decreasing use of existing coal commitments while increasing renewable resources, and retrofitting aging resources with modern technology will impose a considerable burden on Pasadena's electric ratepayers.

The City believes that statewide policy should take a holistic/integrated approach to achieving GHG reductions and focus on overall GHG reduction goals in lieu of the current "piecemeal" approach of individual resource-specific mandates like the current Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS") targets. Consistent with the Federal Clean Power Plan, an integrated approach to achieving GHG reductions is the most direct way to impact climate change. Goals include:

- Investment in energy efficiency to reduce energy use and consequently reduce GHG emissions.

- Adoption of electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure to reduce vehicle emissions, which continue to be the largest contributor to GHG emissions.
- Modernizing the existing generation fleet which will reduce fuel use and emissions, while improving reliability.

This integrated approach to GHG reductions would result in a more cost-effective path to a low carbon electric energy sector that maintains reliability, integrates renewable resources, and provides economic and air quality benefits in communities across the State of California.

The City opposes GHG emissions reduction legislation that would add financial risk, create regulatory uncertainty, impact participation in the Cap and Trade Program, or penalize early voluntary action.

Cap and Trade

As the State considers development and implementation of the 2030 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update, which statutorily extends the AB 32 (Pavley, 2006) Cap-and-Trade Program beyond 2020, the City urges that a sufficient amount of emission allowances be allocated to retail electric utilities, such as Pasadena Water and Power. This allocation should be based on the historic allocation methodology to offset the added burden of emissions costs under a cap and trade system. The City also supports the policy of administratively providing free emission allowances to retail electric utilities in proportion to their expected future emissions and to recognize potential impacts to the utility sector from transportation electrification initiatives. The City advocates for legislation that decreases the burden of cap and trade regulations with meaningful cost containment strategies, or that minimizes the duplicative burden of state and federal (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) Clean Power Plan implementation) on California consumers. The City further advocates for efforts to consolidate, coordinate, and streamline associated data reporting.

The City supports cap-and-trade market designs that:

- Acknowledge renewable resources as zero- carbon resources that should not bear any greenhouse gas compliance burden.
- Allocate allowances that help mitigate impacts to Pasadena’s community-ratepayers while providing incentives for utilities to move to lower GHG emission portfolios.
- Provide flexible compliance mechanisms such as banking and borrowing of allowances.
- Allocate funds generated from cap-and-trade markets to GHG reduction-related activities instead of identifying as a revenue source for California’s General Fund.

Distributed Generation

The City believes that Distributed Generation (“DG”) can and should play a significant role in its renewable portfolio. In order to continue fostering the growth of DG – particularly solar, it is important that DG customers share in the costs of

maintaining safe and reliable grid operation. Net Energy Metering policies and Feed-In Tariffs should be designed to reflect costs to ensure that those that benefit from the grid contribute to its buildout and maintenance.

The City supports legislation and regulations that provide local control and support for:

- Equitable rate design and tariffs.
- Balance of state and local policy implementation and ratepayer equity.
- Cost-effective storage integration.
- Cost-effective and clean distributed generation and cogeneration projects, standards, and permitting requirements for connecting resources to the local distribution system.
- Ratepayer protections from deceptive or misleading sales practices by third-party leasing companies.

The City strongly encourages including all renewable distributed generation as Portfolio Content Category (“PCC”)-1resources, particularly given the State’s requirement of 50% renewables by 2030. The current PCC-3 RPS categorization undervalues such resources. In addition, California’s local renewable resources should be valued above out-of-state renewables under California’s RPS laws. Accessing a broader renewables market is the best and most cost-effective way for California’s utilities to meet the State’s ambitious mandate.

Energy Efficiency and Demand Reduction

The City believes that energy efficiency and demand reduction programs provide significant energy savings and peak demand reduction. The City supports funding opportunities and incentives for the evaluation and initiation of new cost-effective demand reduction programs to offset residential and commercial energy use and costs.

Renewable Portfolio Standard

As RPS legislation is being considered and SB 350 (de Leon, 2015) is being implemented, the City strongly supports legislation that improves procurement flexibility. RPS procurement requirements should not limit procurement choices and must also consider the unique circumstances, existing commitments, and customer needs of each utility.

Through long-standing, strategic, integrated planning processes, the City has maintained sufficient long-term energy supply resources to meet forecasted retail energy demands and reserve obligations through 2027. As the requirement for renewables increases, fully-resourced utilities like Pasadena Water and Power could be forced to “dump” energy purchased or generated from resources financed with tax-exempt municipal bonds, or strand publicly-financed assets.

The City supports broader strategies for compliance and considerations for market and operational challenges so that RPS legislation can meet intended environmental goals, protect ratepayers from unnecessary economic impacts, and provide fully-resourced utilities an alternative to opting out of RPS compliance.

The City opposes RPS legislation that extends California Energy Commission (“CEC”) jurisdiction over Publicly Owned Utilities (“POU”). Local elected governing bodies, such as the City Council, are best positioned to determine the appropriate means for local utilities to achieve GHG reductions.

Utility Operations

Cyber and Physical Security

The City supports the development of standard guidelines and best business practices for consistent and ongoing actions to reduce vulnerabilities in physical security and process control systems for utilities, while it opposes mandatory compliance with “one size fits all” security regulations that circumvent local control of City assets.

Duplicative Regulatory Reporting

Pasadena has a history of conservation efforts through the use of electronic correspondence and regulatory reporting. The City supports efforts to eliminate unnecessary and duplicative reporting requirements, and streamline regulatory reporting and data submittals to multiple state regulatory agencies including the CEC, California Air Resources Board (“ARB”), and the California Independent System Operator (“CAISO”), while still ensuring public transparency of records and data.

Green Job Training

The City is committed to energy efficiency and environmental quality and constantly explores opportunities to integrate green skills and certifications into existing traditional utility jobs. In collaboration with Pasadena Water and Power, the City enthusiastically promotes career pathway programs and job training for green industries, including smart grid and solar industries.

Water Financing

The City supports the use of statewide bonds as a sustainable option to manage California water resources that support regional and local priorities.

Low- Income Water Rate Assistance

Water service is a critical “lifeline” service and affordability is a central element to water access. When costs make water unaffordable, it can pose serious health and safety issues. The City supports locally administered low-income water rate assistance programs, and legislation that would enable public agencies, at their discretion, to develop and implement lifeline water rates for low-income households.

Proposition 218 Reform

The City supports Proposition 218 reform efforts to enhance the ability of public water agencies to finance storm water and recycled water infrastructure, provide

flexibility for the establishment of conservation-based tiered rate structures, and allow public agencies - at their discretion, to implement lifeline water rates for low-income households.

In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 218 ("Prop 218"), which added Article XIII D to the California Constitution. Section 6 of the Article requires that water rates for any class of water users be proportionate to the cost of providing that service. The City believes public water agencies should be accountable for the revenues they generate through rate setting, and that revenues should be commensurate with the costs of providing service, but the strict proportionality and other provisions of Proposition 218 constrain the ability of local water agencies to finance recycled water and storm water infrastructure through typical, ratepayer-funded infrastructure financing methods. This issue is compounded, both by environmental regulations under the Clean Water Act that make it increasingly necessary to capture and manage storm water, and California's historic drought requiring utilization of all available water sources.

Public Goods Charge/Water Tax

The City opposes efforts to mandate a state water public goods charge unless funds remain within the local community, while it supports the creation of an appropriate source of State funding (e.g. the General Fund) for sensible and long-term solutions to address statewide water needs.

The City also supports beneficiary pays methodologies to prevent taxes or fees, particularly those imposed on Pasadena's community-ratepayers, to fund infrastructure improvements or the costs of other water-related policies.

Water Infrastructure

California Water Fix

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan Alternative 4A, also known as "California Water Fix", is the new CEQA proposed project for implementing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The City supports this state, and federal approved approach for increasing statewide water supply reliability. "California Water Fix" provides for three new intakes on the Sacramento River in the northern Delta and a 9,000 cubic-foot-per-second gravity-fed tunnel system under the Delta to convey that water to the existing aqueduct system. This conveyance alternative, coupled with a comprehensive habitat conservation plan for the Delta, is the best alternative to meet California's co-equal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration.

The City supports state and federal funding for water ecosystem projects that are cost-effective. Direct beneficiaries and "cost causers" should share in the funding of infrastructure projects that provide long-term benefits to California and its inhabitants.

Protection of the State Water Project

The State Water Project ("Project") is the primary drinking water source for more than 18 million Southern Californians. Sixty-one percent of Pasadena's water supply is imported from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("MWD"), whose primary water source comes from the Project. The City supports funding opportunities and legislation that will improve the Project in areas of water quality, water supply, water conveyance and facilities, and storm water.

Reservoir Rehabilitation

The City's 2002 Water System Master Plan has identified the City's reservoir facilities as being vulnerable to seismic damage in the event of an earthquake occurring in the Sierra Madre fault system. Funding will be sought for the rehabilitation these reservoir facilities which will increase the water system's reliability and water quality.

Water Resources

Pasadena supports local control and determination of water resource selection priorities consistent with reliability, water quality, and sustainability objectives as expressed in our Water Integrated Resources Plan. Pasadena opposes legislation and regulations that mandate specific selection criteria or priorities for water resource selection.

Drought

The City believes state and federal tax incentives encourage customer participation in drought relief efforts. Through the Water and Power Department, the City promotes the use of drought-tolerant landscaping and supports state funding for turf replacement programs. The City also supports water use efficiency requirements being applied proportionally across all water-use sectors.

Environmental Planning

The City supports administrative or legislative action to improve clarity and workability of CEQA. Specifically, efforts to streamline provisions that would result in meaningful reform to reduce obsolete noticing provisions, allow documentation to be filed electronically with the Office of Planning and Research, and permit the online payment of fees.

Greywater

The City supports expanding the utilization of greywater as an alternative to potable water for irrigation and landscaping purposes. Fundamental to this expansion are standards for commercial and residential greywater systems developed with the concurrent goals of protecting public health and water quality.

Groundwater

The City supports legislation and regulation that promote responsible groundwater management while recognizing existing and historical local extraction practices:

- Land use policies that preserve and protect groundwater recharge basins.

- Increased use of storm water and recycled water for the recharge of groundwater basins in a manner that does not degrade groundwater quality.
- Science-based policies that protect groundwater basins from contamination.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (“IRWMP”)

The City supports the IRWMP as a regional planning effort that will address water supply and water quality needs and objectives by integrating strategies and projects that may include water conservation and recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, flood management, storm water and urban runoff quality, wastewater quality, habitat restoration and protection, wetland enhancement and creation, recreation, open space, sustainable urban watershed, and other water resources management initiatives.

Recycled Water

The City supports legislation, regulatory policy, and funding to significantly increase California’s use of recycled water as an alternative water supply for irrigation, landscape, and industrial purposes. The City promotes recycled water as a resource rather than a waste and supports funding opportunities for the implementation and construction of a recycled water distribution system.

Recycled Water for Direct Potable Reuse

The City promotes consolidation and simplification of water recycling statutes and supports the development of uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse.

Safe Drinking Water

Regulations on safe drinking water are becoming increasingly stringent on local jurisdictions associated with water departments, and on local and regional water districts. The City supports funding opportunities for contaminated groundwater treatment facilities in order to comply with new water quality regulations. The City also supports legislation that revises water quality testing standards based on scientific data as well as legislative and regulatory activities that will help ensure a fair and balanced compliance and enforcement structure for potable and related water discharges.

Water-Energy Nexus

The City recognizes the interdependence of water and power – that water deliveries depend on sustainable electric power, while power assets rely on sustainable water deliveries. Therefore, development of water-energy initiatives are supported and encouraged:

- Policies that recognize and support the significant impact that water conservation, water use efficiency, and water recycling can have in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Federal and state funding for water-energy conservation projects and programs including greenhouse gas reductions (e.g., the Governor’s drought package and cap and trade funds);

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- Policies that recognize hydropower as a domestic source of climate-friendly renewable energy that also benefits flood control, water supply, air quality, and the economy;
- Energy intensity policies and programs that recognize the need for water utilities to have flexibility in defining supply portfolios that both address local and regional needs, and reliance on diverse water sources to help ensure long-term sustainability.