



# 2011 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

CITY OF PASADENA



## **CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

### **2011 Federal Priorities – Part I**

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#### **A. Specific Community Needs**

##### **Emergency Operations Center**

The City of Pasadena currently operates two Emergency Operations Centers (EOC): the primary EOC is not seismically sound and serves in the event of general disasters; the alternate EOC is, activated in the event of a seismic incident. Pasadena is currently constructing a new, seismically sound office building at the City Yards that will house a 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 training/meeting facility by the Pasadena Water and Power Department. The construction of the new building is being funded through the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget; however, budget constraints are making it difficult if not impossible 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 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. 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 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: \$3,400,000 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 has been completed with \$5.8 million dollars of local funds, consisted 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 various educational facilities in addition to a computer learning center and space to house other important after-school activities.

***Request: \$650,000 towards design costs.***

#### **Smart Grid Study**

The City will continue to request 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 7 year meter replacement plan to the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) meters as part of the adopted Power Distribution System Master Plan. Since 2003 the Department has spent over \$6 million on this meter replacement project. Smart metering technologies are still being developed and improved, 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 has hired a full-time Engineer position to specifically coordinate and deal with the transition to smart grid integration. Given that it is estimated to cost PWP \$39 million to transition to Smart Meters and replace the current billing system, the City would like to explore whether any recent technological investments would be compatible with emerging Smart Grid technology. The City will continue discussions with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and California Energy Commission (CEC) to identify funding opportunities for such studies.

- ***Request: \$1,000,000 from the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account from FY 2011 Department of Energy appropriations.***

### **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 15-24) who are identified with gangs but are open to opportunities that may change their violent culture. The Pasadena Police, Prosecutor's Office, Human Services Department, Flintridge Center, Western Justice Center and other organizations 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 current federal funding from OJJDP has expanded prevention services to gang-impacted juveniles (training and utilizing 15-to-17-year-old Outreach Workers); additional funding is needed to continue this youth-focused gang prevention and intervention program. Further, trained young adult Outreach Workers (ages 18 to 24) are critical to continue to significantly impact gang-involved violence. 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.***

### **Rose Bowl Renovations**

The City of Pasadena promotes the restoration of its historic properties and is seeking funding for improvements to the Rose Bowl. As the City moves forward with renovations of the Rose Bowl using \$150 million dollars in local resources, any other federal programs that would assist with enhancing public safety and infrastructure improvements would be welcomed in light of a shortfall, possibly through the FEMA pre-disaster mitigation fund

## **B. Surface Transportation Reauthorization**

### **Transportation**

The City urges Congress to reauthorize the 2005 SAFETEA-LU law governing federal surface transportation programs with serious discussion 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 Rafael 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 Rafael 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 needs to replace the diesel buses in its fleet with clean fuel buses.

***Request: \$5.85 million for the replacement of 13 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 and businesses within the City of Pasadena along with portions of Altadena and other surrounding areas of Los Angeles County, 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 \$10 million and \$15 million per year over the next several years to protect and enhance its water delivery system through planning, design and construction of water infrastructure projects. This would include a distribution system, a storage booster station, pipeline rehabilitation, supervisory control data acquisition system upgrades, and design and construction of a reclaimed water transmission and distribution system.

- ***Request: \$2,000,000 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**

### **2011 Federal Priorities – Part II**

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#### **Regional Priorities**

##### **Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2B**

The City of Pasadena strongly supports Phase 2B of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension 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. The second phase of the Gold Line Foothill Extension 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. Additionally, the City urges Congress and the Federal Transit Administration to work with the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority to ensure that work can proceed on “Phase 2A” of the project with local Measure R funds without prejudice to using those funds toward the local match when pursuing federal funds for “Phase 2B.” The City strongly supports funding for completion of Phase 2B.

##### **Los Angeles Regional “30/10” Public Transit Initiative**

The City is supportive of the proposal to use the long-term revenue from the Measure R sales tax as collateral for long-term bonds and a federal loan which will allow the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority to build 12 key mass transit projects in 10 years, rather than 30. In addition to the Foothill Extension of the Gold Line, the initiative would accelerate the completion of a Regional Connector Transit Corridor, which would provide commuters from Pasadena with easier access to downtown Los Angeles and other regional destinations.

##### **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—interoperable communications. 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; 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 (Fire is already connected).

### **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 2011 Federal Priorities – Part III

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### 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.

##### **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.

### **Fire Services**

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

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.

### **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. Currently, the City has a waiting list of over 4,000 residents for Section 8 vouchers, and there is concern that the need will only increase as more Section 8 housing is converted to market-rate. 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, and supports reforms to the Section 202

elderly housing and Section 811 disabled housing programs that would allow for gap financing and other vehicles that would assist in expanding those offerings.

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 boards 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 City Water and Power Department.

### **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) Extending the successful Treasury grants in lieu of renewable energy tax credits for companies that invest in renewable energy development, and expanding eligibility for this Treasury grant program so that it includes not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities, such as municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives; 2) an increased commitment to the Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) program; 3) expansion of the Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) program, and 4) 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.

In addition, the City is using the Build America Bond program from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to finance Rose Bowl renovations, and would support an extension of ARRA bond provisions, as they have had a positive effect on economic development job creation throughout California and the nation.

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
- 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 continuation of 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 is interested in opportunities through the new health care law to fund local efforts to enhance disease prevention and control activities and provide residents with increased access to health care. The City also supports federal initiatives that strengthen the safety net for underserved populations, such as immunization efforts, the WIC program, community health centers, and the Maternal and Child Health Care Block Grant program.

### **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 of Pasadena has found that providing law enforcement with the resources to implement a combination of prevention, intervention, and enforcement programs is vital to effective crime reduction strategies. On the prevention side, federal assistance to create more robust prisoner re-entry programs or to address the growing problems facing homeless veterans would have positive effects in Pasadena, as would family reunification programs and community courts to deal with at-risk youth. To improve enforcement, the Pasadena Police Department would benefit from tools that would allow for more advanced crime analysis, as improved technology can be particularly helpful when budget constraints make it difficult to add personnel. The City is also supportive of regional efforts to collaborate in areas such as interoperable communications

### **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.

### **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, such as restrictions on the use of eminent domain or 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, accessible transportation and facilities, 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 and incidents.

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

### **Library Services**

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 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.