

STAFF REPORT
Lancaster Redevelopment Agency

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04/27/10
MVB

DATE: April 27, 2010

TO: Chairman Parris and Agency Members

FROM: Vern Lawson, Jr., Economic Development/Redevelopment Director

SUBJECT: **Resolution to Support the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act**

Recommendation:

Adopt **Resolution No. 09-10**, supporting The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act and send a copy to Californians to Protect Local Taxpayers & Vital Services, the California Redevelopment Association, the California League of Cities and local representatives.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Background:

The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act, scheduled for the November 2010 statewide ballot is sponsored by the California League of Cities, the California Redevelopment Association and the Californians to Protect Local Taxpayers and Vital Services. If successful, it would: 1) prohibit the State from taking, borrowing or redirecting local taxpayer funds dedicated to public safety, emergency response and other vital local government services; 2) protect vital, dedicated transportation and public transit funds from state raids and 3) protect local taxpayers by keeping more of our local tax dollars local where there is more accountability to voters, and by ensuring once and for all that our gas taxes go to fund road improvements.

Summary:

California voters have overwhelmingly passed separate ballot measures to dedicate local funding sources to essential local services and to prevent the State from shifting or raiding local government, transit and transportation funds. Despite this, the State recently passed a budget that borrows and takes approximately \$5 billion in city, county, transit, redevelopment and special district funds this year. This year's raids and previous ongoing state raids and borrowing are jeopardizing the services in cities throughout the state that Californians need most:

- Police, fire and emergency 911 services have been cut.
- Healthcare services for children, seniors and the disabled are being slashed.
- Road repair and maintenance, congestion relief and safety improvements are constantly at risk.

- Public transit like buses, commuter rail and shuttles are being slashed and fares are being raised.
- Parks and libraries are closing, and other local government services critical to protect our neighborhoods and improve our quality of life are shutting down.
- Vital community economic development and job creation projects are being shut down.

These irresponsible state practices will only make our budget problems worse as loans must be repaid with interest and many of these actions will be rejected by the courts adding to larger state deficits down the line.

The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act would close loopholes to prevent the taking of local taxpayer funds currently dedicated to cities, counties, special districts and redevelopment agencies. It would also revoke the State's authority to borrow local government property tax funds.

VL:sg

Attachment:

Resolution No. 09-10