

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JANUARY 27, 2010

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: NATHAN HAMBURGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 10-1572 IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL TAXPAYER, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TRANSPORTATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

A coalition of local government, transportation, and transit advocates recently filed a constitutional amendment with the California Attorney General, named the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010, for potential placement on California's November 2010 statewide ballot. The initiative is intended to close loopholes and change the State's Constitution to further prevent State politicians in Sacramento from seizing, diverting, shifting, borrowing, transferring, suspending, or otherwise taking or interfering with tax revenues dedicated to funding local government services, including redevelopment, or dedicated to transportation improvement projects and mass transit.

The voters of California have repeatedly and overwhelmingly passed several ballot measures to stop State raids of local government funds, and to dedicate the taxes on gasoline to fund local and state transportation improvement projects. Local government funds are critical to provide police and fire services, emergency response, parks, libraries, and other vital local services that residents rely upon every day, and gas tax funds that are vital to maintain and improve local streets and roads, to make road safety improvements, relieve traffic congestion, and provide mass transit.

Despite the fact that voters have repeatedly passed measures to prevent the State from taking these revenues dedicated to funding local government services and transportation improvement projects, the State Legislature has seized and borrowed billions of dollars in local government and transportation funds in the past few years.

This fiscal year's proposed borrowing of local government, redevelopment, and transportation funds have impacted many cities, including Agoura Hills, and have had severe consequences on the ability to continue to offer government and public safety services.

It should also be noted that beyond the endorsement of this initiative, as outlined in this report, and proposed resolution, City officials and staff will be asked to refrain from the use of City owned equipment, work time, or funds in relation to the efforts to qualify the item for the November 2010 ballot.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 10-1572 in support of the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010, and authorize the listing of the City of Agoura Hills in support of this initiative.

Attachment: Resolution No. 10-1572

RESOLUTION 10-1572

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL TAXPAYER, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TRANSPORTATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

WHEREAS, California voters have repeatedly and overwhelmingly passed separate ballot measures to stop State raids of local government funds, and to dedicate the taxes on gasoline to fund local and state transportation improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, these local government funds are critical to provide the police and fire, emergency response, parks, libraries, and other vital local services that residents rely upon every day, and gas tax funds are vital to maintain and improve local streets and roads, to make road safety improvements, relieve traffic congestion, and provide mass transit; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that voters have repeatedly passed measures to prevent the State from taking these revenues dedicated to funding local government services and transportation improvement projects, the State Legislature has seized and borrowed billions of dollars in local government and transportation funds in the past few years; and

WHEREAS, this year's borrowing and raids of local government, redevelopment and transit funds, as well as previous, ongoing raids of local government and transportation funds have lead to severe consequences, such as layoffs of police, fire and paramedic first responders, fire station closures, stalled economic development, healthcare cutbacks, delays in road safety improvements, public transit fare increases, and cutbacks in public transit services; and

WHEREAS, State politicians in Sacramento have continued to ignore the will of the voters, and current law provides no penalties when state politicians take or borrow these locally-dedicated funds; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of local government, transportation and transit advocates recently filed a constitutional amendment with the California Attorney General, called the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010, for potential placement on California's November 2010 statewide ballot; and

WHEREAS, approval of this ballot initiative would close loopholes and change the constitution to further prevent State politicians in Sacramento from seizing, diverting, shifting, borrowing, transferring, suspending or otherwise taking or interfering with tax revenues dedicated to funding local government services, including redevelopment, or dedicated to transportation improvement projects and mass transit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Agoura Hills formally endorses the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010, a proposed constitutional amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we hereby authorize the listing of the City of Agoura Hills in support of the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010 and instruct staff to forward this resolution to the appropriate offices.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, this 27th day of January, 2010, by the following vote to wit:

AYES: ()
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

William D. Koehler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, City Clerk