

Honorable Chair and Members
of the City Council State Legislative Advocacy Committee
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: Consider position on the 2016 Statewide and Countywide Ballot Measures

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council State Legislative Advocacy Committee consider positions on the state and local measures on the November 2016 General Election to be held on November 8, 2016.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On July 19, 2016 the Mayor appointed a State Legislative Advocacy Committee. Members of the Committee are: Mayor Patrick J. Furey, Councilmember Heidi Ann Ashcraft and Councilmember Tim Goodrich with Councilmember Mike Griffiths as the alternate member. The role of the Committee is to work with staff and State governmental consultants in achieving the City's legislative goals at the state level. In addition, the Committee reviews and takes position on ballot measures prior to elections on state, county and local measures. In reviewing the ballot measures, the committee applies the criteria listed below to determine the potential impact of these measures on the City of Torrance:

- Does the proposed measure affect local control?
- Does the proposed measure have a fiscal impact on the City?
- Does the proposed measure affect public safety?

There are seventeen (17) State measures and two (2) local measures that will be presented to the electorate on November 8, 2016. There are seven (7) State measures that meet the City's established criteria. The other ten (10) State propositions do not meet the City's criteria as currently defined.

The two countywide measures that have a local impact include:

Metropolitan Transportation Authority/Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan/Measure M

This measure is to improve freeway traffic, repair potholes/sidewalks; repave local streets; earthquake retrofit bridges; synchronize signals, keep fares affordable for senior/disabled/students; expand rail/subway/bus systems; improve job connects to work schools and airport, and create jobs. Voters will have to authorize a Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan through a ½ cents sales tax and continue the existing ½ cents traffic relief tax until voters decide to end it, with independent audits/oversight and funds controlled locally.

Public Works Department **opposes** this measure.

Regional Park and Open Space District/The Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure

This measure is to replace expiring local funding for safe, clean neighborhood/city/county parks; increase safe playgrounds, reduce gang activity; keep neighborhood recreation/senior centers, drinking water safe; protect beaches, rivers, water resources, remaining natural areas/open space; shall a 1.5 cents be levied annually per square foot of improved property in Los Angeles County, with bond authority, requiring citizen oversight, independent audits and funds used locally.

Community Services Department **supports** this measure.

In order to obtain a better understanding of what effect a measure may have on the City, the City departments were requested to complete an analysis of each measure that would fall in their area of expertise.

The accompanying material relating to the measures is organized in sections as follows:

- A tab for each ballot measure, which contains material explaining the individual proposition including a summary from the Legislative Analyst's Office. Information can be found on the Legislative Analyst's Office at www.loa.ca.gov or the Secretary of State website at www.sos.ca.gov.
- Departmental Analyses on those ballot measures that could impact the City.

Positions of Other Organizations and Committee's Recommended Positions

The League of Women Voters, the League of California Cities and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce have taken positions on these propositions. The South Bay Cities Council of Governments will address their position at an upcoming meeting scheduled for September 13, 2016.

**2016 STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES
November 8, 2016**

Proposition	League of Women Voters	League of CA Cities	Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce	City Dept. Positions	Committee's Recommendation
51	Support	No position	Support	DNMCC*	
52	No Stand	---	Support	DNMCC	
53	No Stand	Oppose	Oppose	DNMCC	
54	Support	Support	Support	DNMCC	
55	Support	---	Oppose	DNMCC	
56	Neutral			DNMCC	
57	Support	Awaiting Conference to take action	---	Oppose	
58	Support	---	---	DNMCC	
59	Oppose	---	---	DNMCC	
60	No Stand	---	---	DNMCC	
61	No Stand	---	Oppose	DNMCC	
62	Support	---	---	Oppose	
63	Support	No position	---	Neutral	
64	No Stand	No position	---	Oppose	
65	Oppose	Oppose	---	Oppose	
66	Oppose	---	---	Support	
67	Support	Support	---	Support	

*DNMCC – Does not meet city criteria

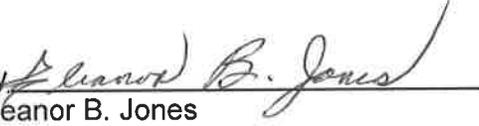
Local Ballot Measures

Measure	City Department Position	Committee's Recommendation
Los Angeles County Traffic Improvement Plan/Measure M	Oppose	
Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches	Support	

After the Committee has taken a position on these propositions, staff will forward the Committee's Report to the City Council as an agenda item for the meeting scheduled for September 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
CITY MANAGER

By 
Eleanor B. Jones
Management Associate

CONCUR:


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments

- A) Memo from Finance on State Ballot Measures
- B) Ballot Measure Analyses on 57, 62, 63, 64 and 66 from Police Department
- C) Ballot Measure Analyses on 65 and 67 from Community Development and Public Works Departments
- D) Local Ballot Measure Analyses on Measure M from Public Works Department and Transit Department
- E) Local Ballot Measure Analysis on Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches from Community Services Department

CITY OF TORRANCE

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: 8/18/16

TO: Legislative Ad Hoc Committee
FROM: Eric E. Tsao, Finance Director *ETS*
SUBJECT: Ballot Measures Analysis – November 2016

Proposition 51

- School Bonds
 - Increase in Debt Service which is part of State's General Fund
 - Separate from school funding under Prop 98

Does not meet City criteria

Proposition 52

- Constitutional Amendment
 - Current law is in effect to January 1, 2018
 - Legislative can act to extend and has four times in the past
 - Does not really effect local government with the exception that it effects the State's General Fund

Does not meet City criteria

Proposition 53

- Requires State revenue bonds to be voter approved if totaling more than \$2 billion State's business

Does not meet City criteria

Proposition 55

- Increases State income tax
 - +1% - \$526,000 - \$632,000 to 10.3%
 - +2% - 632,000 - \$1,053,000 to 11.3%
 - +3% - Over \$1,053,000 to 12.3%
 - + \$5 billion in revenue annually
- Half (1/2) of the revenue goes to school funding
- Health care for low-income Californian's
- Increases budget reserves and debt payment

Does not meet City criteria

Proposition 56

- +\$2 tax on cigarettes to \$2.87 per pack
- About \$400K in revenue
- Augment spending on health for low-income Californian's

Does not meet City criteria

City of Torrance

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE: August 18, 2016

TO: Legislative Ad Hoc Committee
FROM: Mark A. Matsuda, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: November 2016 Ballot Measures

Proposition 57: Criminal Sentencing, Juvenile Criminal Proceedings and Sentencing

Proposition 57 is a poorly written ballot measure with lasting ill effects that changes the state constitution, affecting parole eligibility, credits earned while incarcerated, and removing direct filing by prosecutors for juveniles who commit violent felonies to be tried in an adult court. Prop 57 will eliminate or amend various public safety laws that were passed by legislation and voters to combat violence and curb criminal behavior such as the Victims Bill of Rights (Prop 8, 1982), Marsy's Law (Prop 9, 2008), Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act of 1998 (Prop 21, March 2000), Three Strikes Law (Prop. 184- 1994, Prop 36- 2012), 10-20- Life Law (Penal Code 12022.53- 1997), and Human Trafficking (Prop. 35-2012). Prop. 57 treats every prison inmate the same by making inmates eligible for early release after serving sentence for just one crime, and requires that enhancements, additional crimes and prior convictions be disregarded. In addition, under this ballot measure, the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is given unlimited authority to increase credits for good behavior, or approved rehabilitative or educational achievements to all inmates regardless of whether they were convicted of a violent felony.

Releasing repeat offenders and other prisoners earlier than allowed by current law endangers, rather than protects, public safety.

The Police Department **opposes** Prop. 57

Proposition 62- Death Penalty

- Impact on local control
- Fiscal Impact to the City
- Impact on Public Safety

Repeals death penalty and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Applies retroactively to existing death sentences.

Repealing the death penalty in California could result increased crime, particularly murder and serious violent offenders.

The Police Department **opposes** Prop. 62

Proposition 63- Background Checks for Ammunition Purchases & Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines

Summary

- Requires individuals to pass a background check and obtain Department of Justice authorization to purchase ammunition.
- Prohibits possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines, and requires their disposal, as specified.
- Requires most ammunition sales be made through licensed ammunition vendors and reported to Department of Justice.
- Requires lost or stolen firearms and ammunition be reported to law enforcement.
- Prohibits persons convicted of stealing a firearm from possessing firearms.
- Establishes new procedures for enforcing laws prohibiting firearm possession. Requires Department of Justice to provide information about prohibited persons to federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Fiscal Impact

- Increased state and local court and law enforcement costs, potentially in the tens of millions of dollars annually, related to a new court process for removing firearms from prohibited persons after they are convicted.
- Potential increase in state costs, not likely to exceed the millions of dollars annually, related to regulating ammunition sales. These costs would likely be offset by fee revenues.
- Potential net increase in state and local correctional costs, not likely to exceed the low millions of dollars annually, related to changes in firearm and ammunition penalties.

At this time, The Police Department is **neutral** on Prop. 63 due to more education needed.

Proposition 64- Marijuana Legalization

Staff recommends a "No" on proposition 64 for several reasons:

- The proposition does include a DUI standard for marijuana

AAA Foundation for Highway Safety reported deaths in marijuana related car crashes doubled since the state of Washington approved legalization. Further, after legalization in Colorado, marijuana-involved fatal crashes increased 34 percent.

- The negative effect on children by legalizing recreational marijuana use

A study published July 25, 2016 in JAMA Pediatrics, studied the impacts of legalized recreational marijuana on pediatric exposure. The authors analyzed visits to Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora and calls to the regional poison center that serves the state between Jan. 1, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2015. Both institutions registered jumps in marijuana exposures in 2014 and 2015, after recreational pot became legal in Colorado in Jan. 2014. The rate of increase in Colorado was significantly higher than in the rest of the country.

- Forbids local governments from banning indoor residential growing of marijuana (limited to 6 plants) regardless of whether near a school or parks.
- Does not prohibit heroin or meth dealers with felony convictions from participating in legal marijuana business. (Ref: Prop 64 text: Business and Professional, Section 6, Division 10, Chapter 5- Section 26057(b) (5)).

The Police Department **opposes** Prop. 64

Proposition 66- Death Penalty Procedures

Prop. 66 reforms will speed up the appeals process. ensuring appeals are heard within 5 years. Proposition 66 would ensure that every person sentenced to death has qualified death penalty appeals counsel assigned immediately, eliminating the current wait of five years or more. Trial courts will handle the initial appeals and the state supreme court will oversee the system.

Death sentences are issued rarely and judiciously and persons must be convicted of first degree murder with special circumstances.

With passage of Prop 66, it could save California Taxpayers over \$ 30 million annually according to California Finance Director Mike Genest.

The Police Department **supports** Prop. 66

CITY OF TORRANCE

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: August 24, 2016

TO: State Legislative Advocacy Committee

FROM: Jeffery W. Gibson, Community Development Director
Robert J. Beste, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Proposition 65 – Carry-Out Bags, Charges
Proposition 67 – Referendum to Overturn Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

In 2014, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed a statewide carryout bag law, Senate Bill (SB) 270. The law prohibits certain stores from providing single-use plastic carryout bags. It also requires these stores to charge customers for any other carryout bag provided at checkout. The State banned single-use plastic bags because they are a significant contributor to litter and marine debris. Their light weight and expansive nature makes them especially prone to blowing into waterways.

Proposition 65- This initiative would redirect money collected by grocery and certain other retail stores through sale of carry-out bags, whenever any state law bans free distribution of a particular kind of carry-out bag and mandates the sale of any other kind of carry-out bag. This proposition requires stores to deposit bag sale proceeds into a special fund administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board to support specified categories of environmental projects.

Proposition 67- Under the State Constitution, a new state law can be placed before voters as a referendum to determine whether the law can go into effect. Proposition 67 is a referendum on SB 270 and will be placed on the 2016 ballot. Certain stores would be prohibited from providing single-use plastic carryout bags and generally required at least \$0.10 for other carryout bags.

Existing law, until 2020 requires an operator of a store, as defined, to establish an at-store recycling program that provides to customers, the opportunity to return clean plastic carryout bags to that store. Torrance currently does not require stores to charge a fee for bags, and the requirements would apply only to cities and counties that did not already have their own single-use carryout bag laws as of the fall of 2014. In 2009, the City of Torrance supported AB 87 which prohibited certain stores from providing single-use plastic or paper bags to a customer unless the store charges a \$0.25 per bag fee at the point of sale.

Our position falls in line with the League of California Cities and League of Women Voters, that The Community Development Department and Public Works Department **support** Proposition 67 to uphold SB 270 and **oppose** Proposition 65, to redirect money collected by grocery and certain other retail stores through sale of carry-out bags.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE MONDAY

CITY OF TORRANCE

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: August 23, 2016

TO: Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

FROM: John Jones, Community Services Director 

SUBJECT: Ballot Measure Analysis—November 2016

The Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure

The Community Services Department recommends **SUPPORTING** the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure.

In 1922 and 1996, Los Angeles County voters approved Proposition A, the Safe Neighborhood Parks Tax Measure, which generates about \$54 million a year for neighborhood and regional parks and recreation. Since 1992, Prop A has funded almost 1,500 projects with funds from that measure and additional funding, including:

- 328 new children's play areas
- 350 new and refurbished rec centers, senior centers, community centers, nature centers
- 244 trails projects
- About 33,000 acres permanently converted to parks or open space
- 110 water quality and water supply enhancement projects
- 175 tree planting projects (10,000 trees planted)
- 200 restrooms added or refurbished

Torrance has greatly benefited from this funding in the past. Using Proposition A funds, Torrance built the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, the Dee Hardison Sports Complex, installed playground equipment in many of city parks, as well as provided improvements to the Benstead Plunge. In addition to the capital funds Proposition A provided, it was very unique and also provided maintenance funds for over a decade for the capital projects that it helped to construct.

As both measures will sunset by 2018, the County brought forward Proposition P in 2014 as a replacement for Proposition A. Proposition P used many of the same formulas of the previous legislation. This measure was not approved, but did reach over the 60% approval mark at the ballot box giving the County Supervisors an indication that improved legislation would be successful.

ANALYSIS

Part of that improvement would be to understand the diverse recreational needs of the residents of Los Angeles County and to understand the condition of the existing amenities in the thousands of parks across the Southland. Under the direction of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the county Department of Parks and Recreation launched a 16-month-long Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment effort in February 2015. The Board of Supervisors requested that all of the County's communities participate in the Park Needs Assessment by conducting an inventory of all existing parks and an evaluation of their condition. Los Angeles County was divided up into 189 study areas, of which Torrance was allocated two study areas. In addition, the City of Torrance Community Services Director participated on the Assessment Steering Committee representing the South Bay City of Governments (COG).

The County requested that cities invite residents to attend community workshops to determine park improvements for local parks. Community Services staff conducted four workshops with the goal to solicit input on amenities, gather new ideas and prioritize park improvement projects.

Several themes developed over the course of the meetings that provide clear direction to staff regarding community priorities:

- New Play Equipment
- Walking Paths and Fitness Zones
- Bathroom Upgrades (new or improvements to existing)
- Additional or New Open Space
- Community Building Upgrades

In addition to the data provided by the workshops, staff developed an overall list for each study area by combining the public meeting information with existing priority projects and existing capital projects approved in the Capital Project Budget.

The list of 10 prioritized projects per study area (20 priorities total) was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission and then was approved by Torrance City Council.

The Prioritized Project lists in the Study Area Profiles (Attachments A and B) heavily favor play equipment throughout Torrance's parks with nine parks represented. Since most of the remaining play equipment was installed in the 1990's, it has outlived its life span of 15 years and is due for replacement. Other list highlights include upgrades to the Plunge Pool Building locker room area, Bartlett Senior Center Fitness Area, and Columbia Community Gardens.

The needs assessment process has been instructional in understanding the community and how the public interacts with their parks. Ideas generated in the meetings have been added to the Community Service Department's master list of potential projects that reflects park renovations, infrastructure improvements, and new projects.

The Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure

The overall intent of the new measure is to:

- **Repair and Upgrade Neighborhood Parks:** Local funding helps to ensure we can upgrade playground equipment, parks, recreation centers and senior centers so they are safe and meet the needs of our community.
- **Keep Kids Safe and Out of Trouble:** Kids in our community need safe places to play and opportunities to participate in after school programs. Safe, clean parks and recreation centers are key to helping keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.
- **Water Conservation:** California is four years into a historic drought, making water conservation critical. The implementation of drought-tolerant plants and use of recycled water and rainwater all help to reduce the amount of water wasted, saving money and protecting our drinking water supplies.
- **Protect Our Last Open Spaces:** Most of the remaining undeveloped open spaces and natural areas in LA County are located next to rivers, creeks, streams and lakes. Our parks help to protect and preserve these undeveloped natural areas for future generations.

Funding Strategy

It is anticipated that the annual funds will be disbursed according to the following strategy:

- **Community-Based Park Investment Program: 35% Per Capita Grants**
- **Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities and Urban Greening Program: 13% grants for high-need and very high-need, study areas.**
- **Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation, and Watershed Protection Program: 13% for watershed health.**
- **Regional Recreational Facilities, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility Program. 13%, restoration, or rehabilitation projects.**
- **Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement Opportunities Program. 3.8% education, skills training, and career pathway development.**
- **Maintenance and servicing: up to fifteen percent: up to 15%**
- **Remaining funding to Administrative costs.**

Staff are unsure at this time how much actual funding the City of Torrance will receive as the Per Parcel Funding Mechanism. However, if the history of Proposition A can be used as a guide, funding under this measure will allow Torrance to complete major park projects and provide new amenities throughout the park system.

Ultimately, the Community Services Department is very supportive of The Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure as it is a much needed funding source that can address the deferred maintenance costs of existing park facilities and meet the residents' expectations.

Attachments: A. City of Torrance South-Project Cost Estimates
 B. City of Torrance North-Project Cost Estimates

PROJECT COST ESTIMATES

ATTACHMENT A

Study Area:

Study Area ID

City of Torrance - South

181

Prioritized Projects

Project Number	Project Description	Cost
1	Replace Playgrounds at Sur La Brea	\$500,000
2	Replace Playgrounds at Paradise Park	\$500,000
3	Replace Playgrounds at Alta Loma Park	\$500,000
4	Replace Playgrounds at Sea Aire Park	\$500,000
5	Repair Senior Center at Barlett Senior Center	\$1,320,000
6	Add Skate Parks at Charles H. Wilson Park	\$775,000
7	Repair Historical Restoration at Torrance Park	\$620,000
8	Repair Picnic Shelters at Torrance Park	\$25,000
9	Add Trails at Le Romeria Park	\$105,000
10	Replace Picnic Shelters at WALTERIA Park	\$250,000

Study Area Total Costs

TOTAL COST FOR PRIORITIZED PROJECTS	\$5,295,000
TOTAL DEFERRED MAINTENANCE*	\$162,285,402
Replace amenities in "poor" condition	\$155,198,023
Repair amenities in "fair" condition	\$7,087,379
GRAND TOTAL	\$167,580,402

Each Study Area prioritized 10 projects. These project lists are not intended to supersede or replace any planning documents, nor to obligate the lead agency to implement these projects. For further discussion of projects, please refer to the "Potential Park Projects and Cost Estimates" section of the report.

**Does not include repairs or replacement projects listed as prioritized projects.*

PROJECT COST ESTIMATES

ATTACHMENT B

Study Area:

Study Area ID

City of Torrance - North

174

Prioritized Projects

Project Number	Project Description	Cost
1	Replace Playgrounds at Columbia Park	\$500,000
2	Replace Playgrounds at Entradero Park	\$500,000
3	Replace Playgrounds at El Nido Park	\$500,000
4	Replace Playgrounds at Sunnyglen Park	\$500,000
5	Replace Playgrounds at Descanso Park	\$500,000
6	Repair Pools/Aquatic Facilities at Benstead Plunge	\$829,000
7	Repair Trails at Columbia Park	\$17,500
8	Repair Community Garden at Columbia Park	\$30,000
9	Add Fitness Zones at Columbia Park	\$70,000
10	Repair Open Space/Landscaping at Ruben Ordaz Park	\$4,495

Study Area Total Costs

TOTAL COST FOR PRIORITIZED PROJECTS	\$3,450,995
TOTAL DEFERRED MAINTENANCE ¹	\$82,521,955
Replace amenities in "poor" condition	\$76,154,543
Repair amenities in "fair" condition	\$6,367,412
GRAND TOTAL	\$85,972,950

Each Study Area prioritized 10 projects. These project lists are not intended to supersede or replace any planning documents, nor to obligate the lead agency to implement these projects. For further discussion of projects, please refer to the "Potential Park Projects and Cost Estimates" section of the report.

**Does not include repairs or replacement projects listed as prioritized projects.*