



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Office of Gerrie Schipske
Councilwoman, Fifth District
Memorandum

R-11

Date: March 8, 2011

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From: Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District
Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Request for Federal Waiver of Local Hiring Restrictions
Mandated by the Federal Highway Administration

Background:

At 14%, the City of Long Beach currently faces one of the highest rates of unemployment in the state (if not in the U.S.). The need to create jobs is critical in order to put our residents back to work.

To increase the number of Local jobs, the City Council and the Harbor Commissioners have approved the case of project labor agreements ("PLA") which contains among other provisions, a requirement that a certain percentage of the hiring be of Long Beach residents.

Unfortunately, Federal Highway Administration regulations prohibited local hiring preferences. This prohibition needs to be waived, especially in cities such as Long Beach, so that a local construction project can be staffed with unemployed residents who live in the city in which the project is being constructed.

Recommendation:

Request the City Manager to contact the Federal Highway Administration to determine how the City and the Port can be given a waiver and allowed to set sufficient local hiring preferences for major construction projects.