

REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
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CONSENT
March 24, 2009

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Establishment of Alley Abatement Program Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and Appropriation of Funds

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution:** 1) establishing the Alley Abatement Program (T15090900); and 2) appropriating Gas Tax (Fund 2002) in the amount of \$60,000 to the Alley Abatement Program (T15090900).

Contact: Thomas Adams, Engineering Technician II (916) 808-7929; Lucinda Willcox, Program Manager (916) 808-5052

Presenters: None

Department: Transportation

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 15001181

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Alley Abatement Program provides for the construction, installation, and maintenance of gates to restrict access in alleys to reduce crime and nuisance activities. In addition, processing abandonments of alleys is also funded where appropriate to address crime problems. The program is currently funded with the Department of Transportation's Operating Budget, and offset by funding provided by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and private owners. This CIP would fund the program through local transportation funds rather than the Department's General Fund (Fund 1001), while still allowing for offsets by SHRA and private owners.

Policy Considerations: This program is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan to improve and expand public safety, achieve sustainability, and enhance livability. The procedures under which the restriction of traffic is considered are set forth in the Vehicle Code Section 21102.1 and Sacramento City Code

Chapter 12.40 allowing the restriction of traffic through an alley or alleys for the protection or preservation of the public peace, safety, health or welfare, and Vehicle Code Section 21101.4 and Sacramento City Code Chapter 12.16 allowing the temporary closure of a street to through traffic for the deterrence and prevention of criminal activity.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): This report concerns administrative activities that will not have a significant effect on the environment, and does not constitute a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3); 15378(b)(2)]. Activities funded in whole or part with these funds will undergo appropriate environmental review.

Sustainability Considerations: All alley closures consider alternatives for pedestrian and vehicular circulation.

Other: None.

Commission/Committee Action: None.

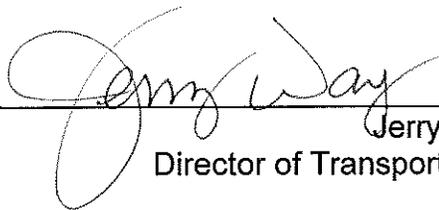
Rationale for Recommendation: The Alley Abatement Program provides security for property owners by reducing circumstances for illegal acts and illegal dumping. Creating a CIP to be funded with Gas Tax (Fund 2002) allows better tracking of costs and reduces reliance on limited General Fund (Fund 1001) dollars.

Financial Considerations: The Alley Abatement Program provides for the construction of gates and necessary signs on alleys with crime-related problems. The program costs are offset by 50 percent in redevelopment areas by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and in other areas by private owners.

The City's share of this program is currently funded through the Department of Transportation, Engineering Services Division's Operating Budget. Staff is recommending the establishment of a new Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to fund this program with local transportation funds (Gas Tax - Fund 2002) instead of the Division's Operating Budget General Fund (Fund 1001). Approval of the gas tax funds in the amount of \$60,000 will address funding for the program in FY 2008/09. The program is proposed for ongoing funding in future years through the annual CIP program.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): All contracting for services with this funding follows the City's ESBD guidelines.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Nicholas Theocharides
Engineering Services Manager

Approved by: 
Jerry Way
Director of Transportation

Recommendation Approved:

for 
Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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Attachment 1

BACKGROUND

Alley Abatement Program

The Alley Abatement Program was established in FY 2001/02, at which time the City created a position of Alley Coordinator and dedicated funding for the program for construction, installation, and maintenance of gates.

Some alleys in the city have unacceptable levels of criminal and nuisance activities, including illegal dumping and other activities. Through the Alley Abatement Program, the City reviews requests for alley abatement to determine level of public safety nuisance, appropriate solutions, and ensure adequate emergency and utility access and vehicular access can be maintained. Requests are reviewed by Police, Fire, and Traffic Engineering for safety and access considerations. The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) supports funding for alley abatement in redevelopment areas by contributing 50 percent of the abatement costs. In other areas, adjacent property owners contribute funding to offset the abatement costs. The typical cost for installation of a gate is approximately \$3,000. Additional costs are incurred for processing, staff costs and maintenance.

This program is administered by the Alley Coordinator, and has historically been funded through the operating budgets of the administering department. In FY 2008/09, this work group moved from the Development Services Department to the Engineering Services Division in the Department of Transportation.

The creation of a CIP will allow for the use of local transportation funding (Gas Tax - Fund 2002) for the ongoing program and to reduce impact on General Fund (Fund 1001) dollars.

Attachment 2

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**ESTABLISHMENT OF ALLEY ABATEMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

BACKGROUND

- A. In FY 2001/02, the City created a position of Alley Coordinator and the Alley Abatement Program. The program is intended to address conditions in alleys that are deemed to be a crime or nuisance hazard.
- B. The City funds the construction, installation, and maintenance of gates, and abandonment of alleys, through the Alley Abatement Program.
- C. Costs for the Alley Abatement Program have been funded through the Department of Transportation operating budget.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The Alley Abatement Program (T15090900) is established as a new Capital Improvement Project.
- Section 2. The FY2008/09 Capital Improvement Program is amended by appropriating \$60,000 from Gas Tax funds (Fund 2002) to the Alley Abatement Program (T15090900).