

From: Pickens, Susan

Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 10:51 AM

To: Bill Beverly; Combs, Mary; Constantino, Cindy; Dalili Eman; Fallo, Thomas; Brown Kenneth; Numark, Cliff; Vargas, John

Cc: Pickens, Susan; Beam, Linda; Curry, Keith; Garten, Ann Marie; Higdon, Jo Ann; Nishime, Jeanie; Perez, Barbara; Shankweiler, Jean

Subject: FW: Local Hiring in the News

Sent on behalf of Trustee Brown.

Thank you,

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Long Beach City Council Approves Citywide Project Labor Agreement

By Harry Saltzgaver

Executive Editor Apr 7, 2015 0

For the next five years, projects being built under city of Long Beach contract that are worth more than \$500,000 must use union labor, along with requirements that the contractor hire certain percentages of local workers.

That's the result of the Project Labor Agreement approved Tuesday by the Long Beach City Council. The agreement was negotiated with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, representing craft councils and local unions. The council first asked for the agreement last November.

Two departments with large construction projects — the Harbor Department and the Water Department — are not subject to the agreement because they are governed separately under the City Charter. It should be noted that the Middle Harbor project and the Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement project at the Port of Long Beach are being built under project labor agreements.

The agreement also designates Long Beach City College and the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network as institutions to provide pre-apprentice training support for local residents.

A key provision of the agreement for the city is a prohibition on work stoppages and lockouts. The local hire provisions clearly were a priority of council members, as well.

First District Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez spearheaded the effort, with backing from Ninth District Councilman Rex Richardson. After more than an hour of public testimony, Richardson had city staff reiterate that open shop contractors could bid on projects (and keep up to five non-union core employees), Richardson said, "I can't see how anyone can oppose this."

According to city staff, the agreement likely won't make city projects more expensive because the city already requires contractors to pay prevailing wages, which are equivalent to union scale. The city will use an outside PLA Administrator to work with contractors, and there will be a joint administrative committee with members from the city and the trades council to oversee the agreement.

Third District Councilwoman Suzie Price successfully added an amendment requiring complete data about PLA

impacts be given to the council annually, with a full review in three years. The motion to approve the agreement passed unanimously.



COLLEGES: Project labor agreement exceeds local hiring goal

[BY DAYNA STRAEHLEY](#)

2014-08-07 16:33:06



The controversial project labor agreement has exceeded local hiring goals for construction projects for Riverside Community College District, according to an update by the administrator.

“I’m ecstatic about the fact that it continues to reflect what we wanted it to do,” create local jobs, district trustee Mary Figueroa said about the agreement for projects funded by Measure C bonds.

The \$350 million measure is paying for \$400 million to \$500 million in construction at Riverside City, Moreno Valley and Norco colleges counting state and federal matching funds, she said.

Since the agreement was adopted in 2010 on a 3-2 vote, 65 percent of workers have come from Riverside and San Bernardino counties and 54 percent of participating businesses have been local, according to a presentation prepared by Padilla & Associates, which administers the agreement for \$1.6 million.

The five-year agreement requires contractors to pay union-level wages and benefits, sets a local hiring goal of 50 percent and requires apprenticeship programs. Workers from Riverside County get first priority followed by workers from San Bernardino County.

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Riverside, who voted for it when he was a trustee, said he was pleased. Under the agreement, contractors hired local workers and kept “our local tax dollars in our community and creating good jobs for Riverside families,” he said.

Figueroa was the only current board member to comment when the report was presented Tuesday. Board President Virginia Blumenthal and trustee Janet Green voted against the agreement in 2010.

Blumenthal said she is asking for labor costs on union verses nonunion contracts and the difference in the number of bidders.

Republicans, chambers of commerce and nonunion construction groups have called project labor agreements special-interest giveaways and say the agreements discriminate against nonunion contractors.

The only current Measure C project for which hiring data was available is replacement of electrical utilities, mostly underground, in older parts of Riverside City College. For that 12,000-volt utility project, all contractors and 84 percent of workers are local and six of the eight contractors are union. That total project costs almost \$4.9 million, including engineering and inspection, and the construction costs \$3.5 million, said Chris Carlson, district chief of staff and facilities development.

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