



**City Of San Diego
COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD
DISTRICT NINE
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 25, 2013 **Reference:** M-13-01-12

TO: Councilmember Mark Kersey
Chair, Committee on Infrastructure

FROM: Councilmember Marti Emerald 

SUBJECT: Committee on Infrastructure 2013 Priorities

In response to your memo dated January 19, 2013 regarding 2013 Infrastructure Priorities, I respectfully submit my priorities for the upcoming year as follows:

- 1. Implement the recommendations made in the Citygate report to meet our fire safety needs.** The Citygate Report on Fire Safety, presented to the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee in February 2011, made several recommendations for the City to implement over a five-year period. Of particular note are nineteen identified sites for new fire stations, six which are critical. In fact, the report recommended building ten new fire stations simply to bring the City's fire response times and coverage up to standards.
- 2. Identify high-priority locations and funding for streetlights.** Sufficient lighting is regarded as one of the easiest methods for improving public safety. I would like to focus attention on the nearly \$26 million in unfunded streetlights, which may represent only the tip of the iceberg without a comprehensive citywide survey of needs. I would like to see such a survey conducted to clarify the full extent of our street lighting needs, and cross-reference those results with police records and other criteria to identify areas most in need of more streetlights. In communities affected by gang violence and other criminal activity, insufficient lighting can contribute to a literally life-and-death situation which we have the opportunity and duty to remedy.
- 3. Address park space deficiency in our older neighborhoods.** I ask the Committee work with the Park and Recreation Department to hold a frank discussion about park deficiency and explore methods for creating and maintaining additional park land, as well as utilizing open space, especially for high-density urban communities.

4. **Upgrade our transportation infrastructure integrating Complete Streets.** The deficiency of our roadways and sidewalks is a well-known fact. As we focus on bringing this key component of San Diego's infrastructure up to standard, we need to take advantage of the opportunity to create a true multi-modal transportation network. This means thinking holistically about transportation, rather than simply about repaving streets and repairing and installing sidewalks. Both are greatly needed, but we must also plan for the long-term by investing in safe and well-designed streets that encourage use by pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists, and transit users alike. We can also take advantage of this opportunity to look at new trends in storm water facilities, traffic calming devices, and integrating greenways, trails, mini-parks, and urban forestry. The end result will be a smart investment that enhances mobility, protects the environment, creates neighborhood resources, and benefits all San Diegans through safe and livable communities.

I look forward to serving on the Infrastructure Committee, which has, I believe, an unprecedented opportunity to identify, analyze, prioritize, and address many of the City's most basic needs. I appreciate your consideration of the above priorities and welcome you to contact my office with any questions.

ME/ch

CC: Honorable Mayor Bob Filner
Honorable Members of the City Council
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst