



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Chuck Reed

SUBJECT: REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE
ADVOCACY TRIP TO
WASHINGTON DC AND REQUEST
FOR APPROVAL OF TRAVEL

DATE: February 17, 2009

Approved Chuck Reed Date 2/17/09

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with the Travel Policy, I am requesting the travel be approved after the fact because uncertainty in securing meetings with Members of Congress and the President's Administration prevented the trip from being finalized until the day before departure.

Cost: \$576.00
Source of Funds: Mayor's Office Budget

BACKGROUND:

On February 11th I participated in a big city Mayor legislative advocacy trip to Washington DC. The purpose of the trip was to ensure the needs of California's big cities were not overlooked in the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Following the passage of the bill in the US Senate, the Mayors of Los Angeles, and San Diego asked me to join them on this trip to meet with legislative leaders and members of the administration in an effort to have our needs heard by members of the conference committee.

We were joined by the Mayors of Fresno, Sacramento, and Santa Anna, in meetings with Sec. of Transportation, Sen. Boxer and Sen. Feinstein. We discussed several elements of the package. We specifically asked for language to be included in the bill to prohibit States from using the funds directed to the cities to balance state budgets. That language was included in the final bill.

We also discussed the funding levels for the Energy Conservation Block Grants and asked to include the language from the Senate's bill instead of the House version as well funding for school modernization. The final bill included \$2.8 billion for ECBG with the formula we preferred and \$8.8 billion for school modernization.