



## **La Mirada's Fiscal Emergency Impacts Essential City Services Questions and Answers**

**Q: Why is La Mirada having a fiscal emergency?**

A: The City of La Mirada has worked hard to balance the city's budget and minimize cuts to essential city services. However, the economic recession, declining revenues and continual Sacramento money grabs have forced La Mirada in recent years to cut millions in spending and reduce the city's workforce by 28% – severely impacting essential city services like police protection and city streets and pothole repair. On February 14, the La Mirada City Council declared a Fiscal Emergency for the City of La Mirada to acknowledge that current revenues and cost savings measures are not enough to avoid deeper, more severe cuts to city services. Unfortunately, without additional revenues, the City of La Mirada will not be able to protect essential city services. **La Mirada needs additional locally-controlled revenues that can't be taken by Sacramento to pay for local services.**

**Q: Why do Sacramento politicians keep taking our money?**

A: Sacramento politicians continue to take local funds from local cities to fix their own budget mess and solve their own budget deficits. Over the last three years, State politicians have taken more than \$25-million dollars from La Mirada to deal with the State budget deficit. Sacramento's continual money grabs are making it increasingly difficult to maintain public safety and repair city streets.

**Q: Why are these issues important to me?**

A: Sacramento's continual money grabs are threatening our ability to maintain essential city services in your neighborhood. The poor economy and Sacramento money grabs are combining to make it increasingly difficult to provide essential city services like police protection, emergency response and city streets and pothole repair. Reductions to service will harm public safety and negatively affect property values. We must prevent deeper, more severe cuts that would impact these essential city services.

**Q: What essential city services need to be maintained and protected? What services are at risk?**

A: Key essential city services we must protect against future cuts include:

- Neighborhood police patrols
- Rapid police response times
- Crime and gang prevention programs
- Repairing major roads, neighborhood streets and fixing potholes
- Sewer and storm drain repairs

**Q: How is public safety affected?**

A: Continued loss of local funds may mean fewer police officers patrolling the streets and neighborhoods. Crime & gang prevention programs will also be reduced or even eliminated. Additional cuts may result in longer 9-1-1 response times and slower police assistance in emergencies, affecting the City's ability to maintain 9-1-1 response times and keep our community safe. Additional locally-controlled funds are needed to keep La Mirada residents safe and keep La Mirada's crime rate low.

**Q: What are La Mirada's other major essential city service needs?**

A: La Mirada has more than \$70-million in unmet infrastructure needs with no available funding source. Repairing La Mirada's major roads and neighborhood streets, repairing sewers, and fixing potholes is essential to maintaining our quality of life and improving the local economy. We need additional locally-controlled funds to fix and maintain our streets and roads now, before they deteriorate and become too expensive to fix.

Many sewers, curbs and gutters have been in place for more than 50 years, and are becoming more difficult and costly to repair. We need additional locally-controlled funds to maintain our sewers and storm drains.

**Q: What can we do about these issues?**

A: The City of La Mirada is considering placing a local revenue enhancement measure on the November 2012 ballot to provide a reliable source of locally-controlled funds that cannot be seized by Sacramento. City officials and a Citizen Task Force are evaluating all options for cost savings and local revenue generation. However, without additional revenues, the City of La Mirada will not be able to protect its essential city services. Additional locally-controlled revenues are needed now to maintain essential city services.

**Q: Where can I get more information?**

A: We must continue to work together to address La Mirada's fiscal situation and protect our essential services from Sacramento's continual money grabs. We will be updating the community and key stakeholders over the coming months about La Mirada's financial situation and efforts to maintain essential city services. For more information, visit [www.cityoflamirada.org](http://www.cityoflamirada.org). If you have any specific questions feel free to contact the City Manager's Office by calling (562) 943-0131 or by email at [fiscalemergency@cityoflamirada.org](mailto:fiscalemergency@cityoflamirada.org).