

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
MEMBERS

ANDREA A. ALARCÓN  
PRESIDENT

JERILYN LÓPEZ MENDOZA  
VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN J. CHOI  
PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE

STEVEN T. NUTTER  
COMMISSIONER

VALERIE LYNNE SHAW  
COMMISSIONER

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
WORKS  
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES

NAZARIO SAUCEDA  
DIRECTOR  
RON OLIVE, ASST. DIRECTOR  
JOSEPH CRUZ, ACTING ASST.  
DIRECTOR  
1149 S. BROADWAY, SUITE 400  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90015

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE  
3-1-1 ~or~ (800) 996-CITY  
Email: BSS.BOSS@lacity.org  
TDD: (213) 473-3231  
FAX: (213) 473-4150

April 23, 2012

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chairperson  
Honorable Budget and Finance Committee Members

Attention: Erika Pulst, Legislative Assistant I  
Office of the City Clerk  
200 North Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Councilmember Krekorian:

**FY 2012-13 PROPOSED BUDGET**

The Mayor's FY 2012-13 Proposed Budget for the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) increases funding from the prior year budget appropriations by approximately \$18.4 million while reducing General Fund obligations by \$1.3 million. The Proposed Budget includes additional funding for the Pavement Preservation Program (PPP) that will increase the program goal from 735 miles to 800 miles allowing the overall Pavement Condition Index of the street network to be maintained. The Proposed Budget also provides for additional funding that would increase the number of potholes repaired from 300,000 to 350,000.

Given the on-going financial challenges that the City must endure, BSS recognizes that reductions in funding were inevitable to present a balanced City Budget for FY 2012-13. The Proposed Budget includes funding reductions from prior year appropriations in the following programs:

- Multi-Family Bulky Item (MFBI) Enforcement (\$0.2 million);
- Tree Trimming (\$0.5 million);
- Bus Pad Installations (\$0.55 million);
- Alley Paving (\$1.95 million); and,
- Weed Abatement (\$2.2 million).

The MFBI Enforcement program will experience reductions in service levels because the Investigations and Enforcement Division is currently operating with a significantly reduced staffing level from prior years. With fewer Investigators covering a fixed geographic area as large as the City of Los Angeles, responding to all applicable codes and standards requiring enforcement in the public right-of-way is challenging.

If additional funds can be found and allocated to BSS as we deliberate on the Proposed Budget, the continuation of tree trimming, bus pad installations and alley paving can occur without the addition of position authorities. The proposed funding reductions represent service level reductions that do not impact current staffing.

The Weed Abatement function would be contracted and staff reassigned to special funded activities within the Bureau according to the Proposed Budget. This is a feasible option for continuation of the Weed Abatement function and we will work with the City Administrative Officer to identify an adequate funding amount for contracting this work and report back with an implementation plan expeditiously. However, it should be noted that the Weed Abatement staff performed other functions that will experience significant service level reductions as a result of contracting this function, including:

- Cleaning of unimproved streets, median islands, grade separations, and other right-of-way locations;
- Homeless Encampment Cleaning; and,
- Emergency Response.

Furthermore, support will no longer be provided for the following functions:

- Debris removal and cleaning of alleys; and,
- Illegal Dumping.


While the Bureau makes every effort to maximize the use of budgeted resources to achieve all of the goals defined in the City Budget, including the additional funding that has been proposed to increase the PPP goal, a continuing challenge has been the availability of staff. The primary goal of the Bureau is preservation of the street network and staff has been reassigned from other operations and overtime funding allocated to ensure delivery of program goals. Despite our best efforts, increasing the program goals without additional staffing to manage the increased workload presents challenges.

As an alternative, BSS proposes to increase the use of Hiring Hall staff to mitigate staffing shortages. The various functions performed by BSS staff are capable of being performed by Hiring Hall personnel that would be employed on an as-needed basis for specific projects and released as projects no longer require supplemental staffing. Flexibility to reallocate existing funds provided in the Proposed Budget allowing Hiring Hall personnel to supplement City staff would strengthen the

ability of BSS to achieve programmed goals without creating additional burdens on the General Fund for pensions and benefits associated with hiring new City staff.

We look forward to discussing with you the Proposed Budget in the forthcoming deliberations. If you require any additional information, please contact Victoria Villa-Agustin at 213-847-2815.

Very truly yours,



NAZARIO SAUCEDA, Director  
Bureau of Street Services

NS:RO:JFC:jfc

c: Andrea A. Alarcon, President, Board of Public Works  
John J. Choi, Commissioner, Board of Public Works  
Neil Guglielmo, Deputy Mayor  
Gerry F. Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst  
Miguel Santana, City Administrative Officer