



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** May 3, 2011

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Administration Division, Finance Department

**SUBJECT:** Request From Councilmembers Rowse And Self Regarding The City's Employee Mortgage Loan Assistance Program

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council hear a report from staff on the history of the establishment and an examination of the effectiveness of the City's Employee Mortgage Loan Assistance Program pursuant to a request from Councilmembers Rowse and Self.

### DISCUSSION:

On March 21, 2011, Councilmembers Rowse and Self requested, via written memorandum (attached to this report), that staff present the details of the City's Employee Mortgage Loan Program (EMLAP).

The EMLAP was adopted on August 21, 2001, by City Council in response to the high and increasing cost of housing on the South Coast. The purpose of the program was to assist the City in attracting and retaining highly qualified employees by helping current and future employees in obtaining local homeownership in the South Coast area. In addition, by encouraging employees to live closer to work in many cases, the program reduced commuting distances and times.

At the request of the Finance Committee, staff presented a report to the Committee on April 12, 2011. At that meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that Council officially suspend the program indefinitely. Although no new loans have been made since March 2009 and the monetary authority for these loans has been fully utilized, the Committee wanted to ensure that no new loans were made in the future, such as from those amounts repaid of principal on outstanding loans. However, the Committee recognized that the existing loans would have to continue to be administered until the loans mature or are repaid.

**ATTACHMENT:** Memorandum from Councilmembers Rowse and Self, dated March 21, 2011

**SUBMITTED BY:** Robert Samario, Finance Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office



City of Santa Barbara  
City Administrator's Office

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**Memorandum**

**DATE:** March 21, 2011

**TO:** Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

**FROM:** Councilmember Michael Self   
Councilmember Randy Rowse 

**SUBJECT:** City of Santa Barbara Employee, EMLAP, Loans

Pursuant to Council Resolution 05-073 regarding the Conduct of City Council Meetings, we request that an item be placed on the Santa Barbara City Council Agenda regarding City of Santa Barbara Employee Mortgage Loan Assistance Program.

- Summary of information to be presented:

We are requesting the City Council receive a presentation of the history of the establishment and an examination of the effectiveness of City EMLAP loan program.

- Statement of Specific Action:

The specific action to be taken by the City Council at this meeting will be to explore the options for a moratorium, improving the program, for seeking remedy for any and all delinquent loans, and the possibility of eliminating the program.

- Statement of the Reasons Why it is Appropriate and Within the Jurisdiction of the Council to Consider this Subject Matter and to Take the Requested Action:

A Council discussion of this subject is appropriate and within the jurisdiction of the City Council.

We are requesting that this be scheduled for the Tuesday, April 12, 2011, agenda.

cc: Mayor and Council  
City Attorney  
Community Development Director


