

# REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From Council Member Ira Ruskin

11.B-1

October 13, 2003

**Subject**

Prevailing Wage Resolution

**Recommendation**

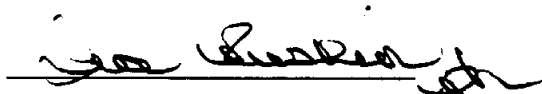
Consider and adopt the resolution

**Background:**

Redwood City has been a strong supporter of prevailing wages on public projects. The city has recognized that the prevailing wage law serves important public purposes, including protecting the wage base in local labor markets, attracting the most skilled workers to public projects, avoiding the strain on public resources that occurs when workers are not provided health and pension benefits, allowing all contractors to bid for public work on a level playing field, providing opportunities for training skilled workers and protecting workers from exploitation.

The California Court of Appeal recently ruled in *Department of Industrial Relations, et al. v. City of Long Beach*, 2d Civil No. B159333, that the prevailing wage law is a matter of statewide concern and therefore applies to charter cities contracting for public works regardless of whether the project itself is strictly a municipal affair.

Because the City of Redwood City supports the goals of the State prevailing wage law, I recommend that the City of Redwood City not participate in efforts to overturn or depublish the City of Long Beach decision and, in that spirit, adopt the attached resolution.



Ira Ruskin, City Council Member

11. B-2

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE LAW REGARDING  
PREVAILING WAGE REQUIRING CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS ON  
PUBLIC PROJECTS TO PAY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WAGES AT LEAST  
EQUAL TO THE WAGES PREVAILING IN LOCAL LABOR MARKETS

WHEREAS, California adopted a prevailing wage law in 1931 to require contractors and subcontractors on public projects to pay construction workers wages at least equal to the wages prevailing in local labor markets;

WHEREAS, the prevailing wage law was later amended to require contractors and subcontractors on public projects to hire apprentices registered in state-approved apprenticeship programs, thereby providing training opportunities for the next generation of skilled workers;

WHEREAS, the prevailing wage law serves important public purposes, including protecting workers from exploitation, allowing union contractors and non-union contractors to bid for public work on a level playing field, protecting the wage base in local labor markets, providing opportunities for training skilled workers, attracting the most skilled workers to public projects, and avoiding the strain on public resources that occurs when workers are not provided health and pension benefits;

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has declared that the payment of prevailing wage on public work programs is "a matter of statewide concern." (Stats 2002, chapter 892, section 1; Stats 2002, chapter 868, section 1).

WHEREAS, the California Court of Appeal recently ruled in *Department of Industrial Relations, et al. v. City of Long Beach*, 2d Civil No. B159333, that the prevailing wage law is a matter of statewide concern and therefore applies to charter cities contracting for public works regardless of whether the project itself is strictly a municipal affair;

WHEREAS, the City of Redwood City supports the goals of the State prevailing wage law:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the City of Redwood City states its support for State law as recited above and chooses not to participate in efforts to overturn or depublish the *City of Long Beach* decision.