



Agenda Item # \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Sherilyn Lombos, Deputy City Manager  
Aaron Link, Management Intern

**DATE:** May 3, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Options for Changing the Title of Mayor Pro Tem

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the title of Mayor Pro Tem and provide further direction.

**FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no fiscal implications associated with staff's recommendation.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the Council meeting of April 5, 2005, the City Council directed staff to return with information about the title of Mayor Pro Tem, including options for changing that title.

**DISCUSSION:**

The phrase "pro tem" is Latin for "pro tempore" and means "temporarily assuming the duties of another" or "for the time being." Synonyms include "acting, interim, provisional, and temporary."

Common titles incorporating this phrase include: President Pro Tem of the Senate, Judge Pro Tem, and Pro Tem Speaker of the House.

Section 34905 of the California government code includes the title of Mayor Pro Tem. Since the city of Manhattan Beach is a general law city, we are subject to the California government code and therefore are required to have such a title/position which cannot legally be changed. The Council could informally change the title for local usage by resolution or minute vote; our research found that there are several general law cities in California who use alternative titles including Oceanside, Solano Beach and Ventura who use the title of Deputy Mayor, and Lancaster, Beverly Hills and Brentwood who use the title of Vice Mayor.

Staff researched titles used by other cities in California; we received information on 191 cities (see attachment "A"). Of those, 64% (123 cities) use the Mayor Pro Tem title; all of the South Bay cities, excluding the city of Los Angeles (who uses President and President Pro Tem) use this title.

The second most common title was Vice Mayor, with 32% (61 cities) using this title. Five (3%) of the cities surveyed use the Deputy Mayor title and two (1%) use President Pro Tem (Los Angeles and Fresno).

The term “vice” when used as a prefix means “one who acts in the place of another” or “rather than.” Synonyms include “associate and secondary.” Common titles incorporating this word include: Vice Chancellor, Vice Chairman and Vice President.

The term “deputy” means “a person appointed as a substitute with power to act.” Synonyms include “delegate, representative and proxy.” Common titles incorporating this word include: Deputy Sheriff, Deputy Minister and Deputy Secretary of Defense.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff has provided information about the title of Mayor Pro Tem along with alternatives and is asking that the City Council discuss and provide further direction.

Attachment: A. Mayor Pro Tem and Alternative Titles in California

## Mayor Pro Tem and Alternative Titles in California

Mayor Pro Tem				Vice Mayor		Deputy Mayor	Council President
Agoura Hills	<i>Hermosa Beach</i>	Norco	West Hollywood	Alameda	Rancho Cordova	Oceanside	Fresno
Aliso Viejo	Hesperia	Ontario	Westminster	Albany	Redding	Poway	<i>Los Angeles</i>
Arcadia	Hidden Hills	Orange	Whittier	American Canyon	Richmond	San Diego	<b>TOTAL: 2</b>
Artesia	Huntington Beach	Orinda	Woodside	Beverly Hills	Rio Vista	Solano Beach	
Baldwin Park	Imperial Beach	<i>Palos Verdes Estates</i>	Yorba Linda	Brentwood	Riverbank	Ventura	
Barstow	Industry	Paso deRobles	Yucca Valley	Burbank	Rocklin	<b>TOTAL: 5</b>	
Bellflower	<i>Inglewood</i>	Pico Rivera	<b>TOTAL: 123</b>	Capitola	San Carlos		
Bell Gardens	Irvine	Pinole		Ceres	San Gabriel		
Brea	Irwindale	Pismo Beach		Clayton	San Leandro		
Buellton	Kingsburg	Porterville		Cloverdale	San Marino		
Calabasas	LaCanada Flintridge	<i>Rancho Palos Verdes</i>		Concord	San Ramon		
California City	La Habra Heights	Rancho Santa Margarita		Culver City	Santa Paula		
<i>Carson</i>	Laguna Hills	Red Bluff		Cupertino	Santa Rosa		
Cerritos	Laguna Woods	Redlands		Del Mar	Santee		
Chino	Laguna Niguel	<i>Redondo Beach</i>		Emeryville	Sausalito		
Chowchilla	La Mirada	Ridgecrest		Ferndale	Signal Hill		
Claremont	La Quinta	<i>Rolling Hills</i>		Fremont	South Gate		
Clovis	Lake Elsinor	<i>Rolling Hills Esstates</i>		Galt	Stockton		
Commerce	La Puente	Rosemead		Hanford	Vacaville		
Coronado	Lathrop	San Clemente		Healdsburg	Visalia		
Costa Mesa	<i>Lawndale</i>	San Dimas		Hercules	Woodland		
Covina	Lodi	San Joaquin		Hollister	San Jose		
Diamond Bar	<i>Lomita</i>	San Juan Capistrano		Huntington Park	<b>TOTAL: 61</b>		
Downey	Lompoc	Santa Clarita		Lakewood			
Duarte	Loomis	Santa Fe Springs		Lancaster			
El Cajon	Los Altos	Selma		Larkspur			
<i>El Segundo</i>	Madera	Solvang		Livermore			
Elk Grove	Malibu	South Lake Tahoe		Martinez			
Fort Bragg	<i>Manhattan Beach</i>	South Pasadena		Millbrae			
Fountain Valley	Marina	Stanton		Monte Sereno			
Fowler	Maywood	Susanville		Moraga			
Fullerton	Menlo Park	Taft		Mountain View			
<i>Gardena</i>	Monrovia	Temecula		Napa			
Garden Grove	Monterey Park	Temple City		Norwalk			
Gilroy	Moreno Valley	<i>Torrance</i>		Oakley			
Glendale	Moorpark	Tustin		Palo Alto			
Glendora	Morgan Hills	Villa Park		Pasadena			
Greenfield	Murrieta	Walnut		Placerville			
<i>Hawthorne</i>	Newport Beach	West Covina		Portola Valley			

Total = 191 cities  
*Italics = South Bay Cities*