

**From:** [bahrbe\\_edahl](#)  
**To:** [Comment](#)  
**Subject:** ARPA Funds  
**Date:** Friday, October 8, 2021 12:15:23 PM

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I have been a Pinole homeowner and continuous resident since 1989.

With respect to how Pinole should spend the \$4.6 million in ARPA funds, I suggest that the disbursements be allocated to projects that will benefit the greatest number of our citizens, in a broad sense, rather than funnelling the funds to individual households and businesses.

Specifically, I do not wish to see additional public monies being directed to private enterprise or religious institutions (e.g., St. Joseph School). Many of these entities have already received government grants and/or loans at attractive terms or that can be "forgiven."

<https://projects.propublica.org/coronavirus/bailouts/search?q=94564>

<https://ppp-loan.info/location/CA/PINOLE>

Instead, I would like to see the comparatively modest amount of ARPA funds designated for Pinole used for the greater good of Pinole's residents, such as public infrastructure or government services for Pinole residents, as categorized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury:

Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

\* Ensure continuity of vital government services by filling budget shortfalls

Water & Sewer Infrastructure

\*Improvements to infrastructure (building/upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution and storage systems)

Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** [Jack Meehan](#)  
**To:** [Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [maureen.a.toms@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.a.toms@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** ARP Workshops "Spending Plans"  
**Date:** Friday, October 8, 2021 12:43:02 PM

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With an unexpected windfall of \$4-5 million, it may still be difficult for you (us) to prioritize "likes/wants/needs", but one item that has escaped ranking and fulfillment despite promises—and funding—for 25 years, is the PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM aka THE FARIA HOUSE! Now there's no longer any excuse to defer it! As with one TV commercial claims, ". . .and money left over to buy lunch".

Jack Meehan

**From:** LINDA CASTELLAN [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 11:22 AM  
**To:** Markisha Guillory <[MGuillory@ci.pinoles.ca.us](mailto:MGuillory@ci.pinoles.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** American Rescue Plan Act-Workshop

Hi,

I will not make the workshop but would like to voice my opinion:

I would like to see some of the money go towards cleaning the creek.

I would like to see some of the money go towards recycle sewer water so we could use it to water our lawns and flowers.

I would like to see some of the money help the small businesses that were hurt from having to close due to Covid. Also, support them to follow CDC rules to keep customers safe.

Thank you!  
Linda Castellan

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

October 7, 2021

Andrew Murray  
Pinole City Manager  
2131 Pear Street  
Pinole CA 94564

RE: Special American Rescue Plan Act Seminars  
1. 10/9/21  
2. 11/6/21

Dear city manager Murray

I am in receipt of your postcard which announces 2 separate workshops on October 9, 2021 and November 6, 2021 which provides public input on the "American Rescue Plan Act" (ARPA). Said act was passed by Congress in March of 2021. It authorized the spending of billion of dollars in federal funds. Some of these funds are in the process of being distributed to small cities like Pinole. In part this legislation allows our Pinole to directly receive funds that were funneled to other cities/agencies in prior federal Covid-19 economic distributions.

Several of my fellow Pinole citizens and I know that your staff and you have been tracking the potential distribution of ARPA funds for some time. We know that your staff and you are aware of how much funds that Pinole expects to receive and generally how these funds must be spent. However we have some trepidation regarding our city's ability to spend these funds pursuant to ARPA guidelines.

Here in Pinole, we have a checkered "track record" as to how we have obtained and expended similar funds and grants. I cite the long term misdirection/use of former Redevelopment funds as a prime example. Much of this occurred when our city tried to use said funds for projects that did not fall with the statutory scheme of the legislation which authorized their usage.

Therefore we would appreciate it that city staff and you take notice of what the "National League of Cities" (NLC) has culled from ARPA legislation and summarized it into layman's language. You can find their interpretation on this subject at:

**"[www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/](http://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/)"**

NLC is a nationally recognized organization who has invested a considerable amount of resources, time and money in producing this document. They have been following the ARPA legislation from its inception.

In February 2021, ARPA legislation was in its final draft stage. In late February 2021, Mayor Norma Martinez-Rubin met with Congressman Mike Thompson and other local authorities to discuss this legislation. Additional legislative changes were made and ARPA was enacted in March 2021. Since that time, the city has released bits and pieces of ARPA information to the public.

We are informed and believe that the city hired a private

consultant to produce a city summary report (CSR) of what ARPA legislation would do for our city. The report was finally released to the public on Wednesday October 6, 2021.

My friends and I have reviewed this report as well as the NLC summary report (NLCSR) cited above. Both reports are attempts to interpret and summarize ARPA as enacted by Congress. We note that the NLCSR publication predates the CSR by several months. Even though the CSR cites Department of the Treasury fact sheets and examples, the NLCSR is much more detailed in its explanation of ARPA legislation.

We realize that the interpretation of ARPA is a daunting task. Portions of ARPA cover multiple disciplines and a portion of ARPA has interim final rules. The application of said legislation will be in a state of flux for a while as is most newly enacted legislation tends to be.


My friends and I feel that both city report (CSR) and the ARPA report are similar in content. However they differ in several areas which the city should address before a final decision on how ARPA funds should be expended. We do not know whether the hired consultant ever read NLCSR prior to submitting their CSR to the city. If not then they should read it. If it was read and/or factored into their CSR then, it would be prudent to discuss how they differ since we have identified several differences in the CSR and the NLCSR.

Finally, we note that you have stated that the ARPA funds will be segregated into a separate fund when received and not placed into the general fund. We are concerned that these funds should be spent as required by ARPA mandates and not spent as a "general fund" expenditures which often redirect federal and state funds/grants to other non-essential expenditures.

As you know, there are a number of "high priority" issues created by the Covid-19 which acerbate our existing underfunded city budget. The ARPA one time influx of money should be solely used to lessen this burden. As recognized by some members of the current city council in its current long term budget plan, non-essential expenditures should not be allowed to prioritize themselves over current priority budgetary items until these later items are under control and/or resolved.

Likewise non-essential/non-priority budget items should not partake of ARPA funds if they have no direct nexus to Covid-19 issues. ARPA regulations are well defined and they should be strictly followed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a red rectangular border. The signature is stylized and appears to read "D. O. Ruport Jr.".

David O. Ruport Jr.

cc: mayor, assistant city manager, city council, city attorney