

STAGECOACH EXPRESS



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CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

JUNE 2005



FY 2005-06/ FY 2006-07 BI-ANNUAL BUDGET PROPOSED

The Preliminary FY 2005-06/ FY 2006-07 Bi-Annual Budget has been presented to the City Council for consideration. It was reviewed at a special study session on May 18, 2005 and a public hearing is scheduled for the June 14, 2005 meeting for formal adoption. The meeting will take place at the City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

All City funds, as proposed, are balanced. The General Fund (without transfers) appropriations, which finances the majority of

what are considered traditional government services, is proposed to be \$12,735,046 for FY 2005-06 and \$13,170,750 for FY 2006-07. This represents an increase of 2.97% over the FY 2004-05 Amended Budget, which is below current inflation figures. The total recommended citywide budget is \$18,876,309 for FY 2005-06 and \$19,664,419 for FY 2006-07. Expenditures for all operational budgets (salaries, benefits, services and supplies) are being held to an increase of only 1.5% for the upcoming fiscal year.

A number of circumstances outside the City's control causing decreased revenues and increased costs made this a difficult budget to prepare. However, the emphasis again this year was to address projected shortfalls through measures aimed at increasing cost efficiency, while maintaining existing service levels. Therefore, the budget incorporates a number of operational strategies resulting in cost reductions and overall staffing. These strategies enable the City to continue progress on a

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TRAFFIC WAY BRIDGE RAIL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

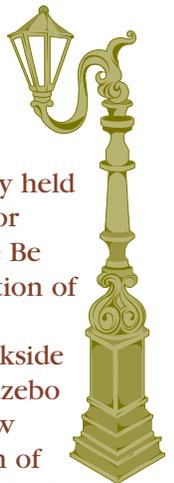
Souza Construction Company has recently completed the Traffic Way Bridge Rail Replacement Project. The project scope of work included removing the existing 1932 wooden railing and replacing it with a new vehicular rail that meets current Federal Highway Administration crash level standards. The new bridge rail is constructed of reinforced concrete



and to complement the stone and masonry buildings within the Village, the columns received a decorative slump stone pattern veneer. A pedestrian

fence and decorative lights were mounted on top of the new bridge rail to match the Bridge Street Bridge truss. The project was completed on schedule and within budget.

"LET THERE BE LIGHTS" PROGRAM



On May 27th, the City held a dedication ceremony for Phase 1 of the "Let There Be Lights" Program. Dedication of the new vintage lighting standards along the Creekside Path took place at the gazebo behind City Hall. Six new lights and the conversion of six existing lights to standards matching those on the Traffic Way Bridge mark completion of the program's first phase.

The lighting project was originally part of a streetscape project to be funded through state and federal grants. However, when funding availability disappeared, the City pursued private funding rather than see the project eliminated or

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MANDATORY PLUMBING RETROFIT UPON SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

On February 8, 2005, the City Council adopted an ordinance implementing a mandatory plumbing retrofit program upon the change of ownership of any residential property. At the time of sale, the seller must retrofit the property's plumbing fixtures to meet the



criteria of low-water use. The seller may do this on their own or they can request a retrofit through the City's existing plumbing retrofit program at no cost.

In general, homes built prior to 1985 were constructed with 5 to 6 gallon toilets and qualify for the City's retrofit program. Homes built between 1985 and 1992 were generally built with 3.5 gallon toilets. All homes built after 1992 should have 1.6 gallon low flow toilets and do not need to be retrofitted. For those owners wishing to perform the retrofitting through the City's plumbing retrofit program, please call 473-5460 to obtain a request form.

WATER CONSERVATION

The City obtains its water from a combination of groundwater and the Lopez Reservoir.



Therefore, supply represents a finite resource. While the recent rains have assisted this year in avoiding a shortage, future projections in supply and demand are cause for concern. As a result, the City has a number of efforts under way to develop and/or study potential supply options to increase the reliability of the City's long-term water service.

Water conservation is a key component of that effort. Beginning in June, residents are encouraged to look for the first in a series of brochures inserted with water bills that will provide helpful tips on conserving water. If everyone does their part, it will have a dramatic impact on reducing the cost of water supply improvements and water rates.

To help, the City is continuing its retrofit program, which single-family residences built prior to 1985 can receive new low-flow water fixtures at no cost to the property owner. For information on the Water Conservation Program, please call the Public Works Department at 473-5460.

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delayed indefinitely. As is often the case, the community stepped up in a big way, and individuals and organizations generously sponsored each of the lights. Donors were formally recognized at the dedication ceremony and on brass plaques that will be installed on each light post.

Contributors to the program include Eddie and Dorothy El-Helou, the Arroyo Grande Valley Kiwanis Club, the Arroyo Grande Firefighters Association, Katcho Achadjian, John and Joan McGrath, Howard Mankins, the L. John Waller family, Joan and Tom Butch, and Gordon and Manetta Bennett.

The City is now proceeding with the second and third phases of the project, which will replace and expand the existing streetlights on East Branch Street throughout the Village. Phase 2 has been funded in total and donations are now being accepted for Phase 3, which includes lights from Short Street to Crown Hill. The cost of the donation is \$3,000, which includes a new pole, light standard, plaque and installation. Interested members of the community may contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420 for more information.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The City has teamed up with KEMA, Inc. in an energy efficiency rebate program developed and funded through the California Public Utilities Commission. The program known as B.E.S.T., or Business Energy Service Team, is aimed at helping small businesses evaluate and replace old lighting fixtures with new energy efficient models. In addition to producing savings on monthly utility bills, the program pays for all professional services and an average of 75 to 80 percent of the project cost.

Participants in the program receive:

- A no-cost facility assessment conducted by a B.E.S.T. Program Inspector or Contractor to identify potential energy-saving equipment opportunities.
- A detailed proposal that includes a list of recommendations and estimates of energy savings, project cost, payback period and the rebate amount to be paid by the B.E.S.T. Program.
- Installation of the approved energy-saving equipment by a local pre-qualified contractor, and pre- and post installation inspections to assure quality and verify energy savings.

To learn more, or to participate in the program, call KEMA Inc. at (800) 576-6405, visit the B.E.S.T. Program website at www.californiabestprogram.com, or call the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

LOPEZ LAKE SHUTTLE

Looking for something fun to do this summer? South County Area Transit (SCAT) will operate the Lopez Lake Shuttle again this year. The trip is free and the shuttle is scheduled to run three round trips daily, Wednesday through Saturday, from June 15 through September 3. The shuttle serves existing SCAT and RTA bus stops along Grand Avenue from its origin at Ramona Garden Park in Grover Beach, through Arroyo Grande and out to the lake and back. Each shuttle rider will receive a \$1-off coupon for the Mustang Water Slides and will not have to pay the \$6-dollar park entry fee. Lopez Lake has a lot to offer if you like swimming, hiking, fishing, or just a nice place to relax. Hop on the shuttle and come enjoy the lake and all that it has to offer!

SCAT is an agency formed by Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach and San Luis Obispo County (covering the County portion of the Five Cities area) to pool transit funding to provide local bus service. For more information, call SCAT at 541-2228.



SUMMER YOUTH BUS PASS

Don't sit at home bored all summer... get out and explore your world! If you are an elementary through high school student in San Luis Obispo County or the city of Santa Maria, you can ride any of the participating fixed route transit systems all summer long for only \$25.00! All you need is your Summer Youth Bus Pass, which is effective Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

The 2005 Summer Youth Bus Pass packet includes a pass, Places to Go, all current bus schedules, a handy "How to Ride Guide", and a promotional gift. For more information or to find out where to pick up a Summer Youth Bus Pass from a sales outlet near you, call the San Luis Obispo RTA at 781-4472 Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

Participating transit systems include: South County Area Transit (RTA-SCAT), SLO Regional Transit Authority (RTA), Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT), San Luis Obispo Transit (SLO Transit), Atascadero Transit, Paso Robles City Area Transit System (PRCATS), Morro Bay Trolley, Avila Beach Trolley, Cambria Trolley, Lopez Lake Shuttle and Margarita Lake Shuttle and The Breeze.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS

PLAYGROUND



Come join the fun and games with your friends at Elm Street Park Community Center, 1221 Ash Street, Arroyo Grande! This supervised program for children ages 5 - 13 includes sports, crafts, mini-trips, contests and much more. The program operates Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting June 20th. The cost is \$14.00 per day or \$7.00 for half day (9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) For more information, please call the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department at 473-5476.

CHILDREN IN MOTION

This childcare program is being offered at Harloe Elementary school cafeteria, 901 Fair Oaks Avenue, Arroyo Grande, starting Wednesday, June 15th for children ages 5 to 13. Children will participate in a variety of activities, including sports, crafts, games, music, mini-trips, contests and much more! The program operates Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.50 per hour with an \$11.50 registration fee per family for new participants. For more information, please call the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department at 473-5484.

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Fireworks celebrations are fast approaching and the Arroyo Grande Fire Department would like to remind everyone to take precautionary measures to ensure a safe and accident-free holiday. Safe and sane fireworks are legally available for sale in the City of Arroyo Grande July 1st through July 4th. Refrain from using any fireworks that are not specifically "Safe and Sane" fireworks. Only adults may use fireworks. Never alter, modify or enhance fireworks.



Use only as directed. Remember that fireworks are made from explosives and they can be unpredictable.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT

The City of Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department and Wells Fargo present a night for fathers and daughters. It will be an evening of dinner, dancing, contests, king and princess crowning and fun. This year's theme is "Aloha Luau" and will take place on Saturday, June 11, 2005 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the South County Regional Center. Daughters ages 4 and up are welcome. The cost for the event is \$45.00 per couple and \$18.00 for each additional daughter. Tickets are on sale until Friday, June 3, 2005 at the Recreation Division office located at 1221 Ash Street. For more information, please call 473-5476.



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SIGNS

The City has been working hard to beautify both commercial and residential areas, particularly with the addition of medians and landscaping. Unfortunately, a number of people have been utilizing the public right-of-way to install signs advertising garage sales, businesses and other activities. This is illegal and eliminates the aesthetic benefit of these improvements, creates a maintenance problem for City staff, and can often damage the area and/or create a hazard for pedestrians. With increased demands on the City's resources, cooperation by residents and businesses is requested in order to eliminate the need to devote staff efforts to enforcement of these violations. We can all help to keep our community looking its best! For questions regarding sign regulations, you may contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

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 number of key priorities established by the City Council as the first step in the budget process. These include an increase in funding for the street improvement program, upgrade of the City’s computer system, expansion of the geographic information system (GIS), increasing street tree maintenance and planting, and accelerating Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements.

The City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will continue to make a significant investment in the community’s future through the maintenance of the infrastructure system. Major projects programmed in FY 2005-06 include funding to resurface both Farroll Avenue and portions of Brisco Road, expansion of the City’s annual pavement management program, the Newsom Springs drainage project, drainage pumps and piping improvements at Soto Sports Complex, Sewer Lift Station No. 1 replacement, Fair Oaks Avenue Sewer Upgrade, and Water Well No. 10 construction. Funding is also programmed to accelerate progress on the Brisco Road-Halcyon Road/Route 101 Interchange project.

The budget document for the first time now also incorporates a 10-year financial plan to provide for better long-term decision making and planning. The 10-year plan is balanced when projecting maintenance of existing service levels. However, concerns exist regarding the City’s ability to fund efforts necessary to address future priority needs, including major transportation and infrastructure projects, facility upgrades, fire apparatus replacement, and establishment of a vehicle replacement fund. As a result, strategy options for future revenue were researched.

Based on the results of the initial research, a local sales tax increase was determined to be the preferred option for further review. It could generate the revenue sufficient to meet the City’s long-term needs, is being coordinated with efforts from other jurisdictions in the County, is currently lower than many areas in the State, and would reduce the burden on local property owners and residents since it would be paid by all those who visit the community and utilize the City’s services and infrastructure. The issue is only an initial concept at this time. Over the next few months, the City will

YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Your presence and participation at City meetings are contributions to good government! The following Council, commissions, committees, and boards meet at City Council Chambers, 215 East Branch Street:

CITY COUNCIL

2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION

1st Wednesday, 3:00 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

1st Monday, 3:15 p.m.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Monday previous to 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN PARKING ADVISORY BOARD

Meets as needed

be coordinating an effort to educate the public on future funding needs and seek input on preferred strategies.

Copies of the draft budget can be obtained at the City Manager’s Office, 214 East Branch Street, or viewed at the Arroyo Grande Library, 800-A West Branch Street. Feel free to contact the City Manager’s Office at 473-5404 for more information.



City of Arroyo Grande

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Please call 473-5414

or send e-mail to

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www.arroyogrande.org