

# STAGECOACH EXPRESS



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CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE

SEPTEMBER 2005

## ANNUAL CITY BUDGET STABLE WHILE LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLAN IDENTIFIES FUTURE FUNDING NEEDS

At the June 14th meeting, the City Council approved the City's bi-annual budget for fiscal years 2005-06 and 2006-07, which were balanced and maintain existing service levels. The total General Fund budget, which funds the majority of traditional government services and is paid primarily through tax revenues, is \$12,735,046 for FY 2005-06. The total FY 2005-06 citywide budget is \$18,876,309. The budget also includes a long-range financial plan consisting of 10-year projections for both revenues and expenditures.

The City is proud of its efforts to establish a financially stable position despite facing a number of financial challenges over the past few years. It has been able to accomplish this through implementation of a number of budget strategies aimed at controlling costs and increasing efficiencies.

However, concerns exist when identifying future needs in the long-range financial plan. Projected expenses for transportation and infrastructure improvements, facility upgrades, public safety equipment, and personnel costs exceed projections for existing revenue sources. The Brisco Road/Route 101 Interchange project, for example, was originally planned to be paid for primarily through State and Federal grants. Funding has been delayed 10-15 years, requiring the City to pursue alternate strategies, likely involving the majority of costs to be locally funded.

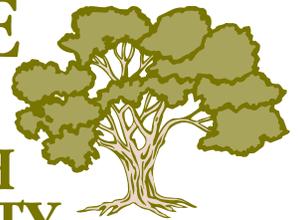
Fortunately, due to prudent fiscal policies by the City Council and staff managing their operations in a cost efficient manner, the City is not facing a financial crisis despite significant revenue impacts from other levels of government. However, the purpose of the long-range financial plan is to provide for effective long-range planning and decision-making, and future needs have been identified important to maintaining the existing quality of life and services in the community. As a result, supplemental funding sources are being studied - most notably the potential for a 1/2 cent local sales tax measure to be considered for the November 2006 ballot. Efforts are under way to educate the community regarding projected needs and obtain feedback regarding the level of services that the community would like to financially support in the future. Watch for additional information and feedback is welcome. For input and questions, please contact the City Manager's Office at 473-5404.

## PRESERVING THE PAST IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE

Historic preservation is an important objective in the City's General Plan and future development of the community. At the August 23, 2005 meeting, the City Council approved an ordinance establishing a Historic Designation Process designed to protect historic buildings, sites and structures important to the community. A number of steps are involved in the process, including forming a Historical Resources Committee, development of criteria for local designation of historic resources, establishment of a review process for

*"Past" continued on Page 2*

## TREE CARE IS HIGH PRIORITY



Planting, maintenance and preservation of the urban forest has been established as a high priority by the City of Arroyo Grande. Trees provide a number of important benefits to the community, including ecological, air quality, drainage and aesthetic enhancements. As a result, implementation is under way of a comprehensive plan developed to improve and expand the City's tree preservation efforts.

These efforts include new measures to enhance the City's management of the City tree inventory, improved practices

*"Tree Care" continued on Page 4*

## WATER RATES CHANGED TO ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION



The City recently approved a change in its water rate structure to reward residents who have been successful in their conservation efforts. The new conservation rate consists of four tiered inclining blocks for single family and multifamily residential customers. The majority of customers will experience a reduction in their rates as a result of the change.

Modifications to the City's utility billing computer software are necessary to implement the new rates. Therefore, they are not projected to take effect until March 2006. This provides plenty of time for residents to institute conservation measures in order to benefit from the changes. To assist, the City is continuing its retrofit program, which provides single-family residences built prior to 1985 with 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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designating historic resources for listing on a local register, expansion and update of the 1991 Historic Resource Survey, and creation of incentives for historic preservation, restoration and reuse. For information on the process or how to become involved, please contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

## CITY EFFORTS HOPE TO GIVE BOOST TO TOURISM



Tourism is one of the leading industries in San Luis Obispo County, yet Arroyo Grande has not been receiving the same benefits that other jurisdictions in the county have from this important sector of the economy. Hotels and motels create jobs, generate revenues through the transient occupancy tax, and provide support for other businesses in the community.

As a result, promotion of tourism is a key objective in the City's Economic Development General Plan Element. To help implement this objective, the City recently adopted a hotel attraction economic development strategy, which consists of specific properties identified as appropriate for hotel development. The plan does not provide pre-approval for projects, but does enable the City to market sites to potential hotel developers.

The efforts are beginning to show results with the recent approval of the first hotel to be built in Arroyo Grande for several years. At the July 26, 2005 meeting, the City

Council approved a proposed Hampton Inn and Suites on vacant property at the corner of West Branch Street and Camino Mercado. The project will consist of a three-story hotel with 103 rooms, conference facilities and adjacent restaurant. The project design will enable five of the existing oak trees on the site to be preserved, and four others will be transplanted. An office project had previously been approved at the location, but the City and property owner worked cooperatively on the alternate proposal, which resulted in both a project with increased benefits to the community and improved economic feasibility for the developer.

Concurrently, the City continues to support and work with the San Luis Obispo Visitors and Conference Bureau, Arroyo Grande Chamber of Commerce and Village Improvement Association on tourism marketing efforts. For more information, please contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

## FORMULA BUSINESSES RESTRICTED IN THE VILLAGE

At their August 23, 2005 meeting, the City Council approved new regulations restricting what are referred to as "formula businesses" in the Historic Village. The objective of the new ordinance is designed to preserve the character of the Village. It applies to retail and restaurant establishments with six or more locations with the same name that are either fast food restaurants or have standardized exterior design or architecture, décor, or similar features. In other words, "chain" stores are generally prohibited unless they customize their features to be unique and consistent with the Village character and design guidelines. It does not prohibit existing businesses from opening additional stores since they would be "grandfathered" in under the ordinance. For questions regarding the regulations, please contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

68TH ANNUAL

ARROYO GRANDE VALLEY  
HARVEST FESTIVAL

The 68th Annual Arroyo Grande Valley Harvest Festival will take place in the Village on September 23rd and 24th. The theme this year is "Back to Our Roots". The festival is a cherished celebration of the community's heritage and history. Coordinated by the Harvest Festival

Committee, the City is a co-sponsor of the event by providing facilities and public safety staffing.

Friday evening kicks off at 4:00 p.m. with the fish fry, booths and entertainment.

Saturday begins at 10:00 a.m. with the parade, followed by booths, contests, games, music, bounce house, kids' train ride, hay ride, the big ditch derby and more! Get started early to join in the contests, which include biggest pumpkin and

zucchini, bread baking, chili cook-off, salsa, vegetable decorating, business decorating, Big Ditch Derby, kids' coloring contest, and skateboarding. There

will be activities for all ages so come join in the fun. For information on how to enter these activities or other questions, please call 489-1488 or visit [www.agharvestfestival.com](http://www.agharvestfestival.com).



HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL  
AND HAUNTED MAZE

The Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department will hold its annual



Halloween Carnival and Haunted Maze on Saturday, October 29th. Children of all ages and adults are invited to enjoy carnival games for candy and toy prizes, cookie decorating, hot dogs and hamburgers, the haunted maze, a pumpkin decorating contest, and a costume contest. Bring your decorated pumpkins from home for the pumpkin-decorating contest. The event will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Nelson Green on the corner of Nelson and Short streets. The cost is \$2.25 per child and \$1.00 per adult at the door. If you buy tickets before October 28th, 2005, the cost is \$1.75 per child. For more information, please call the Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department at 473-5476.

AGPD CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Arroyo Grande Police Department will host its Fall Citizens Academy beginning in September. The academy experience promises to give participants an exciting "hands-on" behind the scene look at the field of law enforcement. Classes will be held at the Arroyo Grande Police Department, located at 200 N. Halcyon, Arroyo Grande. This program will meet one evening each week (on either a Tuesday or Thursday) for 8 weeks and is tentatively planned to start the week of September 19th.

The purpose of the academy is to promote Community Oriented Policing through the exchange of information between citizens and law enforcement officials. Along the way, participants will experience what it is

*"Citizens" continued on Page 4*

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS  
NOW ON THE AIR

Beginning on September 6, 2005, the City has expanded its cablecasting schedule to add Planning Commission meetings, along with City Council meetings. The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and meetings are broadcast live on Channel 20. City Council meetings continue to be cablecast live the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are then rebroadcast beginning the day after meetings according to the following schedule:

REBROADCAST SCHEDULE

CITY COUNCIL

2nd and 4th week of month; daily at 1:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
1st and 3rd week of month;  
Thursday and Sunday after the Planning Commission meeting

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st and 3rd week of month; daily at 1:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
2nd and 4th week of month;  
Thursday and Sunday after the City Council meeting

**“Trees”** continued from Page 3 regarding selection and planting of new trees, and revisions to the City’s tree ordinance to minimize the removal of mature City trees due to infrastructure and sidewalk repairs. Additional revisions to the City’s tree ordinance have also been drafted to improve pruning practices in commercial areas and to provide increased protection for mature oak trees in residential areas. Consideration of the ordinance changes is scheduled to be considered by the City Council at the September 27, 2005 meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

A number of policies exist to minimize tree removals as a result of new construction. The practice of transplanting trees is now being encouraged where feasible to enhance this effort. The City recently funded transplantation of a mature oak tree as part of the Reservoir #1 Construction Project as a pilot project in order to evaluate its use as a tree preservation tool. Thus far, it has been successful, but evaluation continues to take place.

Lastly, a future new program is under development aimed at increasing planting of new parkway trees and neighborhood beautification, which will be partially funded through private donations. Implementation is targeted within

the next couple years depending upon the availability of funding for ongoing maintenance.

Residents are welcome to contact the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department at 473-5474 with ideas and/or input.

**“Citizens”** continued from Page 3

like to gather evidence, interview suspects, book a prisoner into jail, use a radar gun, and many other law enforcement tasks. Participants will learn what it takes to become a police officer, from the hiring process to the police academy experience, from using a firearms training simulator to making a vehicle stop. The program will culminate on the last evening with a graduation ceremony.

Whether you are interested in law enforcement as a career, want to learn more about your local police department, are considering becoming a department volunteer, or just want the experience of a lifetime, Arroyo Grande Police Department’s Citizens Academy is for you! To be eligible to participate in the academy, you must be least 21 years of age and reside or work in the area of Arroyo Grande. Applications may be obtained through the Police Department’s Community Resource Center Office by calling 473-5114.

**City of Arroyo Grande**  
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**STAGECOACH EXPRESS** is published by the City of Arroyo Grande and is distributed to all residences and businesses in the City. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please call 473-5414 or send e-mail to [agcity@arroyogrande.org](mailto:agcity@arroyogrande.org)

## 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

Meets Quarterly (Call for schedule.)

### 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

## CITY ADDS NEW TENNIS COURT

The City is in the final stages of construction on a new tennis court at the Soto Sports Complex. This will result in a total of five lighted tennis courts at the Complex. The tennis court addition project also includes reconstruction of the existing slope and grade of the concrete pathways, replacement of drinking fountains and benches, and creation of a pedestrian ramp to the tennis courts from the existing parking lot. It is anticipated that the new tennis court will be ready for play by the end of September. For more information regarding the tennis courts, contact Parks, Recreation and Facilities at 473-5474.

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