

Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN Information on Campaign Signs

On Tuesday, November 4, 2008 Grover Beach voters will have an opportunity for the first time to directly elect our Mayor, along with voting for candidates to fill two seats on the City Council. The Presidential race will also be decided, and a number of propositions will be on the ballot. Each one of those candidates and issues will probably generate a separate campaign sign proudly displayed on walls or fences or in front yards.



In previous elections, the City received calls with both questions and complaints regarding the size, placement, and quantity of election signs promoting candidates or issues. Some of the complaints were the result of residents not being familiar with the City's sign regulations. However, it also became apparent that there were some portions of the City's sign regulations that could be revised in order to clarify the rules that govern placement of election signs, as well as to assist City staff in enforcing the rules when complaints were received.

Following two public hearings, the Council authorized amending the Municipal Code to clarify the size and the number of signs permitted, as well as to underscore the fact that campaign signs cannot be placed in the public right-of-way. Lastly, this Code amendment allows the City to summarily abate any signs that are illegally placed on public property or in the public right-of-way.

We encourage all citizens to respect and support the election process. Additional information is posted on the City's website at www.grover.org and click on the words "November Election Info".

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CITY BUDGET and Threatened State Impacts

By City Manager Bob Perrault

In June of this year, staff presented the City Council with the City's first two-year budget for Fiscal Years 09 – 10 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 and July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010). Following a Public Hearing and deliberations, the Council formally adopted the budget on June 23, 2008 by unanimous vote. The approval came well in advance of the July 1st start to the new fiscal year. As presented, the budget is balanced for the first fiscal year and nearly so for the second. The benefit of a two-year budget is that it enables the City Council and staff to do long-range planning for both revenues and expenditures. Forward planning also empowers the City to do an effective job of identifying objectives that need to be accomplished, and to better identify revenue sources to ensure that objectives are met.

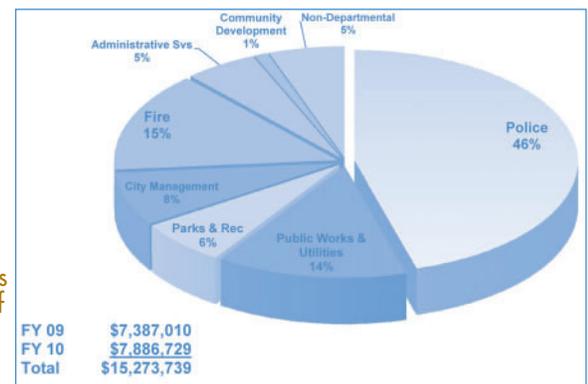
Developing a two-year balanced budget is not an easy task, especially in today's economy. Considerable thought and effort went into the process of creating the budget, which actually began when the Council adopted City-wide goals last spring. We are now in our first year of operation in this budget cycle. It is frustrating that, once again, the State is looking at cities to provide a portion of the dollars necessary to bail out the State of its own financial quagmire. The loss of City revenues to the State has been estimated to go as high as \$471,000. An impact of this magnitude would be difficult, if not nearly impossible, to accommodate. The City would essentially have to reopen and "remake" the budget before the first quarter of operations are in the books.

In this article, I hope to provide you with a snapshot of the City budget, a review of expenditures from the proceeds of the sales tax adjustment approved by voters in 2006 and made available in FY 08, and a

perspective of what the possible revenue loss to the State could mean for the City of Grover Beach.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The General Fund portion of the budget contains all of the expenditures necessary to carry out the essential services of the City, exclusive of water, sewer and planning services, which are all maintained in separate enterprise funds. The essential services provided by the General Fund include police, fire, public works, parks and recreation, and city management/administrative services. General Fund expenditures for FY 09 are budgeted at \$7,387,010 and for FY 10 are estimated at \$7,886,729. Specifically, these costs are allocated in the following manner:



The total per capita cost of providing these services on a daily basis is approximately \$550 per year.

The combined budget, including all funds for FY 09, is \$19,913,385 and for FY 10 is \$15,332,441. The reason the combined budget for FY 09 is significantly larger than for the following year is due to the almost \$7 million budgeted for a number of capital or infrastructure projects to be completed. As

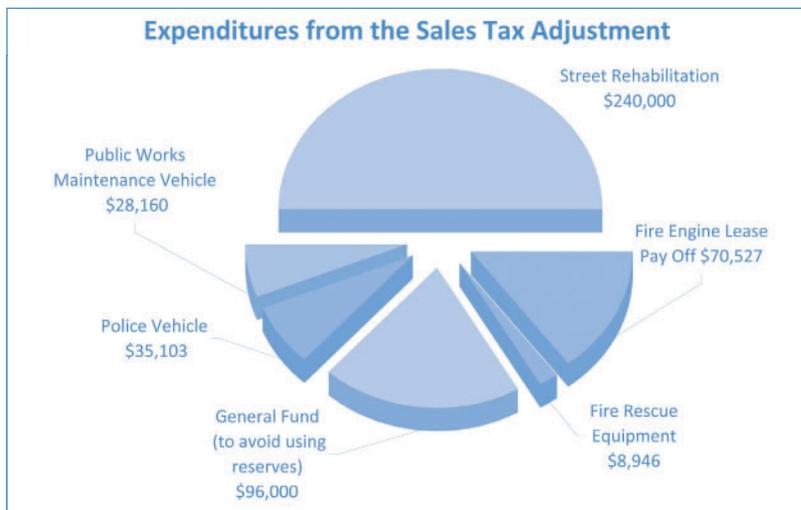
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I am sure you've noticed, several of these projects are already underway, including the **Meadow Creek Bridge and Storm Drain Project** on West Grand Avenue, the **South County Transit Hub Project** on Ramona Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets, and the **repaving of North 4th and North 12th Streets**. Later this fiscal year, the **West Grand Avenue Enhancement Project** from Highway 1 to 4th Street will be undertaken, as will the construction of a **Sewer Trunk Line** to serve the south industrial portion of the City. In FY 09 alone, it is estimated that **the City will spend \$1,171,924 on street repair projects**. Most of the funding for capital improvement projects is coming from a combination of grants and Improvement Agency funding.

EXPENDITURES FROM THE SALES TAX ADJUSTMENT

The City is very appreciative of the half-cent sales tax adjustment approved by the voters in 2006. Local businesses began collecting the adjustment in April 2007, and the City received its first revenue in June 2007. In the prior fiscal year, we budgeted \$480,000 from this revenue source and the second pie chart graph in this article indicates how this money was spent.



Staff has met and reviewed this information with the Citizen Oversight Committee. Once the audit is complete, the Committee will meet again to review this information a second time, and will then issue its own report to the City Council.

THREATENED STATE IMPACTS

As of this writing (early September), the State still has not adopted a budget for this fiscal year and is again threatening to “borrow” or “take” City funds in order to balance its budget. This is not a new trend. Since 1991, the State has taken or redirected funds from the City of Grover Beach totaling more than \$5 million. In 2006, voters statewide passed Proposition 1A that was intended to protect local government revenue. It appears that the State has discovered loopholes in the proposition and is now attempting to take advantage of them.

The first proposal placed on the table by the State reflected a “borrowing” of

\$350,000 of the City's share of property taxes, amounting to 10% of the City's total property tax revenue of \$3.5 million. The State has also targeted another \$120,000 from the City's share of the local highway tax revenue. This combined take-away would be roughly equivalent to the total amount received from the voter approved sales tax adjustment. If these actions were to occur, the City would be forced again to make the hard decisions between using reserves or cutting services.

The State has also placed other proposals on the table that would take funds from the City's Improvement Agency, the very dollars we depend on for economic development efforts and to fund infrastructure projects. No matter the outcome, the City can ill afford to “provide” funds in order to solve the “State's budget crisis”.

SHOP LOCAL

Finally, a healthy City is dependent upon the health of its local businesses, and I would encourage everyone to shop local. There are many businesses in Grover Beach that offer a wide variety of goods, services, and supplies. The City also has some well-established, locally-owned restaurants that are quite popular. A few new restaurants have recently opened that I'm sure would appreciate your patronage as well...

BEACH PLACE CAFE

278 West Grand Ave.

CAFÉ VOSTRO

228 West Grand Ave.

CALIFORNIA CAFE

1010 West Grand Ave.

ELLIE'S PLACE

1435 West Grand Ave.

IZAKAYA RAKU (Japanese cuisine)

953 West Grand Ave.

LITTLE THAI CUISINE

968 West Grand Ave.

MONARCA (ice cream)

1401 West Grand Ave.

THAI DHEVA

501 West Grand Ave.

THE GURT (frozen yogurt)

685 West Grand Ave.

Soon to join this list is

MARGARITA'S PIZZA

967 West Grand Ave.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information contained in this article, please don't hesitate to contact me at City Hall by phone at (805) 473-4567 or send an e-mail to bperrault@grover.org.

“Signs” from Page One...

FOR QUICK REFERENCE, THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE CITY'S CAMPAIGN SIGN REGULATIONS:

WHEN?

Signs may be posted 60 days prior to the date of election and must be removed within seven days after such election.

HOW MANY?

- In residential zones, a campaign sign(s) may not exceed a total of three (3) square feet per candidate, per proposition, and per issue.
- In non-residential zones, that limit is ten (10) square feet per candidate, per proposition, and per issue.

WHERE?

No campaign signs may be placed or attached to (or otherwise located on or extending over) any public property or public right-of-way. Also, no signs may be attached to utility poles, traffic signals or any other traffic control devices.

Generally speaking, no sign is permitted within six (6) feet from the curb or berm in areas where no sidewalk exists. On streets with sidewalks, signs *may not* be placed in the landscape strip located between the street and the sidewalk.

NEW CELL PHONE LAWS

A Safety Tip Reminder

from the GROVER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT



Although new laws regarding cell phone use by drivers went into effect on July 1, 2008, apparently some drivers still need to be reminded. The law now *prohibits all* drivers from using handheld cell phones while operating a motor vehicle (Vehicle Code §23123). Motorists age 18 years and over may use a hands-free device. Drivers *under* the age of 18 may not use either a cell phone or hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle (Vehicle Code §23124). This applies to all drivers regardless of what state you are licensed to drive in.

Drivers may use cell phones to call 9-1-1 in an emergency. Drivers may use a “blue tooth” device or other earpiece. Law enforcement officers may pull you over if they see you're using a cell phone without a hands-free device.

For more information on this recent law, please see the list of “Safety Tips – New Cell Phone Law for Motorists” posted on the City's website at www.grover.org and click on “Police Department” and then “Safety Tips”.



BICYCLE RULES & SAFETY TIPS

from the GROVER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Did you know? In 2006 statistics showed that in this country 773 bicyclists died as a result of bicycle-related injuries and approximately 44,000 bicyclists were injured in traffic collisions. The majority of fatal incidents involved head injuries, which demonstrates how important it is to wear a bicycle helmet.

Did you know? Bicyclists are considered vehicles and must abide by the same rules of the road as other vehicles. The California Vehicle Code states that a bicycle operated on a roadway or the shoulder of a highway shall be operated in the same direction as vehicles are required to be driven upon the highway.

Did you know? The California Vehicle Code and the Grover Beach Municipal Code states that no person shall ride a bicycle upon any city sidewalk. Violators may be subject to a fine.

Here are some critical points for cyclists and drivers to remember:

BICYCLISTS:

- Must ride in the same direction as other traffic, not against it.
- Must ride in a straight line as near to the right curb or edge of the roadway as practical— not on the sidewalk! (Both state and local laws prohibit riding bicycles on the sidewalks. Violators may be cited.)
- Must make left and right turns in the same way that drivers do, using the same turn lanes.
- May legally move left to turn left in order to pass a parked or moving vehicle, another bicycle or an animal, or to make a turn, avoid debris or other hazards.
- May use a left turn lane. If the bicyclist is traveling straight ahead, he or she should use a through traffic lane rather than riding next to the curb and blocking traffic making right turns.

DRIVERS:

- Must look carefully for bicyclists before opening doors next to moving traffic or before turning right.
- Must safely merge toward the curb or into the bike lane.
- May not overtake a bicyclist just before making a right turn. Merge first and then turn.

The Grover Beach Police Department reminds cyclists not to ride on the sidewalk, especially on West Grand Avenue. Such activity is unsafe for cyclists and presents a danger to pedestrians who use sidewalks to enter and leave businesses.

Attention Bicyclists, Please Remember To...

- Wear a properly fitted helmet;
- Check equipment before riding;
- See and be seen— wear bright clothing;
- Control your bicycle— always ride with two hands;
- Watch for and avoid hazards;
- Limit riding at night; and
- Obey the rules of the road!

HELP US TO PREVENT GRAFFITI VANDALISM FROM OCCURRING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The City of Grover Beach recognizes that the presence of graffiti is detrimental to property values and degrades the quality of life in our community. It's often connected to gang activity, and therefore may lead to increased crime. If not promptly removed, it invites further vandalism. To increase community awareness regarding this issue, the following information is provided by the Grover Beach Police Department:

What is "graffiti"? Graffiti is vandalism. It can best be described as any inscription, word, figure or design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, painted or otherwise placed on any surface of a building, structure or personal property of another without permission. Graffiti vandalism generally is prosecuted as a misdemeanor, but can be prosecuted as a felony if the damage exceeds \$400 or if the graffiti is committed against a church or cemetery.

What are the related problems in our community with graffiti? Graffiti is not an isolated problem. It is often related to other crimes and disorder problems, including public disorder such as littering and loitering; shoplifting of materials needed for graffiti, such as paint and markers; gangs and gang violence, because gang graffiti conveys threats and identifies turf boundaries; and property destruction, such as broken windows.

What are the common targets of graffiti? Typically, graffiti is placed on public or private property adjacent to public spaces. It is common to find graffiti on transportation system infrastructures, walls facing streets, parks, benches, and/or monuments that are mostly open to the public's view.

What can you do when you see or become a victim of graffiti vandalism?

- First, call the Police Department immediately so that we can file a report on the graffiti. Grover Beach Police recently arrested a juvenile after taking reports of graffiti vandalism and identifying his moniker.
- Second, remove the graffiti immediately. One of the most promising responses to graffiti is consistently getting rid of it within a 24- to 72-hour period.
- Last of all, the City of Grover Beach has a Graffiti Abatement Ordinance. If you're having problems eradicating graffiti, please contact the Grover Beach Public Works Division for assistance at (805) 473-4520.

What can you do to prevent graffiti vandalism? Vandal-proof graffiti-prone locations by using paint-like products such as polyurethane-based coatings which are resistant to graffiti and easy to clean; wash off coatings which are wax or silicon applications on walls or buildings which also makes graffiti clean-up easier; when possible, choose textured surfaces and dark-colored surfaces that are not attractive to graffiti vandals, and/or install easily cleaned materials in highly vulnerable areas; and get involved in organizations such as Neighborhood Watch and report suspicious activity.

The Grover Beach Police Department has a zero-tolerance policy towards graffiti vandalism. Please report graffiti immediately at (805) 473-4511. If you want to report graffiti vandalism but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crime Stoppers at (805) 549-7867.

For further information, please contact Lt. John Bewick at the Grover Beach Police Department at (805) 473-4506.

GROVER BEACH FARMERS' MARKET AND OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs

The Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce and the City have partnered to bring Farmers' Markets to Grover Beach. Beginning August 17th and continuing every Sunday until the end of October, enjoy live music performances as you purchase fresh vegetables and flowers, hand-crafted items, and canned jams and jellies, as well as a variety of prepared food items at Ramona Garden Park from 3:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The last concert of the **Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series** is scheduled for Sunday, September 28th from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the Ramona Garden Park, featuring the band Critical Mass. Bring a picnic or purchase refreshments at the concert with all proceeds used to support the concert series.



Skateboarders and those who like to watch this challenging sport are invited to participate in the **6th Fall Skate Classic Skateboarding Contest** at the South County Skate Park, 1750 Ramona Avenue. The fun begins on Saturday, September 27th, with pre-registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the first division beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The **Carved Pumpkin Contest and Halloween Activities** will be held on Friday, October 31st from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. A costume parade, carnival games, spooky maze, games with Ballooney the Clown, and much more will be presented for all young "trick or treaters"! Free goodie bags for children and free hot dogs for all who attend will also be available. Get dressed in your favorite costume and come join the fun!

Many activities and special events offered throughout the year are made available through the generous donations of local businesses and private citizens. If you would like more information, call (805) 473-4580 or send an e-mail to parksandrecreation@grover.org.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Elected officials at all levels of government make decisions about things that are important to all of us — our economy, jobs, schools, community, and our environment, to name just a few issues. Taking the time to vote



is your opportunity to choose the decision makers and tell them what you want.

The last day to register to vote (or re-register if you've moved) in order to be eligible to vote in the November 4, 2008 Statewide General Election is Monday, October 20, 2008.

You may also vote by mail. There are five convenient ways to apply: 1) fill out a "Vote By Mail" application found on the back cover of the sample ballot sent to each registered voter and then mail it to the County Clerk-Recorder's Office; 2) access the application form on the County Clerk-Recorder's website at www.slocounty.ca.gov/clerk/elections.htm; 3) send a letter to the County Clerk-Recorder's Office requesting a "Vote By Mail" ballot with your name, residence address, address to which the ballot should be sent, and your signature; 4) fax a written request to the County Clerk-Recorder's Office to (805) 781-1111; or 5) apply in person at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office at 1055 Monterey Street, Suite D120, San Luis Obispo. The last day to request a "Vote By Mail" ballot is seven (7) days before the election. In order for your "Vote By Mail" ballot to be counted, it must be

mailed in time to be received by the County Clerk-Recorder's Office (or submitted in person to any polling place in the County) no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Be an informed voter. Non-partisan information on candidates and issues may be found on the League of Women Voters' website at either www.smartvoter.org or www.vote411.org. The polling place to cast your vote is printed on your sample ballot or you may look it up on the County Clerk-Recorder's website.

REMEMBER, EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Monthly City Meeting Dates

All Regular Meetings are Open to the Public and Held in the City Council Chambers unless noted otherwise

154 South Eighth Street

City Council - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission - 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Traffic Committee - 2nd Thursday at 9:30 a.m. *(as needed)*

Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission - 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m. *(please check City Hall or website for meeting schedule)*

Citizen Oversight Committee - *(meetings scheduled as needed)*

Agendas are posted at City Hall and www.grover.org.

City Council Meetings are televised on the City's Government Cable Access Channel 20.

Your presence and participation at City meetings are contributions to good government.

Please attend as often as you can!

QUICK REFERENCE

* * * Grover Beach City Hall * * *

154 South Eighth Street	Mon - Fri; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Administrative Svcs./Utility Billing	473-4550
Business Tax Certificates	473-4550
Community Development	473-4520
Building Inspection Requests	473-4527
City Manager	473-4567
City Clerk	473-4568
Human Resources	473-4564
Emergency	9-1-1
Police Administration	473-4511
Fire Administration	473-4590
Neighborhood Watch	473-4511
Code Enforcement	473-4590
Parks and Recreation	473-4580
City website	www.grover.org

Other Frequently Called Numbers:

Chamber of Commerce 180 Highway One - or www.groverchamber.com	489-9091
Charter Communications <i>(cable television)</i> 270 Bridge Street, San Luis Obispo - or - www.charter.com	(888) 438-2427
Community Library - Grover Beach 240 North 9 th Street, Grover Beach (Mon, Tues, Thurs: 1-5 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)	481-4131
South County Sanitary <i>(trash and recycling services)</i> 866 West Grand Ave - or - www.wasteconnections.com	489-4246
The Gas Company <i>(natural gas)</i>	1-800-427-2200
Pacific Gas & Electric <i>(electricity)</i>	1-800-743-5000
SLO Superior Court - South County Branch Office 214 South 16 th Street (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)	
Traffic Division	473-7070 or 781-5696
Civil & Small Claims Division	473-7077
Criminal Division	473-7072
County Health Department South County Branch Office 286 South 16 th Street	473-7050

Sea Breeze is published by the City of Grover Beach. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Call us at 473-4567 or send email to gbadmin@grover.org



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