



City Administrator's Report

February 2006

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to share your comments and suggestions with us.

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Key Meetings:

February 7, 14, 28 ▪ City Council

Holidays:

February 20 ▪ President's Day (City Hall closed)

Community Events:

February 4 ▪ South Coast Electronics Collection & Recycling Event, Earl Warren Show Grounds Parking Lot 2B and Raytheon Parking Lot at 3400 Calle Real, Goleta, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

February 2 - 12 ▪ 21st Annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival, (805) 963-0023; http://www.sbfilmfestival.org/html/contact_us_sbiff.html

February 18 ▪ Holiday Arts & Crafts Show, Cabrillo Blvd., 10 a.m. – dusk, (805) 962-3627

February 21 ▪ Annual 90-Plus Party, Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort, reservations required – (805) 897-2519

February 24 – 25 ▪ Amgen Tour of California bike race, (805) 689-7407

Flags on State Street:

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| February 1 - 13 | ▪ Santa Barbara International Film Festival |
| February 13 - 27 | ▪ Black History Month |
| February 27 - 28 | ▪ Navy League |

City Administrator

Work on the fiscal year 2007 budget is underway: Fiscal year 2007, which begins July 1, is the second year of the city's current two-year financial plan. The General Fund budget outlook has improved significantly since the two-year plan was adopted last June. We are seeing some very positive trends in both revenues and expenditures. Although we will still need to use as much as \$4 million of reserves to balance the General Fund budget this fiscal year, the improved outlook will go a long way in helping us balance the budget for next fiscal year. Thankfully, this significantly reduces the need to make additional budget adjustments for next fiscal year.

The positive General Fund developments include:

- Sales tax revenue grew 12.5 percent from the prior year for the quarter ended September 30 (the most recent available data). This is particularly important because sales tax is still our largest General Fund revenue.
- Transient occupancy tax (the hotel "bed tax") grew 12.7 percent for the first half of the fiscal year.
- Next fiscal year's General Fund PERS costs will be approximately \$1.8 million lower than this fiscal year. This is due to improved PERS investment returns as well as changes PERS has made to their rate setting process. The lower PERS rates will also benefit all of the city's "Miscellaneous" PERS members by slightly lowering the employee-paid cost for the 2.7 percent @ 55 benefit enhancement – effective July 1.
- Workers' compensation costs will be as much as \$500,000 lower next year as a result of continued improvement in the city's claims experience. The lower PERS and workers' compensation costs will benefit all of the city's Enterprise Funds as well. Although there have been, or will be, increases in some other costs, most notably for health insurance and energy, the overall budget outlook is considerably brighter than just six months ago. As recently as last July, we were projecting the need to make as much as \$2.3 million of additional budget adjustments to balance the fiscal year 2007 General Fund budget. Now, we anticipate needing no more than \$500,000 in adjustments (adjustments are increases in revenue and/or expenditure reductions). That represents only about one-half of one percent of the General Fund budget. Departments are currently working on their fiscal year 2007 budgets and there will be a budget work session with the City Council on February 15. As always, the recommended budget will be presented to the City Council in early April, with budget adoption scheduled for late June. We will keep you informed throughout the process.

City Council Adopts Sustainability Plan: On January 10, the City Council received the First Annual Report on the City of Santa Barbara's Sustainable City Program prepared by the Green Team. The Green Team is made up of managers and supervisors engaged in environmentally oriented roles. The goal of the program is for the city organization to be more environmentally conscious by developing, implementing and achieving sustainability objectives. Council also appointed Mayor Blum, and Councilmembers Schneider and Barnwell to serve on the Sustainable City Program Committee to further the goals of the program. The Sustainable City Program Committee will meet regularly to develop, for full Council review and consideration, recommendations to implement the program objectives delineated in the first year action plan.

Mayor to deliver 5th State of the City Address: Mayor Blum, joined by City Administrator Jim Armstrong, will deliver her 5th State of the City Address on March 3. Look for details in next month's City Administrator's Report.

Airport

2005 passenger traffic sets all-time record: Last year marked the highest passenger count in the history of the Santa Barbara Airport with 853,854 arriving and departing passengers. The second highest traffic count occurred in 1997 when there were 845,119 total passengers. Throughout 2005, the regional jet flights to Dallas/Ft. Worth and Denver had the highest average load factors with the planes being 84 to 90 percent full.

Goleta Slough Area I set for restoration: Native plant restoration and enhancement of a 25-acre site located between the UCSB bluffs and Tecolotito Creek is expected to begin this spring. The area is a complex mixture of grassland, coyote brush scrub, poison oak, oak and willow trees, eucalyptus groves, and weedy grass patches. About eight acres of new wetlands are to be created, in addition to enhancing four acres of existing wetlands and removing exotic weeds and trees from about 12 acres to mitigate Airfield Safety Project impacts.

Three bids ranging from approximately \$1.9 to \$2.6 million were received to complete the work that includes select clearing and grubbing, excavation and grading, drainage, irrigation, and planting nearly 17,000 native plants grown from seed collected within the Goleta Slough. Native plants for the mitigation are being cultivated at the Airport in the recently constructed Slough Nursery.

Airport successfully converts to Cartegraph maintenance system. As of December 5, all Airport maintenance work orders have been issued using Cartegraph. Customized reports from this new software now enable automated tracking of many of the Airport Maintenance Division's performance measures, and the ability to produce many other useful asset management reports. Following more than 40 hours of Cartegraph training, three Airport employees have achieved 'champion' status.

Community Development Department

Green Building incentives available: In response to the Santa Barbara Contractors Association’s (SBCA) creation of the Built Green program, the City Council last March directed staff to develop an incentive program for green buildings. Promoting green building techniques is important for the City and the community because green buildings use less energy and water, make more efficient use of materials and resources, and can improve indoor air quality.

Staff has developed a program to provide an expedited plan check review program for buildings that meet green building criteria. Projects that either meet the “two-star” rating of the Santa Barbara Contractors Association Built Green program or a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating will qualify for expedited plan check review.

Staff is eager to implement this program and will work with architects, designers, contractors, and interested parties to fine tune its implementation as experience is gained. The first Green Building application was recently received for a single-family dwelling remodel. The project was given priority status, and the plans checked and returned to the applicant within five days.

Fire Department

New fire chief on board: Ron Prince joined the Santa Barbara Fire Department on January 30 as the new fire chief. Chief Prince has 31 years of experience in fire service, serving most recently as the City of Santa Cruz fire chief for 11 years. Prior to that time, he was the Prescott, Arizona fire chief. He will have a busy first few weeks, and plans on meeting with each department head to get acquainted with the city organization.

Finance Department

December transient occupancy tax (TOT) grows 16.9 percent: December was another strong month for TOT. For the first half of the fiscal year, TOT growth was 12.7 percent.

City of Santa Barbara										
TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES										
Month	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year	FY 2005	Change from Prior Year	FY 2006	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,171,041	-2.8%	\$ 1,183,951	1.1%	\$ 1,198,952	1.3%	\$ 1,301,652	8.6%	\$ 1,477,789	13.5%
Aug	1,276,212	2.3%	1,328,278	4.1%	1,349,990	1.6%	1,357,717	0.6%	1,504,589	10.8%
Sept	808,657	-15.1%	849,174	5.0%	887,095	4.5%	931,244	5.0%	1,109,428	19.1%
Oct	790,919	-5.8%	830,054	4.9%	863,919	4.1%	914,718	5.9%	963,261	5.3%
Nov	653,829	-5.4%	684,776	4.7%	696,742	1.7%	721,982	3.6%	809,684	12.1%
Dec	539,598	-9.2%	529,694	-1.8%	553,094	4.4%	575,075	4.0%	672,003	16.9%
Jan	511,090	-11.7%	583,413	14.2%	584,653	0.2%	606,484	3.7%		
Feb	611,322	-2.8%	616,824	0.9%	703,493	14.1%	699,349	-0.6%		
Mar	783,829	1.9%	704,942	-10.1%	782,652	11.0%	872,554	11.5%		
April	822,209	1.5%	793,352	-3.5%	875,760	10.4%	941,281	7.5%		
May	856,251	1.7%	817,047	-4.6%	895,378	9.6%	1,001,450	11.8%		
June	1,012,905	0.0%	942,897	-6.9%	973,955	3.3%	1,157,985	18.9%		YTD
FY Total	\$ 9,837,862	-3.3%	\$ 9,864,403	0.3%	\$ 10,365,683	5.1%	\$ 11,081,490	6.9%	\$ 6,536,754	12.7%
Budget	\$ 9,779,115		\$ 9,974,700		\$ 10,273,900		\$ 10,684,900		\$ 11,504,200	

This report includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).

Sales tax update: Last month we reported that sales tax for the quarter ended September 30, 2005 was up 14.5%. Since we had no detail regarding what contributed to such a high growth level, we said we would report back as the information became available. There was an apparent delay by the state in processing many sales tax returns for the previous quarter (quarter ended June 30, 2005). Therefore, we received additional revenue for the quarter ended September 30 that actually belonged to the quarter ended June 30. However, after adjusting for this anomaly, our receipts were still up a very strong 12.5%. There were increased sales across most sectors, with restaurants and service stations doing exceptionally well.

Library Department

Women's Literary Festival set for March 4: A local group, including staff of the Santa Barbara Public Library, is organizing a Women's Literary Festival: "A Day With The Authors," on Saturday, March 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort. The Santa Barbara Public Library System is helping to sponsor presentations from such authors as Diana Abu-Jaber, Ruth Ozeki, Bonnie Hearn Hill, Gail Tsukiyama, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, and Amada Pérez. Pre-registration is required, and information is available at www.womensliteraryfestival.com, or pick up registration forms at your local library.

Parks and Recreation Department

World-Class bike race coming to Santa Barbara on February 24: California will provide the stunning backdrop for the inaugural Amgen Tour of California, a professional cycling race modeled after the Tour de France. The Amgen Tour of California will make its way from San Francisco to Redondo Beach, CA along a demanding 600-mile course. Sixteen international and domestic teams will traverse the state from north to south in this eight-day professional cycling stage race scheduled to take place from February 19-26, 2006.

Sanctioned by the UCI (Union Cycliste International) and USA Cycling, the Amgen Tour of California is one of the most anticipated events on the international cycling calendar. Between the opening Prologue in San Francisco and the finale in Redondo Beach, the race will visit ten host cities for official stage starts and finishes while the many communities along the route will have the opportunity to witness the excitement of elite bicycle racing. Host cities for the eight daily stages include: San Francisco, Sausalito, Santa Rosa, Martinez, San Jose, Monterey, San Louis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Thousand Oaks and Redondo Beach. It is estimated that more than one million spectators will line the route and millions more will tune in to ESPN2 and other broadcasts daily to watch the event.

The City of Santa Barbara will be one of the host cities for the race with one of the stages finishing in Santa Barbara in the afternoon of Friday, February 24th and starting again in the morning of Saturday, February 25th with the next stage destination being Thousand Oaks. Cabrillo Boulevard along West Beach will be the venue for both the Friday afternoon race finish and Saturday morning start. In addition to the core race, the Amgen Tour of California finish event will also include a health and wellness festival style expo including vendor booths and entertainment on Friday. A local organizing committee in Santa Barbara is helping coordinate

the event including the recruitment of over 300 volunteers needed to staff both the finish and race days.

Friday, February 24th

Stage 5 Race Finish on Cabrillo Blvd. at West Beach

Health and Fitness Fair, 10:30-2:30pm

Race Finish approximately 2:30pm

Saturday, February 25th

Stage 6 Race Start on Cabrillo Blvd. at West Beach

Start begins at 10:00am

For more information on the Amgen Tour of California or to become a volunteer, please go to www.amgentourofcalifornia.com. To learn more about becoming an event sponsor, please contact Barney Berglund at barneyberglund@hotmail.com or 805-689-7407.

Young skateboarders pilot program begins February 4: Parks and Recreation Department staff and the Recreation Commission approved a modification of the pilot program of special hours for young skaters. The modified program sets aside Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. for skaters ages 12 years and under. The commission and staff were encouraged by the re-engagement of the skate community at the January meeting and over the past couple of months, evidenced by public discussion about challenges the city faces with operating the skate park, and how the skate community needs to be part of making the park a great recreational experience for all users. The commission also recommended that staff work to develop more instructional programs for youth to develop skate skills.

To formally engage stakeholders, the Commission acted to establish a Skate Park Advisory Committee. In February, staff will return to the Commission with a recommendation on composition of the committee, which most likely will include representatives of youth and adult skaters and local skate shops, liaisons from the Park and Recreation Commission, and the Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee.

Pesticide report heads to City Council on February 14: Staff will present the proposed "Pesticide Hazards and Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone Model for the City of Santa Barbara" report for City Council approval. The completed report has been reviewed by the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee, Airport Commission and Park and Recreation Commission, which have all acted to forward the report to the City Council for approval without reservation. The report proposes that 39 of the city's 49 parks will be managed "Green," more than twice the 19 parks currently designated pesticide-free. In fact, more than 98 percent of all park land acreage maintained by the Parks Division will be Green, and fewer than 2 percent will be Yellow (not yet pesticide free.) A multi-year plan for transitioning the 2 percent "Yellow to Green" is discussed in the report. If adopted as proposed, exceptional progress towards the city's goals for Green parks and for Integrated Pest Management program will be achieved. Staff has worked closely with the IPM Advisory Committee to develop this report.

Parks Green Team to be created: Due to the city's significantly improved fiscal situation, the Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of redesigning and filling two vacant positions to create a Parks Green Team to augment mulching and other Integrated Pest Management (IPM) efforts. The department also plans to purchase a weed mower, tractor/loader, and crew cab truck to support the Green Team and IPM. In addition, the department is discussing the development of a formal Park Volunteer Program to include an educational component on Green Gardening. Discussions are taking place with Santa Barbara Beautiful, PAAC, the Creeks Program, Looking Good Santa Barbara, and others to help fund and design the program.

A. C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden successfully pruned: On Saturday, January 21 more than 50 volunteers and nine Parks and Recreation Department staff worked together to prune the popular rose garden across the street from the Santa Barbara Mission. Although the volunteer turnout was less than last year's due to the cancellation the previous Saturday because of rain, the results were similar, with almost 90% of the roses getting pruned. The weather was beautiful and the Santa Barbara Rose Society members provided an abundant table of delicious refreshments. Well-known and respected rosarian Dan Bifano and Rose Garden volunteer coordinator Robert Funai provided expert rose pruning instruction. The rose garden will once again be in full, spectacular bloom by the end of March, thanks to all who participated in this year's annual rose pruning volunteer workday.

Santa Barbara's hottest senior ticket is the 90-Plus Party: For 20 years, the Parks and Recreation Department has hosted this delightful luncheon honoring individuals 90 years old and better. This year's party is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort, with lunch beginning at noon. Music is provided by the Jerry Dokken Band, playing nostalgic tunes that are well-known and well-loved by the audience. Larry Crandell has served as luncheon emcee for a number of years and he keeps the program light, funny and festive. Event sponsors are Carl Lindrose, The Hutton Foundation, The Santa Barbara Foundation, and AARP. Reservations for this popular event are required; call (805) 897-2519.

Teen Center receives \$90,000 donation: Monies donated by the Santa Barbara Women's Fund will be used by the Parks and Recreation Department to provide furnishings and equipment for the Teen Center, as announced on Monday, January 30.

Honors bestowed at January awards ceremony: The regional California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) presented three awards to the Parks and Recreation Department at a ceremony in San Luis Obispo. The Teen Programs Youth Council took home the Community Service Award; Cyrus Alexander, Teen Programs recreation coordinator, received the award for Best Poster for his Summer Late Nights poster design; and the Community Gardens Renovation Program received the award for Recreation and Community Services: Neighborhood and Community Life.

Creeks Division and California Conservation Corps are restoring Mesa Creek and Arroyo Burro Estuary: The first phase of the city's Arroyo Burro Estuary and Mesa Creek Restoration Project began in late January with members of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) clearing existing vegetation from the project site. Located at the end of the Arroyo Burro Beach parking area and within the Douglas Family Preserve (DFP), the project will restore coastal estuarine, riparian, and coastal sage scrub habitats and improve water quality in Mesa Creek, the estuary and at Arroyo Burro Beach. The project involves removing a concrete

culvert to “daylight” Mesa Creek, stabilization of creek banks and new trails, and a footbridge to the DFP. Non-native plants will be removed and 5,000 native plants and trees planted. The estuary will be expanded to benefit the endangered Tidewater Goby, and fish passage enhancements will benefit the endangered Steelhead Trout.

The CCC is a state workforce development program that provides young men and women ages 18 to 25 years with life skills training in environmental conservation, fire protection, and emergency services. In addition to Measure B resources, the project benefits from more than \$1.2 million in grant funds from local, state, and federal agencies, including the County of Santa Barbara Coastal Resources Enhancement Fund, California Coastal Conservancy, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Police Department

Bank robber arrested: In January, police arrested a 33-year-old man dubbed the State Street Bandit, for committing four local bank robberies. After serving six years in a Texas prison for bank robbery the suspect moved to Santa Barbara. He tried working for a living but was fired for embezzling funds, then resumed his former occupation as a bank robber. In an intensive joint investigation between the Santa Barbara Police Department and the FBI, the suspect was identified, tracked down, and arrested at a public library. Several hundred dollars in stolen money were recovered from the suspect’s residence. A ski-jacket, mask, and a replica handgun were found at a storage facility he rented. Because of his criminal background, the suspect faces a possible sentence of life in prison.

Roof-top burglars grounded: Responding to a silent alarm at a downtown computer store, police noticed fragments of ceiling plaster lying on the showroom floor. As the officers were surrounding the complex, a suspect tried to bolt past the containment. Two officers wrestled him to the ground and arrested him, and a second suspect was found hiding inside. The suspects had gained entry by burrowing through the roof of an adjoining dry cleaning business. The suspected burglars had crept through an attic crawlspace, and dropped down through the ceiling into the computer store. The 18- and 20-year-old suspects are local transients, and are suspected of other recent roof-top burglaries.

Peeping Tom burglar caught: Officers responded to a prowler call at a Westside residential neighborhood and spotted a man sneaking across the darkened street. Police followed the suspect through an apartment complex and over a fence, cornering him in a parking lot. In addition to being a Peeping Tom, the suspect had stolen property from another nearby residence. Entering through an unlocked door, he literally took property right from under the nose of a man sleeping on a sofa! The suspect was booked for prowling and residential burglary.

Public Works Department

Recycled rubber meets the road for street rehab: This project will resurface two arterial city streets with rubberized asphalt which will recycle approximately 7,500 used tires. The rubber asphalt mix is an excellent technology, but is more sensitive to temperature and field conditions than conventional asphalt, thus prompting the city to postpone construction until spring 2006. Public outreach notices were mailed to all affected residents to inform them of this delay in construction.

The project locations include Hollister Avenue between Aero Camino and the bridge over San Pedro Creek near Fairview Avenue, and Chapala Street between Mission Street and East Constance Avenue. This portion of Chapala Street is concrete. In addition to the road rehabilitation, five new access ramps along Hollister Avenue and 16 new access ramps along Chapala Street will be constructed.

People and planes to benefit from new taxiway: The Taxiway M project at Santa Barbara Airport involves construction of a new taxiway, a new service road, and a public access area for viewing the Goleta Slough. The new 90-foot-wide taxiway will provide enhanced circulation of aircraft to and from two runways. The new taxiway will in some cases reduce the number of times it is necessary to cross a runway to get from the runway to an aircraft parking area. The Goleta Slough overlook will be an area where the public can park, walk on a short path, read interpretive signage, and observe portions of the Goleta Slough.

Street sweeping signs removed: Streets Division personnel began removing “No Parking” signs from westside neighborhoods during the last weekend of January. The affected areas are De la Vina to Bath Streets, and Mission to Gutierrez Streets. A total of 71 signs were removed, leaving three per side. The job is 75% complete, with the rest of the sign removal scheduled for the first weekend of February.

Graffiti removal requires 55 gallons of paint: During the week of January 23, Streets Division personnel assisted by Union Pacific, painted out the graffiti on the railroad corridor between Las Positas Road and the Andree Clark Bird Refuge.

Improving city parking lots: Fix Painting Company will be replacing decorative concrete cornices, and repainting the exterior walls of City Parking Structure No. 2 located at 914 Chapala Street. Work will be finished by the end of March.

Waterfront Department

Santa Barbara Whale Festival is March 4: The 11th Annual Santa Barbara Whale Festival is presented by the Ty Warner Sea Center in partnership with the Stearns Wharf Business Association. Proceeds benefit: The Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Ty Warner Sea Center and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The Whale Festival will take place on Stearns Wharf from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 4, 2006. Open to the public, approximately eight to 12 thousand people are expected to attend. There will be live music, arts and craft booths, duck races, educational booths, a children's carnival, fishing derby, and a helicopter rescue demonstration by the U.S.

Coast Guard and Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol. For details about sponsors and festival-related activities, visit www.sbwhalefestival.com

Sailing Center named Outstanding School of the Year: For the second year in a row, The Santa Barbara Sailing Center has been named AMERICAN SAILING ASSOCIATION'S OUTSTANDING SCHOOL OF THE YEAR for its exceptional instructional standards, services, and facility. Since 1982, ASA schools have created and maintained rigorous standards within the sailing community, graduating and certifying thousands of new sailors annually. The American Sailing Association has grown into a worldwide network of over 300 professionally accredited sailing schools, all of which are globally recognized and endorsed by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Santa Barbara Sailing Center has more than 40 charter boats in their program and a staff of 30 instructors, all with thousands of hours of cruising experience.