



# City Administrator's Report

August 2009

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 send me your comments and suggestions.*

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## Key Meetings

### *City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

## Community Events

### *Nite Moves*

Enjoy a run, walk, and/or swim at Leadbetter Beach every Wednesday at 5 p.m. through September 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, visit: [www.runsantabarbara.com](http://www.runsantabarbara.com).

### *Where’s Your Bag? Campaign Kickoff*

Exchange your plastic shopping bags for a reusable canvas bag on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 5 p.m. at De la Guerra plaza. Enjoy music and other entertainment and learn more about the new community-wide campaign called *Where’s Your Bag?*

## Flags on State Street

### *Heal the Ocean*

August 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>

### *United Way*

August 28<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>

## City Administrator’s Office

**City Budget Update.** In June, the City Council unanimously adopted a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2010 to close the \$10.8 million deficit in the City’s general fund. Although the City Council has adopted a balanced budget, the future of the City’s financial condition remains

uncertain due to the continuous decline of major tax revenues. Since the adoption of the budget, City Administrator Jim Armstrong has met with employees to update them on the City's financial condition. In addition, the City Council will hold Special Budget meetings in September to review revenue projections and the financial outlook for the current and upcoming fiscal years. These meetings will be broadcast live on City TV Channel 18 and will be streamed online at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

***City Employees Ready to Participate in Day of Caring Event.*** Each year City employees join hundreds of participants at the United Way Day of Caring to volunteer their time with a local non-profit organization. The annual Day of Caring event will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The day will begin with a breakfast from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Ben Page Youth Center on Hollister Avenue. Volunteer projects will be coordinated at work sites throughout the community. To sign up to participate, call at 965-8591 or email United Way at [dayofcaring@unitedwaysb.org](mailto:dayofcaring@unitedwaysb.org).

## **Administrative Services Department**

***Voice Your Choice in this November's Election.*** Election Day is Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The City's General Municipal Election will be a vote-by-mail election. Voter packets consisting of the voter information pamphlet, ballots and prepaid return envelopes will be mailed by the City Clerk's Office beginning Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The last day ballots will be accepted is Election Day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Voters will have the option to return their ballots using the prepaid postage return envelope or by dropping off their ballots at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours beginning Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> through Election Day, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Although this is a vote-by-mail election, voters will have the option to vote in person at any of the seven drop-off centers located throughout the City. For a list of drop-off centers, more information regarding November's vote-by-mail election, or election material in Spanish, visit: [www.SBCityVote.org](http://www.SBCityVote.org).

Voters will cast their vote for Mayor (4-year term) and three City Councilmember (4-year term) seats. Voters will also decide on the following four ballot measures:

***Measure B-2009 – Building Heights:*** This measure will amend the City Charter to reduce the maximum allowed building height within the City to 45 feet generally and 40 feet within the El Pueblo Viejo district except for those areas of the City zoned for single-family and two-family homes.

***Measure C-2009 – Parks and Recreation Commission:*** This measure will amend the City Charter to combine the Board of Park Commissioners with the Recreation Commission to form a new commission called the Parks and Recreation Commission and to allow the City Council to appoint a youth member of the new Parks and Recreation Commission.

***Measure D-2009 – Board of Harbor Commissioners:*** This measure will amend the City Charter to increase the number of Harbor Commissioners from 5 to 7 members and to allow one member of the Commission to be a registered voter within Santa Barbara County and not necessarily just within the City of Santa Barbara as currently required.

*Measure E-2009 – Architectural Board of Review (ABR):* This measure will amend the City Charter to reduce the number of members on the ABR from 9 to 7 members and to allow the City Council to appoint up to 3 ABR members from persons registered to vote within Santa Barbara County and not necessarily just within the City of Santa Barbara as currently required.

***Wastewater System Manager Recruitment.*** The City is recruiting for a Wastewater System Manager. This position manages all of the functions of the wastewater system, which includes the water resources laboratory, wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, and recycled water treatment. The Wastewater System Manager is responsible for 53 employees and a \$13,000,000 annual budget. The Wastewater Systems Manager oversees the operation, maintenance, and regulatory compliance of the City's 263-mile wastewater collection system; the 11 million gallon per day El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the City's four million gallon per day recycled water tertiary treatment plant. The last day to apply is Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. To review the position requirements and submit an application online, visit: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

***Fire Chief Recruitment.*** The recruitment for City Fire Chief closed on August 6th. After thorough background and reference checks are completed, it is expected that an appointment will be made this October. It is anticipated that the new Fire Chief would begin in January 2010.

## **Airport Department**

***Free Wi-Fi at the Terminal.*** Beginning this month, wireless internet access, also known as Wi-Fi service, will be available to passengers at the Airline Terminal. This complimentary service will be especially appreciated by business travelers who have been requesting free wireless internet access via the Airport's comment cards. These comment cards allow passengers to provide feedback and are available in the main terminal lobby and security hold rooms.

***Airline Terminal Project Update.*** Lash Construction is continuing with soil improvements to stabilize the foundation area for the new Airline Terminal building. Crews are drilling four-foot wide and 37-foot deep holes at a rate of three holes per hour for 20 hours a day. Additionally, final touches are taking place to the baggage claim pavilion that was moved from the south area of the terminal to right next to the United/Delta baggage claim pavilion. It is expected to be operational by the end of the month.

***June Passenger Traffic Declines.*** Airline passenger traffic at Santa Barbara Airport decreased in June 2009 as compared to June 2008. This June, the Airport served 69,602 passengers, an 8.2% decrease when compared to last June's passenger traffic count. The highest average passenger loads were aboard the *United* flights to Denver (92.8%) and the *Delta* flights to Salt Lake City (90.6%). Overall, for the first six months of 2009, passenger traffic was down 12.1%.

## Community Development Department

**Planning Commission Update.** This month, the Planning Commission will meet on August 27<sup>th</sup> to hold a work session on *Plan Santa Barbara*. The focus of the work session will be the location, evolution, and purpose of the Mobility Oriented Development Area (MODA), options for density and unit sizes in commercial and multiple-family zones, and review of progress to date on the General Plan Land Use Map.

**Mills Act for Historic Preservation.** The Mills Act is a state law that allows local jurisdictions to give tax breaks to owners of historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places or on a state, county or city official register. Under the Mills Act, property owners receive a significant reduction in local property taxes in exchange for their promise to actively participate in restoring, rehabilitating, repairing, and preserving their properties. Participants enter into a ten-year contract with the City. The Mills Act is the single most important economic incentive program available in California for private property owners of qualified historic buildings. This month, the Ordinance and Finance Committees unanimously passed the Mills Act. The City Council will consider its implementation in September or October.

## Finance Department

**Finance Director Bob Peirson Retires.** After 27 years of public service, City Finance Director Bob Peirson will retire from his position on Friday, August 28, 2009. As Finance Director for the last 14 years, Peirson managed the City's financial operations and provided guidance to the City Council. He hopes to combine his extensive public sector financial management expertise and his desire for travel by providing training in public sector finance internationally. City Administrator Jim Armstrong has appointed Bob Samario, Assistant Finance Director, to lead the Finance Department on an interim basis.

**July Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) down 14.6%.** The July TOT decline was the 5<sup>th</sup> double-digit decline in the last six months and 7<sup>th</sup> in the last nine months. The July decline is particularly difficult because it is the second largest TOT month of the year for TOT or bed tax revenue. The 14.6% decline exceeds the 8% July decline projected in the adopted fiscal year 2010 budget. With August representing about 15% of total annual TOT, we will now await the August results which, along with the June sales tax quarter results, will be available by the middle of September.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%	\$ 1,631,965	1.2%	\$ 1,393,219	-14.6%
Aug	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%	1,820,811	10.6%		
Sept	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%	1,196,294	-1.8%		
Oct	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%	1,049,515	-2.4%		
Nov	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%	770,009	-11.6%		
Dec	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%	599,323	-10.4%		
Jan	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%	680,474	-1.6%		
Feb	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%	643,342	-20.7%		
Mar	953,927	11.5%	1,000,573	4.9%	760,032	-24.0%		
April	1,046,772	4.6%	958,282	-8.5%	930,516	-2.9%		
May	1,052,582	3.7%	1,118,049	6.2%	944,898	-15.5%		
June	1,249,817	2.1%	1,262,909	1.0%	1,010,973	-19.9%		
<b>FY Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,691,167</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>\$ 12,935,553</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>\$ 12,038,153</b>	<b>-6.9%</b>	<b>\$ 1,393,219</b>	<b>-14.6%</b>
<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>\$ 12,630,600</b>		<b>\$ 13,581,500</b>		<b>\$ 13,334,000</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>\$ 12,027,000</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>

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

**Where’s Your Bag?** On Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 5 p.m. at De la Guerra Plaza, the City, along with campaign sponsors, is kicking off the *Where’s Your Bag?* campaign. The goal of the campaign is to educate the public about the negative environmental effects of plastic and paper single-use bags, and to promote the use of reusable shopping bags. The City of Santa Barbara, Channelkeeper, Choose to Reuse, the California Grocers Association, Marborg Industries, Tri-County Produce, other grocers have joined together to create the campaign. At the kickoff event, people can participate by trading in their plastic bags for a reusable canvas bag. Participants can enjoy musical entertainment and a “Trashy” Fashion show. For more information on the campaign, visit: [www.WheresYourBag.com](http://www.WheresYourBag.com).

## Fire Department

**La Brea Fire.** The La Brea wildfire started on August 8<sup>th</sup> in northern Santa Barbara County and reached 100% containment on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The fire burned more than 89,489 acres in the Los Padres National Forest, where vegetation had not burned in 87 years. The fire burned a long distance from Santa Barbara. The U.S. Forest Service headed the effort to fight the La Brea fire, and six City of Santa Barbara firefighters assisted through supporting management and administrative roles. For more information on the fire, visit: [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org).

**National Weather Service Declares Santa Barbara as StormReady.** The City of Santa Barbara received an official StormReady Community designation from the National Weather Service. To receive the StormReady designation, the City met rigorous criteria which included developing severe weather and flooding response plans and communications infrastructure, promoting weather safety to the public, and conducting safety training. Santa Barbara has implemented systems to monitor weather forecasts and warn the public of hazardous conditions. After several fires in the last two years, the community is vulnerable to possible flooding and mudslides with heavy rainfall.

**Public Information Officer Program.** The Fire Department has revamped its Public Information Officer (PIO) program. Previously, the Fire Department assigned PIO duties to one employee, who would provide information to the media. The new program has established a group of PIOs, who will take turns sharing this responsibility. Each day, there will be an on-call PIO. The program will also utilize new communication tools with the creation of an information blog that will help disseminate messages between the Fire Department and the community.

## Library Department

**The Big Read.** This year's annual community reading program, *Santa Barbara Reads*, is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Big Read is being centered on Ray Bradbury's book, *Fahrenheit 451*, and will be primarily aimed at young adults. Staff and volunteers are contacting teachers, administrators, and youth program leaders to offer free books, or teachers' and readers' guides for any group that reads *Fahrenheit 451* and engages in a creative activity such as a public reading of the book. The program kicks off in late September and Ray Bradbury will speak at the Lobero Theatre on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Dancing at the Library.** Children and adults learned to dance with three free workshops at the Eastside Library in July. Salsa, the Cha Cha Slide, the Macarena, and more dances were taught by recent Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient from Santa Barbara Dance Alliance, Derrick Curtis. His programs promote mutual respect, self awareness, body awareness, and social dance etiquette.

## Parks and Recreation

**Elementary and Junior High After School Programs Start with the School Year.** Students are about to start a new school year and they will have many choices for activities after school:

Elementary Schools: Registration starts on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP) for first through sixth graders at Adams, Cesar Chavez, Franklin, Monroe, Open Alternative, Roosevelt and Washington Elementary Schools. This affordable, after-school program is co-sponsored by the Santa Barbara School District and provides homework assistance, crafts, clubs, sports leagues, and field trips. For more information, call the Youth Activities office at 564-5495. Also, free sports programs, including flag football, will be offered at all Santa Barbara elementary schools. For more information on free sports programs, call the Parks and Recreation Sports Office at 564-5422.

Junior High Schools: This fall, the free Junior High School sports program includes flag football, basketball, soccer, cross country, and track and field. These activities are free to students at Santa Barbara, La Cumbre, La Colina, and Goleta Valley Junior High Schools. At La Cumbre Junior High School, there is a free Bike Program sponsored by Bici Centro. Students can register at the school or online at: [www.SantaBarbaraPAL.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraPAL.com).

**Old Vines Removed from Carrillo Recreation Center.** In preparation for the upcoming renovation of the Carrillo Recreation Center at 100 East Carrillo Street, the Parks Division removed most of the ficus vine covering the front of the building. Architectural details hidden for over fifty years have been revealed, including herringbone-patterned brick arches over several doors, a façade bump out flanking the ballroom entrance, and original ironwork hanging over exterior light fixtures. If bids are received on target, renovation may begin in late September.

**Fall and Winter Activity Guide Now Available.** The new Activity Guide featuring recreation classes and programs for all ages is now available online and in Parks and Recreation Department offices. The Department is reducing the number of printed guides and using additional advertising to encourage the public to go online to obtain program information. However, printed copies will be available in news stands and local businesses in Goleta and Santa Barbara and at 620 Laguna Street for people who do not have access to the Internet. To see the Fall and Winter Activity Guide online, visit: [www.SBParksandRecreation.com](http://www.SBParksandRecreation.com).

## Police Department

**Fiesta 2009 Statistics.** The Santa Barbara Police Department assigned patrol specifically to the five-day *Old Spanish Days Fiesta* to ensure public safety. This year, there were 18 felony arrests, 122 misdemeanor arrests, 593 traffic citations, 399 parking citations, 258 municipal code citations, 47 infractions, 32 towed vehicles, 17 unlicensed drivers, and one suspended license driver. In addition, there were 36 DUIs and 26 people were taken to the Sobering Center. Overall, this year's Fiesta went well and there were no major incidents.

**Labor Line Arrests Lead to Search Warrant.** In May, patrol officers arrested a drug dealer at the labor line for possessing sales from cocaine and seized approximately \$2,000 in cash. The subject claimed to live at a house on the 500 block of West Gutierrez Street. In June, patrol officers made another arrest of a drug dealer who supplies the labor line area and seized another \$2,000 in cash. This subject also claimed to live at the same house on the 500 block of West Gutierrez Street. In July, patrol officers stopped an individual for a bicycle violation near the labor line. A search of this subject revealed cocaine and money. For a third time, this person claimed to live at the same house. Patrol officers consulted with detectives and a search warrant was obtained for the house at the 500 block of West Gutierrez Street. A search warrant was served and approximately ½ ounce of rock cocaine was found in the house and two individuals were arrested. Further investigation revealed that approximately 14 people were currently living in the home. This case has been forwarded to the Santa Barbara Beat Coordinators for follow-up. Often times, beat coordinators assist in investigations in which the desired outcome is to find a long-term solution to an incident.

**July 2009: A Busy Month for K-9 Units.** The Santa Barbara Police Department's K-9 Unit consists of two canine dogs and two officers. K-9 units provide assistance to Santa Barbara Police Department patrol officers and detectives in certain situations. Allied agencies also request the assistance of the City's SBPD K-9 units. In July 2009, K-9 units were involved in 232 patrol assists, 28 narcotic searches, four building searches, 12 traffic citations, 16 street checks, six apprehensions, seven public K-9 demonstrations, and 12 patrol/narcotic training

sessions. They also assisted Santa Barbara County Juvenile Probation Department with K-9 searches of Los Prietos Boys Camp.

***Making “PALs” at Camp.*** For the eighth year, the Santa Barbara Police Activities League (PAL) hosted its annual summer camp for local youth. This year, PAL took approximately 30 youth from the City to El Capitan Canyon Campgrounds. For one week, youth were able to interact with police officers while participating in team building activities with students from other high schools within Santa Barbara. One of the activities was a rope climb confidence course, in which they had to work together in order to overcome obstacles. For more information on future camps, call the PAL office at 962-5560.

## Public Works Department

***Public Works Behind the Scenes at the City’s Biggest Party.*** The Streets Division of the Public Works Department prepared for weeks to ensure that Fiesta participants had all the basic necessities during the City’s annual five-day *Old Spanish Days Fiesta*. The crews provided road closure signs, barricades, cones, blinkers, temporary no parking signs, and extra trash and recycling bins at Fiesta events. Public Works crews also swept and cleaned up State Street immediately following the equestrian and children’s parades. Once all of the festivities were over, the barricade equipment and parking signs were sorted and put away until next year.

***New “Water Wise Gardening in Santa Barbara County” Website and CD.*** The City’s Water Conservation Program and local water providers have developed a new tool for water wise gardening. A CD and website containing gardening information tailored to our climate and water conservation needs is now available. The website contains a database of over 1,000 water wise plants, extensive photos of local gardens, and helpful tips on gardening design and practices. To check out this new tool, visit: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water).

***Graywater Workshop Held.*** On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the City’s Water Conservation Program teamed up with national graywater expert Art Ludwig for a “Laundry to Landscape” Graywater System Workshop.” Plumbers, building inspectors, irrigation professionals, landscape contractors, and others interested in installing graywater systems in homes attended the workshop. The event coincided with the historic graywater code adoption passed by the California Building Standards Commission, which went into affect on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Under the new code, California residents following simple guidelines can now install single fixture (such as a clothes washer, shower or bathroom sink) graywater systems without a construction permit. The City is planning to partner with local agencies to provide future education about graywater opportunities.

## Waterfront Department

***Marina One Replacement Project Contract Awarded.*** On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, five competitive bids for Phase One of the Marina One Replacement project were received. The engineer’s cost estimate was \$1,800,000 for construction. AIS Construction Company submitted a low bid of \$1,781,840. Three other bids were within \$100,000, which reflected the current competitive bidding climate. The California Department of Boating and Waterways has approved a loan to the Waterfront Department of \$5,500,000 for construction of Phases One through Four. A series of meetings with Marina One slipholders will be held to inform them of the project schedule,

status, and potential impacts to boaters. The project is expected to be complete by spring of 2010.

***Breakwater Cap Repair Project Complete.*** The final phase of the Breakwater Cap Repair Project is now complete. The "straight" section of the breakwater cap out to the sandspit was replaced. Lash Construction managed to complete the project the day before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities began, allowing public access to one of the most popular attractions at the Harbor. At a cost of \$605,000, this project provide the harbor with decades of protection from coastal storms.