

GLOSSARY

OVERVIEW

The following pages present specialized acronyms and terminology used throughout this budget document. The Glossary is divided into two sections: 1) Acronyms - defined to aid the reviewer in reading and understanding the 2018-20 Budget; and 2) Terminology – full definitions of the acronyms.

GLOSSARY

ACRONYMS

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act

AMCYC

Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center

APCD

Air Pollution Control District

BIT

Biennial Inspection Terminal Program

CACEO

California Association of Code Enforcement Officers

CAD

Computer Aided Dispatch

CAFR

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

CalPERS

California Public Employee Retirement System

CASp

Accessibility Certification

CCWA

Central Coast Water Authority

CDBG

Community Development Block Grant

CEQA

California Environmental Quality Act

CERT

Community Emergency Response Training

CFAA

California Fire Assistance Agreement

CHP

California Highway Patrol

CMEP

Capital/Maintenance/Equipment Project

CBO

Congressional Budget Office

COP

Certificates of Participation

CSMFO

California Society of Municipal Finance Officers

CUPA

Certified Unified Program Agency

CY

Calendar Year

DARE

Drug Abuse Resistance Education

DOF

Department of Finance

DIVCA

Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act

DTSP

Downtown Specific Plan

EIR

Environmental Impact Report

EMS

Emergency Medical Services

EMT-I

Emergency Medical Technician – I

EPA

Environmental Protection Agency

ERMAC

Exclusive Risk Management Authority of California

FCC

Federal Communications Commission

FDMA

Frequency Division Multiple Access

FPPC

Fair Political Practices Commission

FTE

Full-Time Equivalent

FY

Fiscal Year

GAAP

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

GLOSSARY

ACRONYMS

GASB

Government Accounting Standards Board

GFOA

Government Finance Officers Association

GIS

Geographic Information Systems

GPS

Global Positioning System

GST

Gang Suppression Team

GVWR

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating

HVAC

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

HUD

Housing & Urban Development

IPAM

Integrated Project Assessment Model

IRS

Internal Revenue Service

IWMF

Integrated Waste Management Facility

LAFCO

Local Agency Formation Commission

LAO

Legislative Analyst's Office

LAWCX

Local Agency Workers' Compensation Excess Joint Powers of Authority

LEAF

Local Economic Augmentation Fund

LED

Light Emitting Diode

MDC

Mobile Data Computers

MOE

Maintenance of Effort

MSD

Master Special District

NHIS

Non-Hazardous Hydrocarbon Impacted Soils

PDES

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NST

Narcotics Suppression Team

OMB

Office of Management and Budget

OPEB

Other Post-Employment Benefits

OTS

Office of Traffic Safety

PARS

Public Agency Retirement System

PEG

Public, Education, and Government (public access television)

PLAY

People for Leisure and Youth, Inc.

PMS

Pavement Management System

POST

Peace Officer Standards and Training

RDA

Redevelopment Agency

RFP

Request for Proposal

RMS

Record Management System

RSTP

Regional Surface Transportation Plan

RWQCB

Regional Water Quality Control Board

SAFER

Staffing for Adequate Fire & Response

GLOSSARY

ACRONYMS

SBZ

Special Benefit Zone

SET

Special Enforcement Team

SIR

Self-Insurance Retention

SMAT

Santa Maria Area Transit

SMBSD

Santa Maria-Bonita School District

SMCTV

Santa Maria Community Television

SMJUHS

Santa Maria Joint Union High School

SRS

Septage Receiving Station

SRTP

Short Range Transit Plan

SSI

State Self-Insurance

TDA

Transportation Development Act

TOT

Transient Occupancy Tax

TPA

Third Party Administrators

USAR

Urban, Search and Rescue

WWTP

Wastewater Treatment Plant

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Activities

Specific services performed in accomplishing program objectives and goals (see Program).

Ad Valorem Tax

A tax assessed based on the dollar-value of an item or activity. Typical examples are property and sales taxes. Ad valorem taxes contrast with per-unit taxes, such as alcoholic beverage and cigarette taxes, which are assessed at a fixed dollar amount per unit purchased.

Air Pollution and Control District

The Air Pollution Control District is a local government agency that works to protect the people and the environment from harmful effects of air pollution.

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting

Airport rescue and fire fighting services are performed for aircraft-type accidents at the Santa Maria Public Airport District.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Enacted on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The Americans with Disabilities Act guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, State and local government services, and telecommunications.

Appropriation

An authorization made by the City Council that permits the City to incur obligations and to make expenditures of resources for specific purposes.

Assessed Valuation

The value established for real property for use as a basis in levying property taxes. For all agencies in the State, assessed value is established by the county for the secured and unsecured property tax rolls; the utility property tax roll is valued by the State Board of Equalization. Under Article XIII of the State Constitution (Proposition 13 adopted by the voters on June 6, 1978), properties are assessed at 100 percent of full value. Proposition 13 modified the value of real taxable property for fiscal year 1979 by rolling back values to fiscal year 1976 levels. From this base of assessment, subsequent annual increases in valuation are limited to a maximum of two percent. However, increases to full value are allowed for property improvements or upon change in ownership. Personal property is excluded from these limitations, and is subject to annual reappraisal. Property taxes for general purposes cannot exceed one percent of assessed value.

Audit

Prepared by an independent certified public accountant, the primary objective of an audit is to determine if the City's financial statements fairly present the City's financial position and results of operations in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America (USGAAP). In conjunction with performing an audit, independent auditors customarily issue a Management Letter stating the adequacy of the City's internal controls, as well as recommending improvements to the City's financial management practices.

Black Gold

The Black Gold Cooperative Library System, begun in 1964, creates and maintains the online public access catalogue in six public libraries, bibliographic records, library automation services, and more.

Block Grant

Federal grant allocated according to predetermined formulas and for use within a pre-approved broad functional area such as the Community Development Block Grant.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Bonds

A form of borrowing (debt financing), that reflects a written promise from the City to repay a sum of money on a specific date at a specified interest rate. Bonds are used to finance large capital projects such as buildings, parking structures, streets, utility infrastructure, and bridges.

Breeze

The Breeze is an intercommunity transit service that began in May 2005. The transit service provides commuter-based general public transportation connecting Santa Maria, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and Lompoc, and in January 2013, began service to Los Alamos, Buellton, and Solvang, as mandated under State and Federal regulations for the transit needs of the northern Santa Barbara County urbanized areas.

Budget

A financial plan for a specified period of time that matches projected revenues and planned expenditures to municipal services, goals, and objectives. The City uses a budget covering two fiscal years, with actual budget appropriations made annually. All budgeted funds are required to be balanced. Balanced budget means that total anticipated revenues, plus fund balance applied if applicable, must equal the sum of budgeted expenditures for each fund.

Budget Amendment

The City Council has the sole responsibility for adopting the City's budget, and may amend or supplement the budget, at any time, after adoption by majority vote. The City Manager has the authority to approve administrative adjustments to the budget as long as those adjustments would not have a significant policy impact or effect on budgeted year-end fund balances.

Budget Manual

General and specific guidelines that govern budget preparation and administration.

Budget Message

Included in Section A of the budget, the Budget Message provides the City Council and the public with a general summary of the most important aspects of the budget, changes from previous fiscal years, and the views and recommendations of the City Manager.

Business License Tax

A type of excise tax imposed on businesses for the privilege of conducting business within the City. The tax is most commonly based on gross receipts or levied at a flat rate.

Calendar Year

The calendar year starts January 1st and ends December 31st.

California Association of Code Enforcement Officers

The California Association of Code Enforcement Officers is a State-wide organization that exists to promote and advance the profession of code enforcement.

California Environmental Quality Act

A State law that requires public agencies to review projects before approval to identify possible adverse effects on the environment.

California Identification

The State-wide automated fingerprint identification database. Live Scan devices, used to capture fingerprints taken at the time a person is booked, are located in each law enforcement department. These devices transmit fingerprints taken during the booking process and electronically direct the fingerprints to the State's fingerprint database.

California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System

The California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System is a high-speed message switching system which became operational in 1970. The California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System provides law

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

enforcement and criminal justice agencies access to various databases and the ability to transmit and receive point-to-point administrative messages to other agencies.

California Public Employee Retirement System

The City contributes to the California Public Employee Retirement System, an agent multiple-employer public employee defined benefit pension plan. The California Public Employee Retirement System provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The California Public Employee Retirement System acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating public entities within the State. Benefit provisions and all other requirements are established by State statute and City ordinance.

California Society of Municipal Finance Officers

The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers is the State-wide organization serving California municipal finance professionals. The organization promotes excellence in financial management through innovation, continuing education, and the professional development of its members. The City strives to create a budget document that meets the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers budget award criteria.

Capital Asset

A tangible, fixed asset that is long-term in nature, of significant value, and obtained or controlled as a result of past transactions, events or circumstances. Fixed assets include land, buildings, equipment, improvements to buildings, and infrastructure such as streets and other immovable assets. A capital asset is defined as an asset with a useful life extending beyond a single accounting period and \$5,000 or more in value.

Capital Budget

A plan of capital expenditures and the means of financing capital expenditures. The capital budget is adopted as part of the City's complete two-year budget cycle, including operating and capital outlays.

Capital/Maintenance/Equipment Project

Major construction, acquisition or renovation activities that add value to the physical assets of the City, or significantly increase the assets useful life. During the budget preparation process, all City departments are required to submit capital/maintenance/equipment project requests and justifications, assigned by priority, for review. Examples of capital/maintenance/equipment projects are: capital equipment that costs \$5,000 or more; remodels involving office furniture, repairs or alterations to a facility or computer program; communications equipment; and assets including land, structures, and improvements. The approved requests are budgeted, as appropriate, in the General Fund Capital Projects, Enterprise, or Internal Service Funds.

Capital Outlay

Expenditures that result in an acquisition of or addition to fixed assets.

Capital Project Funds

This fund type is used to account for financial resources used in acquiring or building major capital facilities other than those financed by Proprietary and Trust Funds.

Carry-over

Expenditure originally planned in the current budget year but because of delays is postponed to the following budget year.

Central Coast Water Authority

The Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) is a public entity duly organized and existing under a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, dated August 1, 1991. CCWA is composed of eight public agency members including the City. Members entered into the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to exercise CCWA's common power to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain water works and facilities for the development and use of water resources and water rights including without limitation, works and facilities to divert, store, pump, treat and deliver water for beneficial uses. CCWA's mission is to provide San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties with reliable, high-quality supplemental water, known as State Water.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Certificates of Participation

Debt instrument, commonly called Certificates of Participation, which provides long-term financing to construct or acquire capital facilities and equipment through a lease (with an option to purchase) or an installment agreement.

City Administrative Memorandums

City Administrative Memorandums are internal procedures established for all City departments to follow as directed by the City Manager. In other organizations, these directives can be found in a policy and procedures manual.

Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

Community Emergency Response Training

The Community Emergency Response Training Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their community and trains people in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Community Development Block Grant

Grant funds allocated by the Federal government to the City. The Federal government determines the annual grant amount based on a formula that takes into account such factors as population growth, level of poverty, age of housing, and extent of overcrowding. The City has participated as an entitlement community in the Community Development Block Grant program since 1975, which was the first year of funding.

Construction Permits

The Building Division regulates building and associated construction activities to protect public health, safety, and welfare pursuant to uniform construction codes governing land use and code enforcement. Construction permits are required for new buildings, additions, and installation or replacement of water heaters, furnaces, water treatment systems, and other appliances.

Cost Allocation Transfers

Payments, by operating departments of the City to the General Fund, for central support services such as administration, payroll, and accounts payable.

Coverage

The margin of safety for payment of debt services that reflect the number of times by which earnings for a period of time exceed debt service payable in such a period.

Debt Financing

Issuance of bonds and other debt instruments for capital improvements needed today and pledging future revenues to repay principal and interest expenditures (see Debt Service). The City uses debt financing only for one-time capital improvements whose life will exceed the term of financing and where expected revenues are sufficient to cover the long-term debt.

Debt Service

Payments of principal and interest on bonds and other debt instruments according to a pre-determined schedule.

Debt Service Funds

Debt Service Funds are used to account for the payment and accumulation of resources related to general long-term debt principal and interest; debt service payments related to enterprise operations are directly accounted for in those funds.

Department

A major organizational unit of the City that has been assigned overall management responsibility for an operation or a group of related operations within a functional area.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Department of Water Resources

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, including the California Aqueduct. The Department provides dam safety and flood control services, assists local water districts in water management and conservation activities, promotes recreational opportunities, and plans for future State-wide water needs.

Division

A sub-operation of a City department.

Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act

Under this State law signed by the Governor in 2006, the City can no longer issue new cable franchises; they are instead issued by the State Public Utilities Commission. The City subsequently approved ordinances to acquire certain rights and responsibilities under the DIVCA, including the regulation and fees regarding the time, place, and manner of using the public rights-of-way, and customer service standards. Also, the City retains a five percent franchise fee, and a separate PEG franchise fee.

Downtown Fridays

Downtown Fridays are designed to give people more activities and events to do so they spend more time downtown. Launched in 2016, Downtown Fridays are held in late March into October, weather permitting, at Town Center West, which is a component of the Downtown Specific Plan, and is a partnership of the City and local entrepreneurs.

Downtown Multimodal Streetscape Plan

The downtown area consists of four blocks east and west of Main Street (State Highway 166) and the area from Fesler Street north of Broadway (State Highway 135) to just south of the Public Library. The area also includes the Santa Maria Transit Center and the nearby Hancock Terrance Apartments along Boone Street. The goal is to enhance corridor access on Broadway and Main Street for walking, biking, and transit riders, to connect downtown to retail areas, civic area, Allan Hancock College, the Transit Center, and surrounding disadvantaged communities.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, better known as DARE, is an education program operated through the Police Department that seeks to prevent use of illegal drugs, membership in gangs, and violent behavior. Police officers visit school children on campus to spread this message.

Emergency Operations Center

An Emergency Operations Center is a pre-designated facility established by the City to coordinate its overall response and support to an emergency.

Encumbrances

Resources that are set-aside or committed to a specific use and are no longer available for other expenditures. Encumbrances are also known as obligations.

Enterprise Funds

Proprietary fund type used to report an activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services.

Environmental Impact Report

Detailed review of a proposed project, its potential adverse environmental effects, possible changes that can be made to reduce adverse effects, and possible alternatives.

Expenditure Savings

Under the City's budgeting procedures, staffing cost projections are based on all positions being filled throughout the year. Cost projections for major supply purchases and service contracts are projected on a similar basis. However, costs may be less due to vacancies and purchase cost-savings. Past experience indicates that actual expenditures are likely to be less than budgeted amounts, due in large part to this costing methodology. Accordingly, the expenditure savings category is used to account for this factor in preparing fund balance and working capital projections.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Expenditures

The outflow of funds paid or to be paid for an asset, goods and services obtained regardless of when the expense is actually paid. This term applies to all governmental funds. *Note: An encumbrance is not an expenditure; an encumbrance reserves funds to be expended.*

Fee

A charge to the consumer for the cost of providing a particular service. City fee levies may not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the particular service or facility for which the fee is charged, plus overhead.

Federal Communications Commission

The Federal government department that sets and controls the communications standards in the country.

Federal Transit Administration

The Federal agency that administers formula discretionary grants to support a variety of locally planned, constructed, and operated public transportation system throughout the United States.

Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties

Revenues received and/or bail monies forfeited upon conviction of a misdemeanor or municipal infraction.

Fiscal Year

The beginning and ending period for recording financial transactions. The City has specified July 1st to June 30th as its fiscal year.

Fixed Assets

Assets of long-term nature such as land, buildings, machinery, furniture, and other equipment. The City has defined fixed assets as those with an expected life in excess of three years and an acquisition cost in excess of \$5,000.

Franchise

Fee paid to a municipality from a franchisee for "rental" or "toll" for the use of City streets and rights-of-way.

Full-Time Equivalent Position

A part-time or limited-service position converted to a decimal equivalent of a full-time position based on 2,080 hours per year (40-hour work week). For example, an employee budgeted to work six months or 1,040 hours would be equal to 0.5 of a full-time position.

Function

A group of related programs crossing organizational (departmental) boundaries and aimed at accomplishing a broad goal or accomplishing a major service. The six functions in the City's financial plan are: Public Safety; Utilities; Public Ways and Facilities; Leisure and Cultural Services; Community and Economic Development; and General Government.

Fund

A fiscal accounting entity that records all financial transactions for specific activities or government functions. The generic fund types used by the City are: General, Special Revenue, Debt Service, Capital Project, Enterprise, Internal Service, and Trust and Agency Funds.

Fund Balance

Also known as financial position, fund balance for the governmental fund types is the excess of fund assets over liabilities, and represents the cumulative effect of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses. Fund balance is a similar (although not exact) concept as working capital in the Enterprise Funds.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Gasoline Tax

Currently, 39.5 cents per gallon. Use of tax is limited to research, planning, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of public streets and highways or public mass transit guideways. Also called Highway Users Tax and Motor Vehicle Fuel License Tax.

General Fund

The primary operating fund of the City. All revenues that are not allocated by law or contractual agreement to a specific fund are accounted for in the General Fund, including Measure U2012. Except for subvention or grant revenues restricted for specific uses, General Fund resources can be utilized for any legitimate governmental purpose.

General Plan

The City's General Plan is a blueprint for growth. State law requires that the General Plan include seven elements. These elements must cover the following topics: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Safety, Noise, Conservation, and Open Space. A General Plan has two main purposes: to provide information about the community and to provide the decision-making bodies with a framework of community goals and objectives by which specific development proposals are gauged.

General Revenue

Those revenues that cannot be associated with a specific expenditure, such as property (other than voter-approved indebtedness), sales, and business license taxes.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

Uniform minimum standards and guidelines for accounting and reporting. These standards govern the form and content of the annual financial statements of an entity. These include the standards, conventions, and rules that accountants follow in recording and summarizing and in the preparation of financial statements.

Geographic Information Systems

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is an integrated collection of computer hardware and software used for the storage, retrieval, mapping, managing, viewing, analyzing, and modeling of data about geographic features. A GIS provides a framework for gathering and organizing mapped data about a city, along with related databases so that the information can be mapped and analyzed. GIS is used in all primary systems within the City, including utility mapping and management, police dispatch, fire response, emergency planning and operations, planning and development, and much more.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board establishes financial accounting and reporting standards for State and local governmental entities, including the City. The standards guide the preparation of external financial reports of those entities.

Government Finance Officers Association

The Government Finance Officers Association is the professional association of state/provincial and local finance officers in the United States and Canada, and has served the public finance profession since 1906. Government Finance Officers Association members are dedicated to the sound management of government financial resources. The City strives to create a budget document that addresses Government Finance Officers Association program criteria as a policy guide, financial plan, operations guide, and communications device.

Grants

Contributions of cash or other assets usually from another governmental agency to be used or expended for a specified purpose, activity, or facility.

H-2A Housing

Housing for temporary, nonimmigrant workers (H-2A workers) authorized by the Federal government to perform agricultural services of a temporary or seasonal nature.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Highway

The standard arterial road type in California, varying in width from two lanes to eight. There are three State highways passing through the City: Highway 101, Highway 135 (Broadway), and Highway 166 (Main Street).

Hotel/Bed Tax (also see Transient Occupancy Tax)

The term Hotel/Bed Tax is commonly used when referring to transient occupancy tax. Transient occupancy tax is a tax levied by cities on persons staying in a room(s) in a hotel, inn, motel, tourist home, non-membership campground, or other lodging facility.

Integrated Waste Management Facility

An Integrated Waste Management Facility is a comprehensive multi-faceted facility for handling solid waste. The solid waste is brought to this facility and sorted into categories for recycling, reuse, composting, landfilling or other methods of solid waste disposal and use. The City is planning to open such a facility at Los Flores Ranch.

Internal Service Fund

Funds used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of a government on a cost reimbursement basis.

Investment Earnings

Revenue earned from the investment of idle public funds.

League of California Cities

The League of California Cities (LOCC) is an association of California city officials working together to enhance league member's knowledge, skills, exchange information, and combine resources that might influence policy decisions that affect cities. The LOCC represents cities' concerns regarding legislation and State finances and provides training for City officials and City Council members.

Lexipol

A company that provides defensible policies and training for public safety organizations, including policy manuals and training solutions to reduce risk and avoid litigation.

LISTOS/Ready Santa Maria

The Listos/Ready Santa Maria program is a 12-hour, four-week emergency preparedness class taught by Fire Department staff to Spanish speaking residents. Listos means Ready in Spanish.

Local Economic Augmentation Fund

The Local Economic Augmentation Fund is a reserve fund, made up of one-time discretionary resources, distinct from the General Fund that is designed to help balance the General Fund's operating budget during times of economic and/or financial crisis.

Local Agency Formation Commission

A Local Agency Formation Commission exists in each county, with powers to review, approve, or deny proposals for boundary changes and incorporations for cities, counties, and special districts.

Los Flores Ranch Park

This 2.8-square-mile park offers a rare mix of environmental education, recreation and approximately eight miles of hiking/equestrian/mountain biking trails.

Licenses and Permits

Charges designed to reimburse the City for costs of regulating activities being licensed, such as licensing of animals, bicycles, etc.

Limited-Service Employees

Limited service employees are those employees who work up to 19-hours per week (shown in full-time equivalency – FTE).

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Line-Item Budget

A budget that lists detailed expenditure categories (salaries, postage, telephone service, chemicals, travel, etc.) separately, along with the amount budgeted for each specified category. Detail line-item accounts are maintained and recorded for financial reporting and control purposes.

Makerspace

A Makerspace is a place where people with shared interests, especially in computing and technology, can gather to work on do-it-yourself projects while sharing ideas, tools and equipment, and knowledge. The Santa Maria Public Library Makerspace program is offered in collaboration with Allan Hancock College and the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum.

Mandate

Legislation passed by the State or Federal government requiring action or provision of services and/or programs. Examples include the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires actions such as physical facility improvements and provision of specialized transportation services.

Mass Notification System

The Mass Notification System is a mass communications service that provides City officials with the ability to communicate with all residents via telephone, text, and e-mail regarding time-sensitive and public safety matters, such as unforeseen events or emergencies. The Utility Billing Division utilizes this service on weekdays to send 48-hour shutoff notifications to customers who are delinquent in paying their utility bill.

Measure A

Measure A was passed by the voters of Santa Barbara County in November 2008. This measure extends, for 30 years, the existing half-cent sales tax used to fund local transportation projects that has been in place since approval of Measure D in 1989.

Measure U2012

Measure U2012 was passed by the voters of the City in June 2012 to fund essential City services. Measure U2012 is a general purpose ¼-cent transaction and use tax ballot measure for a period of nine years (October 2012 to December 2021). The specific use of these tax proceeds is determined by the City Council, with the vast majority (95 percent) allocated to public safety. The Measure U2012 Citizens' Oversight Committee reviews the annual independent financial audit, and any other City financial reports necessary to advise the City Council of its findings on an annual basis.

Memorandum of Understanding

A document providing a general description of the responsibilities that are assumed by two or more parties in pursuit of their goal(s).

Mobile Data Terminals

A mobile data terminal is a computerized device used in emergency vehicles to communicate with the public safety dispatch center.

Motor Vehicle License Fee

Motor vehicle license fees are assessed for the privilege of operating a vehicle on public streets. A motor vehicle license fee is annually levied at two percent of the market value of motor vehicles and is imposed by the State "in lieu" of local property taxes. A motor vehicle license fee is also called Motor Vehicle In-Lieu Tax.

Municipal Code

The Municipal Code contains all City ordinances as approved by the City Council. The document is arranged by titles, chapters, and sections. The City maintains the Municipal Code on its website for public usage.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program was established by the Federal government to control point-source discharges of water pollution. In California, these programs are administered by the State

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Water Resources Control Board and by nine regional boards that issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and enforce regulations within their respective region.

Non-Hazardous Hydrocarbon Impacted Soils

Non-Hazardous hydrocarbon impacted soils is non-hazardous soil from oil sumps and mining operations, containing oil in levels approved by State regulators, and is used as cover material for the closed sections of the City's Landfill. The generators or owners of non-hazardous hydrocarbon impacted soils pay to have the soil removed, and the City receives revenues to cover the cost of the closure, and for staff upgrades and enhancement.

Objective

A statement of specific direction, purpose, or intent based on the needs of the community and the goals established for a specific program.

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle License Fee

A fee imposed for the issuance or renewal of identification for every off-highway motor vehicle.

Operating Budget

The portion of the budget that pertains to daily operations and delivery of basic governmental services. The program budgets in the financial plan from the operating budget.

Operating Expenses

The cost for personnel, materials, and equipment required for a department to function.

Operating Revenues

Funds that the government receives as income to pay for ongoing operations. It includes such items as taxes, fees from specific services, interest earnings, and grant revenues. Operating revenues are used to pay for day-to-day activities.

Operating Transfers

Payments from one City fund to another City fund for services, supplies, or repayments of expenses made on behalf of the fund.

Operations

A grouping of related programs within a functional area.

Ordinance

A formal legislative enactment by the City Council. If it is not in conflict with any higher form of law, such as a State statute or constitutional provision, it has the full force and effect of law within the boundaries of the City.

Other Post-Employment Benefits

The Government Accounting Standards Board requires local governments to account for "Other Post-Employment Benefits." Other post-employment benefits ligations are primarily for retiree health care costs, but may include other benefits such as insurance.

Part-Time Employees

Part-time employees are those employees working up to 32-hours per week in a budgeted position.

People for Leisure and Youth, Incorporated

People for Leisure and Youth, Incorporated is a non-profit public benefit corporation committed to promoting public welfare and education through the acceptance of contributions for use in enhancing, maintaining, and promoting the recreation, leisure, and parks services offered by the City's Recreation and Parks Department.

Peace Officer Standards and Training

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training sets minimum selection standards for California peace officers employed by Peace Officer Standards and Training-participating agencies.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Program

A grouping of activities organized to accomplish basic goals and objectives. The budget includes various programs grouped into six functions.

Property Tax

An ad valorem tax imposed on real property (land and permanently attached improvements) and tangible personal property (movable property).

Proposition 1B

Proposition 1B, a transportation bond, was approved by California voters in November 2006, resulting in \$19.925 billion in transportation funding for the State, cities, and counties.

Proposition 13

Article XIII A of the California Constitution, commonly known as Proposition 13, which limits the maximum annual increase of any ad valorem tax on real property to one percent of the full cash value of such property.

Proprietary Funds

The Enterprise Fund account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises – where the intent of the governing body is that the costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

Provisional Employee

An employee who has not completed a probationary period and who has not been appointed to his/her present class from an eligible list.

Public Agency Retirement System

All seasonal and temporary employees, and all other employees not covered by the California Public Employees Retirement System, are covered by the Public Agency Retirement System pursuant to the requirements of 3121 (b)(7)(F) of the Internal Revenue Service Code (IRS). The Public Agency Retirement System is a Defined Contribution Plan qualifying under 401(a) and 501 of the IRS code.

Public, Education, and Government

Because of its three components, Public Access Television is sometimes referred to as Public, Education, and Government programming or Santa Maria Community TV.

Quimby Fees

The 1975 Quimby Act authorized cities and counties to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements.

Regional Water Quality Control Board

The Regional Water Quality Control Board's mission is to develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans that will best protect the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology. These tasks include: protecting and enforcing the many uses of water including the needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts, and the environment.

Rental Income

Revenues received through the rental of public properties, such as recreation and park facilities to private parties.

Reserve

An account used to indicate that a portion of a fund's balance is legally restricted for a specific purpose, therefore, not available for general appropriation.

Revenue

Annual income received by the City from external sources for the purpose of financing City operations.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Revenue Bonds

Bonds sold to construct a project that will produce revenues pledged for the payment of related principal and interest.

Revenue from Other Agencies

Revenues received from local, county, State, and Federal governments. These funds come in the form of support for programs, such as entitlement programs and one-time grants for which applications must be submitted.

Rights-of-Way

The legal right of passage over property owned by another party. A parcel of land granted by deed or easement for construction and maintenance according to a designated use.

SAFER Grant

SAFER stands for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response. These competitive grants, from the Department of Homeland Security through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, are utilized by the Fire Department to purchase equipment and hire firefighters.

Sales Tax

Sales tax is imposed on retailers for the privilege of selling tangible personal property in California. Tax base is the total retail price.

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is a regional planning agency comprised of Santa Barbara County and all eight incorporated cities within the County. Santa Barbara County Association of Governments distributes local, State, and Federal transportation funds and acts as a forum for addressing regional and multi-jurisdictional issues.

Santa Maria Community Television

Santa Maria Community Television (SMCTV) is a public access television studio with three cable channels for public, educational, and government programming. The operation is funded through an annual grant paid by Comcast Cablevision as a condition of the franchise agreement, and by contributions from the General Fund, and by outside revenues secured by staff. SMCTV employees are assigned to the City Manager's Office.

Santa Maria Area Transit

Santa Maria Area Transit provides a regional public transportation service, as mandated under State and Federal regulations, for the transit needs of the Santa Maria urban area.

SB-1 Funding

The "Road Repair and Accountability Act" (SB 1) signed by the Governor in 2017, sets gas and diesel per-gallon taxes to generate \$5 billion annually in long-term, dedicated transportation funding to make road safety improvements, fill potholes, repair local streets, highways, bridges and overpasses, with the revenues split equally between State and local government projects. SB 1 is to dedicate \$29.7 million in the next decade, through annual payments, to the City of Santa Maria. The City intends to improve neighborhood streets with these funds.

Septage Receiving Station

The septage receiving station at the Wastewater Treatment Plant screens septage offloaded from haul trucks for safe introduction to plant processes.

Santa Maria River Levee

The 17-mile-long Santa Maria River Levee provides flood protection to the Santa Maria Valley and to the City. The City does not own, operate, or maintain the levee. The levee was designed and built by the Army Corps of Engineers from 1959 to 1963, and is owned and operated by the Santa Barbara County's Department of Public Works' Flood Control District. The City and County successfully lobbied for levee repairs, and a multimillion-dollar rehabilitation project, to strengthen the structure to modern standards, began in 2009 and was done by 2014. The City and County contributed funds to complete the rehabilitation of the final 3,700-foot section.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

Service Charges

Charges imposed to support services to individuals or to cover the cost of providing such services. The fees charged are limited to the cost of providing the service or regulation required (plus overhead).

Special Revenue Funds

This fund type is used to account for the proceeds from specific revenue sources (other than trusts or major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

Sphere of Influence

A sphere of influence is a county area that is subject to the influence of city planning because it is destined to become annexed. The Local Agency Formation Commission has sole responsibility for establishing a city's sphere of influence.

State Mandated Costs

Article XIII B, Section 6 of the California Constitution which requires the State to reimburse local agencies for the cost of State-imposed programs. The process is commonly called "SB 90" after its original 1972 legislation.

State Water

State Water is a supplemental, high-quality water source, imported from northern California by way of a complex system of canals, pipelines, pumps, and treatment plants. Deliveries to participating communities within Santa Barbara County began in 1997. In most years, a large percentage of Santa Maria's municipal water consists of State Water.

Subventions

Revenues collected by the State (or other level of government), which are allocated to the City on a formula basis. The major subventions received by the City from the State include motor vehicle in-lieu and gasoline taxes.

SWAT

A unit within a police force that is trained to deal with situations of unusual danger, especially when requiring aggressive tactics or enhanced firepower. SWAT stands for Special Weapons And Tactics.

Target Budget

A budget that is based on a specific predetermined allocation of financial resources per department. Operational decisions are made by departments with the intent of not exceeding the department's predetermined financial resources.

Tax

Compulsory charge levied by a government for the purpose of financing services performed for the common benefit.

Tax Increment Financing

A tax incentive designed to attract business investment by dedicating to the project area the new property tax revenues generated by redevelopment. The increase in revenues (increment) is used to finance development-related costs in that district.

Traffic Safety Fund

All fines and forfeitures received as a result of arrests by City officers for vehicle code violations must be deposited in a special City "Traffic Safety Fund" to be used for traffic control devices; maintenance of equipment and supplies for traffic law enforcement, traffic accident prevention; maintenance/improvement or construction of public streets, bridges or culverts; and the compensation of school crossing guards who are not regular full-time members of the Police Department.

TrakIt

TrakIt is a proprietary municipal software application used by City departments to track and map all City activities down to the address level. Uses range from tracking code compliance cases, permitting and project planning, tracking work orders, and more.

GLOSSARY

TERMINOLOGY

The Transportation Development Act

The Transportation Development Act is one of the major funding sources for public transit in California. The Transportation Development Act provides two funding sources: the Local Transportation Fund and the State Transit Assistance Fund. The Transportation Development Act revenues are allocated to transportation programs, including regional and municipal transit systems, pedestrian and bikeway improvements, and street and road construction.

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) - Also see Hotel/Bed Tax

A tax levied by cities on persons staying in a room(s) in a hotel, inn, motel, tourist home, non-membership campground, or other lodging facility. The City's TOT rate is ten percent.

Triple Flip

Part of a multibillion-dollar deficit financing plan established by the State in 2004 that allowed for the issuance of bonds to balance the State's budget. The bonds were to be repaid through a three part shift of revenues among cities, counties, and schools by way of the following: (1) one-quarter of the one percent local sales and use taxes are shifted to the State to guarantee the bonds; (2) revenue lost through the shift is backfilled to local agencies with property tax revenue from the County Education Revenue Augmentation Fund, and; (3) any shortfall in the County Education Revenue Augmentation Fund monies needed to meet the minimum funding requirement for schools is backfilled from the State's general fund.

Unassigned

Under Governmental Accounting Standards Board, Unassigned fund balance represents the remaining unrestricted fund balance in the General Fund after identifying fund balance that has been committed or assigned. It could report a surplus or a deficit. This term previously was used to report fund analysis in previous budgets up through 2013-14.

Unrestricted

Under Governmental Accounting Standards Board, Unrestricted fund balance is the amount of fund balance left after determining both non-spendable and restricted net resources. The unrestricted fund balance is the amount of fund balance that a local government, itself, has placed constraints on its use (committed and assigned) and fund balance that does not have any specific purpose identified for the use of those net resources (unassigned). Unrestricted fund balance, therefore, includes the committed, assigned, and unassigned classifications.

Vehicle License Fee

Established in 1935 as a uniform State-wide tax, the vehicle license fee is a tax on the ownership of a registered vehicle in place of taxing vehicles as personal property. By law, all revenues from the vehicle license fee fund city and county services, but the State Legislature controls the tax rate and the allocation among local governments. In 2004, the Legislature permanently reduced the vehicle license fee tax rate and eliminated State general fund backfill to cities and counties. Instead, cities and counties receive additional transfers of property taxes in-lieu of vehicle license fees.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Wastewater Treatment Plant, located on Black Road, treats and disposes of millions of gallons of wastewater and accepted septage within State and County standards.

Working Capital

Known as financial position in private sector accounting and in enterprise fund accounting in the public sector, working capital is the excess of current assets over current liabilities. For the enterprise funds, this term is a similar (although not exact) concept as fund balance in governmental fund types.