CITY COUNCIL PASSES YEAR TWO OF BIENNIAL BUDGET

5-Year CIP Budget also approved by Council

The Pico Rivera City Council has adopted the City budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23, year 2 of the City's Biennial Operating Budget, and the City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget.

The City's General Fund Budget is balanced at \$51.83 million in revenues and expenditures. The Operating Budget demonstrated the City's continued commitment to ensuring optimal service delivery to our resilient community, fiscal sustainability, and a major focus on maintaining long-term financial stability.

The General Fund Budget projects ongoing revenues to rebound by approximately 4% to 16% when compared to last Fiscal Year's amended budget. This is mostly attributed to the rebounding of the City's major revenue categories, Sales Tax, and Property Tax. The General Fund Expenditures include restoration of service costs as the City transitions

to a full re-opening. Expenditures have been developed to include ongoing obligations for salaries and benefits, and maintenance and operations costs supporting City services.

The budget presented demonstrated the City's continued commitment to ensuring optimal service delivery to our resilient community, fiscal sustainability, and a major focus on maintaining long-term financial stability.

As the second year of the Biennial Operating Budget passed, the City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Program budget was also passed this past Summer.

The Five-Year Capital Improvement Program is a long-range fiscal forecast, which identified major public improvements to the City's infrastructure over the next five years. The CIP encompasses improvements for streets, bridges, and roadways, parks and open spaces, storm water

quality, water production, treatment and delivery, sanitary sewer, City buildings and other facilities, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements, and other large-scale capital projects.

The total CIP budget for the fiveyear period, Fiscal Years 2022-27, is \$248 million, \$69 million represents appropriations being carried over from the last fiscal year.

The City has identified several projects to be budgeted under the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program that will begin soon or are already in progress. These City-Wide CIP projects include; Rosemead Blvd Median and Parkway Beautification Project & Major Corridors Median and Parkway Beautification Project, PFAS Water Treatment Project, a new Water Metering System for the Pico Rivera Water Authority, Water Main Replacements, Residential Resurfacing, Pico Rivera Regional Bikeway Project, and the Passons Active Depot (PAD) Park Development.

"The budget is very complex and our staff has done an incredible job ensuring we are not spending beyond our means while providing quality service to our residents," said City Manager Steve Carmona. "Our Capital Improvement Project and Budget show our commitment to protecting and improving our current infrastructure in order to provide a higher quality of life for our residents."

The ultimate goal of any budget process is to produce a sound and sustainable budget plan each fiscal year. The long-term goal is to ensure a financially secure future for the City of Pico Rivera and to focus on long-term financial security that will help the City weather future recessions and other economic downturns.

A copy of the City's Budget, including a Budget in Brief document, is available for viewing online at **pico-rivera.org**.

State Funding to Help Rio Hondo Park and Smith Park Aquatic Center

Funding for much-needed refurbishments at two of the City's popular park sites just came down from the State thanks to our State Senator, Bob Archuleta, Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, and Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia.

During the State budget development process, \$17 million dollars was requested for Rio Hondo Park and the Smith Park Aquatic Center. The State budget was approved by the Governor this past June, and now the City will be receiving this much-needed funding.

The first \$8.5 million will be used to refurbish the overused outdoor amenities of Rio Hondo Park. The soccer fields and softball fields at the park are trying to meet the demands

of local residents and youth sports groups. As a result, the fields are plain worn out. Finally, the Park's restrooms built over 20 years ago, are in need of a major overhaul. The State funding will address these issues and more, making Rio Hondo Park a local neighborhood gem once again.

The second \$8.5 million will be used toward the refurbishment of the Smith Park Aquatic Center. Completed in 1984 as a training facility for the Los Angeles Summer Olympics, it has since been a place for City and area residents to swim, take swim lessons, or participate in other aquatics programs. That all changed when the Center closed as part of the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Plans to open the Center in

2021 per County Health guidelines went awry when key infrastructure started to fail, making the pool in operable. Since then, the City has been seeking funding from various sources, including State legislation to help fund the Aquatic Center's refurbishment, which includes the replacement of the boilers and pumps, repairs to the pool deck, and repairs to the actual pool. So far, the City has received an excess of \$8.5 million in funding toward the pool. Bids for this project have already been awarded with the project set to begin soon. City officials hope to have this project started later this year.

"Thanks to our State Senator Bob Archuleta, Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, and Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, we now have the adequate funding to enhance a couple of our most used facilities," said City Manager Steve Carmona. "We are grateful that the needs of our community were understood at the State level, and we are excited to get these projects off the ground and restore the community pride at both of these facilities."

A check presentation was held during the Summer Street Fest concert on August 5. Senator Bob Archuleta, Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, and Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia were on hand to ceremoniously present the City with the \$17 million check in front of the thousands in attendance that night.

Project updates will be forthcoming in future editions of the Profile. For more information, call our Parks and Recreation Department at 562.801.4430.





PRIME Celebrates Five Years as YOUR Energy Provider



Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy (PRIME), the City's locally managed, not-for-profit public energy service, celebrated its fifth-year anniversary on September 1, 2022.

The City's energy program is a cost-effective, energy efficient, local alternative to Southern California Edison (SCE) that purchases clean power on behalf of City customers that can save residents money on their electrical bills. SCE still continues to maintain and deliver the power supply.

When conceived five years ago, the City was following the steps of five other programs in California that use more renewable energy products at more affordable rates.

Unlike SCE, PRIME is solely in the business of power generation. As such, PRIME searches for the best deals on both conventional and renewable energy sources and offers them exclusively to PRIME customers. On average, customers save 3% on

their energy bills. Since its launch, PRIME has saved its over 17.000 customers an estimated \$2.1 million.

"PRIME has been at the forefront of promoting cleaner and cheaper energy resources available to our residents," said City Manager Steve Carmona. "PRIME is special in that it is City specific, which means our residents truly benefit from that exclusivity."

Beyond helping customers save on energy bills, PRIME has partnered with multiple organizations over the last five years to bring invaluable community programs to Pico Rivera, including joining forces with Energy Upgrade California to provide residents with best practices to improve grid health and local energy reliability and collaborating with OhmConnect to reward customers for saving energy. Additionally, PRIME's partnership with the Institute for Local Government and the Beacon program supports renewable energy policy adoption and sustainability initiatives. PRIME is also engaged with SoCalREN to help design and implement programs that will increase energy savings.

In addition to partnerships and

community programs, PRIME has also helped expand the City's Office of Sustainability, which will allow the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to continue: developing innovative renewable technologies to best serve Pico Rivera residents and businesses; establish a system of benchmarking and projections that guide energy usage and greenhouse gas reductions; and support state energy and climate change goals.

Moving forward, the Office of Sustainability will focus on developing solar and battery storage programs, maintaining the City's streetlight conversion to LED, and creating an EV charging plan to encourage the adoption of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The Office has been developing a City Climate Action Plan and lead on other citywide efforts such as the Bikeway Paths Project.

PRIME, an associate member of the California Choice Energy Authority (CalChoice), is one of 24 community choice energy programs in California.

For more information about PRIME, visit **poweredbyprime.org** or call 1.800.GOPRIME.

Power Outage Preparations for Medical Baseline Participants

To offset the cost of operating medical devices, the Medical Baseline program provides electricity at a discount of the lowest baseline rate to eligible participants.

All customers who depend upon electrically operated medical or lifesupport equipment for survival should always be prepared with a back-up power system or other plans necessary to ensure their health and welfare during outages.

If the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) declares a rare Stage 3 Emergency and enacts rotating outages or calls for a Public Safety Power Outage (PSPS), SCE will contact Medical Baseline customers through various contact methods. We may only receive a 10-minute warning, so customers may not hear about the outage before it occurs.

To update your contact information or cancel your notifications, please call SCE at 1-800-655-4555. For TTY service, please call 1-800-352-8580.

OhmConnect Helps with Saving Energy and Money

There may not be much you can do about the added cost of gas and groceries, but you do have the power to save on your utility bills and get a little extra money each month to help.

PRIME Power has partnered with a company called OhmConnect to help provide relief. Every Pico Rivera resident is eligible for a bill-saving program brought to you in partnership with PRIME and OhmConnect.

OhmConnect is a free service that helps you stop wasting money and energy. Once you sign up, you'll get alerts when energy is most

expensive and polluting. Any smart devices you've linked to the service will automatically power down to

Here's the best part: OhmConnect will actually pay you every month for the energy you save.

OhmConnect takes the unused energy saved by members' smart devices and sells it back to the grid operator. Those proceeds are then distributed to OhmConnect members in the form of a monthly payout.

The payments start at \$1 for linking a smart plug, or \$5 for linking your

smart thermostat, and top out at \$7 every month for linking a smart thermostat and two smart plugs.

You can earn \$5 every month for saving energy using a smart thermostat, which is provided for just \$0.99. OhmConnect will even give you a \$10 welcome gift.

Not only will you get paid every month, but you'll also save money on your utility bill. That can make a big difference to the family budget.

The first step is to sign up by visiting ohmconnect.com/ PrimePower.

Be Prepared

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month by the Department of Homeland Security. National Preparedness Month serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the various types of emergencies and natural disasters that could affect us where we live, work, and also where we visit. Visit **ready.gov** for tips on how to prepare your family for the next emergency or natural disaster.

Proposed Ballot Measure for Upcoming Election Explained

Over the last eight months, the City of Pico Rivera has focused on ways of addressing the City's Long-Term Strategic Plan, which includes street improvements, fixing potholes, protecting water quality, and addressing aging city buildings and facilities. City leaders have also continually sought to ensure public safety and protect Pico Rivera by preventing crime and theft while improving 911 response times. While the City has continuously passed balanced budgets, the ongoing needs of the City cannot be met under the current or projected revenues.

After a series of council meetings, community engagement, and receiving independent professional reports, the City Council approved the placement of a ballot measure on the November 8, 2022 ballot that will address the City's ongoing needs. The proposed Measure AB would seek to raise revenues to meet the City's long-term financial needs by simplifying and bringing equity to the City's business fee structure, which has remained largely unchanged since the 1960s.

The goal of proposed Measure AB is to bring equity to the City's license fee and generate sufficient revenue to address the long-term infrastructure needs of Pico Rivera without overburdening small businesses. Equally important to the Council is that the proposed Measure AB is not a direct tax on residents.

If passed, it is estimated the Measure could generate about \$5.8 million dollars annually. This can help address the current projected \$69 million funding gap for capital improvement projects over the next five years alone, support a strong public safety presence, and address homelessness and park and school safety.

As proposed, Measure AB would

require a majority of voters in Pico Rivera to vote yes on November 8. With mail-in ballots coming to all California homes, voting may begin in early October. Over the next few months, the City will provide materials in many forms and hold community meetings to help educate voters about Measure AB. Stay tuned for more details.

PICO RIVERA CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Dr. Monica Sánchez · Mayor Pro Tem Erik Lutz · Councilmember Gustavo V. Camacho · Councilmember Raul Elias · Councilmember Andrew C. Lara

PROFIL

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The Pico Rivera Profile is produced by the City of Pico Rivera and is distributed to residents and businesses as an educational service. For information about the Profile contact the Media and Communications Division at 562.801.4217.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 6615 Passons Blvd., unless otherwise noted.

City Council Meeting Visit pico-rivera.org for details.

Planning Commission Visit <u>pico-rivera.org</u> for details.

Parks & Recreation Commission Visit pico-rivera.org for details.

This Month on CTV

We're on the air... CTV3 has added some new shows to the line-up. Catch more episodes of The Garage with Steve Butler, and the Car Guy Channel. Additionally, catch local favorites like Huell Howser's California's Gold and live coverage of the City Council meetings. CTV3 can be streamed online at pico-rivera.org.

Spectrum Cable, Channel 3 · Frontier FioS Channel 33 · AT&T U-Verse, Channel 99

Sign up for CITY E-MAILS

Receive important City news and alerts by subscribing to the City's e-newsletter service. Simply email us at **gcastorena@pico-rivera.org**.

IT'S COMING!



Mark your calendars for the annual Halloween Spooktacular coming in October!!!

Saturday, October 29

Halloween Spooktacular

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Smith Park, 6016 Rosemead Boulevard

For up to date information on this event, log on to our website at **pico-rivera.org**.

SUMMER STREET FEST Makes a Strong Return



After a two-year hiatus, the Summer Street Fest came back strong with a star-studded musical lineup that music fans from Pico Rivera and surrounding communities came out in the THOUSANDS to see!!! This year, musical acts such as Anything for Salinas, La Santa Cecilia, Stone Soul, Soto, and a special appearance by the Mary Jane Girls entertained the record crowds this past August. We would like to THANK everyone who contributed, participated, and attended the Summer Street Fest and once again made it such a huge success. See you next year!!!

Chamber to Host E-Waste Recycling Event

The Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an E-Waste Recycling event at Pico Park on Saturday, October 15, and Sunday, October 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

E-Waste is any consumer electronic equipment that has reached its "end-of-life" or "end-of-usage," whether in full or non-working condition.

Acceptable items to recycle at this event include: Computer Monitors, Television Sets, PC Systems, Printers, Laptops, Copiers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Toner Cartridges, UPS PDA's, Power Supplies, Main Frame Units, Networking Equipment, Mother Board Systems, VCR/VCD/ DVD Players, Home Entertainment Systems, Landline, and Cellular Phones, and Small Portable Devices. Also accepted at this event will be Car and Forklift batteries. There will be a service charge for major appliances, including Cooling Units and Microwaves. Fluorescent Light Bulbs and Household Batteries will not be accepted.

This is a great way to clear some valuable space at home or the office in a very easy and convenient way.

For more information, contact the Chamber Office at 562.949.2477.

City to Host Summer Life Saving Blood Drive

The City of Pico Rivera, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, will be hosting a Blood on Thursday, September 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Pico Park Community Center, 9528 Beverly Boulevard.

To donate blood, one must be in good health, have a valid photo I.D., and be 16 years of age or older.

To schedule your Blood Donation appointment at this or other locations, or for more information, visit **RedCrossBlood.org**.

Go Getters Win Over Teens

After a big win against the City Hall team, the Pico Rivera Go Getters were victorious in their annual softball game with the Pico Rivera Teens. The final score of this year's game was 10 to 8.

Members from the Pico Rivera Teen Club make up the Teens team, while the Go Getters field a team of local seniors. This is the 10th year the teams have played each other. They have been playing every year since 2010, only suspending the annual game from 2019-2021.





EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



El Rancho Dons Football Schedule

Friday night lights are back at El Rancho High School. Support the Dons football squad as they vie for a shot at this year's CIF Championship.

F, Aug. 26	Bell Gardens - W, 42-22
F, Sept. 2	Monrovia - L, 58-26
F, Sept. 9	Montebello - W, 40-14
F, Sept. 16	@ Mayfair
F, Sept. 23	@ Norwalk
F, Oct. 7	Santa Fe
F, Oct. 14	Whittier
F, Oct.21	@ La Serna
F, Oct. 27	@ California

All games start at 7:00 p.m. Go ER Dons!!

Projects Update

The progressive vision of the Board of Education of providing state-of-theart learning facilities for all students is gaining momentum. The District is working with a highly experienced architectural firm on two major bond projects for El Rancho High School; a new aquatics facility and stadium and multi-use athletic fields.

These two projects are currently in the design phase. Construction for the aquatics facility is set to begin in 2023 with an estimated completion date for the summer of 2024 while construction for the stadium and athletic field project is scheduled to

begin during the winter of 2023 with a completion target during the spring of 2025.

These, and other District bond projects, are managed by Superintendent Dr. Marco Villegas and are scheduled to be completed within budget and on schedule. Thanks to the overwhelming support and investment from the community, ERUSD will build new facilities that will provide all students with a safe and secure environment to learn and grow.

For additional information about these projects, call the District Office at 562.801.7300.

Get Ready for a New Career with Adult School Courses

Are you ready for a new career? Visit or Call the El Rancho Adult School to learn about (free) pathway options in Business Administration and Food Service. Registration is now open for the ServSafe Food Handler Course, Office Career Pathways, and Customer Service and Sales.

For a complete listing of Classes and to register, visit https://adulted.erusd.org/. For additional information, call the School's office at 562.801.7710.

Join the ERUSD Team

The El Rancho Unified School District is hiring for several positions for the 2022-2023 school year.

The District is currently recruiting for the following positions: Special Ed. Instructional Aide, Cafeteria Helper I and Substitutes, Health Services Assistant, Instructional Aides, School Safety Officers (SSO), and Seasonal ELPAC/CELDT Assessors.

Apply online by visiting erusd.org and clicking under the Human Resources tab. Additional information is available by calling Human Resources at 562.801.7340.



School is back in session, so now is a good time to remind students walking to school and drivers in school zones to remain alert of their surroundings at all times

Here are a few safety tips for students walking to and from school:

- » Choose the safest and most direct route to school, with the fewest street crossings.
- » Obey crossing guards, traffic signals and markings at all times.
- » Walk, don't run, across streets.
- » Do not cross in the middle of the street. Go to the nearest intersection or crosswalk.
- » Do not enter the street from between parked cars, bushes or shrubs that could block the view of passing motorists.

Parents who drive students to school should drop them off and pick them up at a safe location, particularly one where they won't have to cross a street to get to school.

Drivers entering school zones must obey all posted traffic signs, watch out for students walking at crosswalks and obey all directions given by City Crossing Guards. Failure to comply with Crossing Guards' directions can result in a fine from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department of up to \$100 for a first-time offense.

For more information on safety tips or the City's Crossing Guard Program, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 562.801.4430.

City Hall Parking Lot

With the return of the school year at El Rancho High School, we would like to remind parents of the following:

- » For the safety of those conducting business at City Hall, and for the safety of ERHS students, the City Hall Parking Lot is not to be used as a dropoff or pick up location.
- » Homebrook Street from Passons Boulevard to Loch Alene Avenue is marked as a Red Zone. There is no parking along this stretch of road.

For drop-off and pick up zone information, visit **erhs.erusd.org**.

FREE Mulch Distribution

The City in collaboration with NASA Services and Whittier Fertilizer Co. will be distributing FREE garden mulch on Saturday, October 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Whittier Fertilizer Company, 9441 Kruse Road.

Residents can receive one 33-gallon container of mulch, free of charge.
Additional containers can be filled for \$1 each. Residents must bring their shovels and their own containers as there will be none available at the site.

The mulch distribution is part of the City's green waste recycling program. For more information about mulch distributions as well as the City's recycling program, call 562.801.4329.



Rio Hondo College Selects New Leader

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees recently named Dr. Marilyn Flores as the new Superintendent and President of Rio Hondo College, succeeding Teresa Dreyfuss, who retired this past June.

Dr. Flores has more than 25 years of working in multiple educational settings, with over 20 years serving in California community colleges. Recently, Dr. Flores served as Interim President of Santa Ana College. Prior to serving as the Interim President, Flores served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Santiago Canyon College since 2016. Formerly, Dr. Flores held the position of Dean, Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Library at Santiago Canyon College. Prior to joining the Rancho Santiago Community College District, she served as Dean, Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences at Las Positas College, after holding various administrative positions at Riverside City College.

"I am thrilled and excited to serve as the next Superintendent/ President of Río Hondo College," Flores said. "I firmly know that through the support of the Board of Trustees, the staff and administration, Río Hondo College will continue to thrive, excel and serve its community with excellence. I believe the work that I have done over the course of my career in community colleges has led me here to this College and this community. I could not be more excited to join you and serve our students."

Dr. Flores holds a Ph.D. in Institutional Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of California, Riverside, a Master of Arts in Education with a Bilingual Cross-Cultural Language in Academic Development teaching credential from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Education and Spanish from the University of California, Riverside.