City Budget Process Overview

2015 Fiscal Year

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The City of San Diego’s operating budget is created in conjunction with the Mayor, City Council, City departments and public input. The budget process considers the fiscal and policy goals for the upcoming fiscal year, while following a timeline for budget publication codified within the City of San Diego’s Charter. This section provides an overview of the annual workflow and the specific processes that contribute to producing the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2015. The chart below summarizes the process, and more detailed descriptions of key points are listed on the following pages.
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The Budget Process consists of three main phases: Budget Development, Budget Review, and Budget Adoption.

Budget Development

November 2013: Fiscal Planning

The Five-Year Financial Outlook for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019 was released on November 14, 2013 and served as the framework for the development of the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget by incorporating a variety of economic assumptions and newly mandated expenditure requirements into the budget document.

November - December 2013: Citywide Budget Development Training

Budget development training on the budgeting system and the current budget process was provided to all City departments. At these trainings, guidance and expectations were provided to department representatives for developing budget requests within the goals and priorities established for the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget.

December 2013 - January 2014: Budget Submission

Departments developed and submitted their proposed budget requests for the coming fiscal year. Financial Management staff analyzed budget submissions and prepared a summary of changes and adjustment recommendations for discussion at the Executive Budget Reviews (EBRs).

February 2014: Budget Meetings

The EBRs took place throughout the month of February. In these meetings, Department Directors and their support staff met with the Chief Operating Officer, Assistant Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Chief Operating Officers, and the Interim Financial Management Director to discuss strategic priorities. City Management reviewed the departments' budget proposals and ensured that requests were aligned with the City's fiscal policies.

February - March 2014: Budget Development

Based on information provided by management, Financial Management staff began the development of the Proposed Budget. During the development of the budget, General Fund revenues were balanced with expenditures and adjustments were made to keep the budget in line with the City's fiscal policies and priorities.
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March - April 2014:
Proposed Budget Finalized

In March, General Fund expenditures and revenues were balanced, any remaining changes to the non-general funds were made, and the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget numbers were finalized. The budget document (document was recorded onto CD) was then created during the month of March and the beginning of April. The Mayor released the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget to the public on April 14, 2014 in compliance with the City of San Diego Charter [Article XV, Section 265, Item (b) (15)]. The Mayor presented the Proposed Budget to the City Council on April 15, 2014. The Office of the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) reviewed the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget and issued a preliminary report on April 28, 2014.

Budget Review

May 2014:
City Council Budget Hearings

During the month of May, the City Council held a series of public budget hearings to obtain input from San Diego residents on spending priorities. Council members used the information received at these hearings to develop the districts' priorities and to recommend changes to the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget.

May - June 2014:
Mayor's/IBA Recommended Revision Reports

On May 20, 2014, the Mayor's May Revision to the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget was released. In this report, the Mayor recommended changes to the budget based on up-to-date policy-related issues and revised Fiscal Year 2014 year-end expenditures and revenue projections. On June 4, 2014, the IBA issued a report of budget recommendations to the City Council based on the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget and the Mayor's May Revision Report.

Budget Adoption

May - June 2014:
Adopted Budget

On May 21, 2014, the City Council held the first public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget. The final modifications to the budget were presented to the City Council during the second public hearing on June 9, 2014. The Mayor signed resolution number R-308995, establishing the Fiscal Year 2015 Adopted Budget.

June - July 2014:
Adopted Budget Finalized

At the end of June through early July, the final changes to the Fiscal Year 2015 budget were implemented. Once these changes were made, the Fiscal Year 2015 Adopted Budget was completed. The Change Letter was created to summarize the May Revision and Council Action changes to the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget by fund and department.
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July 2014: Appropriation Ordinance

On July 16, 2014, the Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriation Ordinance was presented to the Budget & Government Efficiency Committee. On July 21, 2014, the Appropriation Ordinance was presented and adopted by the City Council, codifying the Fiscal Year 2015 Adopted Budget into law.