

#### **Office of the Independent Budget Analyst**

**IBA Review of the Fiscal Year 2011 Proposed Budget** Budget Review Committee Meeting of the City Council April 30, 2010

- Final steps in a rigorous process begun last November to close a FY 2011 deficit of \$179 million.
- Implementing actions in January 2010 reduced the amount of reductions that were ultimately necessary.
- Mayor's budget proposal addresses an incremental FY 2011 budget shortfall of \$28.2 million for a total of \$207.2 million.

- In December, the City Council called for the Mayor and IBA to develop a structural budget deficit elimination plan within 18 months.
- Since then, significant efforts have been underway to build on past fiscal reforms and develop a path to fiscal health.
- Council has adopted a set of Guiding Principles and key elements of a plan have been identified.

#### **Work Underway**

Retiree health care reform study
DROP neutrality study
Citizens' Commission to examine economic competitiveness and revenue generation



#### **Work Underway**

- City Auditor's comprehensive audit of City's revenues, Collections audit underway.
- Update to FY 2011-2015 Five-Year Outlook.
- Deferred Capital/Maintenance "catch up" funding and "ongoing funding" formula.

#### **Work Underway**

- Managed Competition discussions with labor.
- Citizen survey on service priorities and budget solutions.
- Structural Budget Deficit Elimination Plan to be issued in September 2010.

- A significant "take-away" from the citizen survey: our citizens do not want to see any further cuts to City service.
- Elimination of the City's structural budget deficit is paramount to addressing this clear mandate.
- Adherence to a structural budget deficit elimination plan, with a gradually recovering economy, will put us on a path to fiscal health.

- IBA has undertaken the same thorough review of the Mayor's Proposed Budget as in prior four years:
  - Examination of FY 2011 revenue projections;
  - Analysis of FY 2011 expenditure categories;

- Review of numerous City-wide funding issues;
- Analysis of the budgets of City departments and City agencies;
- Also provided supplemental information not available in budget documents.

- CFO and FM staff faced challenges implementing a new financial system and developing the FY 2011 Proposed Budget at the same time.
- OneSD, together with the mid-year budget reductions, restricted their ability to provide certain data.
- Recommend that "Significant Budget Adjustments" related to December 2009 service reductions be captured in final FY 2011 budget documents.

- Three year budget trends and service level data will be back in documents for FY 2012.
- Mayor's Office working on update to City's Strategic Plan to reflect impact of service reductions.
- They plan to provide an updated performance report to Council in January 2011.

- \$11 million shortfall remains for FY 2010.
- Budget Committee will review Year-End Report on May 26.
- An updated Five-Year Outlook shows at least a \$72 million shortfall in FY 2012.
- IBA will be analyzing assumptions in Outlook.

- Property tax revenue projections assumed in Mayor's Proposed Budget pose a risk to the budget.
- Serious fiscal challenges facing the State continue to pose serious threat to cities throughout California.

#### **Summary of IBA Review**

- With the majority of difficult decisions for FY 2011 made in December, we have fewer new issues to highlight, particularly new resources.
- Have identified a \$4.5 million deficit in Mayor's Budget:
  - \$3.5 million funding shortage for Police recruit salaries
  - \$1.0 million error in Council budgets for fringe calculation
- Incremental deficit is \$32.7 million, total deficit for FY 2011 is \$211.7 million.

#### **Summary of IBA Review**

- Sales Tax and TOT are appropriately conservative.
- Based on IBA analysis, property tax growth likely to be less than -0.1%.
- Each 1% property tax decline equals \$3.9 million.

#### **Economic Outlook**

- Economists speculate that the recession ended in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009
- Unemployment levels still remain a concern
- Momentum of recovery slower given it that will not be lead by consumer spending
- Economically sensitive revenues such as property tax, sales tax, and TOT will trend with the anticipated moderate recovery in the economy in FY 2011

#### **Major General Fund Revenues**

#### **Major General Fund Revenue**

Revenue	EV	2008 Actual	E)		F	Y 2010 Year		FY 2011
Source	FF 2000 Actual		FT 2007 Actual		End		Proposed	
Property Tax	\$	384,273,000	\$	398,743,287	\$	390,628,704	\$	390,060,910
Growth		6.4%		3.8%		-2.0%		-0.1%
Sales Tax	\$	227,868,689	\$	206,053,023	\$	185,048,181	\$	187,471,361
Growth		1.1%		-9.6%		-10.2%		1.3%
тот	\$	83,730,000	\$	73,765,000	\$	66,115,157	\$	66,115,157
Growth		3.8%		-11.9%		-10.4%		0.0%
Franchise Fees	\$	64,584,000	\$	67,840,000	\$	66,081,083	\$	67,185,135
Growth		-0.3%		5.0%	P	-2.6%	3	1.7%

#### **Property Taxes**

- Budgeted at \$390.1 million
   0.1% decline over FY 2010 projection
- Projection does not reflect full impact of County Assessor negative growth assessments, despite signs of recovery
- Median sales price increase of 17.9% during 2009
  - \$280,000 in January to \$330,000 in December
- Sales were up by approximately 15%

#### **Property Taxes**

Factors influencing negative growth

- Foreclosures and short sale activity
- For properties that were previously sold 2003-2007 and sold in 2009, assessed value on property tax roll will be less than in FY 2010
- California CPI adjustment of -0.2% for 70% of properties
- Reassessment activity in 2009
- County Assessor still evaluating FY 2011 AV

   Actual impacts will not be known until before July 1st

#### **Sales Tax**

- Budgeted at \$187.5 million
  - 1.3% growth over FY 2010
- Forecasted improvements in economic factors impacting sales tax receipts
  - Employment levels will remain high with moderate improvements
  - Income growth
- Projection appropriately conservative given risks of occasional setbacks in recovery



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- Budgeted at \$66.1 million
  - -0% growth over FY 2010 projection
- Per SDCVB March 2010 forecast, tourism will moderately improve with economy in FY 2011
- Flat growth projection aligns with industry forecasts of improvement, while maintaining a cautious assessment of impact on TOT receipts

#### **Franchise Fees**

- Budgeted at \$67.2 million
  - SDG&E: \$17.5 m
  - Cable: \$9.5 m
  - Refuse Hauler: \$9.5 m
  - Facility Franchise: \$2.6 m
  - Other: \$155,000
- 1.7% increase over FY 2010 projection
- Franchise projection appropriate



#### **Summary of IBA Review**

- We are aware of some Council interest in restoring funding to mitigate Fire rolling brown-outs.
- No easy, ongoing solutions identified through IBA review.
- After four tough budget years, solutions used in past are harder to identify.
- We do not advise service restorations at this time based on budget status.

#### **Summary of IBA Review**

- If there is strong Council interest in pursuing restorations for FY 2011:
  - Request Mayor to identify reductions proposed but not taken in December 2009
  - Request Mayor to recommend funding options in the May Revise for Council consideration
  - For future, new cost recovery fees could be considered for emergency services

#### **Proposed Corrective Actions**

- We have reviewed and confirmed the accuracy of Mayor's proposed corrective actions totaling \$28.2 million:
  - McGuigan Settlement Financing- \$6.7 million
  - Reduction to Contracts and Equipment Outlay-\$7.5 million
  - Adjustment to Fleet Rates- \$11 million
  - Retiree Health PAYGO-\$3 million

#### **Proposed Corrective Actions**

- We support the corrective actions but note we consider \$14.1 million of these actions to be one-time.
- One-time resources have been treated appropriately in the Five-Year Outlook through their removal as a resource in future years.
- No impact on FY 2010 projected deficit.

#### **General Fund Expenditures**

- Expenditure categories of Salaries and Wages, Fringe Benefits, Supplies, Contracts, Information Technology are reviewed.
- Major line items in each category are compared between FY 2010 and FY 2011.
- Information shows impacts of budget changes on departments.

### **Vacancy Savings**

- Previously, City assigned a vacancy factor to departments for normal turnover and attrition.
- Process has changed for FY 2011 due to OneSD system.
- Funding was removed for vacant positions.
- Total vacancy savings for all departments is \$2.4 million less than prior year.
- However, new approach has impacted several departments significantly, including Park and Recreation and Library.

#### **Fleet Rate Reductions**

- Significant adjustments to fees charged to departments for fleet services occurred in December.
- Reflects elimination of under-utilized vehicles by 20%, reductions in Police and Fire take-home vehicles, increase in vehicle replacement cycles by two years.
- Also \$4.4M (General Fund portion) of accumulated fund balance used.
- General Services Department may propose lease-purchase financings to purchase vehicles in the future.

### **Deferred Capital**

- Guiding Principles include Council request for a "plan to fund deferred capital infrastructure to reduce the current backlog and identify the level of funding necessary to prevent the problem from growing larger."
- In June 2010, Public Works staff will bring to Budget and Finance Committee a formula to:
  - 1. Identify required "Catch-Up" funding to achieve service levels
  - 2. Identify "On-going" funding to maintain service levels



#### Redistricting

- City Charter requires that the City be redistricted at least once every 10 years and a Redistricting Commission be appointed.
- City Charter stipulates hiring a chief of staff for the Commission, plus additional resources.
- Former Redistricting Commission issued recommendations - if implemented, would also have budgetary impacts.
- Significant impact on City Clerk and other departments not addressed in Proposed Budget.

## **City Auditor**

- Recent actions of the Audit Committee include:
  - Adding a Principal Auditor mid-year;
  - Restoring the City Auditor's 6% reduction in compensation;
  - Examining moving the Revenue Audit Program from the City Treasurer to the City Auditor;
  - Transferring \$100,000 from Public Utilities to the Auditor to conduct audits of the water and wastewater areas.

#### **Community Plans**

- In FY 2010, \$3.4 million was added to the City Planning and Community Investment Department's budget for Community Plan updates.
- Funding was subsequently eliminated from FY 2011 Proposed Budget.
- While department requested that funding be restored in the FY 2011 Proposed Budget, it was only partially restored.
- We note the potential impact that this reduction may have on Community Plan updates.

#### **Development Services Department**

- Development Services Department proposed budget for FY 2011 does not appear to align with anticipated trends in revenues and expenditures.
- Relatively few adjustments have been made to the budget, no revenue changes were made.
- Recommend that budgeted revenues and expenditures be reanalyzed and revised to reflect anticipated development activity in FY 2011.



#### **Fire Rolling Brown-Outs**

- Concerns have been raised about response times resulting from brown-outs.
- Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has heard regular updates, members have expressed a desire to restore some browned-out stations.
- Each engine restored would require \$1.4 million.
- Fire Chief is assessing situation on a daily basis.

#### **Funding for Police Recruits**

- IBA identified concerns regarding number of assumed vacancies.
- It appeared salaries for recruits had not been accounted for in proposed budget.
- CFO has confirmed this error, which was attributed to transition to new budget system.
- May Revise will need to address \$3.5 million for this purpose.



#### **Key Budget Dates**

- Joint Budget & Finance Committee and Committee of Whole Budget Hearings
- Mayor Issues May Revise
- Mayor Presents May Revise to Council
- IBA Issues Final Report
- Joint Budget & Finance Committee and and Committee of Whole Budget Deliberations
- City Council Final Budget Decisions

May 14

**May 18** 

May 24

May 26

June 14