




COUNCILMEMBER VIVIAN MORENO

**City of San Diego
Eighth District**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2025
TO: Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst
FROM: Councilmember Vivian Moreno 
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2026 Amended Budget Priorities

On September 25, 2024, I submitted a memorandum to you reflecting a full accounting of my budget priorities for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget (attached). The following amends my September 25, 2024, budget priority memorandum.

NEW LINE ITEMS

City Services

Continued Investment in Underserved Communities

In light of the projected budget deficit outlined in the FY26-FY30 Five-Year Outlook, the city will need to take steps to balance the budget. The city must strive to achieve operational efficiencies and utilize available revenue options, such as implementing Measure B, before considering any reduction in major public services. However, it is critical that the burden of potential budget reductions not fall on the backs of underserved communities. For decades, even in years without a major budget deficit, the city neglected to invest in communities south of Interstate 8 with funding to build and maintain infrastructure like parks, libraries, sidewalks and storm channels. The city has also failed to invest proper levels of funding for programming at parks and recreation facilities in underserved communities as highlighted in the City Auditor's 2022 Performance Audit of Equity in Recreation Programming. Park and library capital improvement projects in underserved areas that have previously received funding must continue to move towards construction. Additionally, city efforts to increase programming at existing facilities that do not receive the same programming as more affluent communities must be a priority in the upcoming budget.

Continuing to upgrade and properly maintain stormwater channels and drains during the upcoming fiscal year, and into the future, is absolutely essential because such investment protects communities from devastating flooding events. The city must remain dedicated to funding projects and maintenance efforts in Chollas Creek that will prevent the type of flooding that has occurred in adjacent communities to this watershed, including upgrades to the Southcrest recreation center area and the Beta Street Drainage Project, which are both directly impacted by flood waters from Chollas Creek. Stormwater channel maintenance needs in other areas, such as the Tijuana River Valley, Otay Mesa and Nestor, should also be prioritized to prevent future flooding disasters.

The FY26 budget should prioritize and protect the aforementioned infrastructure and programming investment in underserved communities and not rely on across the board cuts to city departments because such reductions will have a negative impact on underserved communities, where the impact on reduced city services will be felt the hardest. The city has made great strides investing in equity by providing programs, projects and services in communities that have been neglected for generations and those investments must continue in FY26 and beyond.