



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2020

CONTACT: Lisa Schmidt 619-210-9499
lschmidt@sandiego.gov

Councilmember Moreno Statement on Mayor's Proposed Budget

SAN DIEGO- Today, the Council heard an informational presentation of the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget. Councilmember Vivian Moreno has issued the following statement:

"The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect our budget in major ways. We have seen decreases in our revenues throughout FY21 and it will take time for our revenues to return to pre-pandemic levels.

The inclusion of federal stimulus funding will provide much needed assistance in this year's budget that should allow us to avoid major cuts and continue the rental assistance and small business assistance programs established last year that are so badly needed.

However, the reduction in library hours is not something that I will be able to support. My constituents rely on the library for a number of services and reducing the days that branches are physically open is not acceptable to me. The digital divide exists in my district and replacing hours the library is open with digital services is not going to work for my communities.

We need a plan for how we will increase revenues to close our structural budget deficit and we need to act sooner than later. Updating the storm water fee is critical and it would make the most sense to place that on the ballot during the next election. We also need to explore other potential revenues beyond the storm water fee. Our City Auditor is continuously making recommendations on how the City can be more efficient and save money, yet we have over 200 outstanding recommendations that still need to be implemented. If those are implemented, it would almost certainly result in additional funding being available for public services.

Finally, I am pleased that the Climate Equity Fund is included in this proposed budget. It is a new day in San Diego where our underserved communities are finally getting the investment they deserve, and I am looking forward to seeing the Mayor's recommendations for that fund in the May Revision. I would encourage San Diegans to participate in the Council's upcoming Budget Review Committee hearings where we will take a deeper dive into the proposed budget."

The FY22 Budget Hearing calendar can be found [here](#) and the proposed budget [here](#).