

Eye on Hercules

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Q3 2008

The Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget Has Been Approved

On May 27, 2008 the City Council passed an almost fifty million dollar budget for fiscal year 2008/2009. The budget remains tight but does not eliminate any current programs or services. The total budget is large primarily because of the volume of capital projects on the board, but is still only an overall increase of 1.2 million from last year's total budget.

The General Fund, which includes police, administration, parks and recreation, public works and community development, makes up the largest single fund and has projected expenditures at 17.3 million dollars. The graphs (on page 2) shows the distribution of the General Fund with the Police Department accounting for 35% of expenditures and projected revenues.

The Redevelopment Agency makes up 45% of the total budget and includes several large projects for this year; such as the Intermodal Transit Center, the relocation of the BART Park and Ride Facility, restoration of the historic Clubhouse building and road improvements along Willow Avenue. The Capital Improvement Program, which covers both City and Redevelopment projects, has been updated and accepted by the City Council through Fiscal Year 2012/2013. This allows City staff to budget for projects which extend over several years. Two of these multi-year projects are the Chelsea Wetlands Restoration and the New Town Center.

The remainder of the City's funds including Special Revenue, Capital, Debt, and Fiduciary funds, are anticipated to do reasonably well financially. The revenues that come into these funds can only be spent on specific items that relate to what the revenues were generated for.

Some of these funds, such as the Development Impact Fee (DIF) fund, have been impacted by the slowdown in growth. However, if revenues are less than the budgeted amount, expenditures will be reduced so they do not exceed the total revenues received.

City staff prepared a one year budget, the same as last year, and may resume the two year budget cycle beginning Fiscal Year 2009/2010. Staff made a number of adjustments in order to close the original revenue/expenditure gap in the General Fund which presented itself in the first iteration of the budget. If the State or Federal government pass takeaways or legislation that might adversely affect the proposed budget, City staff will make adjustments at the time these items become known.

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Meeting Calendar

City Council/Redevelopment Agency

Second and fourth Tuesday at 7:00pm

Planning Commission

First and third Monday at 7:00pm

Community Services Commission

Second Monday at 7:00pm

Library Commission

Third Thursday at 7:00pm

All meetings are held in the Hercules Council Chambers, 111 Civic Drive, unless otherwise noted.

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Police Celebrate 30 Years

This month the Hercules Police Department is celebrating its 30th Anniversary. On Tuesday, June 24, City Council congratulated the department for 30 years of outstanding service in our community.

The very first police officer was hired in 1965 by the Hercules Powder Company. In 1968, the City Council established its own police department with eight officers. The department has since grown to 26 sworn officers and five civilians.

Over the years, several specialized units have been implemented including a Special Response Team, Traffic Program, and School Resource Program. These programs enhance the level of service provided by the department and train officers for situations that require a unique response. In addition, the Department has an Explorer Program and Intern Program to encourage young people to begin a career in law enforcement and give them the skills they need to succeed.

Congratulations to our wonderful Police Department and a special thanks to the officers who help keep our community safe. We look forward to another 30 years of outstanding service.



Community Update Keeps Getting Bigger and Better

On April 26, 2008, the City hosted its third annual Community Update. The event showcased the various projects and activities that are going on in the community. Representatives from the Waterfront project, New Town Center, the Intermodal Transit Center, and Sycamore Downtown gave updates on the status of the project. Representatives from all four Hercules schools and the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) discussed what our children are

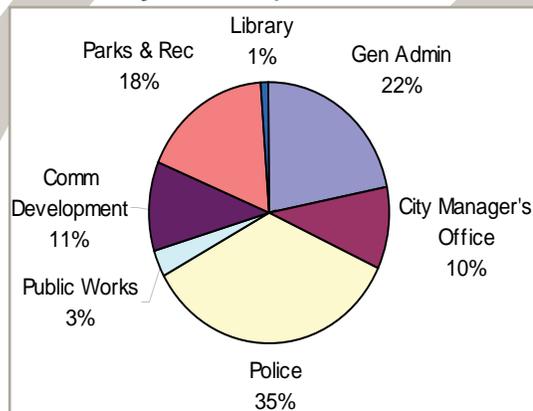
learning and the renovation plans at Ohlone Elementary. City staff also handed out material on a wide range of topics from Parks and Recreation classes to building safety. Residents that attended said the event was very informative and they were thrilled to be a part of this great community. Over three hundred residents attended and many walked away with bags full of brochures and handouts. Some tables even provided

lollipops and balloons which made the event fun for the whole family. Hercules City Manager, Nelson Oliva is planning on continuing the event on an annual basis. Next year's event is already scheduled for April 4, so make sure to mark your calendar! For more information about the projects and topics that were discussed, visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us and click on the Hercules Projects link, then Community Update 2008.

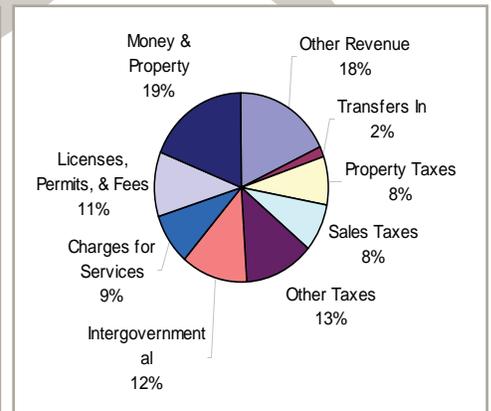
Budget from page 1

The budget was reviewed in very close detail by both City Manager Nelson Oliva and the City Council's Finance Sub-Committee. In May, the budget was presented for public hearing before the entire City Council which provided an opportunity for the community to comment. The budget documents will remain available for review at the Front Desk of City Hall during regular business hours.

Projected Expenditures



Projected Revenue



New Assistant City Manager Joins Team

Mr. Nelson Oliva, Hercules City Manager, is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Mrs. Lisa Hammon as the City's Assistant City Manager/Assistant Executive Director of Redevelopment. Mrs. Hammon came on board on May 19, 2008.

Mrs. Hammon is experienced in all aspects of transportation planning and is well respected in her field. She grew up in the Bay Area and received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Berkeley. In 2002, she received a Certificate in Land Use and Environmental Planning from the UC Davis Extension program.

Prior to her selection as Assistant City Manager, Mrs. Hammon served as the Executive Director of the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC). During her tenure at WCCTAC, she has seen the organization's total budget grow from \$100,000 to



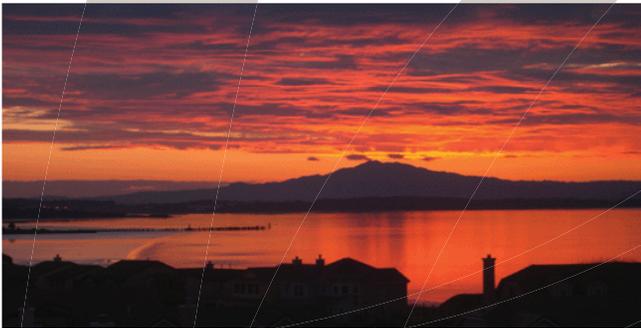
over \$1 million. In 2004, she helped ensure the passing of the Measure C transportation tax extension by holding over twenty five public outreach meetings. In addition, she has worked on the San Pablo SMART Corridor which deals with traffic congestion on San Pablo Avenue, but has also expanded to include projects that increase public safety on the busy highway.

In her new position, Mrs. Hammon will provide direct management support to the

office of the City Manager/Executive Director of Redevelopment. The main focus will be to assist the department in delivering projects related to redevelopment; and participate in providing professional research, planning, analysis, training, and project administration. She will also manage and direct the Transportation Division, oversee the operations of major transportation projects including the Hercules Inter-modal Transit Center and the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) Park and Ride Facility.

Mrs. Hammon's background and knowledge are a great fit for the Assistant City Manager/Assistant Executive Director position. Her positive attitude and consensus building approach to problem solving will be invaluable to the City. Mr. Oliva extends Mrs. Hammon a warm welcome and is excited to have her be a part of the City of Hercules team.

Consensus Plan Announced for Waterfront



Plans for development of the Hercules' Waterfront have been in the works for many years. The Central Hercules Plan, calls for significant development at the 40 acre site located near the Promenade neighborhood. Further community input occurred with the Waterfront Master Plan approved in July of 2000. The consensus plan announced by Hercules City Manager, Nelson Oliva and Waterfront Developer Jim Anderson, calls for approximately 1,300 homes along with dining, shopping, office spaces and a multi-modal transit station unprecedented in the State.

In May, after months of meetings, Mr. Oliva and Mr. Anderson announced that they had come to consensus on all of the significant issues regarding development of the Project. While further steps are needed for actual approval of the plan, both parties contend that the Project is back on track and moving in the right direction.

"On behalf of the City of Hercules staff, I couldn't be more pleased with the plan that Jim Anderson and I have been able to work

out" said City Manager Oliva. "While I cannot speak for our Planning Commission, the City Council or the Redevelopment Agency, I can say that this revised plan addresses the concerns that have been expressed by the City staff while maintaining the tremendous opportunity the Project has always represented to make some great things happen along our shoreline", continued Oliva.

City staff have worked closely with Anderson to ensure the project lines up with both the community's expectations and needs. "I have worked in this field for decades and have never seen as much dedicated effort by a City Manager and his staff to finding solutions and working creatively in a cooperative manner", Anderson emphasized.

In a key change, the collaborative plan resolves the parking issue and location of the transit station, which has been the focus of much of the earlier discussions. The plan has the transit station located on the south side of Refugio Creek and places an underground parking structure north of the creek to primarily serve the transit riders. These modifications address the practical concerns related to parking and access while maintaining the character of an attractive, pedestrian-focused neighborhood.

Hundreds of residents attended public meetings this past spring to state their desire to keep the Project going. Many expressed concerns that the site remains degraded despite being promised an attractive, mixed-use community when they bought their homes years ago. The revised plan gets the project back on track even though

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City Council Passes Environmental Ordinance

On May 13, 2008, the City Council amended the City's health and safety ordinance to place a ban on expanded polystyrene (EPS) in food service utensils. EPS, commonly known as "Styrofoam"®, is a petroleum-based product that is frequently used for food packaging purposes. EPS is about 95% air, making it light-weight, with good insulation properties, and is used in a wide range of products: from containers for food and beverages to materials that keep items safe during shipping.

The properties of EPS that make it an excellent storage and packaging material (light weight, low cost, durability, and strength), combined with its low scrap value, make it hard to recycle. The standards for EPS recycling are very high requiring materials to be completely free of all contaminants including food, adhesives, plastic film, cardboard, or dirt. The cost of shipping the lightweight material and the cost of decontamination of EPS food containers prior to recycling add to the economic infeasibility.



Even when disposed of properly, EPS presents unique management issues because of its lightweight nature, floatability, and tendency to be blown from disposal sites. According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, EPS comprises an estimated 15% of the litter collected in storm drains. Because EPS breaks down into small, non-biodegradable pieces, marine and terrestrial wildlife often perish as a result of ingesting EPS products mistaken as food. To help reduce the negative impact EPS has on our environment, many cities have already passed bans on EPS products.



The amended Ordinance goes into effect this month (90 days after the ordinance was passed) and affects all city facilities, city sponsored events and both for profit and not for profit food vendors within city limits. The Ordinance bans the use of EPS for the purpose of one time use either on or off the food vendors' premises including containers, trays, lids, straws, cutlery and other items. It also eliminates the use of EPS products for food storage or utility at all city sponsored events and facilities.

Many vendors have found biodegradable or compostable food products with similar costs and have previously switched to the more environmentally friendly products. In addition, because of preexisting EPS bans in other cities, most national food chains have already changed their practices

to comply with EPS bans. Due to the large number of food vendors who have already adapted and the many alternative products that exist, the fiscal impact of the City of Hercules' new ordinance will be reduced.

The City Manager, or his/her designee, are authorized to enforce the ordinance and issue fines for violations if a citizen complaint is verified and not remedied. Food vendors could be exempted for specific items or types of disposable food service utensils if the City Manager finds that a suitable and/or affordable biodegradable or compostable alternative does not exist or that imposing the requirements of the ordinance on that item would cause undue hardship. The intent of the ordinance is to keep the city in the forefront of environmentally friendly or "green" practices and is not intended to cause unnecessary stress or hardship for any local business.

The City of Hercules encourages the use of reusable, recyclable, or biodegradable products but does not require its use for local businesses. In addition, the city encourages residents to buy environmentally friendly products when they purchase items for their home. Examples of alternative products, for both businesses and residents, include: uncoated and coated paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic, and bio products which are manufactured from renewable resources.

There are many EPS products that are not covered by the new ordinance including packaging materials such as peanuts, expanded foam and food that is packaged outside of the city limits. Since packaging material is generally free of contaminants, there are a few locations in California that will accept the material, but many curbside recycling programs and recycling centers do not accept any form of EPS.

Some packaging places will accept peanuts and bubble wrap while some manufacturing or industrial companies, such as Timbron International, will accept EPS packaging materials for reuse in their plants. The Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers also has a program where you can mail your EPS items (clean of contaminants) through the US postal service. There are shipping costs involved, but this may be cheaper than driving to a far away facility. For more information on this program visit their website at <http://www.epspackaging.org/info.html>.



The city is continuously looking for ways to improve our community which also means improving our environment. Keeping our community clean and safe is a joint effort between city staff, businesses and residents. Reducing, reusing and recycling EPS products is an important piece of the effort to keep our community and environment clean for the next generation.

If you have questions regarding the EPS ban, contact Ariel Mercado, Redevelopment Analyst, at 510-799-8256. For more information on EPS recycling visit www.earth911.org or <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/>

HHMS Students Make Ivy League Connection



From Left to Right: Courtney Mariano, Principal Zakrevsky, Susan Lee, Nick Ortega, Janna Lee, Assistant Principal Lilhanand, Christine Imazumi

also get to explore the city [New York] and get a taste of life on the east coast. I'm looking forward to representing our city and district and bringing back knowledge and experiences to be shared with my fellow students." Courtney Mariano continued by saying, "I will learn to be more independent and responsible since I will be living on my own. I plan to share this experience with the high school, middle school and hopefully elementary schools."

Several students shared how their education has helped prepare them for the challenge. Nick Ortega stated, "The schools and programs that we have here are outstanding and I know that my experiences have allowed me to get accepted to such a program [Ivy League Connection]."

is a great fit for Hercules High School saying, "These students are carrying on a tradition of excellence at our school." He later added, "This is a program that the City of Hercules can be very, very proud of."

Courtney Marino shared her desire to see others get involved saying "Hopefully the program will continue to grow and more students will be given this wonderful chance." Nick Ortega added "I want to show the schools that Hercules is a powerhouse of learning and successful students...[I] hope to build up a legacy of academic strength and excellence that will be continued by Hercules students for some years to come."

Five Hercules High School Students are participating this summer in the Ivy League Connection Program which sends students to study for several weeks at Ivy League universities all over the country. Courtney Mariano and Susan Lee will be attending the biomedical program at the University of Pennsylvania for four weeks while Janna Lee, Christine Imazumi and Nick Ortega will be attending Columbia University for three weeks. Lee and Ortega will be in the physics program and Imazumi will be attending the modern mathematics program.

The Ivy League Connection Program is an international program with 32 students from the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) participating this summer. This is the third year WCCUSD has sent students and the first year for students from Hercules. WCCUSD is the only district in the country that sends a cohort of students to represent the area and Hercules is very proud to be a part of the program.

The students expressed their excitement about the program at Tuesday's City Council Meeting. Christine Imazumi spoke about traveling across the country saying, "I will not only get to learn in a college setting, but

Susan Lee agreed saying, "It is clear we have a very strong academic program here in Hercules. We continue to be one of the top schools in our district and we have seen a lot of academic successes this year."

The students thanked program coordinators Charles Ramsey, Madelyn Kroninberg, the City Council and their families for their encouragement and support. Each student also spoke about what a great opportunity it is to be a part of the program. Susan Lee said, "Ivy League Connections offers such a rare opportunity for high school students. I feel both privileged and honored to be able to participate in it." Janna Lee shared similar thoughts saying, "This experience will open the door for many opportunities across the country for me. The small city of Hercules is reaching great heights in gaining access to even greater range of universities around the world."

Hercules High School Principal, Guy Zakrevsky said the school is hoping to send an even larger number of students in the coming years and has begun forming a list for next summer. Principal Zakrevsky thanked the WCCUSD board for their support and felt the Ivy League Connection Program

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there are still several key issues that need to be addressed. Some of these issues are the alignment of the creek, and railroad and access to the ferry but the developer and the city are dedicated to resolving all issues to see the project to its completion.

With the revised plan now in place, the next step is for the Initial Planned Development Plan to be approved by City Council. The City is in the process of reviewing the documents and working closely with the developer to have final approvals by mid summer. The newly developed consensus reflects the continued efforts by the city and the developer towards seeing the community's vision become a reality for the Hercules shoreline.

1st Annual Photo Contest Winners Chosen



This past spring, the City hosted its 1st Annual Photo Contest. Approximately 200 photos were submitted for the contest including photos of people, places, and landscape from all over Hercules.

Congratulations to Charles Lucke and Gary Feldman for their prize winning photos. Mr. Lucke received 1st place for his photo of the Refugio Fountain and Mr. Feldman received both 2nd and 3rd place for his photos of the Hercules Library courtyard and Refugio Creek. The winners received their prizes at the July 8, 2008 City Council meeting.

A special thanks to all the residents who participated. There were many outstanding photos submitted even though they could not all be chosen as the winner. Each photo was judged by five staff members based on composition, artistic impact, originality, and representation of Hercules.

In the coming months, the City is planning on using many of the submissions for the City's website and newsletters. Due to the outstanding response of this year's event, the City will be hosting the contest again next spring. The City is looking forward to seeing even more great submissions by Hercules residents in the coming years. Thanks again to all of the residents who participated.



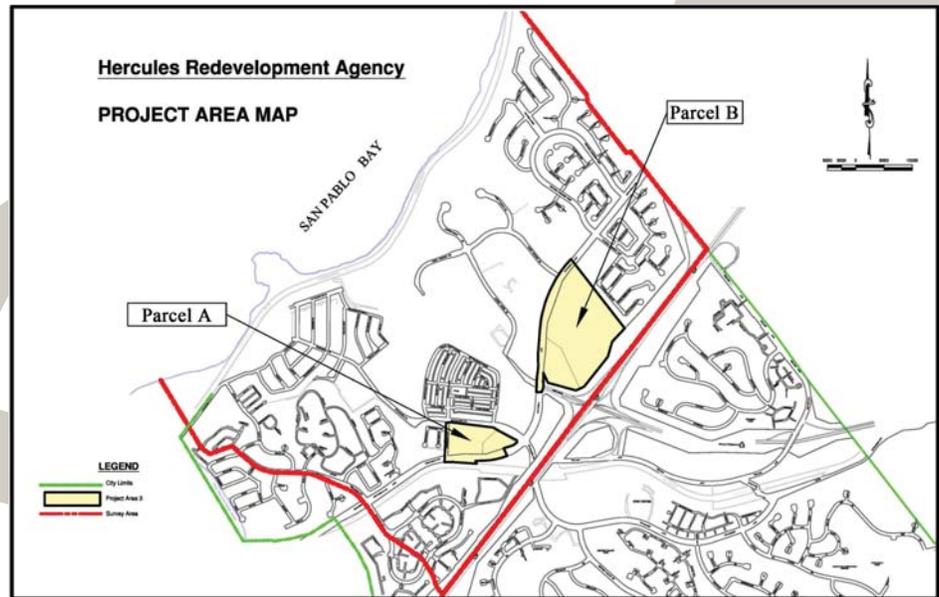
New Redevelopment Area Approved by Planning Commission and Council

As the City of Hercules continues to increase densities and rehabilitate existing urbanized areas, many distinct challenges and opportunities present themselves. One of these opportunities is the ability to invest locally generated resources into the underutilized areas of the City. When these deteriorated areas are determined, the City and the Agency go through a multi-step process to create a Redevelopment Project Area. Once a Redevelopment Project Area is created, the Agency has access to unique funds to develop and restore the designated area.

The original Hercules Redevelopment Project Area, the "Dynamite Redevelopment Project Area" (Area 1), was adopted on November 30, 1983 and Project Area No. 2 was originally adopted on April 13, 1999. In 2005, the Dynamite Redevelopment Project Area and Project Area 2 were merged. Last spring, the City began taking the steps to create a third Redevelopment Project Area.

The first formal step in the Redevelopment Plan process was establishing the Survey Area. In July 2007, this was completed and an analysis of conditions was undertaken to determine whether any of the properties within the survey area qualified for inclusion in RDA-3. The City and Agency then began reviewing and analyzing the establishment of RDA-3 and the preparation of a Preliminary Plan as required by California Redevelopment Law.

The Preliminary Plan sets forth the overall goals for the Redevelopment Plan, describes the boundaries of RDA-3, addresses proposed land uses, shows how the purpose of California Redevelopment Law will be attained by establishment of the new project area, and describes the impact of the new project area on the City's residents and the surrounding neighborhoods. On December 17, 2007, the Planning Com-



mission duly recommended approval of the boundaries of RDA-3 from within the survey area to the approval of the Preliminary Plan to the City Council.

The proposed project area for RDA-3 would be separate from the merged project areas 1 and 2 and would be made up of properties commonly referred to as "Hercules Crossing" and the "Tank Farm" or "Hill Town" properties. Hercules Crossing is the vacant property across from the Shell Station at the intersection of Sycamore and San Pablo. The Hill Town property is south of the Victoria By the Bay neighborhood and continues down to the intersection of John Muir Parkway and San Pablo Avenue. The site is currently home to three refinery tanks.

Assistant City Manager Lisa Hammon emphasizes the City's commitment to redevelopment saying "The City and the Redevelopment Agency continue to dedicate resources toward upgrading properties and replacing obsolete infrastructure. The formation of RDA-3 is another step in the direction of creating vibrant community spaces for Hercules residents and visitors."

The next item to be completed is the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The report is expected to be finalized by this

fall and will be made available for public review at City Hall. There will then be two public hearings which residents are welcome to attend; one at a Planning Commission meeting and a second at a City Council meeting. These dates have not yet been determined but will be announced in the Contra Costa Times along with other Public Notice announcements.

The Final Plan for RDA-3 must then be accepted by both the City Council and Redevelopment Agency. This is expected to occur before the end of the year and will be the final step in creating the third Redevelopment Project Area.

Police Acquire New Mobile Command Vehicle

The City of Hercules places a high priority on being prepared for any kind of emergency or disaster that may affect our community. The new Mobile Command Center vehicle is an important part of this effort. The new vehicle contains all the essential equipment the City would need to establish a command center including police and fire radio capabilities and news monitoring systems. Whether an incident is small or large in scale, the Mobile Command vehicle is prepared for the task. Having a Mobile Command Center allows emergency personnel to be located closer to the scene of an emergency. The vehicle also serves as a back up to the City's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) (located at City Hall)



which could be used if the City's EOC building is damaged or if an incident requires multiple command centers or sub-centers. The vehicle was purchased using a combination of local, county, and federal funds such as the Contra Costa County Emergency Preparedness Funding and City funds earmarked for emergency preparedness. Commander William Goswick, who is in charge of Emergency Preparedness for Hercules, oversaw the acquisition of the vehicle from the beginning. While the City hopes emergency equipment will never need to be used, the Mobile Command vehicle is just one more way the City is staying prepared for whatever emergency may impact our community. If you would like to learn more about disaster preparedness, visit our website at www.ci.hercules.ca.us.



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