

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

BACKGROUND: On February 13, 1998, the City of Redondo Beach established a strategic plan. As part of the plan, various committees were formed to implement the five citywide goals. One of the said committees is the Strategic Financing Planning Committee.

The Strategic Financial Planning Committee, in concert with the Budget & Finance Commission, was tasked to develop a strategic plan for the City to achieve financial stability. The Strategic Financial Planning Committee and the Budget & Finance Commission determined that one of the steps in developing a strategic financial plan is for the City to establish a set of financial principles.

On November 17, 1998, the Mayor and City Council adopted the Statements of Financial Principles as a City Policy. The intention of the Mayor and City Council was to establish written policies to guide the financial management of the City of Redondo Beach and to demonstrate to the citizens of Redondo Beach, the investment community, and the bond rating agencies that the City of Redondo Beach is committed to a strong fiscal policy. The Mayor and City Council also determined that it is necessary to provide precedents for future policy makers and financial managers.

On June 6, 2000, the Mayor and City Council approved by resolution, to include under Section 11(h), a policy regarding threshold for capitalization of fixed assets.

On November 6, 2001, the Mayor and City Council amended by resolution Section 12(a) to reflect the "minimum reserve" for contingencies to be 8.33% of the General Fund current fiscal year's budget.

On October 9, 2007, the Mayor and City Council approved by minute action, to add as Section 12(h), a policy requiring that the "reserves" or fund balances designated for other post employment benefits (OPEB) obligations be maintained at appropriate levels as authorized by the City Council.

On April 21, 2009, the Mayor and City Council approved by minute action, to add as Sections 8(c) and 8(d), policies requiring that internal service funds and central service departments retain the costs of using services provided by other City departments and that allocations among funds and departments be based on prior fiscal year-end actual expenses and distributed using fair and justifiable statistics.

CITY POLICY

Section 1: General Financial Goal - To establish a five-year financial plan and achieve financial stability. Once achieved, maintain and enhance the City's fiscal health. To help achieve this goal, the City's objective is to adhere to the following statements of financial principles and policies:

Section 2: General Principles

- a) The City will maintain a level of expenditures which will provide for the well-being and safety of the general public and citizens of the community.
- b) The City will manage its financial assets in a sound and prudent manner.
- c) The City will maintain and further develop programs to assure its long-term ability to pay all the costs necessary to provide the highest quality of service required by the citizens of Redondo Beach.
- d) The City will adopt a balanced operating budget by June 30 of each year as required by the City Charter Section 17.9. The objective is to balance the budget without the use of General Fund undesignated fund balances or "reserves".

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- e) The City will maintain and improve its infrastructure.
- f) The City will provide funding for capital equipment replacement, including a long-term technology plan, to achieve greater efficiency in its operations.
- g) The City will value its employees as one of its most important assets and will compensate them competitively according to the City's ability to pay.
- h) All City officials and employees shall always conduct themselves in a manner that will not expose the City to any liability.

Section 3: Revenue Policies

- a) The City will use a conservative approach in estimating revenues to maintain financial flexibility to adapt to local and regional economic changes.
- b) The master fee schedule will be updated annually to recover, as much as possible, the cost of providing the service and to allow for inflationary cost increases, but keeping in mind that fees are not to exceed the cost of providing the service. In some instances, the City may not want to charge any fees or the full cost of providing the service, if it is in the City's best interest to do so. These charges or fees for services will be identified during the budget approval process.
- c) The City will aggressively pursue revenue collection and auditing to assure that monies due the City are accurately received in a timely manner.
- d) Departments shall avoid earmarking General Fund revenues for specific purposes unless authorized by the City Council.
- e) One-time revenues shall be used for one-time expenditures.
- f) Revenues in excess over expenditures at the end of the fiscal year shall be used to first satisfy the general reserve requirements before appropriating for other uses.
- g) The City will continue to explore revenue-raising alternatives as necessary and pursue all grants available for local government. (The City may consider not accepting a grant if the grant requires continued City funding after the grant expires.)
- h) Program managers for special revenue funds shall diligently pursue reimbursements or receipts of grants in a timely manner to minimize the negative impact to the General Fund's investment earnings.
- i) The Mayor and City Council shall be promptly informed of any significant revenue gain or loss impacting the City.
- j) The City shall abide by the requirements of applicable Federal, State and local laws or statutes, when contemplating to raise revenues.

Section 4: Expenditure/Budget Policies

- a) Current year operating expenditures shall be funded by current year operating revenues.
- b) In an advisory capacity, the Budget & Finance Commission will conduct a preliminary review of all essential services. The City Council will have final approval in determining which services receive priority funding when a revenue shortfall exists or is projected.
- c) The City will continue to explore options in delivering services in the most cost-effective method, including public-private partnerships and partnerships with other governmental agencies.
- d) Programs that are funded through user fees shall be self supporting. (The City may partially subsidize some of these programs if it is in the City's best interest to do so.)
- e) Departments' fiscal year-end expenditures must be within approved appropriations by fund.
- f) Departments with unexpended/unencumbered balances in their *maintenance and operations* budget at the end of the year, may carryover a specified amount to the next fiscal year with specific approval by the City Manager.

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- g) Departments with approved capital outlay budget but who were unable to purchase the capital item by the end of the fiscal year, may carryover this item with approval by the City Manager.
- h) Departments that have encumbrances at the end of the year, but have exceeded their total appropriations within each fund, may not be able to carryover the encumbrance balances, depending on the circumstances that caused the department to exceed its appropriations. Consequently, payments against these encumbrances may be charged to the affected department's subsequent fiscal year's budget.
- i) Salary and benefit savings at the end of the fiscal year will not be carried forward.
- j) Departments shall adhere to purchasing guidelines when expending City funds.
- k) All City officials and employees shall adhere to the City's conference and travel expense policy.
- l) Requests for new positions must identify specific funding sources and include a cost-benefit analysis.
- m) Budget transfers within each fund and between line accounts or programs within each department, must be approved by the City Manager or his/her designee. The Mayor and City Council shall be notified as soon as possible of budget transfers between departments and between capital improvement projects.
- n) Additional appropriations requests beyond the adopted budget must be approved by the City Council by four affirmative votes, as required by the City Charter Section 17.10.
- o) Salaries and benefits savings may not be transferred to fund maintenance & operations items other than those for which savings from vacancies are used for temporary or contractual services.
- p) When appropriate, projects or programs that have multiple funding sources must first use funds that have the most restrictions before using the General Fund, unless otherwise approved by the City Council.
- q) All City officials and City employees will exercise prudence and due care and will avoid any conflicts of interest or appearance thereof, when expending public funds.

Section 5: Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Policies

- a) The City will develop and implement a five-year capital improvement plan.
- b) The City may dedicate revenues from the Gas Tax Fund for the infrastructures' capital needs. (As this fund is currently being used for operating expenditures for streets maintenance, the City may implement a phased-in period to absorb these costs in the General Fund or other appropriate special revenue funds. The phased-in period may begin in FY99/00.)
- c) The City will set aside a reasonable and prudent amount of General Fund monies for capital improvements and repairs of various facilities, in its annual budget process.
- d) All capital improvement projects must be coordinated with the CIP "Committee" before they are submitted to the City Manager. Subsequently, the City Manager's recommendations shall be submitted to the Budget & Finance Commission for review and prioritization before the capital projects are submitted to the City Council.
- e) Change orders for capital projects already in progress, that exceed the amounts normally pre-approved at the City Engineer's discretion, (per the schedule outlined in the Administrative Policies & Procedures - APP 14.1), shall be submitted to the City Council for approval.
- f) The long-term operating impact of any capital improvement project must be disclosed before the project is recommended for funding.
- g) The City will select only the most responsible and reputable contractors to work on capital projects.
- h) The City will abide by applicable Federal, State and local laws/regulations on public works contracts.

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Section 6: Debt Policies

- a) The City shall avoid, as much as possible, incurring general obligation debt.
- b) The City shall obtain voter approval before incurring general bonded indebtedness for the City.
- c) The City's legal debt limit is 15% of assessed valuation of property within the City, per City Charter Section 17.11 and per California Government Code Section 436505.
- d) The City shall incur debt only for capital improvement projects and only if the projects cannot be funded by recurring or one-time revenues.
- e) Proceeds from long-term debt shall not be used for current ongoing expenditures.
- f) The debt shall be paid by specific revenue sources.
- g) The term of the debt incurred for capital projects shall not exceed the life of the projects being financed in accordance with regulations in federal, state or local law.
- h) The City shall not use short-term borrowing for operating expenditures.
- i) The City may participate in the statewide issuance of Tax & Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS) in accordance with applicable TRANS guidelines.
- j) The City shall consider interfund loans, when it is more cost effective and feasible, instead of borrowing outside, for short-term debt requirements.
- k) The City will use lease-purchase financing when it is cost effective.
- l) Bonds will be sold on a competitive basis unless it is in the City's best interest to conduct a negotiated sale.
- m) The City will follow a policy of full disclosure by communicating with bond rating agencies to inform them of the City's financial condition. (The continuing disclosure required in the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is sent to the dissemination agent who will then report it to the bondholders, rather than the rating agencies.)
- n) The City will honor all its debt and seek to maintain the highest attainable bond rating to minimize issuance costs to the City.

Section 7: Investment Policies

- a) The City Treasurer's Office shall abide by the City's adopted investment policy and shall submit a monthly report to the Mayor and City Council on the investment activities. Additionally, the City Treasurer shall make a quarterly presentation to the Budget & Finance Commission and to the Mayor and City Council.
- b) The investment policy shall be annually reviewed and approved by the City Council.

Section 8: Interfund Transfers Policies

- a) Transfers to the General Fund from other funds for overhead costs shall be reviewed annually and shall conform to OMB (Office of Management & Budget) A-87 guidelines.
- b) All City funds, including eligible grant funds, shall share the administrative costs borne by the General Fund.
- c) Internal service funds and central service departments shall retain the costs of using services provided by other City departments.
- d) Allocations among funds and departments shall be based on prior fiscal year-end actual expenses and distributed using fair and justifiable statistics.

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Section 9: Special Revenue Policies

- a) The City shall abide by applicable rules and regulations pertaining to the expenditures of special revenue funds as required by each funding source.

Section 10: Enterprise Funds Policies

- a) Enterprise activities will be programmed to generate sufficient revenues to fully support the Enterprise's operations including debt service requirements, current and future capital needs.
- b) Enterprise activities will generally adhere to all other applicable fiscal policies of the City.
- c) Audits of lessees shall be performed, based on the terms of the lease agreements, to ensure the City receives all revenues due the City.

Section 11: Accounting, Auditing & Financial Reporting Policies

- a) The City will comply with all generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and adhere to the statements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).
- b) The City shall continue to participate in the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers' (CSMFO) financial reporting and budgeting awards program to help ensure continued quality financial reports and budget documents.
- c) The City shall retain the services of an independent auditor to perform annual financial audits.
- d) The City shall routinely bid for audit services, at a minimum, every five years. Audit contracts shall not exceed five years at a time. The Budget & Finance Commission will participate in the selection process.
- e) The City shall issue its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report by the second council meeting in December each year.
- f) Staff shall submit a mid-year budget review to the Mayor and City Council by the second council meeting in February each year.
- g) The Mayor and City Council shall be promptly informed of any significant financial reporting issue or any audit findings.
- h) The City shall, from time to time, review the threshold when capitalizing fixed assets and make necessary adjustments thereto, as appropriate, with the initial recommendation from the Financial Services Department and with concurrence by the City's independent auditors.

Section 12: Reserves Policies

- a) The City shall maintain a "minimum reserve" for contingencies, equivalent to 8.33% of the General Fund's current fiscal year's budget. Maintaining this minimum "reserve" will also allow the City to continue to earn a certain level of investment earnings and provide sufficient cash flow reserves. The minimum reserve requirement will be subject to an annual, or whenever necessary, review by the City Council.
- b) Undesignated fund balances shall be used for one-time expenditures, preferably only on capital improvement items.

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- c) The remaining undesignated fund balances, after all “reserve” requirements are met, may be transferred to the Capital Projects Fund or may be used to increase the funds set aside for capital equipment replacement, subject to Council approval. This process will be annually reviewed with the Mayor and City Council.
- d) The City Council may alter reserve requirements anytime, as necessary.
- e) The “reserves” or fund balances designated for claims and judgments shall be maintained at appropriate levels as authorized by the City Council.
- f) The “reserves” or fund balances designated for compensated absences shall be maintained at appropriate levels as authorized by the City Council.
- g) Council approval will be required before expending funds designated for contingencies or any of the available fund balances.
- h) The “reserves” or fund balances designated for other post employment benefits (OPEB) obligations be maintained at appropriate levels as authorized by the City Council.