



Legislation Text

File #: 08-0919, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to declare an emergency to exist.

On August 1, 2008, the City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 (FY 09) was delivered by the Mayor to the City Council and community with recommended amendments for consideration. Subsequent workshops and hearings were set for August 5, August 12, August 19, August 26, September 2, September 4 and September 9, 2008 along with approximately three Budget Oversight Committee (BOC) meetings and ten community meetings at which the FY 09 Proposed Budget was discussed. We are pleased to report that through the scheduled workshops, hearings, BOC and community meetings, presentations have been made by multiple City departments resulting in 23 separate opportunities for public feedback, deliberation and input.

At the conclusion of the hearings, the City Council will be asked to amend the proposed budget as it deems appropriate, and to adopt the proposed budget as amended. Since the publication of the FY 09 Proposed Budget, updated estimates of revenue and expense, which address technical corrections as well as decisions made by elected offices, are listed by fund and department in Attachments Band C to this letter, respectively.

The Appropriations Ordinance officially adopts the FY 09 budget and authorizes expenditures in conformance with the adopted budget. To become effective October 1, 2008, this Ordinance must include a finding of emergency. Specific resolutions provide for approval of the budgets for the Harbor, Sewer and Water funds; and certain fee adjustments. Requests for approval include the FY 09 Capital Improvement Program; acknowledgement of the updated Financial Strategic Plan; the Mayor's Recommendations; and the Budget Oversight Committee's Recommendations to the FY 09 Proposed Budget.

This letter was reviewed by Assistant City Attorney Heather A. Mahood on August 21, 2008.

In accordance with the Long Beach City Charter, the FY 09 budget must be adopted by September 15, 2008, following at least one public hearing. Should the City Council fail to adopt the budget on or by that date, the City Manager's FY 09 Proposed Budget shall be deemed the budget for the 2009 fiscal year. The Mayor then has five calendar days from City Council adoption of the budget to use a line-item veto to reduce or eliminate expenditures. The City Council would then have until September 30, 2008, to override any line-item veto with a two-thirds supermajority vote.

The City Charter requires that the Appropriations Ordinance shall govern and control the expenditure and commitment amounts stated therein relating to the City's departments, offices and agencies during each fiscal year. The total FY 09 budget for all departments and funds is \$3,468,910,455, which comprises \$3,096,273,192 in new appropriation and \$372,637,263 in estimated carry-over

from FY 08 for multi-year grants and projects.

The Appropriations Ordinance, included as Attachment A-17 to this letter, totals \$2,343,846,799 for all funds except Harbor, Water and Sewer, and \$2,348,005,027 for all departments except Harbor and Water. The \$4,158,228 difference between funds and departments in the Appropriations Ordinance is due to general City indirect costs budgeted in the Department of Financial Management but charged to the Harbor, Water and Sewer funds, which are not included in the Appropriation Ordinance by fund.

The proposed Harbor, Water and Sewer Fund budgets are in separate City Council ordinances included as Attachment A-1 and A-4 to this letter, respectively, and total \$1,125,063,656. The budget for the Harbor Department was adopted by the Board of Harbor Commissioners by minute order on June 16, 2008. The budget for the Water Department was adopted by the Board of Water Commissioners by resolution on July 10, 2008.

The City Council is also requested to bring the Municipal Code into uniformity with the FY 09 budget by amending Municipal Code (section 15.20.060) establishing the maintenance for all sewer laterals to be the sole responsibility of the property owner. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Department to provide sewer lateral repair services related to tree root damage has been eliminated. This action will bring Long Beach's sewer lateral policy in-line with other local jurisdictions, including the City of Los Angeles.

The recommendations in this letter include various fee adjustments, as highlighted in the FY 09 Proposed Budget book, and are included in the attached Master Fee Resolution. The fee changes are necessary for full cost recovery and are summarized in Attachment A-B, Exhibit A to this letter.

Other requested City Council actions include approval of the FY 09 One-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget, which is contained in the Appropriations Ordinance. The Planning Commission, at its meeting of August 15, 2008, approved the CIP for FY 09 for conformance with the General Plan. Any projects that are not in conformance with the Plan will be highlighted by Development Services staff and steps to secure conformance will be outlined.

Further, motions approving the budgets of the Redevelopment Agency's (RDA) Project Area Committees (PACs) for the Central Long Beach, the West Long Beach Industrial and the North Long Beach Project Areas and the Long Beach Housing Development Company (HOC) are requested. The PAC budgets are included in the budget of the Development Services Department, while the budget of the HOC is included in the budget of the Community Development Department.

The City Council is also requested to adopt the Resolution establishing the "Gann Appropriations Limit" (Limit) for general purpose expenditures. In November 1979, the voters of the State of California approved Proposition 4, also known as the "Gann Initiative." The Initiative places certain limits on the amount of tax revenue that can be appropriated each fiscal year. The Limit is based on actual appropriations during FY 79 and guards against overspending proceeds of taxes. Only those revenues which are considered as "proceeds of taxes" are subject to the Limit. The Limit is recalculated each fiscal year based on certain inflation and population factors provided by the State. The proposed budget includes tax revenue estimates that are at 41.05 percent of the 2008-2009 Appropriations Limit and, therefore, does not exceed the Limit. This calculation is reviewed by the

City Auditor for conformance to the law.

Approve recommendation.

Lori Ann Farrell
Director of Financial Management/CFO

NAME
TITLE

APPROVED:

PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER