

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC RESOURCES



What it Means

The phrase “public resources” often calls to mind tax dollars, and while it is one aspect, it is not the only one. “Public resources” refers to everything within a city that is not privately owned and is used or depended on by the general public. Roads, sidewalks, parks and facilities are just a few examples, as are the staff and equipment used to construct, maintain and enhance them.

The commitment to being responsible stewards of these resources means the City will plan for and invest in them in a way that meets the needs and reflects the values of the diverse Diamond Bar community of today and tomorrow. The City will make it a priority to stay on top of preventive maintenance, to shop for the best price and service, and to set fiscal policy that provides flexibility to enhance services and withstand economic uncertainty. It will seek out new revenue sources to provide long-term fiscal sustainability, invest in equipment and applications to improve service and customer convenience, and pursue economic development initiatives to support local businesses and provide ideal conditions to attract new retailers.



The Challenge/Opportunity

Local governments have an inherently limited amount of resources. Major economic events often arrive without warning, putting additional pressure on Cities. With two 100-year economic storms (the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic) in the past 12 years, local governments have been tested like never before, and therefore, must be prepared. The City’s ongoing stewardship requires forecasting, planning and prioritization.

Items like the Long-Term Financial Forecast, Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (which includes new construction and preventive maintenance), Fund Balance and Reserves Policy, and proactive budgeting lay the foundation for fiscal success. Investments in maintenance, accessibility, and business infrastructure and processes save money over the years and ensure service continuity.



In the Spotlight: DBC Slope Stabilization Project



Construction work started on the Diamond Bar Center (DBC) Slope Stabilization project. A 2017 geotechnical analysis identified natural and designed slopes with slope stability issues and signs of soil “creep” movements, causing exterior distress in the area of the northwest-facing earth slopes of the DBC building. The project’s objective is to stabilize the northwest slope and soil “creep” movement by introducing cast-in-place drilled piles and buried reinforced concrete beams. The project plans and specifications were advertised in July and construction began in late September.



Strategies and Key Initiatives

Strategy 1: Secure Long-Term Financial Sustainability

- For the first time, the budget was developed in a digital format, making it easier for the public to access and understand the document.
- Also for the first time, the adopted budget includes performance measures. These will be used to measure the effectiveness of programming in relation to Council's goals and objectives.
- Adopted the Investment Policy and Gann appropriations limit.

Strategy 2: Maintain and Improve Parks, Facilities and other Infrastructure

- Completed the Area 1 pavement rehabilitation project, which improved approximately 19 centerline miles of residential/collector streets with slurry seal, chip seal, localized Asphalt Concrete (AC) digouts and curb ramp improvements.
- Completed the triennial update to the Pavement Management System report, which provides the tools to plan and schedule pavement maintenance and rehabilitation based on existing conditions and engineering analysis. This report provides an update on the current roadway conditions and a five-year roadway maintenance plan that best fits the City's annual CIP budget. Future roadway projects will be planned based on an improved residential and collector street maintenance cycle and the recommendations provided in this report.
- Continued a Measure W funding feasibility study for the Sunset Crossing Park project. The study, also funded by the Measure W Technical Resources

Program (TRP), identifies and compares alternatives for a possible water diversion and treatment facility at the park site. The ultimate goal of the study is to set parameters and provide an option to potentially use the proposed park site to provide more environmental benefit to the community while getting partial funding for some of the improvements in the future park.

- Design work continues on the final plans for the Area 2 and Golden Springs Drive Pavement Rehabilitation Project. The project is scheduled to begin construction in the second half of the fiscal year (Q4).
- Design work started on the Brea Canyon Storm Drain Lining project, which will improve the structural integrity and extend the life of the city-owned storm drain.
- The pre-design process was completed and a consultant was selected for the Grand Avenue Median Drainage Improvement.
- Finalized the Canyon Loop Trail renovation plans and secured a construction contractor.

Strategy 3: Leverage Technology to Improve Business Processes

- The Community Development, Finance, and Information Systems departments are working cooperatively to implement the Enterprise Land Management System, a solution that will improve management of development services functions, enhancing the customer experience and day-to-day operations. Following a competitive bid and formal interviews, staff is now working with two vendors to determine the most responsive. A selection is expected this fiscal year.

Outcomes by the Numbers



165

online business license applications



106

online planning inquiries submitted



642

online building permit applications

OPEN, ENGAGED AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT



What it Means

The commitment to open, engaged and responsive government means the City welcomes and encourages public participation in all aspects of local government and make it easy to do so. Fundamental municipal services like public safety and trash collection will be readily available and of high quality, the public's business will be conducted openly and with ample opportunity for public participation, and customer service will be timely and professional.



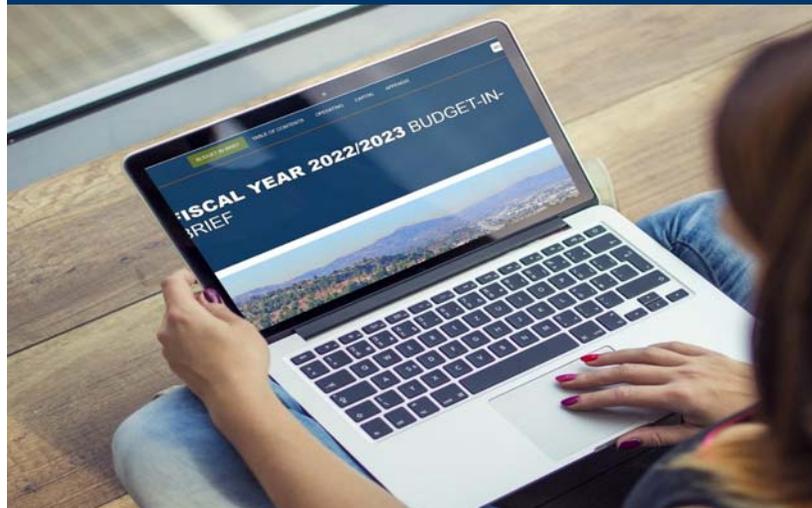
The Challenge/Opportunity

Because of their origin and purpose, Cities provide individuals the most direct access to government and elected leaders. Individuals want and expect their local government to be responsive and transparent in their actions and communication. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the City to encourage public trust and facilitate public participation by offering a variety of options for residents to engage with City leaders, and learn about City services and programs.

These options should be convenient and include both face-to-face opportunities, online/interactive public meetings, and digital materials and technologies such as dashboards and databases. To this end, the City will hire and retain qualified and professional staff to implement effective business practices and community programming and facilitate timely and effective communication and response.



In the Spotlight: Budget-in-Brief



In alignment with the City's strategic plan goal of fostering an Open, Engaged and Responsive government, an online Budget-In-Brief summary has been made available this fiscal year. The summary highlights key areas of the FY 2022/2023 Adopted Budget, including General Fund revenues and expenditures, major projects, and other high level information about the City's services via interactive reports and tiles. The Budget-In-Brief also links out to the Adopted Budget allowing the reader to dive in and learn more about the budget detail.

Sharing information in an easy-to-digest format regarding budget based priorities, the allocation of resources and planned expenditures is important. We invite the community to familiarize themselves with the many facets that allow our City to operate and serve the public in the manner it does.

OPEN, ENGAGED AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT



Strategies and Key Initiatives

Strategy 1: Enhance Community Engagement & Communication

- Progress on the Town Center Specific Plan (TCSP) continued throughout Q1. The first of two planned community workshops was held July 21. More than 100 residents participated in the workshop, which provided an introductory overview of the Town Center focus area and general information about vision planning and placemaking. Attendees then took part in a breakout session, where each group shared ideas and desires for the development of the area. Between August 22 and 26, a design charrette was held in the City Hall Windmill Community Room. This immersive, weeklong exercise provided the opportunity for residents and other stakeholders to interact directly with architects and designers to translate ideas into site plans and renderings. On the final evening, the design team presented three alternative layouts that will coalesce into a preferred alternative upon which the Specific Plan's regulatory framework will be based.

Strategy 2: Provide Excellent Customer Service

- The Diamond Bar Center website was revised and updated with the purpose of improving the overall customer experience.
- Significant progress has been made on the redesign of the City website. It is expected that the new website will be launched later this fiscal year.

Strategy 3: Create and Sustain a High-Performing Organization

- The Fiscal Year 2022-23 City Council-approved budget included three new positions as recommended through the Human Capital Investment Program (HCIP). The Human Resources Division worked with parent departments to conduct recruitments, and it is expected that all three positions will be filled in Q2. The new positions are as follows: Accounting Technician (Finance), Neighborhood Improvement Officer (Community Development) and Permit Technician (Building & Safety).

Outcomes by the Numbers



SAFE, SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY



What it Means

The commitment to creating a safe, sustainable and healthy community means the City prioritizes the overall well-being and quality of life of Diamond Bar residents and their families.

To meet this goal, the City will fund and implement initiatives that enhance public safety and reduce crime, develop and maintain parks, facilities and enrichment programming that build community, improve health and encourage personal development, engineer traffic solutions that reduce commute times and make streets safer for drivers and pedestrians, and set proactive policy that protects the natural environmental features that define life in Diamond Bar.



The Challenge/Opportunity

The environment in which someone lives or works has a profound effect on their ability to lead a healthier life. Safe neighborhoods, walkable streets, quality recreational facilities and programs, and clean air and water all create conditions that contribute to better health outcomes for community members.

With this understanding in mind, the hope is that over time the Diamond Bar environment will support and encourage healthier lifestyles where more individuals spend time outdoors appreciating nature, walking or biking to schools, parks and shops, getting to know their neighbors, and taking part in City-organized recreation programs and events.



In the Spotlight: Organics Recycling



On July 1, the City achieved a major milestone in its sustainability efforts after successfully negotiating a new residential organic recycling program with Waste Management. The new recycling program allows green waste carts to also be used to dispose of organic waste including uneaten food, food-soiled paper, and other compostable items.

Thanks to an \$80,961 grant from CalRecycle, the City will be able to provide 5,000 plastic pails to single-family households to make it easier and more convenient to collect organic scraps in the kitchen. A portion of the grant will be used to fund the consulting costs associated with capacity-planning food recovery activities and implementing an edible food recovery program.

The launch of Diamond Bar's Citywide Organics Recycling Program comes in response to California Senate Bill 1383, which aims to reduce short-lived climate pollutants through reducing the amount of organic waste in landfills by 75% over the next three years.

Recycling household organic waste is the easiest and most immediate action that every person can take to help California reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2045.

Strategies and Key Initiatives

Strategy 1: Enhance Public Safety

- The Public Works Department continued investigating local traffic patterns and designing traffic-calming measures for two neighborhoods - North Del Sol Lane and Hawkwood Road. Residents of the Hawkwood neighborhood were surveyed to acquire their approval of the final construction plans. The next step is to start construction work in both neighborhoods.
- Construction work commenced on the CDBG Area 2 ADA Curb Ramp Project. Using the funding from Community Development Block Grant Programs, this project will add ADA accessibility to existing sidewalks with the construction of ADA-compliant curb ramps at various locations where no curb ramps or substandard curb ramps exist. The project will take place within Area 2 located south of Grand Avenue, west of Diamond Bar Boulevard, north of Pathfinder Road, and east of the 57 freeway. Sixteen (16) curb ramps will be constructed or upgraded to meet the latest ADA standards.
- The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provided Diamond Bar Center staff with on-site safety/lockdown/active shooter training as a component of a comprehensive safety plan.

Strategy 2: Improve Mobility

- Public Works staff continued to provide inspection and support to the Grand Avenue and Golden Springs Intersection Enhancement project, in this quarter. The project progress is focused on the new tunnel under Grand Avenue which will be connecting the two sides of the golf course. This tunnel will replace an existing tunnel which will be

eliminated as part of the main SR57/SR60 Confluence project. Construction work on many decorative elements of the project including the decorative crosswalks was completed in this quarter. The project schedule is revised for the completion date to be in March 2023.

Strategy 3: Enhance Quality of Life & Support Environmental Health

- The Wednesday Walkers program introduced monthly wellness speakers to educate participants on a variety of health-related topics.
- Summer Day Camp returned to Heritage Park, with the format and participation very similar to pre-pandemic levels.
- City staff and consultants have started work on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for commercial and residential waste services. Per Council direction, the final RFP will be issued to the two current contractors (Waste Management and Valley Vista).
- The City's Housing Element consultant and Planning Staff completed revisions to Housing element requested by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and scheduled public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council. On August 11, the Council adopted the revised Housing Element, and staff resubmitted the document to HCD the following day in an effort to receive State certification prior to the October 15, 2022 deadline.
- The City entered into a supplemental services project with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) to provide street outreach, housing navigation, case management, and medical and behavioral health services to the unsheltered in Diamond Bar.

Outcomes by the Numbers

