



Mayor L. DENNIS MICHAEL • Mayor Pro Tem SAM SPAGNOLO
Council Members WILLIAM J. ALEXANDER, LYNNE B. KENNEDY, DIANE WILLIAMS
City Manager JOHN R. GILLISON

THE CITY OF RANCHO CUCAMONGA

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Francie Palmer
Communications Manager
City Manager's Office

PHONE: (909) 477-2700, extension 2048

Rancho Cucamonga City Council Identifies Fiscal Stewardship Options for the City's West- Side Parks, Landscape & Street Lighting Districts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2015

Rancho Cucamonga, California - At the December 2, 2015 City Council Meeting, staff members provided the City Council with sustainable and realistic options going forward to provide the best possible service to the City's West-side parks and landscaping districts within the funds available. The City Council gave direction to pursue these concepts, which include some capital investments that will yield energy cost savings, as well as additional contracting for services and the reconstruction and refilling of Red Hill Lake. These actions are anticipated to balance the budgets for Fiscal Year 2016/17.

Prior to the city's incorporation in 1977, the areas of Cucamonga, Alta Loma, and Etiwanda lacked a comprehensive, cohesive, or clear plan for growth as part of San Bernardino County development. Shortly after incorporation, as a post Proposition 13 City, the City instituted a policy that all new development would need to pay for its own amenities, maintenance, landscape, and street-lighting in order to not burden the General Fund for these costs. The east-side planned communities of the city have largely been developed since incorporation of the city, and thus have always had in place a specific funding mechanism, separate from the General Fund, including landscape maintenance districts, street light districts and community facility districts, included in individual property tax bills and still in place today. The west-side communities were developed without the benefit of advanced fiscal planning and with the assessments unchanged since 1993, the two largest park and landscaping districts - PD 85 and LMD1 - have all been experiencing significant budget deficits over the last several years, depleting those District reserves.

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Since September 2013, the fiscal structural deficits in the City's west-side landscaping and lighting districts have been discussed with many operational and service reductions made over the last several years; various funding options were evaluated and in July, 2015, the City Council voted to put before the community a funding option of Measure A for the community to share in the decision making process of the direction for the funding of landscape, park maintenance, and street-lighting for the west-side community. The voters on the west-side of the community did not pass the proposed measure.

With the direction from the community for the City to live within existing revenues, staff provided the City Council with options that included one-time costs to Capital Reserves and on-going costs to the General Fund in order to balance the Fiscal Year budget for the Districts for FY 16/17.

A Summary of Options and Staff Report Recommendations – with outcomes are identified below:

1. Approve a one-time use of General Fund Capital Reserves to install new credit card activated light controls citywide so that the City has the ability to charge field users for the electrical costs of ball-field lights, including a nominal capital replacement charge.

ACTION: Passed 4 / 1

2. Direct staff to move forward with a potential per hour charge, citywide, for the use of field/court/arena lights that will cover maintenance costs and capital replacement.

ACTION: Passed 4 / 1 (amended)

Staff was directed to reach out and work with the youth sports groups on a potential light fee, or other comparable system, related to item 1 above.

3. Direct staff to discontinue the current per player voluntary contribution by youth sports groups effective with FY 16/17.

ACTION: Passed 4 / 1 (amended)

Staff was directed to have this item be part of the discussion process regarding item 2 above; if implemented, would also include possible elimination of the current voluntary per player contribution.

4. Approve a one-time use of General Fund Capital Reserves to install separate electrical meters at Red Hill snack bars and maintenance building to reduce electrical costs.

ACTION: Passed 4 / 1

5. Approve a feasibility analysis to provide the City with solar and financial models in order to evaluate the financial benefits for different scenarios (power purchase agreements versus direct purchase).

ACTION: Passed 4 / 1

6. Direct staff to take the steps necessary to bid out the contract maintenance for PD 85 and rebid the existing maintenance contracts for LMD 1, including an alternative for contract sports field maintenance to provide volunteer and fiscal relief to youth sports groups.

ACTION: Passed 4 / 1

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7. Direct staff to move ahead with obtaining construction bids for the State Park bond funded Los Amigos Park while entering into discussions about possible partnerships with Cucamonga School District and CVWD as well as any other interested entities regarding maintenance of the future Los Amigos Park.

ACTION: Passed 4 / 1

8. Direct staff regarding the Red Hill Lake modernization project and whether to bring back the current low bid for final City Council approval, moving the lake capital costs and future maintenance to the General Fund.

ACTION: Passed 5 / 0

The above actions are anticipated to provide a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 16/17. Additional actions may be taken in future years, or for unanticipated emergency repairs or infrastructure replacement, as needed.

The full Staff Report from the December 2, 2015 City Council meeting is available on the City's website at <http://bit.ly/Dec22015WestSideStaffReport> - page 266.

The City of Rancho Cucamonga encompasses 40.2 square miles and is located 40 miles east of Los Angeles; considered to be the premier city in the Inland Empire, Rancho Cucamonga is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in Southern California with a current population of over 172,000 residents. Information regarding the City and the programs and services provided to the community can be found at www.CityofRC.us , via Facebook and Twitter @CityofRC.

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