



# Laguna Woods WOOD WORKS

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### CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS



WOOD WORKS is published by the City of Laguna Woods and is distributed as a public service to the homes and businesses of the City. The City of Laguna Woods welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions regarding WOOD WORKS. Please call or write:

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## Laguna Woods Pet Limit Regulations Effective July 1



On July 1, 2009, new pet limit regulations will become effective in the City of Laguna Woods. Individuals cannot keep more than three cats and dogs, no more than two of which can be dogs, in a residence. The Laguna Beach Animal Shelter, which provides animal licensing services for Laguna Woods, will no longer license more than two dogs per address in Laguna Woods.

If you have more than three cats and dogs, or more than two dogs – up to a limit of six – you can apply for a no-fee pet exception permit. The application is simple. Just provide the age and a brief description of your pets with photographs. The permit will be good for the life of the animals it covers. Residents with more than six animals must obtain a private kennel license from the Laguna Beach Animal Shelter, 20612 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach CA 92651, (949) 497-3552.

Exception permit applications are available at the Laguna Woods City Hall and on the City's website: [www.lagunawoodscity.org](http://www.lagunawoodscity.org). Once an application has been received and processed, an exception permit will be mailed to the pet owner. Animals covered by a pet limit exception permit are not exempt from any other state or local animal regulations.

Residents who exceed the allowed number of pets on July 1, 2009, will have 180 days to apply for an exception permit or they will become subject to the new regulations. The limit does not apply to cats and dogs younger than four months or to temporary fostering. A copy of an exception permit will be required to license more than two dogs at an address. 🌳



## Pilot Recycling Program Shows Promise

The City pilot recycling program that began in mid-March to let residents dispose of recyclables separately from their trash is showing some success. The program has collected 62 tons of recyclables in 14 weeks, an average of 4 ½ tons per week. The program serves 762 manors, although some residents from areas not directly served by the pilot are making an effort to drop their recyclables in the blue bins. The average compares favorably with average tonnage collected from the 1,477 curbside collection residences in the Village.

Participation in the pilot program is high throughout the community. United Mutual  
*(Please turn to page 2)*

## Recycling Program, continued from page 1

had the highest bin utilization rate at 79%, followed by GRF at 78%, and Third Mutual at 67%. Overall participation in the pilot recycling program is 74%.

In May, Ware Disposal sorted recyclables collected on two separate days to determine their composition. Close to 85% of materials recycled are paper products, including magazines, envelopes and cardboard, with cans, bottles, plastics and other metal items making up the difference.

Residents are keeping contaminants out of the recycle bins, addressing a concern that residents might mix trash with recyclables. While residential curbside recycling programs elsewhere typically have contamination levels of 10% to 20%, the pilot reflects only a 2% to 4% contamination rate.

The pilot program is being conducted with the cooperation of Third Mutual, United Mutual and the Golden Rain Foundation in Laguna Woods Village and The Regency assisted-living facility. In the Village, bin locations were selected by housing board directors and interested volunteers. Selected cul-de-sacs include 5, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 28, 30, 40, 41, 202, 203, 205, 210, 219, 220, 221, 222, 316, 363, 364, 367, 371, 372, 404 and 405.

Residents wishing to participate in the pilot program are asked to separate recyclables — cardboard, bottles, cans, envelopes and magazines — from their wet trash (e.g., food scraps, fruit, vegetables) inside their units to place them in the appropriate bin. Stickers affixed to the recycling bins list the materials that can be placed in them. Newspapers continue to be collected separately, and residents are urged to take advantage of the City's free, door-to-door, household hazardous waste and electronic waste collection programs to avoid contaminating recyclables.

If successful, the City will work with the Village and other residential developments to expand the program citywide. 🌳

## Save Energy...Save Money and Help Save the Planet

Use these summer energy-saving tips to reduce your electric bill and help the environment. You will be amazed at how easy it is.

1. If you don't have a dimmer switch, get one installed. Use only the amount of light you need in a room. When you leave a room, turn off the lights.
2. Turn off the television, radio, computer, hairdryer and whatever else you may have plugged into an eclectic socket if you are not using it. Even when you think an appliance or device is turned off, the power may still be on if it is plugged in. This is especially true with equipment that has a transformer (that small black cube on the end of the cord). Plug small appliances into a power strip. Then all you have to do is flick a switch when you aren't using them.
3. Change the filters on your heat and air-cooling system often.
4. Only run your dishwasher, washing machine or clothes dryer when it is full. Try hanging some of your clothes to dry. If you are using a dryer, remove clothes from the dryer right when it stops to avoid wrinkles. That saves you the additional electricity of ironing or re-running the load.
5. If you leave your air conditioner on, set it to 85° when you are out of the house. And, try inching it closer to 78° when you are home. Air conditioning is the single biggest driver of high electric bills in warmer areas. A 2.5-ton unit uses 3,500 watt hours for one hour of use. Compare that to 75 for a television or 350 for a refrigerator with the door open. Every degree closer to 78 will save you three to four percent.
6. Never run your air conditioner with a window or doors open. If you do so, it makes your system work ten times harder to cool at the temperature you set, and skyrockets your electricity use. Close vents in unused rooms.
7. Weather strip around doors and windows. Make sure everything is sealed. You do not want any air leaks.
8. Closing the curtains and lowering the blinds on the sunny side of your house will help keep you cooler on hot days. If you don't want to obstruct the view, consider applying window film to the glass. Both the do-it-yourself cut-and-stick type and the professionally applied films will reduce radiant heat while allowing you to see through them.
9. Use energy-efficient light bulbs. Energy for lighting accounts for about 10 percent of your electric bill. Examine the wattage size of the light bulbs in your house. You may have 100-watt or larger bulbs where 60 or 75 watts would do. Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs; these bulbs cost more but last 10 to 13 times longer. Additionally, they use around 1/3 as much electricity as regular bulbs and should pay for themselves within a year. If every California household replaced five incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, it would reduce enough CO2 — the greenhouse gas that causes global warming — to be the equivalent of taking more than 400,000 cars off the road.
10. When you have a choice between using the microwave or an electric stove, always use the microwave, which can consume as much as 90 percent less energy. For example, it takes 18 times the electricity to bake a potato in a regular oven than in a microwave, according to the Edison Electric Institute. If you don't like to microwave, consider using a toaster oven for baking or roasting small items. Incidentally, a convection oven speeds cooking by about 35 percent (reducing the amount of electricity used) by using a small fan. Not only will your energy costs be less, but using the convection oven will keep your kitchen cooler.
11. If you have an electric water heater, the U.S Department of Energy estimates that you can save 5-12 percent of your energy costs by installing a timer that turns it off when you aren't using hot water. At night, or while you're away, you don't really need it running.
12. Check out [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) for rebates on the purchase of new refrigerators, electric water heaters, air conditioners, evaporative coolers and whole-house fans. 🌳

# City Budget Reflects Cautious Financial Condition

On July 1, 2009, the City will begin its eleventh fiscal year. This year's revenue and expenditure projections take into consideration the weakened economy and the reduction in property values. The State of California faces serious financial difficulties and rumors abound about the possible loss of basic revenues that fund city services. The proposed budget does not include the loss of traditional state subventions (revenues received through the state), but includes a reserve for fiscal uncertainties to offset such a loss.

At its June 24, 2009, meeting, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget, a \$22-million package of services, programs and projects for the benefit of Laguna Woods residents and businesses.

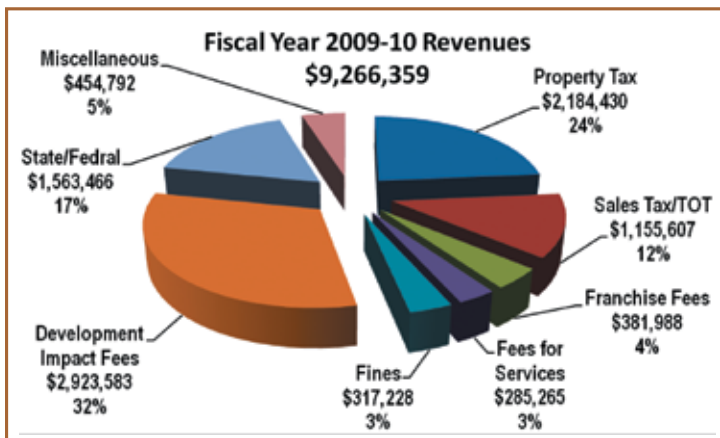
## REVENUES

The Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget estimates new revenue for all funds will total \$9,266,359, which represents a \$2,840,879, or 44%, increase when compared to Fiscal Year 2008-09 anticipated actual receipts. Most of this increase comes from the remaining balance of currently available Moulton Parkway Smart Street Funds held by the County of Orange.

General Fund revenues are projected to increase by \$85,637, or 2%. This increase anticipates conservative third-quarter growth in sales and transient occupancy taxes, flat property taxes, a decrease in interest revenue and new revenue related to the sale of recyclable material (identified as a community services program revenue).

Transportation Funds are anticipated to increase by \$2,815,640 or 261%. As noted above, the majority of this increase relates to the allocation of remaining development impact fees for the Moulton Smart Street project.

Grant Funds are anticipated to decrease by \$101,596, or 13%. Grant funding is competitive and is generally awarded for either a limited time or a particular project.



## EXPENDITURES

The proposed Fiscal Year 2009-10 expenditure budget totals \$9,507,402, which represents an \$802,932, or 8%, decrease when compared to the approved 2008-09 budget. This decrease is a combination of general expenditure reductions and a shift of funding for two FY 2008-09 capital improvement projects into the new year.

The General Fund budget, which contains the bulk of the City's

operating and discretionary funds, totals \$4,523,255, and includes: 1) a \$411,435 reserve for economic uncertainties, and 2) a \$50,000 council contingency account.

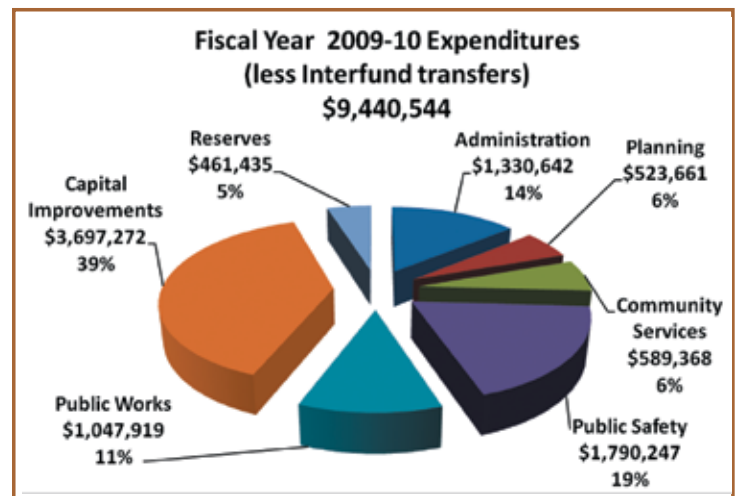
Grant Fund revenues are restricted to specific projects. The proposed Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget contains seven programs and totals \$728,306, which represents a \$279,529, or 28%, decrease when compared to the Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget. The Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget commits funding for Phase 1 improvements at City Centre Park, the City's traffic deputy, taxi voucher program, purchase of additional recycling trash bins, and educational recycling material.

The Transportation Fund utilizes revenues that are restricted to public right-of-way construction, rehabilitation and maintenance. The proposed Fiscal Year 2009-10 Transportation Fund budget totals \$3,847,996 and contains four components: 1) Gas Taxes (Fuel tax and Proposition 42), 2) Measure M turnback (local sales tax), 3) a state grant (Rubberized Asphalt), 4) Proposition 1B (local and County pass-through), and 5) traffic mitigation (developer fees). Federal stimulus funding for right-of-way projects is not included in the proposed budget; however, the City has submitted several applications for additional funding. This year, all Gas Taxes and Measure M funds, which are anticipated to total \$611,711, are allocated for traffic engineering and existing street and right-of-way maintenance.

Capital Improvement Projects are budgeted on a multi-year basis. Once allocated, funds remain with a project until it is complete or until the monies are reprogrammed by the City Council. Often, it takes several years to compile sufficient funding to complete a project. The City's Capital Improvement Program totals \$16.1 million, and includes \$3.6 million of current-year funding and \$12.5 million of funds carried forward from prior years.

Projects that should be initiated and/or completed during the year include: City Hall acquisition, El Toro-Moulton intersection widening, Ridge Route Linear Park Phase 2, City Centre Park Phase 1, El Toro Road reconstruction (final phase), and landscaping in the El Toro Road median adjacent to Aliso Creek Road.

As in most cities, the bulk of the budget is committed to capital expenditures for infrastructure and public safety operations. 🌳





## New Laguna Woods Pet Limit Regulations Effective July 1, 2009



### CITY HALL


24264 El Toro Road  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Plan Counter Hours: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
O.C. Public Library: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: 949-639-0500  
Fax: 949-639-0591  
Website and E-mail Links:  
[www.lagunawoodscity.org](http://www.lagunawoodscity.org)

### CITY COUNCIL

Bob Ring, Mayor  
Milt Robbins, Mayor Pro Tem  
Cynthia Conners, Councilmember  
Bert Hack, Councilmember  
Marty Rhodes, Councilmember  
  
Leslie A. Keane, City Manager

## Get Connected to City Services

### Attend City Council Meeting

 3rd Wednesday of each month,  
2 p.m., Laguna Woods City Hall,  
Council Chambers, 24264 El  
Toro Road. Cablecast live on LW  
Communications Channel 31.



### Visit the City's Website

[www.lagunawoodscity.org](http://www.lagunawoodscity.org)



**Call us** at (949) 639-0500  
**TTY phone** at (949) 639-0535



### Tune In

Channel 31



### Write To Us

City of Laguna Woods  
24264 El Toro Road  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637



### Send Us an E-mail

[cityhall@lagunawoodscity.org](mailto:cityhall@lagunawoodscity.org)  
Share your thoughts and ideas.

**Apply to Serve on a Committee**  
Call the City Clerk's office at (949) 639-0500.

## City Meeting Schedules

- ❖ City Council ..... 3rd Wednesday of month ..... 2 p.m.
  - ❖ Community Services Committee ..... 4th Wednesday of month .... 9:30 a.m.
  - ❖ Public Safety Committee..... 2nd Wednesday of month... 9:30 a.m.
  - ❖ Land Use and Design Review Committee.... 2nd Thursday of month..... 9 a.m.
- Meetings are held at City Hall, 24264 El Toro Rd., Laguna Woods CA (949) 639-0500.  
Meeting schedules are subject to change.