



SAN LEANDRO Connect

San Leandro CONNECT Winter 2016

Message from Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter

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As we settle into 2016, I can't help but think of how much we have accomplished together this past year. We reconstructed streets, began major improvements on public parks and broke ground on Marea Alta and the Tech Campus, projects that connect San Leandro to its future.

San Leandrans are helping transform our City through the passage of Measure HH & Measure BB, allowing us to stabilize our budget, maintain service levels and break ground on

exciting projects that you will hear about in this publication. This year we will see our investments pay dividends with an expanded street paving & rehabilitation program, a complete renovation of Siempre Verde Park and broaden city services.

On behalf of the City Council and the City of San Leandro, I wish you a prosperous new year full of progress and new opportunities.

In service,



Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter

Year in Review: San Leandro by the Numbers

The 2007-2009 recession represented the most severe downturn since the Great Depression. Coupled with the implosion of our local housing market, this combination of factors resulted in the deterioration of balance sheets for businesses, households and local governments. The recession hit San Leandro hard but after years of implementing cost-saving measures, San Leandro's budget is now stabilized and well positioned for the future.

There are many factors that are helping San Leandro stay on its feet and well

positioned for a strong future. From a regional perspective, the Bay Area has experienced a strong economic rebound since 2008. This is demonstrated by a 10% increase in local sales tax receipts and a 56% increase in property transfer tax revenue. The City's 2014-15 fiscal year budget of \$90.4 million included a one-time \$7.6 million dollar increase from the prior year, which has been used for one-time expenditures.

Despite the City's solid financial position, our Finance Department projects that we will see a downward swing in the future, which could have a dramatic effect on

City finances. As a result, the City Council approved a special strategy, known as Prioritizing Unfunded Liability Liquidation (the "PULL Plan"), which will set-aside a portion of any surplus revenues to reduce the City's long term liabilities. By implementing this plan, the City will be better prepared to adjust to any future downward swings in the economy. The PULL Plan also allows the City to pay down retiree health care and pension liabilities and tackle deferred maintenance needs on City facilities.



Leveraging Our Partnerships with an Eye to the Future



2015 proved to be a productive and fruitful year. In 2015, City staff secured \$521,000 in grant money for city infrastructure and services. Our locally-approved Measure HH and Alameda County measure BB allowed the City to stabilize its budget and create sustainable funding

sources for streets, parks, transportation, buildings and city services.

Voter Approved Measure HH

On November 4, 2014, over 60% of San Leandrans voted to approve Measure HH, which extended local Measure Z sales tax at a half-cent rate. This new revenue stream will cover vital City services for the next 30 years. Per the requirements of the measure, the City Council also appointed a five member oversight com-

mittee who is developing a revenue sustainability strategy, aiding in transparency and communication efforts, and overseeing annual audits of the funds.

Residents, businesses and community members are reaping the benefits of Measure HH. To protect public safety, Measure HH enabled the City to maintain police officers, code enforcement staff, animal control officers, as well as nine firefighters who were able to be kept on duty locally, along with the purchase of a new fire ladder truck. The streets and roads improvement program was also expanded, all libraries remained open, the Senior Community Center kept its doors open while expanding services for seniors, and recreation programs for our youth were also enhanced.

SLUSD

In 2012, San Leandro was awarded a \$2.1 million federal grant to expand the Lit San Leandro fiber optic network, which offers data transmission at speeds of up to 10 gigabits per second – 2,000 times faster than the average U.S. internet connection. In total, San Leandro has access to 30 fiber optic strands and the City has shared some of its broadband with the San Leandro

Unified School District so that our public schools may connect to the fiber loop. The City's contribution to the school district is valued at \$800,000, but the benefits to students are invaluable as schools throughout the state increasingly use computers for many areas of instruction and exams.

The City is also a proud partner of the Barbara Lee



Center for Health & Wellness, which opened its doors

in September 2015. The clinic will operate 20 hours per week, is situated across the street from San Leandro High School, and will provide a wide range of health and wellness programs and services to high school youth. Funding for the project came from grants, school district bonds and a \$1.6 million loan from the City.

City Departments Secure Funding for Open Space, Recreation and Social Services

Community Development

Thanks to our city's efforts to develop more affordable housing, CD secured a \$1.4 million state grant for parks and open space near the 100% affordable Marea Alta Housing Project. These funds went to the Siempre Verde Park renovation project, a new sci-

ence-based interactive exhibit downtown, along with new playground equipment at Thrasher Park.

Recreation & Human Services

Recognizing the City's commitment to eliminating chronic homelessness, San Leandro was awarded a \$100,000 grant from Alameda

County to support expanded warming shelter services and street outreach. The City channeled these funds to *Building Futures with Women and Children* and the *Davis Street Family Resource Center* so that they can expand outreach and provide needed services to the homeless. The City also secured a \$40,000 grant from the *50 Fund*, the philanthropic arm of the NFL Foundation to transform everyday spaces into places for play. Using these funds, the City will set up creative and innovative neighborhood projects that will make active play more accessible to children.

What's New in San Leandro Parks



It is no secret that San Leandrans love our public parks. Every year, thousands of residents visit our parks and enjoy an array of recreation programs for children and families. Funding for these projects is provided by the CA Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Park Development Fees and Measure HH. Here are some of the ways our local parks are getting even better!

Siempre Verde Park
In 2010, a conceptual plan was developed for the reconstruction of Siempre Verde Park after an engaging process with residents, neighbors and users. The City held a ground breaking ceremony in October 2015, celebrating this important milestone. The park was designed with drought resistant vegetation and will feature two new play structures,

two picnic areas with barbecues, a new restroom, exercise stations, ping pong tables, a quiet garden, and a games table area. To view the planned improvements, please see the [Park site plan](#).

Thrasher Park
Thrasher Park is located in the heart of San Leandro and will soon have a brand new play structure and resilient rubber playground surfacing. For those of you who enjoy watching baseball games, the fence height also will be increased to guard against stray balls from entering the play area. The new park amenities will be completed in 2016.

“Every year, thousands of residents visit our parks and enjoy an array of recreation programs”

San Leandro is Now on Social Media

Over the last month, the City of San Leandro has taken another big step into the world of social media. Although City Departments have been interacting with residents via Nextdoor, Twitter, Facebook, Nixle and other various online forums for several years,

the City has just launched three new social media pages designed to better connect and engage with local residents and businesses. These new pages are also designed to provide a more centralized presence for all matters related to City government.

Follow the City of San Leandro for tips, information and events happening in our City!



Twitter
[@citysanleandro](#)



Facebook
City of
San Leandro



Instagram
[@cityofsanleandro](#)

State of the City
Hosted by:
Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter



Monday March 28, 2016
Senior Community Center
Reception 6 p.m.
Address 7 p.m.

Mayor to Deliver State of the City on March 28th

The City of San Leandro and the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce are partnering to host the annual State of the City address with Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter the evening of Monday, March 28th. The community is

invited to attend this free event, which will take place at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, located at 13909 East 14th Street. The event will begin with a social gathering at 6 p.m., with the Mayor's address starting promptly at 7 p.m.

Public Safety Tips El Niño: Are You Ready?

The City of San Leandro urges residents to continue preparations for the ongoing El Niño weather this winter. The Department of Public Works has set up a [website](#) with storm information in English, Spanish and Chinese so that that residents can safeguard themselves, their families and their property. The City's own winter storm preparations are now underway and include: relieving clogged storm drains, clearing drain tops, providing sand and sand bags to residents (with over 1300 sand bags distributed this year), and coordinating with waste companies to pick up over 1400 leaf bags across the city.

If you experience emergency flooding or hazards caused by a downed tree/limb please use the following numbers:

Hours of Operation & Contact Information

Weekdays between 7 am to 3:30 pm:
Public Works (510) 577-3440

After hours, weekends and holidays:
Police Dispatch* (510) 577-2740

*Please do not call 911 to report flooding unless rising water poses an immediate threat to life or safety.

Stay Connected to Hear the Latest News

Online: Nextdoor, Nixle 360

Social Media: Follow the San Leandro Police Department on Facebook and Twitter

TV: Uverse - Channel 99 and Comcast, Channel 13.



City of San Leandro

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San Leandro City Council

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter
Vice Mayor Ursula Reed, District 2

Councilmembers

Deborah Cox	District 1
Lee Thomas	District 3
Benny Lee	District 4
Corina Lopez	District 5
Jim Prola	District 6

City Manager Chris Zapata

City of San Leandro **Mission Statement**

We, the employees of the City of San Leandro, are dedicated and committed to serving the citizens of this community. We strive at all times to achieve the highest professional standards, to communicate a vision for the future and to enhance the quality of life for every citizen.

City Departments

- [Community Development](#)
- [Engineering & Transportation](#)
- [Fire Department](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Human Resources](#)
- [Police Department](#)
- [Public Library](#)
- [Public Works](#)
- [Recreation & Human Services](#)

Having Trouble finding what you're searching for?

Visit the [Department Site Map](#)

Can't find what you're looking for?
www.sanleandro.org