

# **Public Safety Sales Tax Committee Annual Report 2008**

Consistent with Ordinance No. 1335, adopted by the City Council in 2006, the Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee hereby issues its findings to the Council and the public on the expenditures of revenue collected pursuant to the Public Safety Sales Tax.

The Committee has met on six occasions, at publicly noticed meetings. Also in attendance have been staff members from the Police, Fire, Finance and Administration departments. Attached are copies of the minutes from those meetings.

Also attached is the most recent financial update, provided by the City's Finance Director. As you can see, the City is on task with the appointment of the new public safety positions included in the Expenditure Plan, which was adopted as part of the sales tax measure. Specifically, the following public safety positions have been filled consistent with that plan:

- 2 Patrol Officers
- 1 Narcotic Detective
- 1 Gang Officer
- 1 Gang Sergeant
- 3 Engineers

Another four additional public safety employees have been hired that were part of the original Expenditure Plan but hired earlier than planned, due to the City's success in obtaining State and Federal grants. Three Firefighters are being partially funded through the "SAFER" grant, with Measure M funds being used to pay for a portion of the first five years. This Federal grant decreases each year. At the end of the five years, these three Firefighters will be fully funded through Measure M funds. This grant application was reviewed by the Committee in September last year.

A Traffic Officer was also hired ahead of the Expenditure Plan's schedule through a State Office of Traffic Safety grant. That grant pays 100% for this position for the first 18 months, at which time it will be funded through Measure M funds.

The Committee has also been apprised of changes in how the State collects sales tax revenue and then distributes them to the appropriate agencies. The "triple-flip" approved by the Legislature will no doubt have an impact on the timing of the collection of Manteca's sales tax. This may affect the timing of the hiring of some of the additional public safety personnel, but will not result in less personnel being hired. In other words, City staff does not foresee any financial reasons that would prevent the full implementation of the voter-approved Expenditure Plan as modified by the addition of the grant positions.

A copy of the most-recent Income Statement provided to the Committee by the Finance Director is attached.

The Committee also discussed presenting the Council with a proposed set of bylaws. The proposed bylaws (attached) reflect the Committee's parameters contained in Ordinance No. 1335. They do, however, provide more detail on the structure of the Committee and how the meetings are conducted. Section 3.11 was expanded slightly to reflect recent discussion at one of the Committee meetings regarding the application of the above-noted grants. Committee members recognize our role as advisory only to the City Council, but also recognize that there may be times, such as the grant opportunities, when matters that could affect the timing of the Expenditure Plan may be presented to the Committee for discussion. The Committee felt it was necessary to more clearly define this potential of reviewing "such matters affecting the Measure," while reinforcing the Committee's advisory-only role.

On behalf of the other Committee members, we wish to express our thanks to the City Council for giving us the opportunity to serve.

Public Safety Sales Tax Committee Members:

Michael Morowit, Chairman

Teresa Clarke

Marion Elliott

David Jackson

Richard Silverman