

Santa Cruz budget still on target

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SANTA CRUZ — The city's budget is in good shape considering the recession, according to Steve Ando, assistant director of finance.

In the first six months of the fiscal year, Santa Cruz received approximately half of what it estimated it would receive in revenues for the entire year, Ando said.

"We estimated we would receive \$26 million for the whole year and through December, we have received \$12.5 million.

"We are about \$500,000 off, but there are items that may come in over what we expected in the second half of the year," Ando said.

But even at that, the city still expects a \$300,000 deficit at the end of the year, a deficit that could grow if more vehicle code fines aren't forthcoming.

The city has only received \$2,000 so far from the state in vehicle code fines. The budget predicted \$200,000 in fines for the year.

The state is now taking half of what it used to allocate to cities in vehicle code fines, said Ando. That means a \$100,000 drop this year in what the city expected.

Unlike other local cities like Scotts Valley and Watsonville, Santa Cruz is receiving about what it expected in sales taxes. If they continue to come in as they did the first half of the fiscal year, the city will get only \$46,000 less than predicted.