

# Capitola council unanimously approves \$7.2-million budget

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CAPITOLA — Capitola's \$7.2-million city budget was unanimously approved Thursday night, with a record-breaking \$108,742 for 16 community groups and \$265,000 added for several capital improvement projects.

All groups that requested money from the city got it. As in past years, groups that aid seniors and children received most of the money. The single largest allocation was \$66,150 for Food and Nutrition Services.

Council members dug a little deeper into the General Fund to give to the groups. City Manager Steve Burrell had designated \$104,000.

The \$265,000 for capital improvements will go toward five projects that were added by council members during budget study sessions.

Projects include everything from \$50,000 as a partial

payment for the city's portion of the state's planned improvement at Bay Avenue and Highway 1 to another \$50,000 for an environmental impact report and preliminary design of both the Capitola Library and cultural center at nearby Rispin Mansion.

Other monies were set aside for preliminary design for a park at the city-owned five acres adjacent to Capitola Elementary School, and extending of a sidewalk on Monterey Avenue leading from the city-owned parking lot.

The state will be paying 70 percent of the estimated \$3.3 million Bay Avenue-Highway 1 undercrossing, which is scheduled for 1991, Burrell said. Capitola and the county must come up with the balance. Capitola's portion is expected to be \$530,000.

Councilman Ron Graves expressed concern about committing \$530,000 when traffic problems would still be prevalent on the county's side of Highway 1 at Porter and Main streets. However, Councilman Michael Routh said that Supervisors Robley Levy and Jan Beautz have told him that the county will be

installing signals at Porter and Main, as well as widening the nearby bridge, so a bottleneck won't be created.

Overall, the budget is \$1 million, or 14 percent less, than this fiscal year's. The decrease was primarily the result of several expensive street-improvement projects in the 41st Avenue commercial area that were completed this past year along with the expanded Capitola Mall.

The budget is in fine shape thanks to continually increasing sales tax revenues. Much of that increase is due to ever-growing 41st Avenue.

Total General Fund revenue for 1989-90 is expected to be \$4.8 million, or 6 percent more than this fiscal year's \$4.5 million. Of that, sales tax revenue is up 8.5 percent from \$2.4 to \$2.6 million.

As always, the single biggest budget category is the Police Department. It is \$2.1 million, up from \$1.8 million. The next-biggest category is in the Public Works Department, which is in charge of street maintenance. It stands at \$555,326 compared to

\$495,600.

"In general, the budget maintains existing service levels provided by all city departments," Burrell said.

"We always try to balance what our needs are going to be with our growth," he added. "Hopefully, we've achieved that. We're going to be maintaining that balance, much like we have before."

Other community groups being funded by the city and the amount were: California Grey Bears, \$7,717; Capitola After School Day Care, \$7,350; Youth Services, \$5,250; Cabrillo College Stroke Center, \$4,200; Women's Crisis Support/Shelter Services, \$2,100; Senior Citizens' Legal Services, \$2,100; and the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County, \$1,575.

Also, six groups will get \$1,050. They are the Child Care Council of Santa Cruz County, Child Development Resource Center, Family Service Association of Santa Cruz, Ombudsman/Advocate Inc., Senior Network Services Inc. and Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County.

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