

Budget

# Santa Cruz launches three-year capital improvement program

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SANTA CRUZ — Armed with a proposed 1984-85 budget swollen by the passage of higher taxes, the City Council this year launches a three-year program to improve roads, traffic flow, parks, bridges, bikepaths, parking lots, public restrooms, golf course greens, sewer and water lines and other public projects.

Golfers at DeLaveaga Golf Course will undoubtedly grumble that the city work on greens and fairways takes too long and interrupts the diligent in pursuit of their sport.

Residents and merchants are bound to complain that tearing up streets to improve them will disturb the ambience of their neighborhoods and cash registers.

Drivers approaching an intersection torn-up to improve the traffic lights will no doubt voice a few expletives from behind their steering wheels.

And local taxpayers will surely complain about the council's method of raising about \$1.6 million in additional revenues to balance the \$41 million budget — the passage of new taxes on PG&E, cable television and interstate long-distance phone calls, private parking lots and business licenses.

Also waiting in the wings at City Hall are proposed water rate and meter connection increases to help finance water projects worth \$10 million over the next few years.

City officials, however, are excited over the budget — with its \$2.5 million capital improvement fund for 1984-85.

They say the budget will boost the level of police and traffic services and pull the city from a three-year recession that was marked by budget slashes and reductions in capital expenditures.

Referring to the three-year capital improvement program, City Manager Rich-

ard Wilson said, "For the first time in many years, the city has a three-year outlook on where it is going."

Where is the \$2.5 million going this fiscal year?

The budget, expected to be formally adopted in July, shows almost half of the capital improvements will be directed to the public works department; 29 percent for parks and recreation projects; 18 percent for traffic engineering and four percent for the library.

Revenues originate from the state gas tax, city water, sewer, refuse, parking and golf course fees, a "transient occupancy tax" charged to visitors in motels and hotels and proceeds from the sale of city-owned property at Lighthouse Field to the state.

The city's share of state gas taxes is used to finance street construction and maintenance.

Various federal and state grants also help fatten the wallet for local public projects.

Projects scheduled for this year include:

- Parks and Recreation Department — renovation of restrooms at DeLaveaga Park; pool fibreglassing, street drainage, field lighting at Harvey West Park; new play equipment and better picnic areas at Garfield Park; implementation of master

plan for Lighthouse Field park; erosion control at Lighthouse Point; tule weed removal, amphitheater and pathways at Neary Lagoon Park and Wildlife Refuge; repair of historic DeLaveaga Covered Bridge, new sand volleyball courts, better picnic area and playground, and repaving of parking lot near ballfields at DeLaveaga Park; better drainage at Seabright Cove; neighborhood park at University Terrace, and new walkway, benches and trash cans at Municipal Wharf.

- Public Works — Restriping 20 miles of bikeways; widen High Street from Bay Drive to city limits; Woodrow Avenue median landscaping and drainage; sidewalk repair on Moore Street; Laurel Street Extension walkway repair of storm damage; new street lights on Beach Street; Brookwood Drive culvert replacement; and sidewalks on Market Street from Grant Street to Isbel Drive.

- Traffic — New or better signals at East Cliff Drive/Ocean Street, Western Drive/Highway 1, Highway 1/Highway 9, left-turn lane at Ocean and Broadway streets, city-wide improvements to 27 signalized intersections, better traffic flow pattern on North Pacific Avenue, River, Cedar and Water streets as part of the Downtown Area Plan, and an improved intersection at Soquel Avenue and Water Street.

Capital Improvement Fund - Capital expenditures  
1984-1985 (In thousands)

