



SUMMER 2020

District Elections Nov. 3
Sunnyvale begins the transition to a new election system this fall

Building by the Bay
Renovation of wastewater
treatment facility nears first
phase milestone



GHG Emissions Drop New reports show we're moving toward ambitious 2030 climate action target City Budget Approved
Revenue losses and cost
saving measures shape the
City's FY 20/21 budget



City Manager's Message

our last issue of Horizon arrived in early March with news of a 50th Earth Day celebration and exciting new summer camps. All of that would change,

however, when days later I declared a local emergency and activated our Emergency Operations Center in response to COVID-19. We had already been preparing as the pandemic spread and public health recommendations evolved. We went from one difficult decision to the next, first postponing and then cancelling events, meetings and classes. Eventually, like so many organizations, most of our employees began working from home to comply with shelter-in-place orders.

We've now been working in a pandemic for almost five months. Throughout this crisis, I have been so proud of how we have helped our community. Our City Council quickly approved emergency funding – providing \$1 million to local small businesses and nonprofits through our Sunnyvale Cares program. Corporate donors Google, LinkedIn, Intuitive Foundation, Jay Paul Company and Facebook gave generously as well, raising the total to over \$3 million. Senior Center staff reached out to our seniors and delivered groceries, medicines and – yes – toilet paper. Recreation staff activated the new Sunnyvale Serves phoneline to help residents with questions and requests. Our employees also work at Sunnyvale Community Services, answering phones, bagging groceries, and delivering food for the nonprofit.

We've also adapted our services to a new virtual reality. We host City Council and Commission meetings online and stream them on YouTube. Our Library staff issues library cards online and have significantly expanded digital content. NOVA employees provide many services for job seekers and employers remotely. Our Permit Center team accepts and reviews applications electronically. Recreation staff pivoted the Hands on the Arts festival to an online event with celebrity crafters. And departments are sharing activities and resources for adults, teens and children through weekly videos and newsletters. Of course, not everyone can work from home. So, we are especially proud of our public safety officers, inspectors, and utility workers – essential employees who have been on the frontlines taking care of our customers.

More recently, we've joined the public outcry surrounding the tragic death of George Floyd. About 2,000 people peacefully demonstrated at City Hall on June 5 and we've received hundreds of messages asking to reform our police use of force policies. As a result, our Public Safety Department has now prohibited the use of the Carotid Control Hold. To continue the dialogue, we are planning community events to hear from concerned residents. Visit Sunnyvale.ca.gov/Unity to learn more and subscribe to the Sunnyvale Unity mailing list to stay informed.

Like you, we are adapting to life in a pandemic. While many plans have been disrupted, I have also seen once again how people come together to support each other. I remain confident that Sunnyvale's hardworking employees will continue to serve the community as we navigate the challenges ahead.

Kent Steffens

citymgr@sunnyvale.ca.gov 408-730-7480

Sunnyvale Moves to **District Elections**

his past March, Sunnyvale voters approved Measure B with 67% support to move to district-based elections. Sunnyvale will now have six council districts and a directly elected mayor. The transition to the new system begins with the upcoming November 3 election. All voters will elect the mayor, and voters living in even numbered council districts will elect a councilmember from that district. Voters living in odd numbered districts will elect a councilmember in November 2022. Current councilmembers not up for reelection will remain in office until their terms end in 2022.

What Happens Next?

Our work is not over. The law requires council districts to be nearly equal in population based on the census. Therefore, we must redraw district boundaries after each decennial census. Measure B also requires the City Council to establish a public process for redistricting. The City Council will gather public input on and approve this process next year. We will then use this redistricting process and Census 2020 population data to update the district boundary map for the 2022 election.



You will vote for a councilmember from the district where you live.



You will vote directly for mayor every four years.



Individuals can serve up to three terms on the City Council, but no more than two terms as mayor or two terms as councilmember.

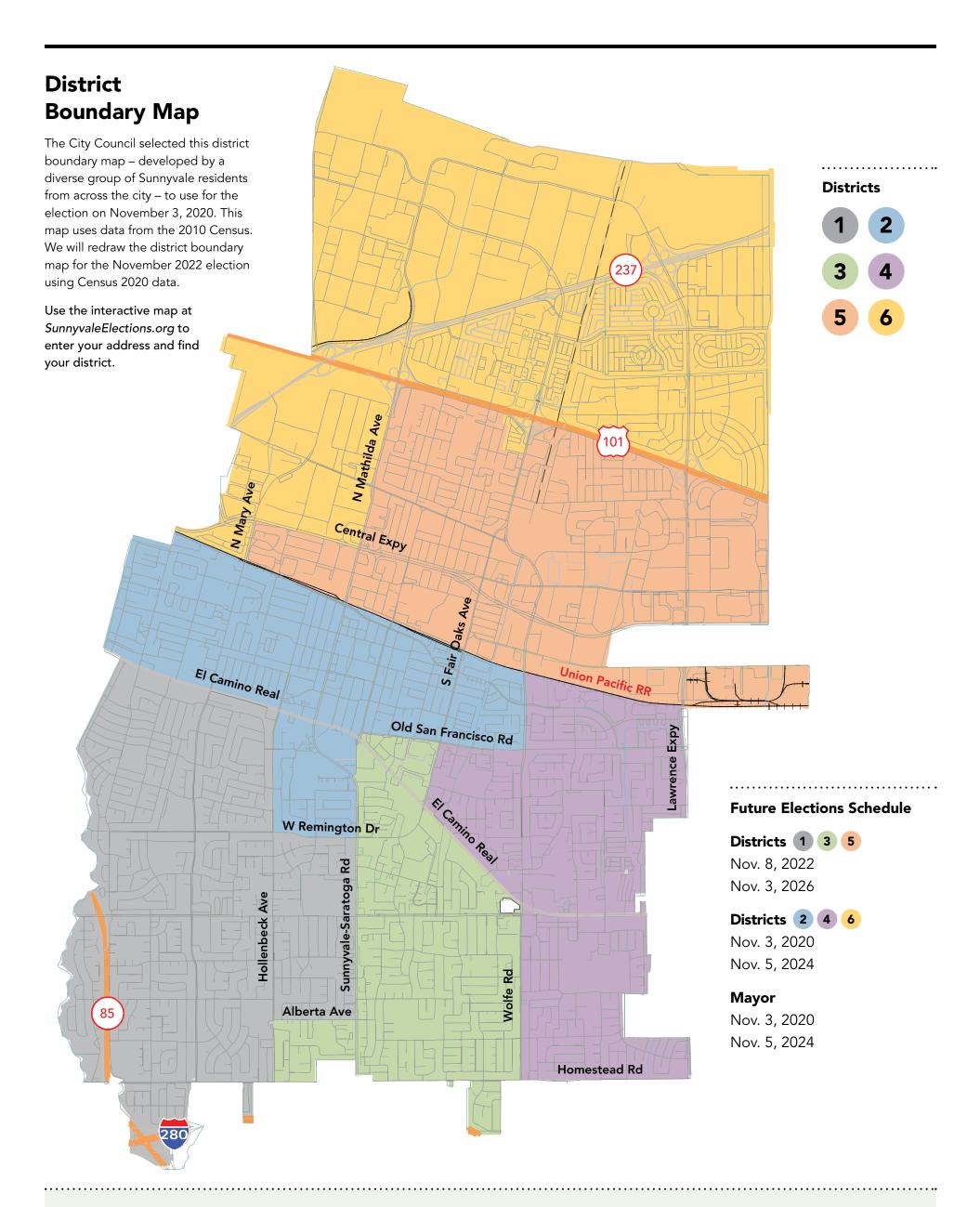
The Road to a New Election System

The City began exploring a change to the "at-large" election system in summer 2018. Cities with at-large voting systems have faced legal challenges under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). The CVRA prohibits election systems that dilute the votes of racial minorities. CVRA lawsuits are costly and no agency has ever won a case.

In fall 2018, potential plaintiffs sent a letter to the City alleging that Sunnyvale's election system violated the CVRA. They demanded we move to district-based elections and praised the City for considering alternatives to at-large elections.

In 2019, we focused on educating the community and listening to their ideas for solutions. After many workshops, events, and surveys, the City Council decided to place Measure B – whether to move to a six-district election system with a directly elected mayor - on the March 2020 ballot. We then asked the community to help create the new district map that would be used in the November 2020 election if voters passed Measure B.

To learn more about the process, visit SunnyvaleElections.org



Interested in **Running for Office?**

City councilmembers serve an important role in our community. They are responsible for setting the City's policy agenda, adopting local laws and approving the City's budget. The City Council also hires the City Manager to oversee dayto-day operations and carry out City policies. The mayor is the Council spokesperson and leads City Council meetings. Our locally elected officials devote countless hours in service to Sunnyvale.

This year, Sunnyvale has four positions up for election - the mayor and councilmembers for

districts two, four and six. You can live anywhere in the city and run for mayor. To run for a district seat, you must live in that district. To serve on the Council, you also must be:

- A Sunnyvale resident;
- Registered to vote;
- A U.S. citizen; and
- Age 18 or older.

To become a Council candidate, file nomination papers with the City Clerk. The nomination period is July 13 through August 7.

Learn more at Sunnyvale.ca.gov, Search: Elections.

Cleanwater Program Nears First Phase Milestone



How the Plant Works



Senior Operator Pat Lenoir (far right) supervises a confined space entry training. Operators and mechanics need to work or make repairs in small and difficult to reach places. This requires special procedures and equipment to access them safely.

The Plant treats wastewater in three phases using multiple physical, chemical and natural biological processes. The three major treatment phases are primary, secondary and tertiary. By the time the treatment process is complete, the water is clean enough to meet all standards for either recycled water uses or discharge into the San Francisco Bay.

60 **†††††**

About 60 employees keep the Plant running around the clock, from Operators and Mechanics to Laboratory Chemists and Support Services staff. It takes years to become proficient in many areas of the Plant. Operators also train regularly to work safely in the industrial facility.

ow do you tackle the City's largest capital project in its history? One phase at a time. That's exactly what operators, mechanics and engineers are doing to renovate the City's aging wastewater treatment plant

are doing to renovate the City's aging wastewater treatment plant – a project called the Cleanwater Program. With the first phase nearing completion within the next year, Horizon sat down with Allison Boyer, the project's lead engineer, to find out how it's going.

Why is this project necessary?

The Plant has worked for more than 60 years to treat the wastewater from our sinks, showers and toilets. It's a complex industrial facility that operates around the clock in a highly corrosive environment. Much of the infrastructure and equipment is now well past its useful life, making it difficult and costly to operate and maintain. Renovating the facility will allow us to use improved treatment technology, meet strict regulations and operate more safely and efficiently.

How is Phase 1 renovating the Plant?

We treat wastewater by gradually removing solid material in three stages. Phase 1 focuses on the first treatment stage, called primary, which removes larger solids. Wastewater will flow into the Plant through a new pipe almost 6 feet in diameter. New screens will remove large debris like sticks, rags and wipes. We'll then use state-of-the art equipment to remove sand-like material called grit

before sending the wastewater into new sedimentation basins where gravity helps settle out more solids. New electric pumps will replace old enginedriven ones that no longer meet emissions requirements.

What are some of the improvements?

The current Plant relies on nature for some of the treatment process. This takes a lot of time and space. New equipment and treatment methods will speed up the process and use a much smaller footprint, making the entire system more efficient. Also, sophisticated computers will automate steps that are difficult to do manually. For example, we use microscopic organisms to break down the



Phase 1 construction area

Phase 1 began in 2015 and will be mostly complete in 2021. Before workers could begin construction, they loaded the site with 300 million pounds of dirt, compressing the ground underneath and making it strong enough to support the buildings.



Bar screens

Wastewater first flows past 43-foot tall bar screens that rise about 10 feet above ground. Inside, chains on a continuous loop pull mini rakes across metal bars that trap and remove material like wipes, rags and sticks. This critical step keeps debris from clogging pumps, valves and



Influent pump station

This pump room is more than 30 feet underground and is equipped with pumps that can move over 60 million gallons of wastewater a day. These pipes connect to meters that measure the total flow coming into the Plant before going to the grit removal phase.

The Plant was originally built in 1954. The Cleanwater Program is renovating the aging facility over the next 20 years.





A new 66-inch wide pipe will bring wastewater into the Plant. Workers fill gaps around the pipe with soil after removing 40-foot-long sheet piles installed to help bury the pipe underground.

solids. Automation will help operators better control the flow of air, water and chemicals these special "bugs" need to do their work.

What might surprise people about the Plant?

We reuse many byproducts from the treatment process. Our biosolids are used for landfill cover and agricultural soil amendments. Some of our treated water is recycled for other uses such as irrigation which reduces the demand on our potable water supply. And we produce electricity and mechanical power from waste gases which helps to power the Plant and reduce demand on the electrical grid. Annually, we generate about 85% of the

Plant's power on site. How is the project being funded?

All residents and business are paying for the operation and reconstruction of the Plant through their wastewater utility bill. One of the ways we save ratepayers money is by using long-term, low interest federal and state loans designed for infrastructure investments and that cost much less than traditional financing. For example, a state loan we're using for Phase 1 is saving over \$50 million, including \$4 million forgiven because of our energy efficiency improvements. We're also closing on a federal loan that will save the project tens of millions of dollars.

Clean Water Program

Sunnyvale's Cleanwater Program is a long-term capital improvement plan underway to renovate our aging wastewater treatment infrastructure through a series of projects and upgrades over the next 20+ years. This makes it the largest capital improvement project in the City's history.

Phase 1: Primary Treatment (2014-2024; construction underway)

Improve the flow of wastewater with a new pump station, repair existing tanks, and rebuild the headworks where wastewater first enters the Plant and large solids like rags are screened out

Phase 2: Secondary Treatment (2017-2027; design underway)

Upgrade the secondary treatment process with new buildings and facilities, and transition to a new process for separating biosolids from the wastewater

Phase 3: Solids Facilities and Energy Management (2021-2034)

Build new facilities to process organic waste like food scraps and heat-treat solid material; upgrade the facilities that convert methane into heat and electricity for the Plant

Phase 4: Secondary Treatment Part II (2027-2042)

Further expand and enhance the secondary treatment process

Phase 5: Tertiary Treatment Upgrades (2032-2044)

Replace the current filters and chlorine disinfection system with alternatives such as micro filtration, UV, and ozone disinfection, to be selected based on regulatory requirements and available technology



Grit removal building

Workers install the specialized equipment designed to remove grit coated with fats, oils and grease and prepare it for disposal. Removing grit protects equipment and gives us more treatment options later in the process.



Sedimentation basins

Baffles and weirs in the six new sedimentation basins control the flow of wastewater which allows heavier solids to sink. Sludge pumps remove the settled solids before the wastewater flows to the next treatment stage. Each basin is about 115 feet long, 20 feet wide and 15 feet deep and can hold 230,000 gallons. All six could fill about two Olympic-size swimming pools.



Habitat protection

The Plant's neighbors – the San Francisco Bay and Don Edwards Nature Preserve – are an important habitat and recreational area. Our treated water meets strict standards to be safe for the plants and animals. Phase 1 includes additional plantings in the surrounding wetlands. A new wall surrounding the Plant will also protect it from flooding.

We're Halfway Towards Our 2030 Climate Target

Latest numbers show that Sunnyvale continues to make strides toward its climate targets.

We are now halfway to our 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal according to newly released reports showing 2017 and 2018 emission data.

So how did we get this far, and what lies ahead for addressing climate change? Answers are in the actions outlined in the City's Climate Action Playbook. Adopted last year by the City Council, the Playbook contains the roadmap for how we will meet ambitious targets for reducing GHG emissions by 2030 and 2050.

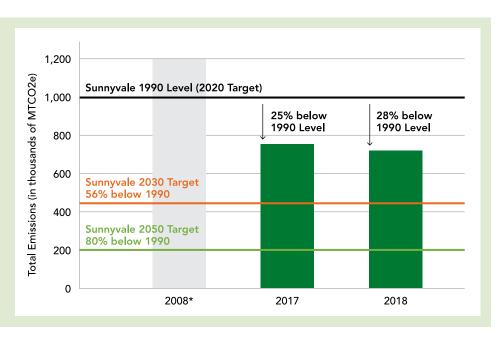
So far, the single most impactful action has been switching to clean electricity. As part of our first Climate Action Plan, the City helped to launch Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) in 2017. SVCE now provides carbon-free electricity to most Sunnyvale homes and businesses. PG&E also has supplied more renewable and carbon-free electricity. Together, these shifts significantly lowered energy emissions in the last two years.

What about remaining emissions in Sunnyvale? Most come from vehicles and natural gas. With more electric vehicles on our streets, we've reduced transportation emissions in the last two years. But half of citywide emissions still come from driving. We also have used more natural gas in the last two years.

Sunnyvale's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The City's climate action goal is to lower greenhouse gas emissions to 56% by 2030 and to 80% by 2050 (relative to 1990 levels). In 2017 and 2018, Sunnyvale reduced its emissions by 25 percent and 28 percent, respectively. Not only have we surpassed our 2020 target, we're halfway toward achieving our 2030 target.

*Sunnyvale's first GHG inventory



Burning natural gas – a fossil fuel – contributes to about a third of our emissions.

We should celebrate our successes. Yet we need to do much more to tackle the climate crisis.

Our run towards our 2030 target will only get harder as we check off the easier actions and work on the more difficult ones.

The Climate Action Playbook provides strategies to guide us toward carbon neutrality. The City and community are working together on many "Next Moves" from the Playbook. These include reducing natural gas use in buildings, using more electric vehicles, making biking and walking safer, and bolstering our resilience to climate events.

It takes teamwork to win the game. Want to join us? You can be a climate champion by:

• Walking and biking more.

It's good for the air and your health! Use the Sunnyvale Bike Map to find your best route (search "bike map" at Sunnyvale.ca.gov).

• Driving electric.

With a range of prices and models available, opt for an electric vehicle next time you buy a car.

Visit acterra.org/goev

• Electrifying your home.

Check out SVCE's Customer Resource Center for information on how to electrify your home. Not ready for the whole home upgrade? Consider upgrading just your water heater through SVCE's FutureFit Heat Pump Water Heater rebate program. Visit svcleanenergy.org/water-heating

Visit Sunnyvale.ca.gov and search "Sustainability" to read the GHG Emissions Report for 2017 and 2018 and to subscribe for updates.



Stand Up and Be Counted

Have you already completed your Census questionnaire? Then you can inspire others. Tell everyone – your friends and family, neighbors and co-workers – that they should respond now, too.

Census results have an impact on planning and funding for health clinics and highways, public safety and disaster response, education programs and college tuition assistance, and so much more.

It's quick and easy. It's safe and secure. And it's important. Complete the census online, by mail or by phone. Visit 2020Census.gov for details.

BE COUNTED, CALIFORNIA!

Check Your Bill: New Utility Rates Are Here

You'll see a change on your next utility bill reflecting new utility rates as of July 1. The new rates for a typical monthly single-family residential utility bill will increase by 1.31% – equal to \$2.05 per month or \$24.60 per year for water, wastewater (sewer), and solid waste and recycling (garbage). With this change, Sunnyvale's combined utility rates will remain among the lowest of cities in the area.

By law, the City must base rates on the costs of operating and maintaining Sunnyvale's utilities.
The City Council considers annual rate adjustments as part of the

annual budgeting process. This year, to help the community address the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council voted to draw on reserves to hold rates for water and garbage flat. The City holds reserves in each fund for both emergencies and unanticipated economic impacts. With the large capital project underway to renovate the City's aging wastewater treatment plant (read about the Cleanwater Program on page 4), a 4% rate increase was still needed to maintain the financial condition of the wastewater utility.

SEWER SERVICE	SERVICE PERIOD		
Single-Family Sewer	06/01/20 07/01/20	51.33	
Single-Family Sewer	07/01/20 07/30/20	53.38	
Total Sewer Service			\$ 104.71

This example shows how utility bills are prorated to reflect the new rates starting July 1. Your bill will vary depending on your last billing period and the number of days in the new billing period. If you have questions, our utility customer service staff will work one-on-one with you to explain how we calculate your bill. Call us at 408-730-7400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

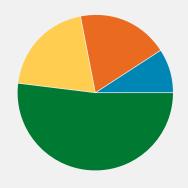
COVID-19 Impacts Refocus the City's Budget

his year, the unprecedented **COVID-19 Pandemic** significantly changed the course of the City's annual budget. While state and local shelter-in-place orders slowed the spread of the virus, they also had a dramatic effect on our economy. Jobless rates have skyrocketed. Businesses have closed. Auto sales have almost ceased. Hotel occupancy has gone from all-time highs to all-time lows overnight, and room rates have plummeted. We are in a recession.

These sudden impacts forced us to refocus the budget in the face of significant revenue volatility and uncertainty. By City charter and Council policy, our budget must balance to ten and twenty years. strategic use of the City's reserves combined with a series of one-time and ongoing cost savings. The City maintains reserves in several

General Fund Cost Savings, FY 20/21

The total cost savings in the City's General Fund for Fiscal Year 20/21 is \$24.5 million. Over the 20-year plan, savings total \$159 million.



\$12.8M / 52%

Funding Changes

\$4.8M / 20%

Positions

\$4.5M / 19%

Goods and Services

\$2.3M / 9%

Use of Reserves

We were able to accomplish this by



In response to the escalating COVID-19 pandemic, the City Manager declared a local emergency and activated the City's Emergency Operations Center on March 12. (From left: EOC Coordinator Lieutenant Liz DiGiovanna; City Manager Kent Steffens; Public Safety Chief Phan Ngo).

funds for specific expenses and to address economic conditions or emergencies. Building adequate reserves is one of Sunnyvale's strengths and using them in our current circumstances is paying off as planned.

Budget Highlights

Our goal was to balance the distribution of resources to maintain a core level of service and continue our investment in key projects needed to sustain our public services. In addition to cost savings, this year's budget:

- Lowers revenue projections to reflect the economic downturn
- Keeps rate increases flat for water and garbage utilities
- Continues pension trust contributions
- Retains infrastructure investment contributions
- Refines the costs for the Lakewood Branch Library project
- Maintains salary and benefit assumptions for employees

Cost-Saving Measures

The most significant impact from COVID-19 has been to the City's General Fund. To offset revenue losses and balance the budget, we reduced service levels and deferred or reallocated costs.

Without reducing costs, we would deplete the City's General Fund Budget Stabilization Fund by fiscal year 2023/24. Cost-saving measures include:

Goods and Services

- Reduce employee travel and training by 20%
- Switch the City's energy service to Green Start from Green Prime
- Reduce water use at City parks by 10% for the next two years
- Reduce funding for street maintenance for two years
- Defer tree pruning contract services for one year
- Defer sidewalk repair work for
- Defer equipment purchases (e.g., furniture and office equipment)
- Defer some non-critical capital projects

Positions

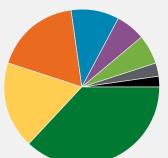
- Freeze hiring for most vacant
- Reduce casual staff positions due to limited summer activities, camps and classes

Funding Changes

• Change how the City funds some long-term liabilities, taking on more risk as a result (e.g., workers compensation)

Citywide Expenditures

The City's revenues and expenditures are balanced at approximately \$598 million. The revenue budget contains all sources of City revenues, the largest of which are user fees and taxes. The majority of City tax revenue comes from property and sales taxes. The total citywide expenditures budget (shown here) includes the departmental operating budgets of \$302 million (50%), the projects budget of \$219 million (37%), and other expenditures (e.g., equipment, lease and debt payments, and contributions to reserves) at \$77 million (13%). The projects budget pays for capital projects, strategic initiatives and multi-year projects that don't require ongoing funds for 20 years.



37% Projects	17% Environmental Services
16% Public Safety	13% Other Expenditures
7% Other Departments	5% Public Works
3% Library and Community Services	2% Community Development

*Other departments include Office of the City Attorney, Office of the City Manager, Finance, Human Resources and NOVA

Major General Fund Revenues

Property Tax is the City's most stable revenue source accounting for about 50% of the General Fund. Negative impacts often lag a recovery and will depend on the extent of the recession. This budget lowers our long-term assumptions for property tax revenue to account for potentially slower growth.

Sales Tax has seen a steep decline without people working and shopping in Sunnyvale. We are assuming it will not recover quickly and have reduced our estimate by about 20% for this fiscal year.

	Stable	FY 2020/21 Trend	City Controlled	Percent of General Fund
Property Tax	\square	1		50%
Sales Tax		1		15%
тот		1	\square	6 %
UUT	\square	()	\square	5%
ΤΟΤΔΙ				75%

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is a tax paid by hotel visitors. Business travel has largely dried up making it unclear when hotels will recover. We have reduced our revenue estimates by half for TOT and are assuming the overall market will remain down.

Utility Users Tax (UUT) is paid as a percent of electricity, gas and telecom charges. While we don't anticipate as steep a drop in UUT, there will be some decline from slower business activity. We're anticipating revenue to be flat for this year.



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Make an Impact

See how your government works up close and help shape policy by applying to one of the City's boards and commissions.

Board and commission members make recommendations to the City Council on policyrelated issues covering a range of subjects.

The Council selects community members to serve based on demonstrated interest, special training or expertise.

To learn more and see current vacancies, visit Sunnyvale.ca.gov and search "Boards and Commissions"

Boards and Commissions

Arts Commission

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Board of Building Code **Appeals**

Board of Library Trustees

Heritage Preservation Commission

Housing and Human Services Commission

Parks and Recreation Commission

Personnel Board

Planning Commission Sustainability Commission



The pandemic has delayed the Whole Foods Market opening in downtown to late fall 2020. Construction of the AMC Theaters is complete, but no opening date has been set. Murphy Avenue is closed to vehicles so restaurants can expand outdoor dining.

City Council Meetings and Topics

July 14

Local Campaign Finance (Study Session) Approve Art in Private **Development Project** (Cityline Sunnyvale)

July 28

Adopt the HUD Consolidated and Action Plans

Adopt the Active Transportation Plan

Conceptual Design for Plaza Del Sol Phase II

Public Art Master Plan

Adopt Roadway Safety Plan

Dates subject to change

Aug. 11

Aug. 25

(Study Session)

Horizon

Summer 2020

Sunnyvale City Council

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Stay Connected

ີ່ຕັກີ City Council meetings are held at least two Tuesdays a month at 7 p.m., Council Chambers, 456 W. Olive Ave.

☐ Watch Council meetings online or on Comcast channel 15 and AT&T U-verse channel 99; replays are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p.m.

M Subscribe for City email newsletters and notices: Sunnyvale.ca.gov/ about/subscribe.htm

Our City. Our Future.



- Orzon SUMMER 2020

District Elections Nov. 3 Sunnyvale begins the transition to a new election system this fall

Building by the Bay Renovation of wastewater treatment facility nears first phase milestone

GHG Emissions Drop New reports show we're moving toward ambitious 2030 climate action target

City Budget Approved Revenue losses and cost saving measures shape the City's FY 20/21 budget

Do you know a person

or group who is making

Proud of Someone? Nominate them!



Kaushik Tota, one of last year's community award winners, inspires young visitors at the annual State of the City event.

Visit the City's website for the nomination form, entry details and past winners. You may submit multiple nominations.

a difference in our community? Or has made a special contribution with their time and talents? Then celebrate them with a nomination for one of Sunnyvale's annual Community Awards. These awards recognize the dedication and hard work of community members across several fields: Distinguished Resident of the Year; Educator of the Year; High School Student of the Year: Business of the Year; Contribution to the Arts: and Environmental Achievement.

Nomination Form: Sunnyvale.ca.gov/Awards Deadline:

July 26, 2020