



**COUNCILMEMBER SEAN ELO-RIVERA
NINTH COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 26, 2021
TO: Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
FROM: Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Revision Recommendations

Our City and its residents have been challenged in profound ways over the past year. Our response to a global pandemic and an economic crisis raises questions for our City that must be answered: Have we met the moment of racial reckoning that demands action from elected leaders? Have we allowed longstanding inequities to grow? When budget shortfalls threaten city services, will the cuts disproportionately affect some neighborhoods and not others? The needs of our communities must be met.

The Mayor's May Revision addresses many of the concerns brought forth by the City Council and will direct the City on a much better path towards the equitable distribution of resources. Partial restoration of library hours, investments in the Climate Equity Fund, a Back to Work Initiative, and support for street safety will benefit all San Diegans.

Since the Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget was released this past April, our office has held multiple community forums, discussed the budget with our neighborhood groups, and have provided for a survey to solicit input. The following recommendations are informed by the diverse voices of the District 9 community. Survey results are tabulated and provided in this memorandum in Attachment 1.

Redefining Public Safety

Our recommendations begin with requesting our City make necessary changes to ensure that true public safety is provided to *all* San Diegans.

Last year, the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor catalyzed a national movement that has confronted years of institutionalized racism and an unjust criminal justice system. Decades of racial discrimination that defined the practices of law enforcement agencies across the country were challenged. Although George Floyd's murderer was held accountable, punishment should not be a substitute for justice or policy change.

The public has rightfully questioned whether police officers are the most appropriate arbiters of public safety in certain situations. It is important to recognize that despite the well-

meaning intentions of many law enforcement officers, the sight of a police uniform and badge can convey danger instead of safety for Black and Brown people, people experiencing homelessness, and other San Diegans.

Many of the constituents I represent, neighbors across the City, individual San Diego Police Department (SDPD) officers, and some of their representatives, have expressed that our local law enforcement is burdened with the responsibility of being the first-responder in sensitive interventions that they may not be fully equipped to respond to. Sadly, recent events have driven home this point.

While reforms long championed by Councilmember Montgomery Steppe and put forward by Mayor Gloria address some concerns with respect to law enforcement, more can and must be done to align City spending with our shared values of safety and justice for all. As noted by the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA), a majority of Councilmembers were aligned with the community this year in a call for “the reallocation of Police Department funding and the reassignment of services currently being conducted by law enforcement.” Unfortunately, as was also pointed out by the IBA, “this priority is largely unaddressed in the Proposed Budget.”

While I recognize the road toward true public safety for all is a long one, more can be done in this budget cycle to, as my colleague, Councilmember Montgomery Steppe said “meet the moment.” San Diego will only be a world-class city for all of us if all of us live in communities where we can truly be safe. All of us will only truly be safe if our needs are provided for and we are all seen for what we can achieve rather than as the threats we have so long been treated as.

Safety is about being free from danger, risk, or injury. In other words, law enforcement is but one tool to achieve safety and, often, a reactive one. With this in mind, District 9 joins District 4 in calling for the following adjustments to the San Diego Police Department’s Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget along with the accompanying proactive investments in community well-being and public safety:

Proposed Expenditures	Amount	Revenue Sources / Re-Allocations
Youth Diversion Program	\$1,500,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Teen Nite Program	\$100,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Homeless Outreach – PATH	\$600,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Commission on Police Practices (CPP)	\$25,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Office of Child and Youth Success	\$350,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime

Arts & Culture	\$2,000,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Graffiti Abatement (Private Property)	\$225,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Weed Abatement	\$500,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Tree Trimming	\$900,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Street Assessment Study	\$800,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Public Power Feasibility Study	\$500,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Street Lights	\$2,500,000	San Diego Police Department Overtime
Total	\$10,000,000	

American Rescue Plan

The May Revise includes significant adjustments to proposed spending of the American Rescue Plan funds. The May Revise reduced spending by \$13.4 million in FY21 and increased spending by \$5.9 million in the proposed FY22 budget. The \$6.5 million difference in spending in FY21 and proposed in FY22 since the May Revise creates an opportunity for increases to investments in the budget to further support San Diego's equitable pandemic recovery.

Therefore, I respectfully propose the following priorities be funded by American Rescue Plan funds in FY22:

Proposed Expenditures	Amount	Revenue Sources / Re-Allocations
Equitable Library Reopening— Equitable library reopening requires funding libraries in communities of concern to open as soon as personnel capacity allows it. I request the funding to open 14 libraries in communities of concern 7 days a week in the first quarter of FY22, with the 14 specific branches selected based on need and not based on which libraries were open 7 days a week prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.	\$500,000	American Rescue Plan
Office of the City Auditor	\$91,000	American Rescue Plan
CBO Housing Education and Counseling	\$500,000	American Rescue Plan

Rent Registry	\$75,000	American Rescue Plan
2,500 New Street Trees	\$500,000	American Rescue Plan
Sunshine Berardini GDP	\$500,000	American Rescue Plan
Boston Avenue Linear Park GDP	\$120,000	American Rescue Plan
Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Master Plan Update	\$350,000	American Rescue Plan
Castana Street Natural Park Engineering Design Study/GDP	\$130,000	American Rescue Plan
Emerald Hills Park Design	\$500,000	American Rescue Plan
Kelly Street Neighborhood Park	\$100,000	American Rescue Plan
Marcy Park Improvements	\$349,253	American Rescue Plan
Oak Park Library Design	\$300,000	American Rescue Plan
Aldine Drive Storm Water Study	\$250,000	American Rescue Plan
Resurface Redland Drive Loop and 55 th North of Redland Drive	\$50,000	American Rescue Plan
Mission Beach Trash Pickup	\$70,000	American Rescue Plan
New 24 Hour Shift (Night Crew) Lifeguards (4 FTEs)	\$295,693	American Rescue Plan
Fire-Rescue Department's Copter 1	\$350,000	American Rescue Plan
Unimproved Streets CIP, including: - Redwood St (between 46 th St and Chamoune Ave) - S Bancroft St (at Greeley Ave) - Marilou Rd (between 48 th St & Euclid Ave)	Unknown	American Rescue Plan
New Code Enforcement Officers in DSD (10 FTEs) to increase capacity to respond to code investigation requests	Unknown	American Rescue Plan
Total	\$5,030,946	

Climate Equity Fund

In March, thanks to the leadership of Councilmember Moreno and Mayor Gloria, City Council created the new Climate Equity Fund. The transformative change that could result from even the first year’s fund alone will positively impact our ability to meet our Climate Action Plan goals while addressing historic inequities in San Diego’s built environment.

The Climate Equity Fund projects in the May Revision included funding for the University Avenue Complete Streets Project Phase 1. District 9 fully supports this project, however, even with the investment of \$800,000 the project is still underfunded due to the low likelihood of it receiving a matching earmarking grant from Congress this year. Due to the fact that the project would still not be fully funded even with the Climate Equity Fund investment, we recommend it be funded by the Mayor’s Sexy Streets initiative.

In its place, we prioritize installing additional streetlights in District 9 neighborhoods currently lacking adequate lighting. Street lighting supports our walkability goals, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increases public safety by improving visibility.

Therefore, I respectfully ask my colleagues to support reallocating Climate Equity Fund dollars from University Avenue Complete Streets Project Phase 1 in District 9 to additional streetlights in District 9:

Proposed Expenditures	Amount	Revenue Sources / Re-Allocations
Streetlights in District 9	\$800,000	Climate Equity Fund
Total	\$800,000	

Additional Climate Equity Fund Revenue

The City’s recently approved Franchise Agreement includes \$2 million to supplement the \$5 million that was already allocated to the fund. We request the newly secured funds be allocated to the FY22 budget and that a participatory budgeting process be developed through Council policy to guide the allocation of these funds.

As this process is developed, there are two projects that we have identified that warrant consideration for these supplemental funds: a CIP for solar streetlights at Willie Henderson Sports Complex, and additional streetlights in District 9. While we are supportive of Parks and Recreation’s broader initiative of reimagining the park into one that the community envisions it to be, we would like lights installed at the park sooner so that our residents can feel safe accessing and utilizing it. Based on previous history that the City has had with CIP projects for light additions to parks, I would like to see \$300,000 allocated to begin this for Willie Henderson.

Proposed Expenditures	Amount	Revenue Sources / Re-Allocations
Streetlights in District 9	\$500,000	Climate Equity Fund
Streetlights in Willie Henderson Park	\$300,000	Climate Equity Fund
Total	\$800,000	

Energy Independence Plan

The recently approved Franchise Agreement was negotiated under far from ideal circumstances that were largely the result of generations of San Diego leaders failing to plan for the future. We cannot repeat those mistakes. Immediate action must be taken to respond to the community’s well-reasoned concerns that San Diego will once again find itself without real energy options. We propose the following actions be taken to begin the process of responsibly preparing the City for a future with energy independence.

- Fully fund a municipalization feasibility study
- Allocate the \$1.2 million difference between the Mayor’s projected \$8.8 million Franchise payment and the \$10 million secured in our recently approved agreement to an Energy Independence Fund. This fund, created through future Environment Committee and Council action, would be dedicated to creating a pool of money necessary to take the various steps required for energy independence.

Outside Contracts

As a result of a historical and inefficient practice to purposefully not provide departments with the staffing needed to provide vital City services to our constituents, we have found ourselves funding contracts with outside entities to perform necessary City services. While these decisions may have been made in the name of lowering costs, the practice has more often than not cost the City more.

A perfect example is the current practice of hiring outside consultant attorneys to substitute for hiring more City Attorney personnel. The following new positions can be covered by the elimination of the outside counsel contract, which will save the City \$900,000:

Proposed Expenditures	Amount	Revenue Sources / Re-Allocations
Family Justice Center Clerical Assistant (2 FTEs)	\$106,492	Outside Counsel Contract
Civil Litigation Attorneys (2 FTEs)	\$336,000	Outside Counsel Contract
Total	\$442,492	

Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Funds (RPTTF)

The “Preserving Affordable Housing in the City of San Diego” study conducted by the San Diego Housing Commission in 2020 highlighted a need to dedicate consistent funding to the preservation of affordable housing in the City. We are requesting \$2M of the City’s residual Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Funds (RPTTF) be dedicated to housing preservation.

Proposed Expenditures	Amount	Revenue Sources / Re-Allocations
Funds for Housing Preservation	\$2,000,000	RPTTF
Total	\$2,000,000	

Attachment 1 includes the results of the survey our office conducted with District 9 constituents regarding our budget priorities.

Our office appreciates the Independent Budget Analyst and the vital work that you all do each day to democratize our City’s budget. We hope that these recommendations can be considered for inclusion into the budget that is brought before the full City Council for adoption next month.



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Attachment 1 – Community Budget Survey

April 2021 – May 2021

The District 9 office developed and conducted a survey to have our District’s constituents answer one critical question: How should we invest in our San Diego communities? Our office worked to ensure transparency and intentional community engagement for this upcoming FY 2022 budget cycle. The office reached out to District 9 constituents, stakeholders, businesses and the greater San Diego community by phone, email, and social media to widely distribute our Budget Priorities survey.

The City of San Diego will be challenged to manage an unprecedented budget shortfall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative now more than ever to connect directly with residents to solicit their input on how to best support our community through an economic and public health crisis.

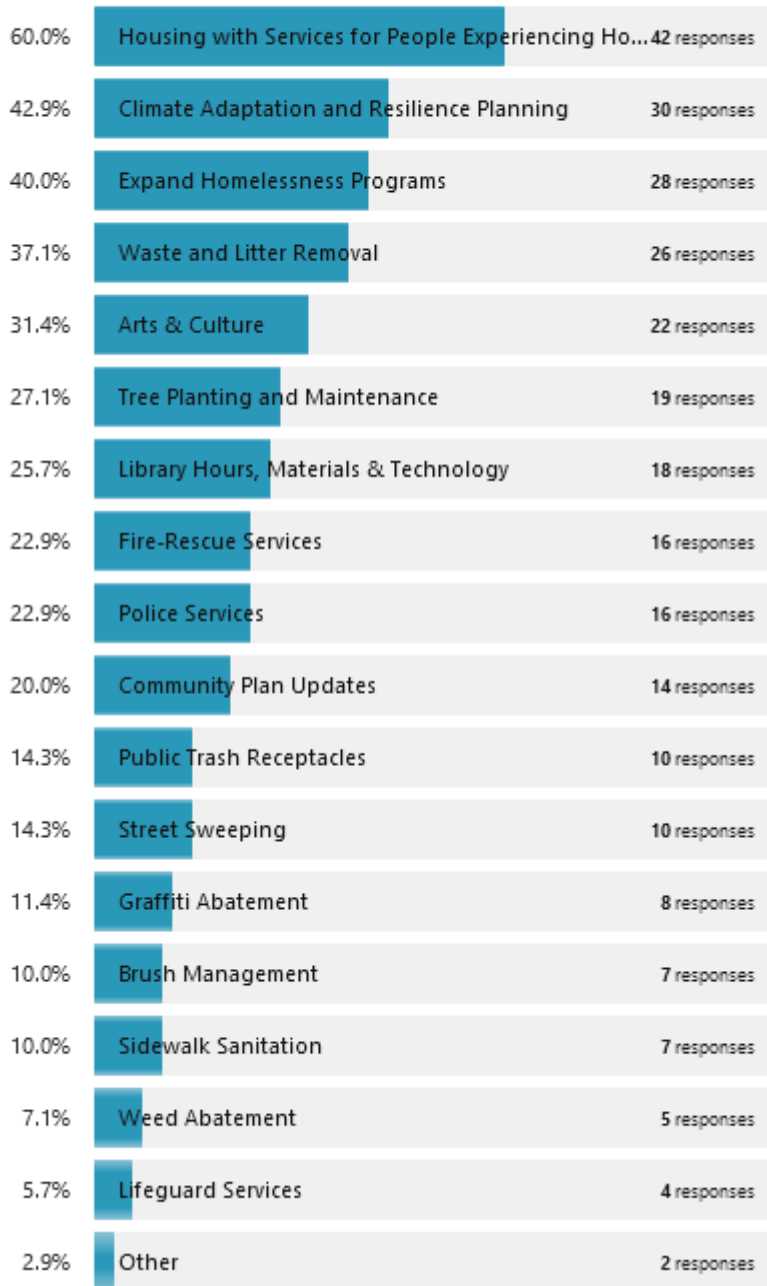
Our office included short questions and an open response question for community members to submit their thoughts on neighborhood budget priorities. Lastly, the office began the task of incorporating all relevant responses and data points to our final budget priorities memo.

Transparency and accessibility are guiding values in our budget development process. We are sharing the results of our survey out of transparency and to share the priorities of our district directly with City staff developing the budget.

The results from this survey are included below:

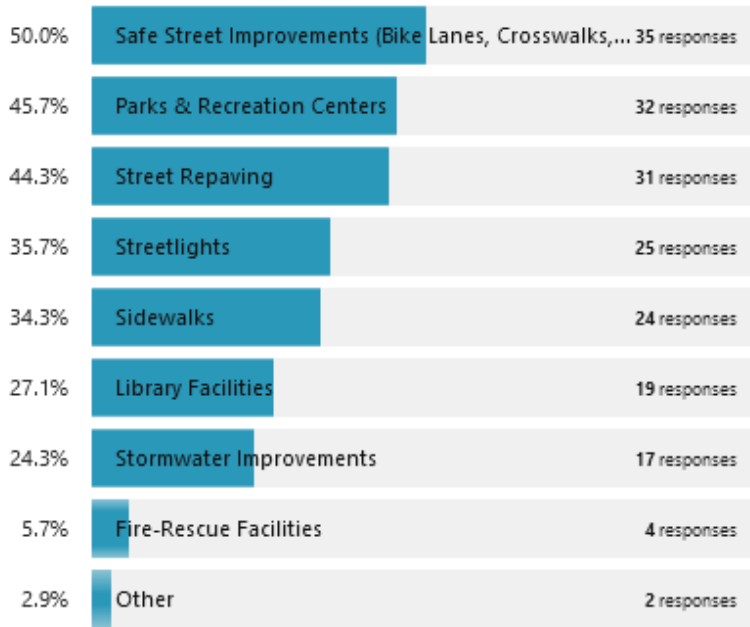
✓ 4 San Diego's City Departments provide a wide range of services and programs. What are your top priorities?

70 out of 70 people answered this question (with multiple choice)



- ✓ 5 San Diego has limited funding that can be used flexibly on infrastructure projects. What types of infrastructure projects are your top priorities?

70 out of 70 people answered this question (with multiple choice)



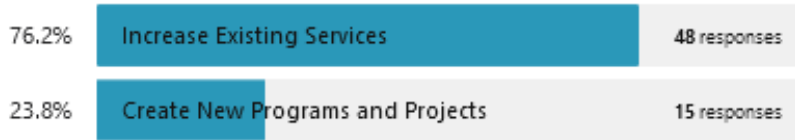
- ✓ 6 The City recently established a Climate Equity Fund, which is designed to make infrastructure investments in communities of concern. In the next fiscal year, \$5 million will be spent on projects through the Climate Equity Fund, and much of District 9 is eligible for this spending. What kind of projects would you like the City to invest in to advance environmental justice and climate resiliency?

64 out of 70 people answered this question (with multiple choice)



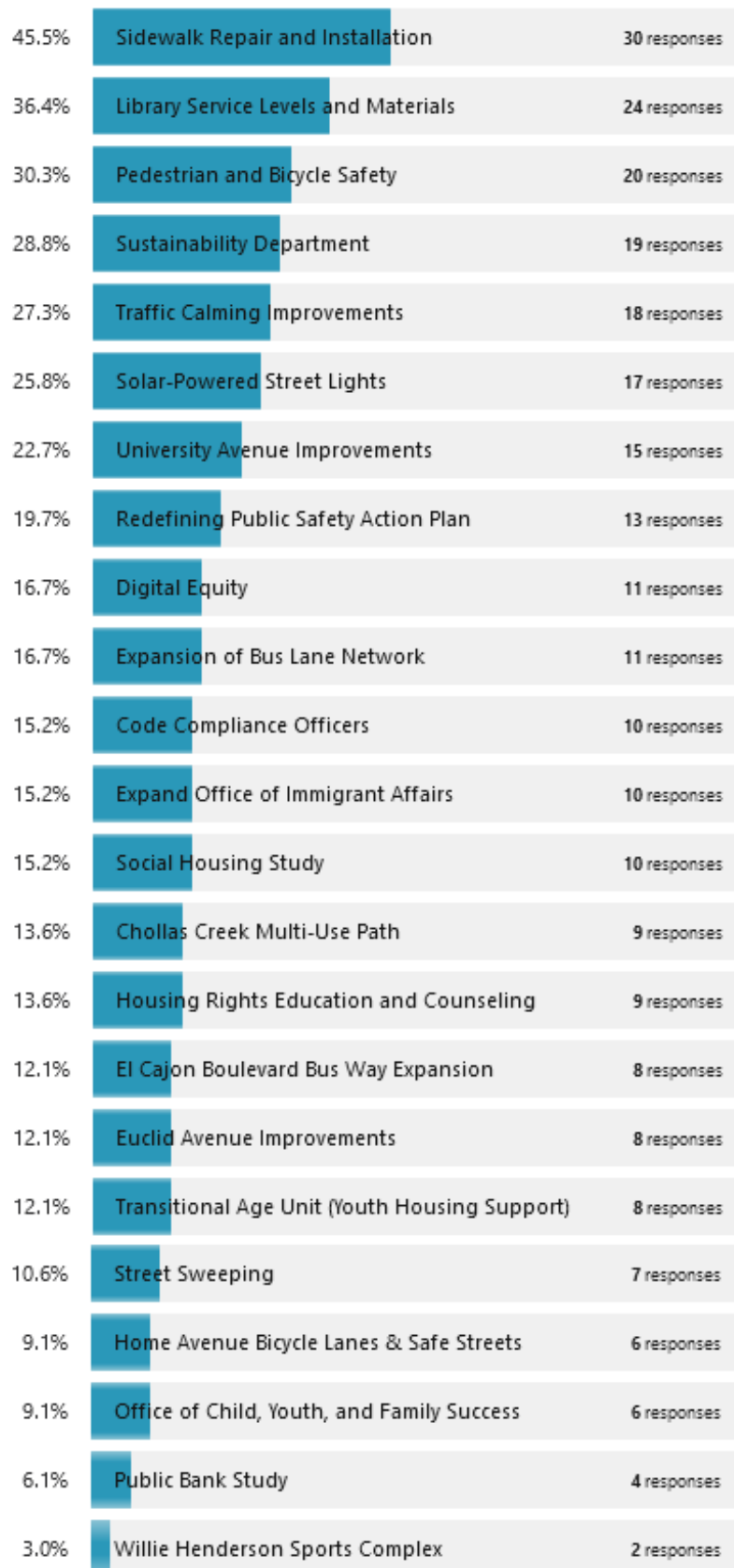
7 Would you rather see new funds allocated to increase existing services or would you rather create new programs and projects?

63 out of 70 people answered this question



✓ 8 Here are some of Councilmember Elo-Rivera's budget priorities from January, before the proposed budget was released. Please choose which ones most strongly align with your priorities:

66 out of 70 people answered this question (with multiple choice)



The final question of our survey allowed respondents to provide open-ended recommendations to inform our budget priorities memorandum. The open-ended nature of this section allowed for residents to express in their own words their thoughts. For the purpose of documentation, these responses have been abbreviated, consolidated into categories, and tabulated. If someone listed multiple requests, they were all included. No responses from the survey were excluded. The results are summarized below:

Citywide

- Re-Allocate Police Funds (8)
- Street Repair (5)
- Arts & Culture (4)
- Mental Health Resources (3)
- Workforce Development & Small Business Grant Support (2)
- Additional Funds for SDPD (2)
- Homelessness Support (2)
- No Density (1)
- Black Business Support (1)
- Digital Equity (1)
- Collaborate with CalTrans for Cleaner Freeways (1)
- Street Sweeping (1)
- Utility Undergrounding Support (1)
- Support Community Forest Advisory Board (1)
- Additional City Hall Internships & Staff (1)
- Native Plant Regeneration Support (1)
- Public Banking (1)
- Municipal Social Housing (1)
- Keep Padres in San Diego (1)
- Support Comic-Con (1)
- Support for People with Disabilities (1)
- Return the Film Commission (1)
- Power Washing Services (1)
- Library Support (1)

District 9 Specific

- Clay Elementary Joint Use Field Track (2)
- Myrtle & 42nd Permanent Signage (1)
- Clean Up El Cajon Boulevard (1)
- More Crosswalks in El Cerrito (1)
- Street Sweeping in El Cerrito (1)
- Clean Up Orange Avenue by Teralta Park (1)
- Traffic Calming Improvements on Ocean View Boulevard (1)
- Fix Streets Around Clay Neighborhood Park (1)