



JULY NEWSLETTER



Newport Beach 2023-2024 Annual Budget Has Been Approved by City Council

The City Council recently approved the 2023-2024 budget. Here are some of the highlights:

On the revenue side, you might be interested to know that of the \$304M (million) in General Fund revenue, \$138M comes from property tax. That's 45% of our revenue! And most of that is from residential property tax, (85% residential, 11% commercial and 4% unsecured and other). Also interesting is that Newport Beach has \$73.3 Billion, yes with a "B", in total assessed valuation!

The next highest sources of revenue are Sales Tax at \$49M (largely from auto sales, but also from general consumer goods and restaurants/hotels) and Transient Occupancy Tax at \$32M. Transient Occupancy Tax is the tax visitors pay on hotel rooms and Short-Term Lodging. Other revenue sources, like parking revenue, service fees, licenses and permits and property income from city-owned property account for the balance of our revenues.

To provide a little perspective, our neighboring City, Costa Mesa, has a population of approximately 113,000 residents compared to our 85,000 Newport Beach residents (that's 33% more than us). The General Fund expenditure budget for Costa Mesa for 2023-2024 is \$180.3M total (or \$1,596 per resident). That's nearly 39% lower than our budget, for 33% more residents. Irvine has 310,000 population and a \$253.5M expenditure budget for their General Fund (or about \$818 per resident). In Newport Beach, our General Fund expenditure budget is \$294M for 85K residents or \$3,458 per resident, a striking difference.

How do we spend that money? Salaries and benefits are by far our largest expense at \$174M, followed by Maintenance and Operations of \$54M, with the balance largely used to fund capital improvements and to support Tidelands operations. Some of the Capital Improvement projects in the 2023-2024 budget include the Balboa Library and Fire Station, the Jr. Lifeguard Building, the Newport Beach Trash Wheel, the Newport Coast Pickleball Courts, Beach and /Bay Sand Management, Balboa Island Street and Drainage Improvements and Seawall repairs among other things. Planning will begin for some of the longer-term projects including upgrades to McFadden Square and the Pier, and possibly a new Police Station.

We live in a city with a well-organized City Staff and highly qualified consultants to help us plan for a successful and financially stable City government capable of providing consistently superior services to our residents. The City continues to be in excellent financial health, and we are well-positioned to weather any short-term increase in inflation. We have a lot to be proud of and we need to be vigilant in monitoring and advocating for responsible fiscal policies and practices.

We encourage you to attend a City Council meeting or a Finance Committee meeting to see

firsthand, how your City government is addressing the budget and how our precious tax dollars are being spent.



A New "Leash" On Life

Dog days of summer? As far as Friends of Newport Beach Animal Shelter (FONBAS) is concerned, dog days are year-round, especially with the recent completion of the Newport Beach Animal Shelter.

Led by a dedicated group of former mayors and community leaders, FONBAS was formed in 2017 as a non-profit organization to supplement the funding of special medical procedures, equipment, and services for animals under city care. The original mission to support lost and displaced animals resonated so well with community that FONBAS grew the effort to include a capital campaign to construct a new state-of-the-art animal shelter with the goal of adding a valuable infrastructure amenity to the city.

Early on, FONBAS entered into a "pup"lic-private "paw"nership with the City of Newport Beach. The private part, a robust campaign that led to a Founding Membership of over five hundred and fully funded the construction of the shelter for the city.

With the city partnership in place and the money raised, FONBAS worked with the highly regarded, locally owned construction team at Slater Builders to complete the build out. The "pup"lic part is the donation of the entire "kitten ca-poodle", the property and the newly constructed shelter, to the City of Newport Beach for the care and adoption of lost and displaced animals.

It "bears" repeating, what is so unique about the shelter is that **one hundred percent of the money to purchase the land and build the facility was contributed from private sources** and the public part was solely to accept and operate the fully constructed, state-of-the-art facility.

The new shelter building and hardscape were completed and a ribbon cutting took place in May 2023. Final interior, IT systems and supplies will be completed in July. The new animal shelter when completed will care for more than five hundred animals a year and includes a single-story, 1,600-square-foot building with a 750-square-foot kennel for dogs, cats, and other animals, plus parking, 2 front-yard greeting areas, a secure rear-yard exercise area, and many other amenities necessary in a modern animal facility.



Jr. Lifeguard Building Completion Delayed Until 2024

The construction of the new Jr. Lifeguard building, to be located at the base of the Balboa Pier, has been temporarily halted due to an issue with the poured-in-place concrete walls. The concrete did not meet the specifications established in the construction contract. The City's project management team determined that a portion of the building perimeter concrete walls needed to be demolished and reconstructed. Due to unfortunate timing, all work will be suspended until after Labor Day. The Lifeguard program will be operating out of temporary trailers this summer.

The new expectation is that the construction will be complete in early 2024. When complete, the 5,400 square foot building will serve as the headquarters for the Jr. Guards during the summer as well as being used for community events, rentals and meetings during the off-season.

The total project cost of \$7.8 million is being funded by funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and private donations made to the Junior Lifeguard Foundation. The construction delays are not expected to require an increase in the construction contract with the City. This is a great example of a public-private partnership. Everyone is excited to see the completion of this project in 2024!



JWA Fly Friendly Program

John Wayne Airport recently initiated a program called Fly Friendly to encourage General Aviation (GA) operators to be good neighbors to surrounding communities. The principal aims of the Fly Friendly program are to persuade GA operators to employ quiet departure procedures, and to avoid nighttime flights. The key to the program's success is the consistent education and outreach from the Airport Noise Office to the GA aircraft operators.

Unlike commercial operators, General Aviation operators are not governed under the provisions of the 1985 JWA Settlement Agreement, which include a nighttime curfew and annual passenger caps for commercial operators. Because GA operators do not have the same required limitations as commercial aircraft, and because the number of GA jets at JWA is increasing, several community groups joined forces with government agencies to develop the Fly Friendly Program. Those involved in the program's development include the County of Orange, the City of Newport Beach, GA Fixed Base Operators, members of SPON, and local residents.

GA By the Numbers:

JWA is currently home to 356 General Aviation aircraft. This number represents a decrease from 512 JWA-based GA aircraft in 2020 due to the large number of small "mom 'n' pop" planes leaving the airport, while the number of large private jets is incrementally increasing.

The most recent [data](#) from February, 2023 indicates that altogether, GA accounts for 61% of total JWA operations (i.e.: arrivals and departures), and a growing proportion of GA operations is comprised of large private jets.

How It Works

John Wayne Airport's Fly Friendly Program is an awards-based program that recognizes GA operators for their voluntary efforts to safely reduce measurable noise levels and support environmental stewardship.

The Fly Friendly Program focuses on:

1. **Educating Aircraft Operators** on best practices in noise reduction. The program encourages the use of the NBAA (National Business Aviation Association)-recommended Noise Abatement Departure Procedure.
2. **Reducing Nighttime Flights** by awarding points to operators who demonstrate the highest voluntary reduction in their number of non-emergency flights during the commercial aircraft curfew hours as compared to the previous year.
3. **Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability:** Bonus points are awarded to operators that adopt more sustainable aviation practices and technologies that help contribute to reducing environmental impacts.
4. **Most Engaging:** Bonus points are awarded to operators who voluntarily implement outreach and education efforts such as providing noise abatement information to pilots, distributing Fly Friendly Program toolkit materials, and/or attending up to five meetings per year of any community meeting focused on aviation impacts.

Data collected from these four categories are quantified and translated into annual reports and score cards. The top operators will receive public recognition and individual letters.

You can read more about the Fly Friendly Program by visiting www.ocair.com/FlyFriendly.



The City of Newport Beach Utility Department is charged with responsibilities to provide drinking water and safeguard water quality. Water quality is constantly monitored from source to tap for regulated and unregulated chemicals. Drinking water quality testing is performed in our reservoirs and throughout our distribution system, at our groundwater wells and in the basin, from our imported water connections, and at the water treatment plants. This article provides information on this process and the partnership with Orange County Water District (OCWD) to utilize ground water and imported surface water.

The City of Newport Beach's sources of supply is a blend of about 85% ground water and 15% imported surface water. Newport's groundwater comes from four ground water wells located in the City of Fountain Valley then pumped to a reservoir in Newport Beach. **The groundwater basin is actively managed by Orange County Water District (OCWD, www.ocwd.com).**

Ground water comes from a natural underground aquifer, layered with sand and gravel, which works as a natural water filter. The water is replenished with water from the Santa Ana River, local rainfall and imported water. The groundwater basin is 350 square miles and lies beneath north and central Orange County from Irvine to the Los Angeles County border, and from Yorba Linda to the Pacific Ocean.

More than twenty cities and retail water districts pump from the basin to provide water to homes and businesses. The imported surface water is primarily from the Colorado Aqueduct (Colorado River) and sometimes water from the California Aqueduct (Northern California). The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California manages the imported water supply. (MWDSC, www.mwdh20.com) Water is treated at the Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda and imported into Orange County by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC, www.mwdoc.com).

Orange County Water District (OCWD)

OCWD provides water to nineteen cities and water agencies in North and central Orange County. OCWD takes the limited water supply found in nature and supplements it to provide water for more than 2.5 million people in Orange County, California. Since 1933 the California State Legislature formed OCWD with a primary mission to guard the region's groundwater basin. OCWD manages and replenishes the basin, ensures water reliability and quality, prevents seawater intrusion, and protects Orange County's rights to Santa Ana River water. OCWD manages three of Southern California's greatest water supplies: the Santa Ana River, the Orange County **Groundwater Basin** and the **Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS)**. It ensures a reliable supply of high-quality water for more than 2.5 million residents in north and central Orange County, while protecting environmental habitats and natural resources.

The largest river in Southern California, the **Santa Ana River** begins in the San Bernardino Mountains and flows downstream to Prado Dam and on to the Pacific Ocean. OCWD owns and manages a 6-mile (9.7 kilometers) stretch of the river. River flows are affected by water use upstream and weather fluctuation, making them less dependable than other water supplies.

A joint project between OCWD and the Orange County Sanitation District, is the **Ground Water Replenishment System (GWRS)**. It provides water supplies that are added to the Orange County Groundwater Basin. GWRS water is also injected into coastal barrier wells to keep seawater out of the basin. GWRS water is highly dependable, even during times of drought.

One of the largest of several coastal basins in Southern California, the **Orange County Groundwater Basin** contains approximately 500,000 acre-feet (162.9 billion U.S. gallons) of usable storage water and covers 270 square miles. The underground basin is millions of years old and is 4,000 feet (1.2 kilometers) at its deepest point. Managed properly, the basin is a reliable source of water.

Influencing Water Management Worldwide

Its OCWD's leadership in water purification and potable reuse – turning recycled water into drinking water – has been recognized worldwide. Its Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) is the largest facility of its kind in the world. Committed to sharing information, OCWD has influenced the creation of water recycling projects around the globe. As early as 1975, when OCWD created Water Factory 21 (WF 21) to produce recycled water for use as a barrier against seawater, OCWD projects have served as models for other water agencies. OCWD supports organizations and agencies around the world that are committed to sustainable water quality. Since the GWRS was launched in 2008 to increase freshwater production, OCWD has shared specifications, data and analyses. OCWD also welcomes thousands of visitors each year to tour its award-winning facilities.

Commitment to Transparency

OCWD's mission is to provide a reliable, high-quality water supply in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. As part of its commitment to transparency, OCWD publishes frequent updates on its activities. OCWD also hosts tours of its facilities and offers presentations to civic and community groups, technical associations and educational institutions.

Orange County Water Summit – October 13, 2024

The Orange County Water District, Municipal Water District of Orange County and Disneyland Resort will host the **15th annual water summit on October 13, 2023** at the Westin South Coast Plaza **Hotel**. **This summit** brings together academics, business professionals, elected officials and water industry representatives to talk about water issues, projects and emerging technologies in a dynamic forum atmosphere.

The **Groundwater Adventure Tour** is an all-day event that takes participants to OCWD's H2O Learning Center, Groundwater Replenishment System, [Advanced Water Quality Assurance Laboratory](#), [Anaheim Recharge Basins](#), and [Prado Wetlands](#). Guests hear from expert staff and see firsthand how OCWD effectively manages the County's groundwater basin.

To register for an in-person tour you can go to the OCWD website's Contact Us page and select

[Book a tour - Orange County Water District \(ocwd.com\)](#)

In-person tours are available for the following facilities:

As a leader in groundwater management and water reuse, the Orange County Water District (OCWD) receives hundreds of requests annually to provide tours and briefings about OCWD, our operations and world-renowned facilities. They welcome visitors from the general public, schools, colleges, water agencies, community organizations, elected officials and international groups.

In-Person tours include:

- [Groundwater Replenishment System \(virtual tour opportunities are also available\)](#)
- Prado Wetlands
- Recharge Facilities
- [Philip L. Anthony Water Quality Laboratory](#)

To register for an in-person tour you can go to the OCWD website's Contact Us page and select:

[Book a tour - Orange County Water District \(ocwd.com\)](#)

Ground Water Replacement System (GWRS)

The Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) is the world's largest advanced water purification. The system takes highly treated wastewater that would have previously been discharged into the Pacific Ocean and purifies it using a three-step advanced treatment process consisting of microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide. system for potable reuse, producing 130 million gallons of high-quality water daily that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards and creating a reliable source of water for Orange County.

Group tours of the GWRS are available weekdays at 10:00 AM or 1:00 PM. Group size: Minimum of ten and maximum of thirty guests. Age requirement: 11 years or older



Prado Wetlands

OCWD owns 2,150 acres of land in Riverside County, of which 465 acres located behind Prado Dam are constructed wetlands used to naturally remove nitrates and other contaminants from the water. In addition to water quality, the wetlands provide an opportunity for native habitat to thrive.

Prado Wetlands tours are perfect for those who are interested in getting out into nature and learning about OCWD's natural resources. Tours are seasonal and scheduled upon staff availability. Group size: 10 to 20 guests. Age requirement: 11 years or older. Groups must arrange transportation and a vehicle that accommodates the entire party.



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To protect and preserve the environmental and residential qualities of Newport Beach.

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