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**Police & Fire Emergencies** 911**Animal Control**  
Carson Animal Shelter  
(310) 523-9566**Birth, Death, Marriage Records**  
County Registrar-Recorder  
(562) 462-2137**Building Permits Building & Safety,**  
(310) 952-1766**Public Transit and Dial-A-Ride**  
(310) 952-1779  
Hearing Impaired  
(800) 252-9040**Cable Television**  
Time Warner Cable  
(888) 892-2253**Chamber of Commerce**  
(310) 217-4590**City Hall**  
(310) 830-7600**Code Enforcement**  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 1786**Community Center**  
(310) 835-0212**Crime Prevention**  
Neighborhood Watch  
(310) 847-7481**Disaster Preparedness**  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 1603**Dump**  
Transfer Station  
(310) 217-6300**Electricity**  
Southern California Edison Co., (800) 950-2356**Gas**  
Southern California Gas Co. (800)  
427-2200**Graffiti Removal**  
Landscape & Buildings  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3500**Hospital**  
Harbor General UCLA  
Medical Center  
(310) 222-2345**Jobs**  
Job Clearinghouse  
(310) 233-4888**Libraries**  
Carson Regional  
(310) 830-0901  
Victoria Park  
(310) 327-4830**Parking Enforcement**  
(800) 654-7275**Parks & Recreation**  
(310) 847-3570**Post Office**  
Main No., (800) 275-8777**Sandbags**  
Street Maintenance  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520**Sewer Clean-up**  
(626) 458-4357**Senior Services**  
(310) 952-1775  
(310) 835-0212**Sidewalk Repair**  
Street Maintenance  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520**Sheriff's Station**  
(310) 830-1123**Street Sweeping**  
Street Maintenance  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520**Telephone**  
AT&T  
(310) 515-7979**Trash Collection**  
Waste Management  
952-1700, ext. 3508  
or (310) 830-7100**Tree Trimming/ Street Maintenance**  
(310) 847-3520**Water**  
California Water Service  
Company, (310) 257-1400  
Golden State Water Company  
(800) 999-4033**Youth Services**  
(310) 952-1788

## Meetings

Meetings are in City Hall and the Community Center unless otherwise noted, and are open to the public.

**City Council/Redevelopment Agency** 6 p.m.,  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Citywide Advisory Commission  
7 p.m., 2nd Thursday  
(Only when necessary)

Economic Development Commission  
8 a.m., 1st Thursday,  
Community Center

Environmental Commission  
6:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday

Fine Arts and Historical Commission  
7 p.m., 1st Monday

Historical Committee  
6 p.m., 2nd Tuesday &  
4th Wednesday

Human Relations Commission  
6:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday

Parks and Recreation Commission  
6:30 p.m., last Thursday

Planning Commission  
6:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th Tuesday

Public Relations Commission  
12:00 p.m., 4th Tuesday,

Public Safety Commission  
6:30 p.m., 3rd Thursday

Public Works Commission  
6:30 p.m., 2nd Monday

Senior Citizen Advisory Commission  
4 p.m., 2nd Monday

Veterans Affairs Commission  
6 p.m., 3rd Monday

Women's Issues Commission  
6 p.m., 4th Monday

Mobilehome Park Rental Review Board  
6:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Youth Commission  
7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday

Relocation Appeals Board  
(Meetings are held when required)  
Sister Cities Association  
7 p.m., 4th Wednesday

Beautification Committee  
6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday

## Elected Officials

Mayor  
**Jim Dear**

Mayor Pro Tem  
**Elito M. Santarina**

Councilmember  
**Mike A. Gipson**

Councilmember  
**Lula Davis-Holmes**

Councilmember  
**Julie Ruiz-Raber**

City Clerk  
**Helen S. Kawagoe**

City Treasurer  
**Karen Avilla**

City Manager:  
**Jerome G. Groomes**

Editor:  
**Zarah Cruz**

Graphic Designers:  
**Victor Gastelum and Cian Camba**

## CITY OF CARSON POSITION STATEMENT

Carson is a vibrant city with a small town atmosphere where relationships are important. This is clearly visible throughout the community, from the stable single family neighborhoods, which make up nearly eighty percent of the city's residences, to the partnership between businesses and volunteer driven agencies which strengthen the city's remarkable social fabric.

The social composition of Carson is California in miniature. It is a city with a balanced ethnic and cultural mix living together in harmony and prosperity.

The community takes pride in the large percentage of Carson students who attend college, many to California State University, Dominguez Hills, a valuable asset to the city.

Carson's strategic position in the heart of the powerful economic engine that is Southern California attracts international corporations which recognize the city's bright future. The city's proximity to the West Coast's two major ports, as well as its intersection by four Southland freeways, makes it a major gateway to the Pacific Rim.

We, the people who live and work in Carson, take pride in our city and will continue to build relationships which ensure that future.



and



NOW IN  
ONE  
PUBLICATION

# One-Cent-Per-Dollar Sales Tax Measure to Appear on Carson's November 2 Ballot

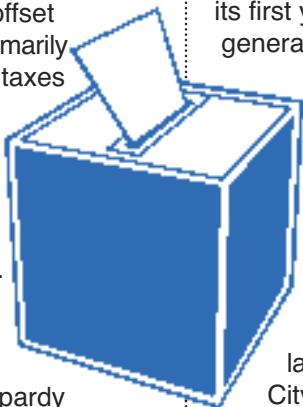
The levying of an additional one-cent-per-dollar sales tax for the next five years is up for a vote in Carson in a special municipal elections to be held as part of the General Election on November 2.

Measure H, or the "Carson Vital City Services Emergency Protection Measure," was placed on the ballot by the City Council in August following a declaration of fiscal emergency in Carson. In their declaration, the City Council determined that Carson continues to experience a decline in revenues over the last three years despite significant cost-cutting measures.

If approved by voters, the additional one-cent-per-dollar sales tax is projected to generate some \$10 million a year for the next five years, and thus allow the City to offset reduced revenues -- primarily in sales and franchise taxes -- and severe state budget cuts. These new revenues will allow the City to continue to provide services to its residents.

Among the services that the City Council has declared to be jeopardy are the Carson Sheriff's Station's response to 911 calls, Sheriff's deputies patrol, gang suppression and prevention, street maintenance, graffiti removal and tree trimming, youth recreation and after-school program, senior recreation and other programs for seniors, stroke recovery program and natural disaster response.

Like other cities, Carson has been impacted by the current economic downturn over the last few years. In addition, the State of California has



*The UUT passed in 2009 allowed the city to maintain services, including road repairs, to its residents.*

turned to local governments, including Carson, to balance its budget by dipping into Carson's funds.

In 2009, for the first time, a temporary Utility Users' Tax (UUT), levied a 2% tax on residents' gas and electric bills. At the end of its first year, the UUT generated \$6.7 million, allowing the city to maintain City services.

Despite the UUT, the continued economic downturn has prompted the City to make additional reductions in the budget, specifically in areas such as law enforcement staffing levels, City staffing in key service areas, tree trimming, streets and parks maintenance, reduced park hours, reduced assistance to home-bound seniors and the elimination of cultural, fine arts and citywide community events.

However, in their declaration of fiscal emergency, the City Council found that declining revenues and severe State budget cuts continued to impact the City's budget and has reached a point where cutting expenses alone is not expected to

close the "structural deficit" without also cutting services. Carson's budget is expected to have a deficit of \$9 million per year for the next five years.

"We are at a point where the next move is to make deeper cuts which may now potentially impact our 911 emergency response times and the way we protect our kids from gangs and our neighborhoods from crime," said City Manager Jerome Groomes.

"Truth is, unless we find a new source of additional revenue for City services, we must all be prepared to see many of these essential services drastically reduced, if not completely eliminated," he added.



Measure H will not apply to food purchased as groceries and prescription medicines or to services rendered. Both visitors and residents will pay the uniform amount of one-cent-per-dollar for general consumer goods purchased in Carson. If passed with voters' approval, the added sales tax rate will sunset in 2016 unless extended by another vote by Carson voters.

To protect revenues generated from Measure H from being seized by the State to solve its own fiscal needs, the ordinance contains tough safeguards to ensure that funds generated from the additional sales tax stay in Carson and will be subject to annual independent audits.

For more information on Measure H, go to: <http://ci.carson.ca.us/measureh>

# Kaboom! and Carson Community Partner to Build Walnut Mini-Park Playground in one day

**A** community volunteer effort which involved the City of Carson, the Centerview Avalon Glen Homeowners Association, Kaboom!, the Los Angeles Kings and its All-Star Hockey player Dustin Brown and his wife Nicole, and Farmer John constructed a playground for the children of Carson at Walnut Park in one day.

The construction took place on September 29 and started with a kick-off ceremony in the morning

and concluded with a ribbon-cutting to dedicate the new playground on the same day. The new playground's design is based on drawings created by Carson children who participated in a Design Day event held last July. The new playground is among more than 180 playgrounds expected to be built Kaboom!, a national non-profit organization, which builds playgrounds across the nation through partnership with local communities. ■



*Photo shows volunteers at work during the early stage of construction.*

## The 2010 "Why I Like Carson" Contest is Now On!

**A**ll students grades 3-8 are invited to participate in the 2010 "Why I Like Carson" essay-writing contest.

The contest officially opened on September 16 and will conclude with an awards ceremony on December 6.

"Why I Like Carson" is open to all students grades 3-8 who either attend Carson schools, or at-large students, or those who live in Carson but are either

home-schooled or attend schools outside the city.

Winning students receive cash prizes, medals and certificates of recognition from the City of Carson and other elected officials.

Students who attend Carson schools must participate through their schools. At-large students must fill out a participation form through available at the City of Carson Public Information Office. All essays must be received

no later than Nov. 4, 2010.

"Why I Like Carson" is an annual contest sponsored by the City of Carson Public Relations Commission, and is the brainchild of former Councilmember Mary Anne O'Neal as an effort to foster community pride among the youth of Carson.

For more information or to learn more about important dates and contest rules, please contact the Public Information Office at (310) 952-1740. ■

## A Closer Look at the Environmental Investigation at the Carousel Tract Neighborhood

**F**rom the early 1920s to the mid-1960s, Shell Oil Company (Shell) operated three crude oil storage tanks on the land we now know as the Carousel neighborhood, which is located in the southern portion of the city, directly north of Lomita Boulevard. In 1967, the three tanks were demolished and the Lomita Development Company purchased the land and constructed

the Carousel neighborhood with 285 homes.

In 2008, while investigating a nearby industrial site, petroleum hydrocarbon contamination was found within the Carousel neighborhood. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), acting as the lead agency, immediately began directing

Shell to perform testing and to determine the extent of the contamination so that potential threats to human health could be evaluated. Since 2009, numerous environmental tests have been completed within the homes, land, and streets of the Carousel neighborhood and surrounding area. Currently, more than half of the homes within the

*Continued on page 8*

# City Council Adopts \$62-M Budget for FY 2010-11

The Carson City Council has adopted a balanced budget of \$62 million for fiscal year 2010-11, and successfully closed a \$9 million deficit projected for this fiscal year through a combination of various revenue enhancement and cost-saving measures.

The budget was passed on August 3, following 10 budget workshops beginning in April this year when it became evident that despite the \$6.7 million in new revenues generated in FY 2009/10 from the City's new 2% Utility Users' Tax (UUT), many of the City's revenue sources were performing much worse than the most conservative estimates. These decreasing revenue sources include property tax, sales tax, franchise tax from natural gas, transient occupancy tax (TOT), business license fees, building permits, interest earnings, and vehicle license fees.

In sales tax alone, for instance, the city experienced a shortfall of \$4.8 million -- at least \$400,000 of which came directly from the plunge in new car sales from its five dealerships. In addition, sales in most other sectors fell including the business and industry sector, 18%, building and construction, 15%; restaurants and hotels, 7%; general consumer goods, 5%; and food and drugs, 3%, collectively translating to an overall reduction in sales tax revenues.

In addition, franchise tax on natural gas dropped \$2.6 million due to the mid-2008 abnormal spike in the price of natural gas. Property tax also dropped \$1.6 million due to the suspension of Proposition 1A which allowed the State to borrow \$1.5 million from the City for each of the next three years.

At the same time, Carson's TOT, business license fees, building permits, interest earnings and vehicle license fees all plunged at a minimum amount of \$128,000 to as much as \$571,000, further contributing to the drastic decline in revenues for the past fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2010.

Through the workshops, the City Council worked diligently to close the \$9 million shortfall in the past fiscal year's budget by reducing expenditures and increasing revenues for the remainder of the fiscal year, while making the same considerations for the proposed FY 2010-11 budget, which began on July 1.

At the close of FY 2009-10, the City Council had reduced the \$9 million deficit by approximately \$4.3 million, and balanced its budget by using its reserves, leaving the General Fund with a balance of \$16.5 million.

Like most other cities, Carson found itself in a challenging fiscal situation this fiscal year, primarily because of the economic downturn that continues to sweep the nation, and is among countless cities that passed a reduced budget this fiscal year. Additionally, at the local level, the State has turned to local communities over the past few years, to balance its budget by dipping into local funds. Carson has previously responded to these challenges through various cost-cutting measures such as reducing law enforcement staffing levels, the tree trimming program, street maintenance and park maintenance, among many other things.

The various revenue enhancement efforts and cost-saving measures that resulted from this year's budget

workshops are expected to generate an additional \$2.3 million in revenues and reduce overall costs by \$6.8 million for FY 2010/11. These revenue enhancements include an additional projected revenue of \$600,000 from the removal of the UUT cap for companies that accrue over \$1 million in utility users tax on their gas and electricity usage; \$350,000 from the increase in street sweeping and parking tickets; \$325,000 from the increase in the gas tax transfer to general fund; and close to \$300,000 from various fee increases such as community center room rates and equipment rental, planning fees, admission to youth sports and early childhood programs and more.

The \$6.8 million in cost-saving measures includes \$1.8 million in employee concessions; \$1.2 million by unfunding vacant City positions and another \$722,000 in reducing citywide part time hours and close to a \$1 million cut in the Sheriff's contract. The City also cancelled all special events, suspended cultural arts contracts, reduced its median maintenance contract and building security contract, to name a few.

The \$62 million general fund budget is appropriated as follows:

City Council	\$636,188
City Attorney	\$1,285,000
Non-departmental	\$3,383,252
City Clerk	\$797,337
City Treasurer	\$648,118
City Manager	\$6,330,812
Admin. Services	\$6,174,835
Econ. Dev.	\$1,271,441
Dev. Services	\$9,257,449
Public Services	\$34,035,243
Empl. Concessions	(\$1,800,000)
Total	\$62,019,725

# The Boulevards at South Bay Moving Forward; Preparation Underway for Operations Center

The Boulevards at South Bay project is making steady progress on the remediation systems required before actual building construction begins. The Boulevards at South Bay is the city of Carson's 168-acre, mixed use, retail and residential project now under development on the south side of the 405 freeway between Del Amo and Avalon Boulevards on the site of the former Cal Compact landfill. The project is a development of LNR Property Corporation and Hopkins Real Estate Group,

Snyder Langston, the general construction contractor, and Tetra Tech, Inc. the environmental contractor, have recently completed the pre-drilling and driving of some 97 precast concrete piles for the future Tetra Tech Operations Center's building foundation. These concrete piles are an important part of landfill construction, integral to adding stability to any structure's foundation. Excavation and concrete work have also begun for the future structural slabs, all in preparation for the Operation Center's anticipated construction in 2011. In addition, installation has begun on the storm



*An architectural rendering by project architect, Nadel Architects, of the future Tetra Tech Operations Center from which all remedial systems will be monitored controlled and maintained into the future*

water drain and underground sewer infrastructure that will serve the entire Boulevards site.

The Operations Center will house the backbone system from which the latest technologies will monitor methane gas collection and water

treatment throughout The Boulevards' site. Continually monitored, the methane gas collection system will detect any gas leakage or potential system failure before a problem occurs. The monitoring of these environmental protection systems is mandated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), who will provide oversight that ensures standards are maintained to protect human health and the environment as set forth by state and federal regulations.

For questions about construction activity, please call the project information line at (310) 956-5942 or toll-free at (866) 928-4566. For more information about The Boulevards at South Bay, visit [www.Boulevardsat-SouthBay.com](http://www.Boulevardsat-SouthBay.com). ■



*The Boulevards at South Bay environmental contractor, Tetra Tech, Inc., awarded its second annual scholarship earlier this year to four Carson High School seniors who are seeking an educational path in the areas of science, math or engineering. As a longtime supporter of education, Tetra Tech's scholarships were awarded to students based on academic achievement, letters of recommendation and extra curricular activities. From left: Dane Ferrari-Esias, Arthur Dyson III, presenter Javier Weckmann, VP Tetra Tech, Inc., Joseph Brown IV and Ariana Rodriguez*

## Carson's Website Now Has Web-Based Module

**T**he City of Carson has made enhancements on its website with the addition of a web-based module to allow users to access information through the internet.

With the new module, residents and City staff can simultaneously access staff reports, minutes, and other files and documents in the City Clerk's site. Whether users are on the road

or working in a satellite office, this web-based module empowers them to stay connected and access documents remotely.

The web module expands the value of a document management and content managements solution by providing access to documents via Internet Explorer. Users can browse, search and retrieve documents as if they were on site,

all from within the City of Carson web interface.

Among the benefits of this new feature include increased collaboration and real-time access to documents 24/7 from anywhere in the world, improved response time to business challenges, more effective communication and reduced document handling and distribution costs. ■

# City Officials Designate Carson as a Drug-Free City; Establish Drug Hotline for Residents

The Carson City Council led the community on July 15 in the official unveiling of one of 10 "Drug-Free City" signs posted throughout as part of a City Council action establishing Carson as a drug-free city.

On April 6, the Carson City Council unanimously voted to adopt the "drug-free city" resolution and approved the creation of Special Monitoring Areas (SMAs) where law enforcement authorities could conduct more intensive monitoring and surveillance efforts. These areas include public housing facilities, churches, public parks, in and around buildings owned, leased or controlled by the City of Carson or the County of Los Angeles, and places that are deemed by the



Sheriff's Department as "high narcotics activity" areas.

The resolution stemmed from a proposal from the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) -- a grassroots organization that

promotes various anti-substance abuse programs -- which has a sizeable membership and support in Carson.

The "Drug Free City" resolution is a demonstration of the City Council of its commitment to create a drug-free atmosphere in Carson and a pro-active effort in making the public aware that drug-related criminal activities will not be tolerated in the city.

Last September, the City Council also established a drug-free hotline where residents can obtain valuable information on drugs. By dialing 211, residents are connected to the County of Los Angeles' 211 phone system which provides drug-related information such as intervention suggestions and contact numbers of rehabilitation centers. ■

## City of Carson Opens Cyber Café for Senior Netsurfers

The City of Carson has recently expanded its Senior Computer Technology Lab to add a Cyber Café component where Carson residents age 50-and-above can surf the net and network with fellow seniors.

The Cyber Café opened on July 19, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by the Carson City Council. The new cyber café is located next to the senior computer lab at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center.

The newly-opened cyber café has three desktop computers, but seniors are welcome to bring their own laptop computers and enjoy free-flowing coffee all day while surfing the net or working on computer projects. The use of the desktop computers is on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The café is open from Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Senior Technology Lab was dedicated in 2003 to provide Carson's senior population the opportunity to learn how to use the computer for creating basic documents, designing simple greeting cards and communicating with loved ones through e-mail. It now offers 12-week computer classes year round for beginners to advanced users.

Classes offered include Introduction to PC, the basics of word processing, beginning or intermediate internet, digital photography, blogging, mini-website design and Microsoft office applications such as Word,



Senior citizens can enjoy surfing the net over free-flowing coffee all day at the new Cyber Cafe.

Excel and Powerpoint. All classes are offered free on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For more information, please contact the Senior Technology Computer Lab at (310) 835-0212, ext. 1475. ■

# New Flood District Map Puts 7,600 Homes in Carson At-Risk During 100-Year Flood

**A**pproximately 7,600 properties in Carson that are adjacent to the Dominguez Channel and the Compton Creek may be inundated during a 100-year flood, according to the preliminary inundation maps prepared by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD).

The Flood District's inundation maps were based on the levee certification analysis it conducted as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod) effort.

The Map Mod is conducted to update and modernize existing flood hazard maps, and establish new national flood insurance requirements for federally-insured mortgages.

When the new flood hazard maps take into effect around Spring 2011,

properties located within the flood zone, and financed by federally backed mortgages, which comprise the majority of outstanding mortgages, will be required to have flood insurance.

Properties not backed by the federal government and properties that are paid in full are not mandated to purchase flood insurance. Property owners near levees are advised to take steps to protect their property. In the event of a flood, flood insurance provides insurance protection for both property and possessions.

Before the new map goes into effect, property owners may save money by purchasing flood insurance coverage at the moderate-risk zone rate, will be for the first year "grandfathered-in" for the lower-cost flood insurance, if an area has been re-mapped.

The City of Carson hosted community meetings this year to provide a forum for the LACFCD and FEMA to inform the public, in detail, of FEMA's upcoming regulations and its effects on the properties within the new anticipated flood hazard boundaries.

Near the adoption date of the new flood hazard maps, the City will host additional community meetings to update affected property owners of FEMA's conclusions and details of flood insurance requirements.

To view a map of the 100-year flood or for more information, visit the L.A. County Flood Control LACFCD's website: [http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/dsp\\_LeveeCertificationFAQs.cfm](http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/dsp_LeveeCertificationFAQs.cfm) or call City's FEMA Hotline (310) 952-1798.

## Carousel Tract

*Continued from page 4*

Carousel neighborhood have participated in sampling tests and residents are encouraged to complete sampling of soil, soil vapor and indoor air.

The results of this analysis will identify which homes are impacted and it will guide the selection of the most effective remediation and cleanup approach.

While there were initial concerns about the safety of the neighborhood, residents are able to stay in their homes during the environmental investigation. The Regional Board continues to work closely with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and other agencies, including the city, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the County Department of Public Health to better understand the extent of contamination and to prepare plans to



remove any chemicals that pose a potential threat to human health and the environment. For all involved, the goal is to ensure that residents are protected and the Carousel neighborhood is a safe and healthy place to live.

On June 28, 2010, the Regional Board released a Tentative Cleanup and Abatement Order (TCAO) requiring Shell to assess, monitor, and cleanup and abate any contaminants. A revised TCAO will be released in October or November 2010 at which time the public will have an opportunity to comment. Cleanup strategies will be proposed but they will not be approved or implemented until the community has had a chance to provide input.

For additional information on the environmental investigation in the Carousel neighborhood and to see a 10-minute video that provides detailed information about the different types of residential testing, please visit our website at <http://ci.carson.ca.us/carouseltract>. Residents with questions or concerns about the environmental investigation are encouraged to call Dr. Teklewold Ayalew of the Regional Board at (213) 576-6739. ■