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# **Rancho Santa Margarita City Council Makes the Most of Community Resources**

**Despite a decline in anticipated revenue, City Council develops and approves a 2009/2010 budget that maintains services and programs.**

**Rancho Santa Margarita, CA** – Following a comprehensive budget development process, the Rancho Santa Margarita City Council adopted the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year Budget for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. The budget implements a very conservative approach to revenue and expenses for the coming year.

“My City Council colleagues and I worked diligently with staff to explore numerous options and scenarios to reduce expenditures,” shares Gary Thompson, Mayor for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. “Our intention was to work to reduce non-essential expenses, while continuing to maintain our core services and programs.”

The 2009/2010 General Fund budget anticipates estimated revenues of \$14.9 million and projected expenditures of \$15.5 million. Approximately \$570,000 will be taken from reserves to bridge the gap and balance the budget. Careful analysis shows that the city’s current reserves of about \$13.0 million are more than sufficient to allow a minor expenditure of reserve funds for this coming Fiscal Year.

Based on various economic indicators, next year’s budget anticipates that property tax and sales tax – both important sources of City revenue – will decrease by 19% and 21% respectively. As a result, the City is braced to experience a reduction of almost \$2.9 million less revenue than last fiscal year.

“This year’s budget process provided us with an ideal opportunity to recalibrate the City. We looked at every revenue and expense category, and had the chance to consider new ways of doing business and providing services to our residents,” explained Mayor Thompson.

For more information about the City’s 2009/2010 budget, please visit [www.cityofrsm.org/depts/finance/budget.asp](http://www.cityofrsm.org/depts/finance/budget.asp).

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