



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2015
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Risk Management Division, Finance Department
SUBJECT: Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Program Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the Annual Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Program Annual Report for the year ended June 30, 2015.

DISCUSSION:

California Labor Code Section 3702.6(b) requires staff to advise Council annually about two items relating to the City's self-insured workers' compensation program: (1) the value of the total accrued claim liabilities reported by the City on the State's Self Insurers Annual Report; and (2) whether current accounting and financial reporting of those liabilities is in compliance with the requirements of Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 10.

The California Department of Industrial Relations requires all self-insured public agencies to submit an annual report before October 1st of each year that identifies the workers' compensation liabilities as of the prior fiscal year-end. Risk Management staff submitted the Fiscal Year 2015 annual report on September 22, 2015.

The annual report submitted by the City identified results for claims reported during Fiscal Year 2015, plus the results for all claims that remain open that were reported during a previous fiscal year. City employees reported 122 claims during Fiscal Year 2015; 65 of these claims required the City to pay disability compensation for time away from work. The City paid \$1,501,077 for disability benefits and \$1,848,882 in medical care on the 122 claims reported during Fiscal Year 2015.

The report lists a total of 190 open claims (from all years). The total liability for these 190 claims equals \$8,814,773 – consisting of \$4,306,074 for indemnity (disability payments) and \$4,508,699 for medical payments.

The City accounts for its risk management operations in a separate Internal Service Fund. Every two years, the City contracts with a risk management actuarial firm to prepare an actuarial valuation of the accrued liabilities in the City's self-insured workers' compensation program. The City uses the results of this actuarial valuation as well as claims information from our third party administrator (claims adjuster) to report the workers' compensation accrued liabilities in both the City's annual audit report (the "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report" or "CAFR") and the required annual report submitted to the State of California. The City is partially funded for all of its actuarially determined workers' compensation claim liabilities.

GASB Statement 10 established accounting and financial reporting standards for all City claims, including workers' compensation claims. GASB Statement 10 requires governments to recognize a claim as an expense and liability if both of the following conditions are met:

1. Information available indicates that it is probable that a liability has been incurred; and,
2. The amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

In addition, GASB 10 requires certain disclosures in the footnotes to the financial statements. All of the City's workers' compensation claims have been accounted for and reported in accordance with GASB Statement 10.

In summary, the City has met its obligation to file the required Public Self Insurers Annual Report with the State of California Office of Self Insurance Plans. The City also met its legal requirement to report the workers' compensation program liabilities to the City Council with this report. Council will receive a more complete description of the City's self-insured workers' compensation program as part of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. Finance staff is also scheduled to make a comprehensive presentation about the CAFR for Fiscal Year 2015 on this date.

PREPARED BY: Mark W. Howard, Risk Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Robert Samario, Finance Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office