



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 7, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration Division, Finance Department

SUBJECT: Launch Of Online Financial Transparency System

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive a report and demonstration of OpenGov, the City's new Online Financial Transparency System.

DISCUSSION:

In recent years, there has been a growing movement toward increased government transparency. In order to help provide greater transparency, new web-based systems were developed to help make government finances more understandable by the general public. These new systems provide greater financial transparency for governmental entities by displaying their financial data in a user-friendly platform, with interactive charts and graphics, accessible to the public via their website.

Staff from the City Administrator's Office and the Finance Department conducted a thorough review of various vendors offering online financial transparency systems. Staff received demonstrations from three major financial transparency vendors (OpenGov, Socrata, and Mo'Mix) and contacted a few others (Neubrain and Budget Infographics) to review their services.

After evaluating the various products and receiving feedback from the City's management regarding the systems, OpenGov was determined to be the most simple, user-friendly, and economical solution. OpenGov has implemented their financial transparency platform with numerous governmental agencies throughout the United States and California, including the City of Los Angeles, Anaheim, Beverly Hills, and Riverside.

Overview of the Online Financial Transparency System

The system offers two major views:

- Annual – shows the City’s financial activity by year from Fiscal Year 2010 to Fiscal Year 2015 (amended budget)
- Current Year – shows it by month and year through the most current month of closed financial activity. This includes monthly data from Fiscal Year 2010 to Fiscal Year 2015 (amended budget and actual).

Both views allow the public to dynamically graph the City’s financial activity by fund, department, project, and expense type.

Launch of the Online Financial Transparency System will coincide with staff’s presentation to Council on October 7.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The online financial transparency system is provided by an annual subscription service at a cost of \$11,000 per year. This pricing includes all installation and implementation costs and is competitive and comparable to the cost of this service for other agencies.

Sufficient appropriations for the system are included in the adopted Finance Department budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

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