



**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, April 23, 2026  
10:00 AM**

2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

Teleconference Location – 1619 Edith Street, Berkeley CA 94703

Committee Members:

Mayor Adena Ishii, Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Brent Blackaby  
Alternate: Councilmember Igor Tregub

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person and virtual attendance. Attend this meeting remotely using [Zoom](#). To request to speak, use the “raise hand” function in Zoom. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252 or 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)** and enter **Meeting ID: 161 511 3616**. To provide public comment, Press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. To submit a written communication for the Committee’s consideration and inclusion in the public record, email [policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov). All Committee meetings are recorded.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting, however, if you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

Pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure and State Law, the presiding officer may remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the meeting. Prior to removing an individual, the presiding officer shall warn the individual that their behavior is disrupting the meeting and that their failure to cease their behavior may result in their removal. The presiding officer may then remove the individual if they do not promptly cease their disruptive behavior. “Disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes, but is not limited to, a failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by a legislative body, or engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true threat of force.

**California Government Code Section 84308 (Levine Act)** Parties to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use are required to disclose if they made contributions over \$500 within the prior 12 months to any City employee or officer. Parties and participants with a financial interest are prohibited from making more than \$500 in contributions to a decisionmaker for the 12 months after the final decision is rendered on the proceeding. The above contribution disclosures and restrictions do not apply when the proceeding is competitively bid, or involves a personnel or labor contract. For more information, see Government Code Section 84308.

# AGENDA

## Roll Call

## Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - April 16, 2026

## Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

### 2. Discussion: Follow up on Overview of FY 2027 – FY 2028 Proposed Budget Balancing Plan

Contact: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager, (510) 981-7000

### 3. Charter Officer Budget Reduction Plans - City Attorney

Contact: Farimah Brown, City Attorney, (510) 981-6998

## Committee Action Items

4. **Budget Referral to Reissue the Request for Proposal (RFP) to Support Berkeley-Based Non-Profit Food Assistance Providers Serving Food Insecure Households and to Incorporate Food Insecurity as a Funded Category in Future Community Agency Grant Funding\*\*\***

**From: Councilmember Kesarwani (Author)**

**Referred: February 23, 2026**

**Due: July 13, 2026**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager to reissue and fund a Request for Proposal (RFP) process as a short-term measure to support Berkeley-based non-profit food assistance providers serving food insecure households. Like the RFP that was issued in August 2024 , funds are intended for (but not limited to) the following needs: Expansion of capacity to service more people experiencing food insecurity, such as purchase of equipment; Hiring of additional staff to serve more people; and/or Other emerging needs to be determined. Refer \$300,000 annually in funding to the biennial FY 2026-27 to FY 2027-28 budget process to fund qualified proposals resulting from the RFP. Further, refer to the City Manager to establish food insecurity as a funded category for the Community Agency RFP process for future funding cycles to ensure city funds are permanently allocated to address this key priority and maximize sustainability for relevant non-profits.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Rashi Kesarwani, Councilmember, District 1, (510) 981-7110

## Unscheduled Items

- None

## Items for Future Agendas

- Requests by Committee Members to add items to the next agenda

## Adjournment

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*Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Budget & Finance Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record.*

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953 and applicable Executive Orders as issued by the Governor that are currently in effect. Members of the City Council who are not members of the standing committee may attend a standing committee meeting even if it results in a quorum being present, provided that the non-members only act as observers and do not participate in the meeting. If only one member of the Council who is not a member of the committee is present for the meeting, the member may participate in the meeting because less than a quorum of the full Council is present. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding public participation may be addressed to the City Clerk Department (510) 981-6900.*

**COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:**

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at [ada@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:ada@berkeleyca.gov), (510) 981-6418 (V), or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various scents, whether natural or manufactured, in products and materials. Please help the City respect these needs.

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I hereby certify that the agenda for this meeting of the Standing Committee of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City's website, on April 20, 2026.



Mark Numainville, City Clerk

**Communications**

*Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, and are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk Department at (510) 981-6908 or [policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov).*

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Committee Members:

Mayor Adena Ishii, Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Brent Blackaby

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# MINUTES

**Roll Call:** 10:03 a.m.

**Present:** Councilmember Blackaby, Councilmember Kesarwani, Mayor Ishii

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - April 9, 2026

**Action:** M/S/C (Blackaby/Ishii) to approve the April 9, 2026 minutes.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

## Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

### 2. Overview of FY 2027 – FY 2028 Proposed Budget Balancing Plan

Contact: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager, (510) 981-7000

**Action:** 13 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held. Item continued to next meeting.

## Unscheduled Items

- None

## Items for Future Agendas

- None

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Blackaby/Kesarwani) to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

Adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on April 16, 2026.

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Keith Nesbit, Assistant City Clerk

## **Communications**

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CITY OF BERKELEY

# **FY 2027 and FY 2028 Budget Balancing Plan**

**Budget & Finance Committee**  
**April 16, 2026**

## Situational Overview

- *Fiscal Context & Budget Summary*
- *Revenues and Expenditures*
- *Pre/Post Sales & Use Tax scenario*

## Departmental Impacts

- *High-level Budget and Position Impacts*

## Next Steps

- *Illustrative Timeline*

## Discussion

# Agenda

# Situational Overview

# Fiscal Context

- General Fund structural deficit and deficits/structural challenges in other funds
- Rising costs in personnel, pension, and health care
- Inflation
- Programs supported by one-time funds
- State/federal revenue limitations and economic uncertainty
- Increased service demands and community expectations
- Deferred maintenance and significant unfunded infrastructure needs.

***Recent budgets have relied on one-time funding measures, the Budget Balancing Plan relies on long-term, structural adjustments to restore fiscal stability.***

## FY 2027–FY 2028 GF Baseline Reset

- Baseline rebuilt using actual spending and service needs.

## Budget Balancing Framework

- After revenue and expenditure adjustments, GF deficit ranged from \$31.3M (FY 27) to \$29.5M (FY 28)
- Citywide effort: 10–12.5% GF reductions, other fund-specific fixes, and revenue ideas.
- Includes strategic cost shifts, non-departmental refinements, required debt-service support, and parking-fund stabilization.

## Use of One-Time GF Resources

- \$12.06M in one-time funds used to smooth deficits.
- Sustains services (public safety and youth/adult programs) in FY27 until the outcome of a potential Nov. 2026 Sales Tax measure is known.

# Fiscal Context Cont'd.

*The goal is a balanced budget that **protects core services**, **reduces reliance on one-time funds**, and sets the foundation for **long-term fiscal sustainability**.*

# General Fund Deficit

	FY 2027	FY 2028
Initial Estimate of General Fund Deficit	(\$32,256,300)	(\$33,206,801)
Additional Income From Revenue Projections	\$5,111,718	\$8,291,028
<b>Revised Deficit after Revenue Projections</b>	<b>(\$27,144,582)</b>	<b>(\$24,915,773)</b>
Adjustments to Revised Deficit		
1947 Center Street Debt Service	(\$1,630,454)	(\$1,623,581)
Parking Funds Stabilization	(\$1,050,938)	(\$1,050,938)
Adjustments to Non-Departmental	(\$1,523,365)	(\$1,942,666)
<b>Total Deficit Before Use of One Time Resources</b>	<b>(\$31,349,339)</b>	<b>(\$29,532,958)</b>
Use of One Time Resources	\$2,100,000	\$0
<b>General Fund Deficit after Revenue and Expenditure Adjustments</b>	<b>(\$29,249,339)</b>	<b>(\$29,532,958)</b>

# One Time Resources

Sources of One Time Resources	Amount
Operating Reserve (2025 AAO#1)	\$4,177,541
Dissolution of Successor Agency - Transfer to City	\$7,877,572
<b>Total Sources of One Time Resources</b>	<b>\$12,055,113</b>

Uses of One Time Resources	Amount
Proposed Sales and Use Tax	\$9,443,000
Smooth Out Difference in FY 2027 and FY 2028 Deficit	\$2,100,000
Carrying Costs Associated with Impacted Employees	\$500,000
<b>Total Uses of One Time Funds</b>	<b>\$12,043,000</b>
Remaining One Time Resources	\$12,113

## Scenario 1: Proposed Sales & Use Tax Measure Passes (November 2026)

- Avoids service disruptions in public safety and youth and adult services
- Provides ongoing revenue to stabilize the General Fund
- Allows the City to continue long-term structural reforms

## Scenario 2: Proposed Sales & Use Tax Measure Fails

- Deeper cuts needed to balance the budget

# Budget Scenarios

*The proposed Budget Balancing Plan presents two paths.*

# General Fund Budget Balancing

## FY 2027

- Deficit - \$29,249,330
- Reduction Achieved **before** S&U Tax \$29,251,348 (10.3%)
- Reduction Achieved **after** S&U Tax (1xResource) \$19,808,353 (7.0%)

## FY 2028

- Deficit - \$29,532,958
- Reduction Achieved **before** S&U Tax \$29,773,019 (10.5%)
- Reduction Achieved **after** S&U Tax \$20,139,074 (7.1%)

*The City closed the FY 27 and FY 28 structural deficits with more than 10 percent in ongoing reductions. While one-time resources provide short-term easing, the underlying balance is achieved through durable, sustainable fiscal measures and new revenue.*

## Developing the Plan centered on the following:

- Protecting essential and safety-net services
- Advancing community wellbeing
- Maintaining long term fiscal sustainability
- Minimizing service disruptions and workforce impacts

# Budget Balancing Plan

***Reflects a strategic approach that addresses City needs considering severe resource constraints rather than equal cuts by department.***

# FY 27 Proposed Reduction Plan - Charter Offices - GF

Charter Offices	FY 27 Baseline	Reduction	FY 27 Budget w/Reduction	% Reduction	S&U Tax Alloc.	Reduction w/S&U Tax	% Reduction w/S&U Tax
City Attorney	\$7,696,001	\$0	\$7,696,001	0.0%	\$0	\$0	0.0%
City Auditor	\$3,929,199	\$288,560	\$3,640,639	7.3%	\$0	\$288,560	7.3%
ODPA	\$1,289,953	\$71,708	\$1,218,245	5.6%	\$0	\$71,708	5.6%
Mayor & Council	\$6,899,331	\$863,145	\$6,036,186	12.5%	\$0	\$863,145	12.5%
<b>Total Charter</b>	<b>\$19,814,484</b>	<b>\$1,223,413</b>	<b>\$18,591,071</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,223,413</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

**Once Charter Offices' reductions were set, the remaining deficit was defined, requiring \$28.0 million in additional reductions from CM-Managed Departments to close the FY 27 GF gap. Same methodology was applied for FY 28.**

# FY 27 Proposed Reduction Plan – Departments - GF

Departments	FY 27 Baseline	Reduction	FY 27 Budget w/Reduction	% Reduction	S&U Tax Alloc.	Reduction w/S&U Tax	% Reduction w/S&U Tax
City Clerk	\$3,952,847	\$210,456	\$3,742,391	5.3%	\$0	\$210,456	5.3%
CMO	\$18,713,660	\$2,489,487	\$16,224,173	13.3%	\$0	\$2,489,487	13.3%
Finance	\$9,887,235	\$684,356	\$9,202,879	6.9%	\$0	\$684,356	6.9%
Fire	\$55,650,689	\$6,653,092	\$48,997,597	12.0%	\$3,631,106	\$3,021,986	5.4%
HHCS	\$37,548,665	\$3,561,672	\$33,986,993	9.5%	\$0	\$3,561,672	9.5%
HR	\$5,212,918	\$625,774	\$4,587,144	12.0%	\$0	\$625,774	12.0%
IT	\$1,150,454	\$185,391	\$965,062	16.1%	\$0	\$185,391	16.1%
PRW	\$13,233,201	\$1,190,950	\$12,042,251	9.0%	\$466,004	\$724,946	5.5%
Planning & Dev.	\$3,666,161	\$458,269	\$3,207,892	12.5%	\$0	\$458,269	12.5%
Police	\$106,198,574	\$10,588,717	\$95,609,857	10.0%	\$5,345,885	\$5,242,832	4.9%
Public Works	\$8,135,147	\$779,771	\$7,355,377	9.6%	\$0	\$779,771	9.6%
IT Cost Allocation		\$600,000			\$0	\$600,000	

# FY 27 Proposed Reduction Plan – Dept. GF – Cont.

Departments	FY 27 Baseline	Reduction	FY 27 Budget w/Reduction	% Reduction	S&U Tax Alloc.	Reduction w/S&U Tax	% Reduction w/S&U Tax
Total CM Depts.	\$263,349,551	\$28,027,935	\$235,321,616	10.6%	\$9,442,995	\$18,584,940	7.1%
Total Citywide	\$283,164,035	\$29,251,348	\$253,912,687	10.3%	\$9,442,995	\$19,808,353	7.0%

**FY 28 Reduction amount is higher than FY 27 to allow for natural increase but percentage of reduction of the baseline budget is also 10.6% for CM Managed Depts. and 6.5% for Charter Offices, with Total Citywide reduction of 10.3%**

## **A Personnel-Driven Budget Limits Balancing Options. Choices Get Difficult.**

- About 70% of the General Fund is tied to staffing, meaning the deficit cannot be closed through non-personnel cuts alone.
- Other City funding sources face similar constraints.
- Departments minimized impacts by prioritizing vacant positions and only identifying filled positions with focus on preserving core services and to support long-term fiscal health.
- Positions proposed for allocation to the Sales & Use Tax = 33.0 FTE (15.0 Vacant and 18.0 Filled)

# Staffing Reduction

## *All Funds*

### *Proposed Position Reduction*

*Vacant = 100*

*Filled = 38*

*Total = 138*

### *Proposed Position Reduction (S&U)*

*Vacant = 85*

*Filled = 20*

*Total = 105*

# Staffing Impact - All Funds

**Table 1 – Cumulative FTE RIF no Sales & Use Tax (FY 26 Mid-Biennial and Proposed FY 27 & FY 28)**

FY 26 Adopted FTE*	FY 26 Reduction in Force (RIF)**	FY 27 Baseline FTE***	FY 27 Proposed FTE Reduction	FY 27 Total FTE (net of Proposed Reduction)	Total Cumulative RIF	Total Cumulative % Reduction in FTE
1,608.99	45.00	1,559.54	138.00	1,421.54	183.00	11.37%

**Table 2 – Cumulative FTE RIF w/Sales & Use Tax (FY 26 Mid-Biennial and Proposed FY 27 & FY 28)**

FY 26 Adopted FTE*	FY 26 Reduction in Force (RIF)**	FY 27 Baseline FTE***	FY27 Proposed FTE Reduction (w/Sales & Use Tax)	FY 27 Total FTE (net of Proposed Reduction)	Total Cumulative RIF (w/Sales & Use Tax)	Total Cumulative % Reduction in FTE
1,608.99	45.00	1,559.54	105.00	1,454.54	150.00	9.32%

\* FY 26 Adopted Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) count includes RIF – positions that were authorized but not budgeted in FY 26.

\*\* Reduction in Force (RIF) – 44.4 General Fund positions; equivalent to 45 FTE count – All Funds

\*\*\* Baseline as of 01/15/2026; excludes RIF (45 FTE) and includes department adjustments (4.45 net FTE, removed temporary positions and expired project-based positions, reclassifications, relocation, new Measure FF positions, etc.)

# Departmental Impacts

# City Clerk's Office

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of GF Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction
2027	\$3,952,847	\$3,742,391	5.3%	9	9
2028*	\$3,998,036	\$3,903,580	2.4%	9	9

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Eliminate resources for overtime and temporary staffing.
- Delay planned update of OnBase (City Council report management system).
- Reduce captioning costs. Lowers captioning expenses while maintaining accessibility.
- Reallocate 75% of Boardroom costs to other funding sources.

\* Excludes \$1,071,990 one-time reduction due to allocation to election, which does not occur in FY 2028. These resources will be deployed to address increases in insurance costs that exceed the City's initial projections.

# City Manager's Office

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of GF Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction
2027	\$18,713,660	\$16,224,173	13.3%	53	44
2028	\$19,041,413	\$16,608,790	12.8%	53	44

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Priority items assigned to existing staff to the extent feasible. Community engagement activities envisioned for role will not occur.
- Economic Development: Reduced capacity for small-business assistance, loan fund management, BID/commission support, and marketing activities.
- Civic Arts: Reduces operational capacity, grant opportunities, prioritizes backlog of public arts projects.
- Communications: Slows response times, shifts work to departments, weakens crisis / emergency response.
- Increased administrative workload spread across the department.
- Ends homeless outreach (DBA) and animal services contracts.

# Finance Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of GF Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction
2027	\$9,887,235	\$9,202,879	6.9%	52	48
2028	\$10,178,435	\$9,462,721	7.0%	52	48

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Diminished capacity for system modernization and technology system upgrades.
- Loss of the only broad-scope analyst limits internal analysis, revenue monitoring, and backup coverage.
- Reduced staffing for business tax audits and collections, reducing revenue generation for the General Fund and Zero Waste Fund.
- Reduces training resources by 25%.

# Fire Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	Reduction % after S & U Tax	All Funds FTE after S & U Tax
2027	\$55,650,689	\$48,997,597	12.0%	206	192	\$3,631,106	5.4%	201
2028	\$57,206,818	\$50,406,027	11.9%	206	192	\$3,703,328	5.4%	201

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Closure of Station 4 significantly slows response times and reduce reliability. \*
- Anticipated delays in project reviews, inspections, and special event permitting.
- Prevention and Preparedness -- ends Street Trauma Prevention, CERT instruction, and disaster preparedness training.
- Diminished emergency medical services program oversight.
- Operational cost shifts reduces critical employee health and wellness programming and education.
- Limited capacity to apply for and monitor grants.

\* Maintained in FY 27 with one-time funding; Future years proposed for Sales & Use Tax Measure.

# Health, Housing, and Community Services Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of GF Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction
2027	\$37,548,665	\$33,986,993	9.5%	240.75	195.75
2028	\$38,021,381	\$34,565,913	9.1%	240.75	195.75

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Addresses General Fund deficits and loss of funding across mental health, public health, aging, and housing.
- Ends Vector Control, Mobile Crisis, Heart-to-Heart, public health emergency preparedness, and other services.
- Eliminates Winter Shelter program, reduces STAIR Center funding, and reduced staffing impacts responsiveness (Shelter Plus Care and Labor Standards).
- State and federal funding cuts (Prop I, CASPHI, CFHL, SEED) reduce health, nutrition, equity, and mental health services.

# Human Resources Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of GF Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction
2027	\$5,212,918	\$4,587,144	12.0%	26	24
2028	\$5,387,455	\$4,765,423	11.5%	26	24

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Focus shifts from proactive and strategic efforts to a compliance-driven, baseline model.
- Reassigns portions of multiple HR roles to WVC duties, limiting broader HR services.
- Reduces capacity for workers' compensation, safety, and proactive HR support.
- Slower response times associated with ergonomic assessments, site visits, and compliance support.
- Non-personnel: Eliminates consulting, software, and modeling tools, increasing manual work and reducing strategic support.



# Information Technology Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of GF Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction
2027	\$1,150,454	\$965,062	16.1%	49	45
2028	\$1,150,454	\$965,062	16.1%	49	45

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Reduced capacity for system support and modernization, project management, infrastructure improvements, 311 Customer Service, and employee Service Desk operations.
- Defers phone system replacement, integration platform work, and AI tools.
- Non-personnel reductions: Eliminates ServiceNow support, increasing risk of slower issue resolution.
- Structural deficits in other IT funds (502 and 503) shift costs to IT Cost Allocation Plan Fund, increasing long-term funding pressures.

# Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	Reduction % after S & U Tax	All Funds FTE after S & U Tax
2027	\$13,233,201	\$12,042,251	9.0%	116	110	\$466,004	5.5%	113
2028	\$13,382,163	12,176,353	9.0%	116	110	\$477,313	5.4%	113

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Addressing GF and Marina Fund deficits and expiring TI funding results in reduced capacity in recreation, maintenance, and capital project delivery.
- Fewer camps, afterschool slots, pool and community center hours, youth programs, and special events; Therapeutic Recreation ends.\*
- Waterfront & capital: Reduced capacity to deliver projects, secure grants, oversee leases, and maintain marina operations.
- Non-personnel: Reduced fire fuel work, outreach and events, department training, and maintenance.

\* Maintained in FY 27 with one-time funding, Future years proposed for Sales & Use Tax Measure.



# Planning and Development Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of GF Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction
2027	\$3,666,161	\$3,207,892	12.5%	104.04	104.04
2028	\$3,763,360	\$3,292,941	12.5%	104.04	104.04

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Reallocates eligible staff costs to Permit Service Center and CUPA funds, reducing General Fund spending with no immediate service change.
- Adjusts internal service charges to properly align with workload, generating additional General Fund savings.
- Enterprise funds may require fee adjustments to sustain reallocated costs over time.

# Police Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	Reduction % after S & U Tax	All Funds FTE after S & U Tax
2027	\$106,198,574	\$95,609,857	10.0%	290	251	\$5,345,885	4.9%	272
2028	\$107,356,946	\$96,567,568	10.1%	290	251	\$5,453,304	5.0%	272

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Sworn and nonsworn staffing reductions diminishes response to 9-1-1 calls for service and ability to proactively address crime. Increases workload, burnout, and negatively impacts hiring efforts.
- Dispatcher staffing reductions will slow 9-1-1 call-taking and impact reliability.\*
- Sworn staffing reductions reduces / eliminates specialty units (Traffic, Community Services, Bicycle Team, and major Detective functions shrink or end) reducing proactive work, investigations, and community engagement.\*
- Non-personnel: Shifts in contracts, software, training, uniforms/gear to special funds and reduces overtime.

\* 15 police officers / 6 dispatchers maintained in FY 27 with one-time funding to maintain public safety response. Future years proposed for Sales & Use Tax Measure.

# Public Works Department

Fiscal Year	GF Baseline Expenditures	GF Proposed Budget	Reduction % of GF Baseline	All Funds Baseline FTE	FTE after proposed reduction
2027	\$8,135,147	\$7,355,377	9.6%	352	337
2028	\$8,302,692	\$7,218,169	13.1%	352	337

## Service and Operational Impacts:

- Addresses GF deficit, along with deficits in other funds (Building Maintenance, Parking, CIP).
- Focus on essential public life-safety systems, legal compliance, and preventing catastrophic infrastructure failure.
- Anticipated delays in repairs and facility work, especially for non-emergency work, and reduced support for special events.
- Extensive cost shifting strains funds, leading to reduced services, deferred projects, and increased backlog.
- Non-personnel reductions: Cuts security services and defers parking meter upgrades, increasing long-term maintenance issues and revenue risks, and defers capital projects.



# Next Steps | Illustrative Timeline

*The planned action items noted below may be adjusted based on the actual budget process.*



## Budget Development & Adoption

- *Refine the biennial budget and prepare adjustments for June 2026 adoption.*

## Fiscal Alignment

- *Maintain focus on long-term structural balance over one-time fixes.*

Next Steps

# Discussion



Office of the City Manager

Date: April 16, 2026  
To: Budget & Finance Policy Committee  
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager  
Submitted by: Maricar Dupaya, Budget Manager  
Subject: FY 2027 & FY 2028 Proposed Budget Balancing Plan

### RECOMMENDATION

Request that the Budget & Finance Policy Committee:

1. Receive, review, and discuss the City Manager’s proposed FY 2027 and FY 2028 Budget Balancing plan.
2. Provide recommendations on any adjustments to the proposed plan.

### SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley has faced a persistent General Fund structural deficit for many years. The upcoming FY 2027–FY 2028 Biennial Budget continues this trend but with a critical shift. Rather than relying on one-time fixes, the proposed Budget Balancing Plan recommends long-term, structural adjustments to restore fiscal stability<sup>1</sup>.

The City’s financial outlook reflects the following:

- Ongoing structural General Fund deficit
- Ongoing programs supported by one-time funds
- Historical and projected increases in personnel costs associated with pensions, health

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<sup>1</sup> As part of the FY 25 – FY 26 Adopted Biennial Budget (<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FY-2025-2026-Proposed-Biennial-Budget.pdf>), the budget message indicated the need for structural reforms as part of the FY 27 – FY 29 Biennial Budget process (page 9): “Again, given the increase in expenditures, the General Fund is balanced through a combination of one-time solutions. These factors include (1) increase in assumed salary savings materializing from vacant positions; (2) not making any funding allocations to the workers compensation fund in either fiscal year; (3) due to the increase in pension costs, utilizing \$3 million of funding from the City’s Section 115 Trust toward pension expenses in each fiscal year, thereby allowing more General Fund to be redirected toward other expenditures and (4) the use of approximately \$2-3 million of fund balance (prior years’ savings) in FY25 and FY26 respectively. While these strategies lead to a balanced biennial budget, they are not sustainable and efforts to either increase revenues and/or decrease expenditures beyond the baseline budget will need to be undertaken as part of the FY26 Mid-Biennial Budget Update and as part of the budget development process for fiscal years 2027 and 2028.”

care, and labor agreements

- Inflationary increases in contracts, utilities, and materials
- Increasing insurance costs
- State and Federal imposed revenue limitations
- Increased service demands and community expectations
- Deficits in enterprise and special funds (e.g., Parking, Marina, Building Maintenance, Mental/Behavioral Health) and the Capital Improvement Fund
- Delayed facility maintenance and growing unfunded liabilities attributed to aging infrastructure
- Economic uncertainties and other external factors

The City developed its General Fund (GF) baseline expenditure budget from December 2025–January 2026. This resulted in a projected \$32.3 million deficit in FY 2027 and \$33.2 million in FY 2028 ([FY 2027 and FY 2028 Biennial Budget Update 1.22.2026](#))<sup>2</sup>.

To address this gap, the City launched a citywide budget balancing exercise from January through March 2026. Departments and Charter Officers were asked to:

- Identify 10% and 12.5% General Fund reductions;
- Address deficits in other structurally imbalanced funds (if applicable); and
- Propose revenue-generating ideas.

On February 26, 2026, the Finance Department released updated General Fund revenue projections for FY 2026, as well as for FY 2027 and FY 2028 ([FY 2026 Mid-Year General Fund Revenue Report](#))<sup>3</sup>. These updated revenues reduced the projected General Fund deficit to \$27.1 million in FY 2027 and \$24.9 million in FY 2028.

These departmental submissions, combined with citywide strategies, and updated revenue projections, form the basis of the proposed balancing plan and reflect the City's commitment to:

- Protecting essential and safety-net services
- Advancing community wellbeing
- Maintaining long term fiscal sustainability
- Minimizing service disruptions and workforce impacts
- Ensuring transparency and accountability

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<sup>2</sup> [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/Item 02 BFPC-FY2728 Budget Update\\_Final\\_01.22.26.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/Item%20BFPC-FY2728%20Budget%20Update_Final_01.22.26.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/Item 02 General Fund Revenue Update and Overview of Revenue Enhancements %28FY 2026 Mid-Year General Fund Revenue Report-Final%29.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/Item%20General%20Fund%20Revenue%20Update%20and%20Overview%20of%20Revenue%20Enhancements%20FY%202026%20Mid-Year%20General%20Fund%20Revenue%20Report-Final%29.pdf).

## CURRENT SITUATION

The City Manager, along with the Deputy City Manager, Budget Manager, Human Resources Director, Finance Director, and Department Directors, reviewed departmental proposals to develop the proposed Budget Balancing Plan (“Plan”) that is now before the Budget and Finance Policy Committee for discussion.

The proposed Plan reflects several key points:

- Proposed reductions in staffing and non-personnel expenditures to address the structural deficit in the General Fund as well as other funds, including the Off-Street Parking Fund, Building Maintenance Fund, Building Purchases and Management Fund (1947 Center Street), Marina Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, IT Cost Allocation Plan Fund, and multiple funds supporting Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services.
- Reallocating personnel and non-personnel expenditures (referred to as cost shifts throughout this report) to other funds that are not in fiscal distress and for which the shifted expenditures are appropriate.
- General Fund support for the City’s legally obligated payments for debt service associated with the purchase of 1947 Center Street.
- Reducing the Parking Meter Fund transfer to the General Fund to stabilize parking operations and ensure that the City can satisfy bond obligations.
- Refining non-departmental budgets.
- Strategically using one-time resources to smooth the deficit across the two fiscal years and support programs and services to be funded until the outcome of a proposed Sales and Use Tax measure for the November 2026 ballot is determined<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> On January 27, 2026, City Council approved a referral to the City Manager to include, as part of the upcoming community survey for the November 2026 election, a question assessing the perspectives of likely Berkeley voters on a potential increase to the City’s sales and use tax rate. This would result in a sales and use tax that is comparable to surrounding jurisdictions. On March 17, 2026, the results of the community survey were presented to the City Council (<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/2026-03-17%20Special%20Item%2001%20Presentation%20and%20Discussion.pdf>) and the results of the survey indicated that there was majority support for a sales and use tax increase to address the City’s budget deficit.

As summarized in the Table below, after the adjustments outlined above, **the General Fund deficit in FY 2027 is \$29.3 million and \$29.5 million in FY 2028.**

**City of Berkeley Annual General Fund Deficit  
FY 2027 - FY 2028 Biennial Budget**

	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
General Fund Deficit	27,144,582	24,915,773
Add: 1947 Center Street Debt Service	1,630,454	1,623,581
Add: Parking Funds Stabilization	1,050,938	1,050,938
<b>Total Deficit Before One Time Resources</b>	<b>29,825,974</b>	<b>27,590,292</b>
Add: Adjustments to Non-Departmental	1,523,365	1,942,666
Less: One Time Resources for Deficit	2,100,000	0
<b>Total Deficit After One Time Resources</b>	<b>29,249,339</b>	<b>29,532,958</b>

These figures represent the gap in the General Fund that is being addressed by the proposed Budget Balancing Plan in advance of the FY 2027 – FY 2028 Biennial Budget Adoption.

It is important to note that the budget continues to evolve, and these amounts may shift as revenue projections, expenditures, and other assumptions are refined leading up to the adoption of the Biennial Budget. It is currently anticipated that the Biennial Budget will be adopted at a Special Meeting of the City Council on June 23, 2026.

**Use of One-Time Resources – General Fund**

To preserve essential services and avoid deeper cuts in FY 2027, the proposed Plan allocates \$12.06 million in one-time funds for one-time uses, including:

- **\$4.18 million** set aside in operating reserve, see pages 14 and 16 of the [First Amendment to the FY 2026 Annual Appropriations Ordinance \(AAO#1\)](#)<sup>5</sup>
- **\$7.88 million** from the Dissolution of Successor Agency County Transfer to the City.

<sup>5</sup> [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/2025-11-06 Item 02a First Amendment to the FY 2026 Annual Appropriations Ordinance AAO%231 Presentation.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/2025-11-06%20Item%2002a%20First%20Amendment%20to%20the%20FY%202026%20Annual%20Appropriations%20Ordinance%20AAO%231%20Presentation.pdf).

The Table below summarizes available one-time resources and outlines how they are deployed as part of the proposed Budget Balancing Plan.

**City of Berkeley One Time Resources  
General Fund  
FY 2027 - FY 2028 Biennial Budget**

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<i>Sources</i>	
Operating Reserve	4,177,541
Dissolution of Successor Agency County Transfer to City	<u>7,877,572</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,055,113</b>
 <i>Uses</i>	
Proposed Sales and Use Tax	9,443,000
Address Difference in FY 2027 and FY 2028 Deficit	2,100,000
Carrying Costs Associated with Impacted Employees	<u>500,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,043,000</b>
<b>Remaining One Time Funds</b>	<b>12,113</b>

This strategic use of onetime funds allows the City to **avoid immediate service reductions** in public safety and youth and adult services in anticipation of a 0.5% increase in the Sales & Use Tax being placed on the November 2026 ballot and manages the uneven deficit between FY 2027 and FY 2028.

The proposed Budget Balancing Plan presents two paths:

Scenario 1: Proposed Sales & Use Tax Measure Passes (November 2026)

- Preserves positions and services in the Police, Fire, and Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Departments to avoid the closure of a fire station, diminished capacity to respond to 9-1-1 calls for service and proactively address crime, and reductions in programs and services for youth and adults that will be supported by one-time funds in FY 2027.
- Provides ongoing revenue to stabilize the General Fund and support staffing and programs and services that are supported by one-time funds in FY 2027.
- Allows the City to continue long-term structural reforms.

The Table below outlines the positions that are proposed to be allocated to the Sales and Use Tax measure. In total, there are 33 positions allocated to the Sales and Use Tax – nine (9) are in the Fire Department to prevent the closure of a Fire Station, 21 are in the Police Department to ensure that the Police Department can continue to effectively respond to 9-1-1 calls for service and address public safety, and three (3) are in the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department to minimize the impacts to youth and adult services such as reductions in afterschool programs, camps, as well as pool and community center operating

hours.

**General Fund Budget Reduction Plan: Positions Allocated to Proposed Sales and Use Tax  
FY 2027 - FY 2028 Biennial Budget**

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	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
Fire Department		
Firefighter	3	3
Fire Apparatus Operator	3	3
Fire Captain	3	3
Police Department		
Police Officers	15	15
Dispatchers	6	6
Parks Recreation and Waterfront		
Assistant Recreation Coordinators	2	2
Sports Official	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>

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Of the total number of positions allocated to the proposed Sales and Use Tax, 18 are filled and 15 are vacant.

Scenario 2: Proposed Sales & Use Tax Measure Fails

- The City would need to implement deeper cuts to balance the budget as all positions and services that are supported with one-time funds in FY 2027 would no longer have dedicated funding.

**SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET BALANCING PLANS**

All departments submitted proposals identifying a mix of personnel savings and non-personnel reductions that are summarized below.

The FY 2027 and FY 2028 baseline expenditures are based on data as of January 15, 2026. For FY 2027, the Tables below indicate that before allocations to the proposed Sales and Use Tax, the proposed Plan reduces General Fund expenditures by \$29.3 million or 10.3% of Department and Charter Office expenditures. After the proposed Sales and Use Tax, in FY 2027, the proposed Plan reduces General Fund expenditures by approximately \$19.8 million or 7.0% of Department and Charter Office expenditures.

**FY 2027 General Fund Budget Balancing Plan by Department (Baseline vs. Proposed After Reductions)**

Department	FY27 Baseline Expenditures	\$ Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	FY27 Budget After Reduction	% Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	\$ Reduction w/Sales & Use Tax	% Reduction after Sales & Use Tax
City Clerk	3,952,847	210,456	3,742,391	5.3%	0	210,456	5.3%
CMO	18,713,660	2,489,487	16,224,173	13.3%	0	2,489,487	13.3%
Finance	9,887,235	684,356	9,202,879	6.9%	0	684,356	6.9%
Fire	55,650,689	6,653,092	48,997,597	12.0%	3,631,106	3,021,986	5.4%
HHCS	37,548,665	3,561,672	33,986,993	9.5%	0	3,561,672	9.5%
HR	5,212,918	625,774	4,587,144	12.0%	0	625,774	12.0%
IT	1,150,454	185,391	965,062	16.1%	0	185,391	16.1%
PRW	13,233,201	1,190,950	12,042,251	9.0%	466,004	724,946	5.5%
Planning & Dev.	3,666,161	458,269	3,207,892	12.5%	0	458,269	12.5%
Police	106,198,574	10,588,717	95,609,857	10.0%	5,345,885	5,242,832	4.9%
Public Works	8,135,147	779,771	7,355,377	9.6%	0	779,771	9.6%
IT Cost Allocation		600,000			0	600,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,349,551</b>	<b>28,027,935</b>	<b>235,321,616</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>9,442,995</b>	<b>18,584,940</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

**FY 2027 General Fund Budget Balancing Plan by Charter Office (Baseline vs. Proposed After Reductions)**

Charter Offices	FY27 Baseline Expenditures	\$ Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	FY27 Budget After Reduction	% Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	\$ Reduction w/Sales & Use Tax	% Reduction after Sales & Use Tax
City Attorney	7,696,001	0	7,696,001	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
City Auditor	3,929,199	288,560	3,640,639	7.3%	0	288,560	7.3%
ODPA	1,289,953	71,708	1,218,245	5.6%	0	71,708	5.6%
Mayor & Council *	6,899,331	863,145	6,036,186	12.5%	0	863,145	12.5%
<b>Total Charter</b>	<b>19,814,484</b>	<b>1,223,413</b>	<b>18,591,071</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,223,413</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

\*Mayor & Council baseline budget reflects funding for the Mayor's Office and Districts 1-8 and excludes budgeted salaries for the Mayor and Councilmembers.

**FY 2027 Total General Fund Budget Balancing Plan (Baseline vs. Proposed After Reductions)**

	FY27 Baseline Expenditures	\$ Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	FY27 Budget After Reduction	% Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	\$ Reduction w/Sales & Use Tax	% Reduction after Sales & Use Tax
<b>Total Citywide</b>	<b>283,164,035</b>	<b>29,251,348</b>	<b>253,912,687</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>9,442,995</b>	<b>19,808,353</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

For FY 2028, the Tables below indicate that before allocations to the proposed Sales and Use Tax, the proposed Plan reduces General Fund expenditures by \$29.8 million or 10.3% of Department and Charter Office expenditures. After the proposed Sales and Use Tax, in FY 2028, the proposed Plan reduces General Fund expenditures by approximately \$20.1 million or 7.0% of Department and Charter Office expenditures.

**FY 2028 General Fund Budget Balancing Plan by Department (Baseline vs. Proposed After Reductions)**

Department	FY28 Baseline Expenditures	\$ Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	FY28 Budget After Reduction	% Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	\$ Reduction w/Sales & Use Tax	% Reduction after Sales & Use Tax
City Clerk (1)	3,998,036	94,456	3,903,580	2.4%	0	94,456	2.4%
CMO	19,041,413	2,432,623	16,608,790	12.8%	0	2,432,623	12.8%
Finance	10,178,435	715,714	9,462,721	7.0%	0	715,714	7.0%
Fire	57,206,818	6,800,791	50,406,027	11.9%	3,703,328	3,097,463	5.4%
HHCS	38,021,381	3,455,468	34,565,913	9.1%	0	3,455,468	9.1%
HR	5,387,455	622,032	4,765,423	11.5%	0	622,032	11.5%
IT	1,150,454	185,391	965,062	16.1%	0	185,391	16.1%
PRW	13,382,163	1,205,811	12,176,353	9.0%	477,313	728,498	5.4%
Planning & Dev.	3,763,360	470,419	3,292,941	12.5%	0	470,419	12.5%
Police	107,356,946	10,789,378	96,567,568	10.1%	5,453,304	5,336,074	5.0%
Public Works	8,302,692	1,084,523	7,218,169	13.1%	0	1,084,523	13.1%
IT Cost Allocation Plan		600,000			0	600,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,789,153</b>	<b>28,456,605</b>	<b>239,332,548</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>9,633,945</b>	<b>18,822,661</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

(1) Excludes \$1,071,990 one-time reduction due to allocation to election, which does not occur in FY 2028. These resources will be deployed to address increases in insurance costs that exceed the City's initial projections.

**FY 2028 General Fund Budget Balancing Plan By Charter Office (Baseline vs. Proposed After Reductions)**

Charter Offices	FY28 Baseline Expenditures	\$ Reduction Before Sales Tax	FY28 Budget After Reduction	% Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	\$ Reduction w/Sales & Use Tax	% Reduction after Sales & Use Tax
City Attorney	7,828,432	0	7,828,432	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
City Auditor	4,061,371	367,458	3,693,914	9.0%	0	367,458	9.0%
ODPA	1,339,846	71,708	1,268,138	5.4%	0	71,708	5.4%
Mayor & Council*	7,014,592	877,248	6,136,365	12.5%	0	877,248	12.5%
<b>Total Charter</b>	<b>20,244,241</b>	<b>1,316,414</b>	<b>18,927,827</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,316,414</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

\*Mayor & Council baseline budget reflects funding for the Mayor's Office and Districts 1-8 and excludes budgeted salaries for the Mayor and Councilmembers.

**FY 2028 Total General Fund Budget Balancing Plan (Baseline vs. Proposed After Reductions)**

	FY28 Baseline Expenditures	\$ Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	FY28 Budget After Reduction	% Reduction Before Sales & Use Tax	Sales & Use Tax Allocation	\$ Reduction w/Sales & Use Tax	% Reduction after Sales & Use Tax
<b>Total Citywide</b>	<b>288,033,394</b>	<b>29,773,019</b>	<b>258,260,375</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>9,633,945</b>	<b>20,139,074</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

This section summarized each department’s General Fund reductions and their impact on the baseline and the projected deficit, expressed in both dollars and percentages. Collectively, these reductions close the projected General Fund deficit in FY 2027 and FY 2028.

**Citywide Fiscal Pressures Beyond the General Fund**

As the City’s primary and most discretionary fund, the General Fund was the main focus of the citywide budget balancing exercise. However, it is not the only fund experiencing fiscal pressures. Several non-General Fund sources, such as enterprise, special revenue, internal service, and capital funds, are also facing deficits. Departments responsible for these funds conducted parallel budget balancing analysis and developed reduction plans.

These broader pressures underscore the importance of managing the City’s finances strategically and holistically across all funds. The Budget Balancing Plan presented to the Budget and Finance Policy Committee, and subsequently to the City Council, provides a comprehensive strategy to address these broader fiscal challenges. Detailed balancing strategies for these non-General Fund sources are provided in the Department-by-Department Overview Section below.

**Position Summary Before and After Reductions (All Funds - By Department)<sup>6</sup>**

The Table below shows the citywide, all-funds baseline position count for FY 2027–28, excluding the 45 positions left vacant and unfunded in the FY 2026 Mid-Biennial Budget. It reflects the proposed reduction of 138 FTE and the one-time FY 2027 resources used to retain 33 public safety and recreation positions. Without the Sales and Use Tax, the reduction from FY27 baseline is 8.85 percent; with the tax, 6.73 percent. Including the 45 positions removed in FY 2026 Adopted FTE (1,608.99), the cumulative reduction is 11.40 percent with the tax and about 9.3 percent without it.

<sup>6</sup> This analysis of staffing impacts is as of April 6, 2026. The actual number of filled and vacant positions that will be impacted by the proposed Budget Balancing Plan will vary over time due to several factors including, but not limited to retirements, promotions, and separations. The actual number of filled positions impacted will be determined when the Biennial Budget is adopted, which is anticipated to occur at a Special Meeting of the City Council on June 23, 2026.

Department	FY 2027–28 Baseline FTE (1)	Proposed FTE Reductions	Proposed FTE Allocation to Sales & Use Tax	Revised FTE Reduction After Sales & Use Tax	Proposed Position FTE Allocation After Sales & Use Tax
City Clerk	9	0	0	0	9
City Manager's Office	53	9	0	9	44
Finance	52	4	0	4	48
Fire	206	14	9	5	201
HHCS	240.75	45	0	45	195.75
HR	26	2	0	2	24
IT	49	4	0	4	45
PRW	116	6	3	3	113
Planning & Dev.	104.04	0	0	0	104.04
Police	290	39	21	18	272
Public Works	352	15	0	15	337
City Attorney	19	0	0	0	19
City Auditor	15.75	0	0	0	15.75
ODPA	4	0	0	0	4
Mayor & Council	23	0	0	0	23
<b>Total (2)</b>	<b>1,559.54</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,454.54</b>

(1) Excludes 45 vacant positions that were not funded as part of the adopted FY 25-26 Mid-Biennial Budget (General Fund = 44.4 FTE and Other Funds = 0.6 FTE)

(2) Excludes Library's FTE = 131.05 and Rent Board's FTE = 29.0 for total FTE Baseline of 1,719.59.

Below is a simplified Table showing the status of positions—Vacant or Filled—derived from the more detailed department-level position counts above.

Status	FY 2027–28 Baseline FTE (1)	Proposed Reductions	Proposed Allocation to Sales & Use Tax	Revised Reduction After Sales & Use Tax	Proposed Position Allocation After Sales & Use Tax
Vacant	211.69	100	15	85	126.69
Filled (2)	1,347.85	38	18	20	1,327.85
<b>Total (3)</b>	<b>1,559.54</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,454.54</b>

(1) Excludes 45 vacant positions that were not funded as part of the adopted FY26 Mid-Biennial Budget.

(2) As of April 6, 2026.

(3) Excludes Library's FTE = 131.05 and Rent Board's FTE = 29.0 for total FTE Baseline of 1,719.59.

### Addressing the cumulative FTE reductions

In the FY 2026 Mid-Biennial Budget Update, the General Fund faced a structural deficit of approximately \$29 million. The budget was balanced through one-time measures and increased General Fund revenues. As part of this strategy, 45 vacant FTE positions were held unfunded and are now being eliminated in this Biennial Budget to capture ongoing savings and support long-term fiscal stability.

The FY 2027-FY 2028 balancing plan includes the cumulative reduction in force (RIF):

- **45 Full-time Equivalent (FTE)** that were not funded in the FY 2026 Mid-Biennial Budget Update are eliminated as part of the proposed Budget Balancing Plan.
- **138.0 FTE reductions** proposed in FY 2027 & FY 2028 **without proposed Sales & Use Tax**. Of the 138.0 FTE, 38 are filled positions and 100 are vacant positions<sup>7</sup>.
- **Cumulative reduction: 183 FTE** reduction in force (45 + 138) **without proposed Sales & Use Tax**. Of the 183 FTE, 38 are filled positions and 145 are vacant positions.
- **105.0 FTE reductions** proposed in FY 2027 & FY 2028 **with proposed Sales & Use Tax**. Of the 105.0 FTE, 20 are filled positions and 85 are vacant positions.
- **Cumulative reduction: 150 FTE** reduction in force (45 + 105.0) **with proposed Sales & Use Tax**. Of the 150 FTE, 20 are filled positions and 130 are vacant positions.

The Tables below demonstrate the cumulative impact of the RIF (FY 2026 and FY 2027 and FY 2028).

FY 26 Adopted FTE*	FY 26 Reduction in Force (RIF)**	FY 27 Baseline FTE***	FY 27 Proposed FTE Reduction	FY 27 Total FTE (net of Proposed Reduction)
1,608.99	45.00	1,559.54	138.00	1,421.54

FY 26 Adopted FTE *	FY 26 Reduction in Force (RIF) **	FY27 Proposed FTE Reduction	Total Cumulative Reduction in Force	Total Cumulative Percent Reduction in FTE
1,608.99	45.00	138.00	183.00	11.37%

FY 26 Adopted FTE *	FY 26 Reduction in Force (RIF) **	FY27 Proposed FTE Reduction (Allocation Sales & Use Tax)	Total Cumulative Reduction in Force (w/Sales & Use Tax)	Total Cumulative Percent Reduction in FTE
1,608.99	45.00	105.00	150.00	9.32%

\* FY 26 Adopted Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) count includes RIF – positions that were authorized but not budgeted in FY 26.

\*\* RIF – 44.4 General Fund positions; equivalent to 45 FTE count – All Funds

\*\*\* Baseline as of 01/15/2026; excludes RIF (45 FTE) and includes department adjustments (4.45 net FTE, removed temporary positions and expired project-based positions, reclassifications, relocation, new Measure FF positions, etc.)

<sup>7</sup> As of April 6, 2026. The number of filled positions by the time the Biennial Budget is adopted, which is currently anticipated to occur at a Special Meeting of the City Council on June 23, 2026.

**DEPARTMENT-BY-DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW OF BUDGET BALANCING PLANS**

Departments submitted budget-balancing proposals to the City Manager based on initial 10.0% and 12.5% General Fund reduction targets. After accounting for updated revenue projections from the Finance Department and a detailed review of departmental submissions, a refined budget balancing plan was developed that reflects revised revenues, departmental needs, organizational priorities, and community impacts. The Plan does not recommend across-the-board equal reductions. Rather, the proposed Plan reflects a strategic approach that reflects City needs considering severe resource constraints.

Department proposals from HHCS, IT, Public Works, and PRW also include reductions in applicable special funds. The following sections summarize each department’s proposed reductions.

**City Clerk**

The City Clerk Department has maintained a staffing level of 10.0 FTE since FY 2019. For the FY 2026 Mid-Biennial Budget Update, the department’s vacant Office Specialist III position was removed from the budget, reducing total staffing to 9.0 FTE.

Since 2016, several major responsibilities have been added to the department without corresponding staffing increases:

- Independent Redistricting Commission
- Public Financing for Candidates
- Lobbyist Registration
- City Council Policy Committees
- Hybrid Commission Meetings
- SB 827 Financial Training Administration

Given these expanded mandates and the department’s lean staffing structure, no additional position reductions are recommended.

**FTE Changes – All Funds**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Baseline FTE</b>	<b>Proposed FTE</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total Staffing	9	9	0

**Budget Changes – GF**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY27 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 27 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	2,210,450	2,210,450	0
<b>Personnel – OT &amp; Hourly</b>	2,064	0	-2,064
<b>Non-Personnel</b>	1,740,333	1,531,941	-208,392

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY28 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 28 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	2,255,639	2,255,639	0
<b>Personnel – OT &amp; Hourly</b>	2,064	0	-2,064
<b>Non-Personnel</b>	1,740,333	575,951	-1,164,382

**Impacts**

Besides the reduction in the City’s Clerk’s overtime budget, all the reductions come from the non-personnel budget. Reductions include a delay in the software version update for OnBase (the City Council report management system) in FY 2027, reducing captioning costs, and use of public, educational, and governmental access channels Funds to pay 75% of Boardroom rental costs. These adjustments preserve core departmental operations while minimizing service impacts.

**City Manager’s Office**

The City Manager’s Office budget is primarily personnel-driven. Because four vacant positions were removed during the FY 2026 Mid-Biennial Budget Update, meeting the new reduction target required eliminating not only vacant positions but additional filled positions. These decisions were extremely difficult, as each role contributes to the Office’s mission and to citywide operations. When combined with the positions that were not funded as part of the FY 26 Mid-Biennial Budget, the Plan results in an approximate 23% reduction in staffing in the City Manager’s Office when compared to FY 2025.

Approximately \$102,000 in savings comes from shifting costs from the General Fund to other funding sources such as Public Art. The remaining reductions result from eliminating both filled and vacant positions. A smaller amount comes from reduction in non-personnel expenditures.

**FTE Changes – All Funds**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Baseline FTE</b>	<b>Proposed FTE</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total Staffing	53	44	-9

**Budget Changes - GF**

Category	FY27 Baseline Budget	FY 27 Proposed Budget	Change
Personnel	12,211,200	9,960,887	-2,250,313
Personnel – OT & Hourly	74,577	0	0
Non-Personnel	6,427,883	6,188,709	-239,174

Category	FY28 Baseline Budget	FY 28 Proposed Budget	Change
Personnel	12,538,953	10,345,504	-2,193,449
Personnel – OT & Hourly	74,577	0	0
Non-Personnel	6,427,883	6,188,709	-239,174

**Impacts**

**Reduce one Community Development Project Coordinator – Office of Economic Development (filled)**

- Reduces technical assistance provided to small businesses and management of the City’s revolving loan fund.
- Limits capacity to support and provide assistance to three commissions (Elmwood BID, Solano BID, Loan Administration Board) and participate in the Telegraph BID board and executive committee. Staff will assess capacity and may recommend reducing meeting frequency for these commissions to manage workload and priorities.

**Reduce one Office Specialist III – Office of Economic Development and Civic Arts (filled)**

- Reduces capacity to process invoices, execute contracts, support events, and manage communications.
- Increases workload for remaining administrative staff in the City Manager’s Office.

**Reduce two Communications Specialists (both filled)**

- The result of these reductions is that the Communications Division will only have one staff member assigned to citywide communications and to interact with the media. The reduction in staffing will weaken crisis and emergency communications and diminish media relations, and departmental communications support. Elimination of the Communications Specialist funded by Measure FF (fire) will enable the Fire Department to allocate staffing expenditures to this special tax.
- Departments will need to dedicate more staff to communications, especially emergency communications; response times and quality will decline.

**Reduce one Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer (vacant)**

- When combined with the Administrative Assistant position that was not funded as part of

the FY 26 Mid Biennial Budget, this reduction eliminates the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and shifts priority DEI projects to an Assistant to the City Manager, including the Peace & Justice Commission support and citywide DEI education efforts.

- Much, if not all, of the community focused engagement envisioned for this role will not occur.

**Reduce one Economic Development Project Coordinator- Civic Arts (vacant)**

- Reduces core operational capacity for the Civic Arts Program.
- Responsibilities are shifted to an Assistant to the City Manager to advance Civic Arts initiatives along with grant funded, and public facing arts programming.
- Risks delays in project delivery, contract administration, commission support, and compliance.

**Reduce one Program Manager II – Special Projects (filled)**

- Reduces capacity to support Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) module implementation, user acceptance testing, and staff training.
- Eliminates an internal resource for troubleshooting ERP issues.
- Training responsibilities shift to Human Resources; ERP implementation leadership remains with the Assistant to the City Manager, requiring departments to operate with greater independence.

**Reduce one Social Services Specialist (vacant)**

- Limits ability to expand homeless outreach efforts; without additional shelter capacity, reductions will have minimal impact on reducing street homelessness.

**Reduce one Office Specialist II (vacant)**

- No coordinated support to Civic Center 5<sup>th</sup> floor appointments and scheduling.

**Significant Non-Personnel Reductions**

- **\$40,000** – Eliminate Downtown Business Association Outreach Worker contract.
- **\$64,000** – Eliminate Spay and Neuter Your Pets contracts.
- **\$82,497** – Reduce General Fund support for Civic Arts grants by 10% to align with proposed organization and department budget reductions.
- **\$17,000** – Reduce economic development marketing budget by 10% to align with proposed organization and department budget reductions.
- Reallocating a portion of the salary of an Assistant to the City Manager to the Public Art Fund to reflect oversight of this work resulting from the Budget Balancing Plan elimination of the Economic Development Project Coordinator – Civic Arts and allocates a portion of a Civic Arts Coordinator position that was fully funded by the General Fund to the Public Art Fund to address the backlog of public arts projects.

- Allocating a portion of an Assistant to the City Manager to long-term grants that the position is managing.

**Finance**

The Finance Department has operated for years with only the minimum staffing necessary to perform its core functions: (a) processing the City’s cash receipts; (b) billing and collecting tax and fee revenues; (c) procurement of the goods and services for critical City operations; (d) ensuring key controls to protect City assets; and (e) ensuring proper accounting and financial reporting for City management, bond investors, and required statutory and regulatory oversight.

In response to the City’s fiscal challenges, the department has identified General Fund reductions that eliminate four positions. While necessary for budget balancing, these reductions will limit the Finance Department’s operational capacity, slow financial system modernization, reduce revenue-generating capacity, and reduce the department’s ability to support Citywide services.

**FTE Changes – All Funds**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Baseline FTE</b>	<b>Proposed FTE</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total Staffing	52	48	-4

**Budget Changes - GF**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY27 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 27 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Personnel	8,453,929	7,865,911	-588,018
Personnel – OT & Hourly	28,440	28,440	0
Non-Personnel	1,404,866	1,308,528	-96,338

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY28 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 28 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Personnel	8,745,129	8,125,753	-619,376
Personnel – OT & Hourly	28,440	28,440	0
Non-Personnel	1,404,866	1,308,528	-96,338

**Impacts**

**Reduce one Senior Systems Analyst (vacant)**

Eliminating this position reduces the Finance Department’s capacity to manage financial system upgrades and coordinate implementation tasks. The vacancy has already slowed progress on major projects, including replacement of the City’s legacy financial system (FUND\$), new tax and billing systems, and expanded online payment options. Without this role, system modernization efforts will be delayed, and reliance on IT, whose staff lack specialized financial operations expertise, will increase.

**Reduce one Associate Management Analyst (vacant)**

This is the department’s only analyst position not restricted to Property Tax functions. Losing this position will reduce the department’s ability to conduct internal analysis, monitor receivables, and produce detailed revenue reporting. Divisional managers will absorb analytical duties, limiting their capacity to oversee daily operations. The loss of this position also removes a key backup for the Revenue Collection Manager, reducing service levels for staff and the public.

**Reduce two Revenue Development Specialists (vacant)**

Removing these two positions will reduce business tax auditing and collections capacity. Fewer audits will result in lower recovery of unreported or underreported taxes, and more receivables will age beyond statutory collection periods. This will impact the department’s ability to generate additional revenue for both the General Fund and the Zero Waste Fund.

**Significant Non-Personnel Reductions**

- 25% reduction in training expenses. The department should be able to still maintain necessary training given the availability of online opportunities.

**Fire Department**

Over the past three decades, three parcel tax measures have been adopted that enabled the department to shift substantial fire costs off the General Fund while expanding services. Further, historical reductions consistently targeted non-operation functions, resulting in a department that is operationally efficient but administratively thin. As a result, there are minimal resources allocated to discretionary items and nearly all remaining General Fund expenditures are personnel-driven and operations-critical that are assigned to essential public safety functions. While the department’s budget balancing plan maximized cost shifting from the General Fund to other funds (such as Measure GG, Measure FF, UC Settlement), eliminating positions, reducing non-personnel expenditures, and the closing of a fire station impact preparedness, prevention, and response reliability.

**FTE Changes – All Funds**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Baseline FTE</b>	<b>Proposed FTE</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Proposed FTE w/Sales &amp; Use Tax</b>	<b>Change FTE w/Sales &amp; Use Tax</b>
Sworn	139	127	-12	136	-3
Non-Sworn	67	65	-2	65	-2
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>-5</b>

## Budget Changes – GF

Category	FY 27 Baseline Budget	FY 27 Proposed Budget	Change	Proposed Budget w/Sales & Use Tax	Change w/Sales & Use Tax
Personnel	43,371,853	41,231,433	-2,140,420	41,231,433	-2,140,420
Personnel – OT & Hourly	3,789,869	3,289,869	-500,000	3,289,869	-500,000
Non-Personnel	8,488,967	8,107,401	-381,566	8,107,401	-381,566
Fire Station Closure (1)		-3,631,106	-3,631,106		
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,650,689</b>	<b>48,497,597</b>	<b>-6,653,092</b>	<b>52,628,703</b>	<b>-3,021,986</b>

Category	FY 28 Baseline Budget	FY 28 Proposed Budget	Change	Proposed Budget w/Sales & Use Tax	Change w/Sales & Use Tax
Personnel	44,927,982	42,721,660	-2,206,322	42,721,660	-2,206,322
Personnel – OT & Hourly	3,789,869	3,280,294	-509,575	3,280,294	-509,575
Non-Personnel	8,488,967	8,107,401	-381,566	8,107,401	-381,566
Fire Station Closure (3)		-3,703,328	-3,703,328		
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,206,818</b>	<b>50,406,027</b>	<b>-6,800,791</b>	<b>54,109,355</b>	<b>-3,907,463</b>

(1) Fire Station Closure amount of \$3,631,106 consists of both personnel (9.0 FTE) and non-personnel expenditures. It is a package reduction proposal, meaning if accepted, the whole amount will be reduced. If not accepted, the whole amount will stay in the budget.

## Impacts

### Reduce One Associate Management Analyst (filled)

- This eliminates the department's only staff dedicated to grants and will significantly restrict capacity to apply for, monitor, and manage grants. Reassignment of grant and performance reporting to Administrative and Fiscal Services staff—who already manage Fire and Police budgets and coordinate the City's most complex payrolls—will reduce grant management effectiveness.

### Reduce One Temporary Program Manager II (filled)

- Eliminating this temporary position that was funded through FY 28 will discontinue the City's Street Trauma Prevention program. The Fire Department loses its only dedicated staff for this work, including management of six internships and coordination with Public Works, Transportation, and community partners. Most program functions will cease, with limited reassignment possible.

### Reduce One Fire Marshal FTE (vacant)

- Consolidating the Wildland Urban Interface and Fire Prevention divisions will shift management from a Fire Marshal to an Assistant Fire Chief, reducing specialized fire prevention and investigation expertise. This change is expected to increase errors and omissions, slow design review and inspection responsiveness, reduce capacity for special event support, and hamper progress on the EMBER Initiative. The department will reprioritize work, leverage technology, and provide additional training; however,

specialized capacity will be diminished.

#### **Reduce One Fire Inspector FTE (vacant)**

- Loss of a Fire Prevention Inspector will reduce capacity for annual life-safety inspections of hazardous facilities citywide, delay construction inspections, and increase complaints from developers and contractors. Responsiveness to special events will also be compromised.

#### **Reduce One Fire Captain FTE (filled)**

- Eliminating this position weakens oversight of narcotics compliance, critical equipment and supply management, documentation integrity, and infection control in the emergency medical services program. Redistribution of duties to existing staff will reduce oversight frequency and increase risk.

#### **Eliminate Disaster Preparedness Programs**

- Elimination of OES training contract, shelter supply replacement, internships, and conference budget will leave staff without external resources for curriculum development, shelter supply maintenance, student internships, or conference participation.

#### **Eliminate Five Part-Time CERT Instructor FTEs (Hourly Staff)**

- The CERT program will be reduced or eliminated, and plans for community CPR and fire extinguisher training will cease. Remaining staff may absorb some program elements, but most CERT offerings are expected to end.

#### **Eliminate HHCS Funding for FTEs and Non-Personnel Expenses (Measure GG)**

- Savings would initially occur in HHCS, with funds redirected to Fire minimum staffing overtime, lowering General Fund overtime costs. Reductions would directly impact HHCS and the impacts are discussed later in this report.

#### **Cost-Shift Two Firefighter FTEs from the General Fund to UC Settlement Fund**

- Reducing nonessential components of the Employee Health & Wellness Program will free UC Funds to cover two firefighters. Educational wellness elements (sleep, nutrition, heart-rate variability) will be cut, potentially affecting employee behavior and future workers' compensation trends.

#### **Cost Shift General Fund Contracts to UC Settlement Fund**

- Reduced scope of work for one vendor that provides health and wellness education for fire employees.

#### **Close Fire Station 4; eliminate 3 Firefighter (filled), 3 Apparatus Operator (filled), and 3 Fire Captain II (filled) FTEs**

- Over the past three years (2022-2025), the Fire Department, on average, has responded to 17,426 calls for service. Closing Station 4 will significantly degrade response times and first-alarm effectiveness in its service area and adjacent districts. Engine 4 responded to 28 fires, 966 emergency medical incidents (including 17 cardiac arrests), and numerous other emergencies in 2025. Response time standards were not consistently met; closure

of Fire Station 4 will force responses from more distant stations, further degrading performance. Delayed emergency response increases risk of fatality and property loss for fires and medical incidents and elevates firefighter risk. Redistribution of calls will increase workload and fatigue at remaining stations, reduce training time, and heighten burnout. Reliance on mutual aid will rise but is unsustainable and delayed multi-unit responses will become more common. These impacts are high-risk, daily, and cannot be fully mitigated.

**The City Manager recommends utilizing one-time funds, as outlined at the beginning of this report, during Fiscal Year 2027. This approach is intended to delay the closure of a fire station until after the results of the Sales and Use Tax measure, which will be decided in November 2026, are known.**

**This is the planned contingency based on the Sales and Use Tax Measure. Should voters approve the Sales and Use Tax measure, the resulting revenue is proposed to be allocated to maintain operations at the fire station. Conversely, if the measure does not pass, the proposed station closure will be reconsidered for Fiscal Year 2028. At present, this matter is considered critical, with the potential for significant impact across the entire City.**

**Health, Housing & Community Services (HHCS)**

Faced with significant fiscal headwinds in both the General Fund and multiple special funds that support mental health and behavioral health services, HHCS engaged in a rigorous, principle-driven process to identify approximately \$3.5 million in annual General Fund adjustments and a variety of other actions to correct special fund deficits. Due to the severity of the structural deficit, the recommendations are deep. While efforts were made to reduce the impact, the recommendations from HHCS are painful and impactful.

**FTE Changes (All Funds)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Baseline FTE</b>	<b>Proposed FTE</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total Staffing	240.75	195.75	-45

**Budget Changes (GF)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY27 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 27 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Personnel	15,253,347	13,852,557	-1,400,790
Personnel – OT & Hourly	711,777	691,042	-20,735
Non-Personnel	21,583,541	19,443,394	-2,140,147

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY28 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 28 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Personnel	15,726,063	14,360,254	-1,365,809
Personnel – OT & Hourly	711,776.63	691,042	-20,735
Non-Personnel	21,583,541	19,514,617	-2,068,924

## Impacts – General Fund

### A. Aging Services Division

- A one-time shift to Fund 111 in the amount of \$96,304 is implemented to reduce General Fund expenditures.

### B. Environmental Health Division

- Eliminates one vacant Office Specialist II position. Intake workload will be absorbed through database modernization.
- Berkeley's Vector Control Program will be transferred to Alameda County, and the City will no longer provide this service. This change is anticipated to improve service quality and end ongoing General Fund subsidies in the amount of approximately \$362,170 annually, for this work. As a result, two Vector Control positions will be eliminated (one filled and one vacant).

### C. Mental Health Division

- Mobile Crisis Team:
  - Eliminates 2.6 filled FTE, representing the last General Fund–funded mental health crisis response positions.
  - The City will no longer provide crisis response services and will rely on Alameda County, which is a County responsibility. However, the County's ability to provide this service over the long-term remains uncertain due to budget challenges and policy shifts.
  - Responsibility for wellness checks and psychiatric emergencies will shift solely to the Berkeley Police Department.

### D. Public Health Division

- Heart to Heart: The Heart-to-Heart program (1.0 FTE filled, 1.0 FTE vacant) is proposed to be eliminated to support a sustainable fiscal model. Blood pressure screenings and health education are offered by federally qualified health centers and primary care providers, enabling integrated clinical care.
- Targeted Case Management: Eliminates one vacant Public Health Nurse position. An existing Social Services Specialist staff will absorb responsibilities.
- Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program: Shifts 0.40 FTE from the General Fund to the WIC grant, enabling salary support without reducing service levels.

### E. Housing and Community Services Division

- Vacant positions were held and eliminated, including one Program Manager II and several special-funded positions impacted by increased personnel costs. Although

service delivery is expected to continue, remaining staff will have higher workloads and reduced responsiveness in programs such as Shelter Plus Care and Labor Standards. Outreach and education capacity will also decline.

- **Community Agencies:** Where feasible, to preserve various community programs (i.e., BOSS Step-Up on University and a portion of funding for the STAIR Center) that serve our most vulnerable, funding was shifted to Measure U1 and other special funds / revenue sources. Notwithstanding, reductions are proposed for the following:
  - **Berkeley Winter Shelter:** Recommended for elimination due to the lack of a feasible location. This would reduce shelter capacity only during the winter months by twenty-five beds, mainly affecting highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals, often seniors. This program has been operated by Dorothy Day House, who also operates the City's Inclement Weather Shelter program during the winter months, which is not impacted by the Budget Balancing Plan. Savings generated are \$358,750.
  - **STAIR Center:** A 23% reduction in operating funding is proposed for this program serving people experiencing homelessness. The program is located on Second Street in West Berkeley. The proposed funding reduction aligns with the 25% reduction in bed capacity due to the shift to non-congregate sheltering and ADA improvements which both required more space. Also, the City is the sole funder for this program, even though participants enter through the Coordinated Entry System due to federal funding requirements. Staff recommend that BACS, who manage this program, diversify funding sources. Savings generated are \$400,554.
  - **Rising Sun.** This program provides construction apprenticeship readiness to approximately six (6) residents. The current contract expires June 30, 2026, and funding was allocated outside of the Community Agency grant process. Savings of \$50,000 are estimated by not extending the existing contract.
  - **Supply Bank.** This program provides school supplies and dental kits to approximately 1,300 Berkeley students. The current contract expires June 30, 2026, and funding was allocated outside of the Community Agency grant process. Savings of \$35,000 are estimated by not extending the existing contract.

## Impacts - Special Funds

In addition to the General Fund impacts outlined above, HHCS needs to implement additional reduction measures to address the loss of grant funding, the transition to the Behavioral Health Services Act (Proposition 1), and the loss of Medicaid revenue.

### 1. Aging Services – Information & Assistance (I&A)

Earlier this year, the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging notified the City of a cut to the Information & Assistance (I&A) program funding, effective July 1, 2026, totaling \$156,803. This program is funded through the federal Older Americans Act funds that pass through to the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Berkeley has been a recipient of these funds for well over two decades and they have been deployed to social services to the older adult community. Funding allocated to a vacant position in Fund 320 will be deployed to maintain these vital services.

### 2. California Strengthening Public Health Initiative (CASPHI)

The Public Health Division received notice of an impending cut to this program's funding, effective February 11, 2026. While the announcement came out in January 2026, this cut has been the subject of a federal lawsuit and temporary restraining order. While the funding remains in limbo, the Department understands that funding will likely be cut. This program was designed to strengthen the public health workforce using data-driven planning, cross-sector partnerships, and an explicit commitment to health equity. Funding has expanded the Department's capacity to address disparities by supporting the creation of the Senior Health Management Analyst position, which has been essential for workforce development, data metric development, mentorship, and advancing the department's Equity Plan. Losing this funding and having to eliminate this program would jeopardize workforce expansion efforts and delay key deliverables, including the launch of a public-facing, equity-focused data dashboard aligned with the 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan. The estimated financial impact of this reduction is estimated at \$650,928 total (\$130,186 annually). Staff are actively developing a comprehensive plan to mitigate the effect of this reduction.

### 3. CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL)

Earlier this year, the Department was notified of a cut to the CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) program funding, \$162,390 annually effective May 1, 2026. The Public Health Division administers a portion of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known in California as CFHL. These resources are deployed to provide nutrition education and obesity prevention activities and interventions for low-income Californians. The focus of the project is to upstream public health approaches and individual and organizational health promotion to help the CFHL target audience establish healthy eating habits, a physically active lifestyle, and for primary prevention of disease. The specific target audience are SNAP participants and other low-income individuals who qualify for SNAP (CalFresh Food) benefits or other means-tested Federal assistance programs.

The program's core activities in Berkeley include direct education for children aged 0-5, aiming to increase healthy food and water consumption, boost physical activity, and reduce screen time, with an annual reach of approximately 650 children. Concurrently, direct adult education targets teachers, staff, and parents (ages 18-59), reaching around 300 individuals annually. The program also conducts monthly healthy food demonstrations for older adults (59+), typically reaching 320 individuals annually, and provides indirect education through healthy cooking resources at community events. The Department has identified alternative one-time funding to continue the program through the effective date of May 1, 2026. However, all CFHL services will be discontinued after May 1, 2026, and staffing will be redirected to other program areas with alternative available funding.

#### 4. Services to Enhance Early Development (SEED)

In February, the Department received information of an impending cut to SEED program funding of \$224,393, effective July 1, 2026. This is a revenue-generating contract with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) of the Alameda County Social Services Agency to support a 0.8 FTE Public Health Nurse and 0.10 FTE Supervising Public Health Nurse. Staff provide services to children and their caregiver(s) throughout the county including Berkeley. They also coordinate and provide information to their counterparts (Child Welfare Workers, mental health clinicians, and parent advocates) in the SEED team regarding the ongoing medical needs of a child participant. The program's core activities in Berkeley include entering and reviewing information such as birth records, medical/dental records, immunization records, laboratory, and radiological reports in the Child Welfare System (CWS)/Case Management (CMS) and Health and Education Passport (HEP). The target population is Alameda County juvenile court-dependent children between the ages of zero to three years and 11 months. HHCS is currently working to shift employees allocated to this program to other vacant grant-funded activities. The program currently only provides services to one child in Berkeley and will have minimal impact on services.

#### 5. Measure GG Revenue Transfer

As indicated in the Fire Department section above, Measure GG resources allocated to Public Health Emergency Preparedness are being reallocated to support Fire Department operations. As a result, HHCS's emergency preparedness capacity will be significantly diminished. The Department will not have the capacity to coordinate comprehensive city-wide emergency readiness and response initiatives. The loss of this funding results in the elimination of two (2) existing positions (1 filled and 1 vacant) assigned to this work.

#### 6. Mental Health Division

In addition to the reductions described above in the Mental Health Division, the Division proposes eliminating 32 positions (27 vacant and 5 filled), primarily long-vacant positions created during a previous expansion that was later undermined by changes in state funding. This is a "right-sizing" of the division following an ambitious expansion period.

Approximately four years ago, the Mental Health Division scaled up staffing in anticipation of CalAIM’s promise of expanded Medi-Cal populations and increased service needs. However, mid-expansion, several vital changes occurred to state funding. The State shifted Medi-Cal to a fee-for-service model and implemented Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) / Proposition 1 changes. Berkeley, like County health jurisdictions, lost significant revenue for mental health services based on this fundamental Prop 1 system restructuring that mandates new spending requirements that prioritize housing and substance use disorders over general community programs. Additionally, as a small jurisdiction acting as a contractor to Alameda County for Medi-Cal, Berkeley was disproportionately penalized by these rate cuts effectively reducing the City’s Medi-Cal revenue by 50%. Recognizing these fiscal shifts early on, the Division held many positions vacant.

With these changes, while the Mental Health Division will continue to provide specific intensive services, it will transition away from direct service delivery for non-contractual programs (i.e., Mobile Crisis Team discussed above) and focus on navigating residents toward county-level alternatives. This ensures that Berkeley remains a vital link in the behavioral health chain, utilizing limited resources to maintain intensive care where possible while ensuring residents have a clear pathway to all other mandated psychiatric and emergency services.

**Human Resources**

The proposal prioritizes maintaining core HR services within budget constraints, mainly through structural changes and contract eliminations. Two vacant positions will be cut. HR focus will shift from proactive and strategic efforts to a compliance-driven, baseline model.

**FTE Changes (All Funds)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Baseline FTE</b>	<b>Proposed FTE</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total Staffing	26	24	-2

**Budget Changes (GF)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY 27 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 27 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	3,995,636	3,685,961	-309,675
<b>Personnel – OT &amp; Hourly</b>	60,983	49,769	-11,214
<b>Non-Personnel</b>	1,156,299	851,414	-304,885

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY 28 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 28 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	4,170,173	3,838,760	-331,413
<b>Personnel – OT &amp; Hourly</b>	60,983	49,769	-11,214
<b>Non-Personnel</b>	1,156,299	876,894	-279,405

## **Impacts**

Several positions funded by General Fund will be cost shifted to the Workers' Compensation (WC) Fund as a result of the elimination of the WC funded HR Analyst position being eliminated. This includes the following:

- Assistant Management Analyst - supports WC in weekly check registrars and processing of the Advanced Disability Payment process.
- Employee Relations Manager – increasing WC fund allocation by 10%
- Director of Human Resources – 20% increased oversight of Workers Compensation division by HR Director
- HR Technician – this technician was already partially assigned to WC; however greater support will be required for WC as the WC Analyst is proposed to be eliminated justifying the shift of this Technician to support WC.
- Associate Human Resources Analyst - allocating 50% of this position for analyst level WC support.

## **Personnel Reductions**

Two vacant positions are proposed to be eliminated:

- One HR Associate Analyst (WC) (vacant)
- Occupational Health & Safety Specialist (vacant)

Workers' Compensation and occupational health and safety functions will be absorbed by existing HR staff as discussed above, reducing capacity for work beyond baseline compliance. Proactive safety work will be limited, including slower response times for ergonomic assessments and site visits.

For workers' compensation and leave administration, HR will monitor case timelines and claim progression to avoid increased costs from processing delays. If performance indicators show rising exposure or fiscal impact, HR will adjust workload distribution to ensure the cost shift continues to produce net savings.

## **Significant Non-Personnel Reductions**

- Employer of Choice Consulting – \$96,742. Eliminates external consulting for employer branding, workforce strategy, and retention. Strategic employer branding and recruitment marketing will continue in-house with reduced capacity.
- HR Accuity Software Cancellation – \$46,494. Discontinues a case-tracking software tool originally purchased for Employee and Labor Relations. The system was not fully adopted

by HR, and existing software such as SharePoint and Power BI provide similar utility that is currently being used.

- GovInvest Contract Elimination - \$45,000. Discontinues contract for advanced financial modeling tools supporting personnel cost forecasting, retirement liabilities, and labor negotiation scenarios. Modeling will shift to HR staff and Budget staff collaboration using internal tools and spreadsheets, increasing manual workload and turnaround times for projections, especially during bargaining cycles.
- Commercial Driver’s Program Recordkeeping Contract – \$50,000. Reduces contract services for document storage and license tracking. Work will be absorbed internally with no operational impact. Planned software implementation will not proceed; responsibilities remain with HR and Public Works staff (Safety Officer classification).

**Information Technology**

The Department of Information Technology (IT) provides the core digital infrastructure that supports Citywide operations, including financial systems, permitting, communications, cybersecurity, data management, and network services.

To support the City’s broader fiscal balancing strategy, IT identified expenditure reductions for FY 2027 and FY 2028. Due to the essential and fixed nature of many technology costs, such as software licensing, cybersecurity protections, and system maintenance, opportunities for reductions are limited. Any decrease in funding may affect system reliability, security, and the City’s ability to maintain uninterrupted digital services.

**FTE Changes (All Funds)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Baseline FTE</b>	<b>Proposed FTE</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total Staffing	49	45	-4

**Budget Changes (GF)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY27 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 27 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Personnel	0	0	0
Personnel – OT & Hourly	0	0	0
Non-Personnel	1,150,454	965,062	-185,391

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY28 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 28 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Personnel	0	0	0
Personnel – OT & Hourly	0	0	0
Non-Personnel	1,150,454	965,062	-185,391

## Impacts

Information Technology has no General Fund personnel budget; all GF reductions occur within the non-personnel category. However, IT is proposing to reduce four (4) vacant positions funded by the IT Cost Allocation Fund (see IT Cost Allocation Plan section).

### Non-Personnel Reductions (GF)

- \$57,705 Alcor-ServiceNow Support - ServiceNow platform is the City's primary engine for citywide trouble ticketing, IT service delivery, and specialized City Clerk workflows. This contract ensures immediate access to certified developers for troubleshooting, patch management, and workflow optimization. Without Alcor's support, resolution times for system failures would increase, potentially leading to prolonged downtime for vital functions.
- \$59,000 Everbridge, Accela — Cost shift from GF to IT Cost Allocation Plan Fund as funding this project ensures that the initial investment is preserved and that the City maintains its employee safety posture with a reliable, automated safety infrastructure that protects our employees. The BeWARNED system is the City's primary employee "All-Warning" insurance policy; without this funding, the core Everbridge service will cease, leaving the City without a centralized mechanism for immediate emergency notifications.
- \$68,686 Carahsoft-Zoom – Maintaining two full enterprise video platforms is fiscally inefficient. By standardizing on Microsoft Teams, which is already in our unified G3 licensing, the City can save money and streamline administrative overhead. This move reduces "digital friction" by ensuring staff use a single, secure ecosystem for daily collaboration and internal meetings. IT acknowledges that Zoom is currently the primary vehicle for City Council meetings. IT is assessing (in collaboration with the City Clerk's office) whether Teams' webinar capabilities can provide the same level of public access and moderation. The goal is to remove Zoom as the general "teleconference" tool while "right-sizing" any remaining footprint only for essential public-facing functions.

### IT Cost Allocation Plan (Fund 680)

Most IT services are funded through the Internal Service Fund, Fund 680, (IT Cost Allocation) rather than the General Fund. However, the General Fund provides significant resources to the IT Cost Allocation Plan. As part of the proposed General Fund balancing plan, the General Fund contribution to Fund 680 is reduced by \$600,000. Additionally, Fund 680 absorbed a \$6.46 million transfer out to the General Fund in FY 26 to support the Citywide balancing effort as part of the FY 26 Mid Biennial Budget.

IT is also experiencing deficits in two funds that continue to incur significant costs despite no longer receiving revenue:

- Fund 502 – Telephony (VOIP). Funding ended in FY 2024, but the fund remains responsible for the annual Avaya contract (~\$460,000). With a projected FY 2026 balance of \$393,000, the fund is expected to reach a negative balance of approximately \$551,000 shortly thereafter.

- Fund 503 – FUND\$ Replacement. This fund is projected to reach a negative balance of \$1.8M by FY 2028. To ensure accurate accounting and maintain operational continuity, the remaining liabilities of Funds 502 and 503 are proposed to be cost shifted to the IT Cost Allocation Plan. This adjustment will increase the IT Cost Allocation Fund's structural deficit and will require reassessment of long-term funding needs over time.

To address the reduction in resources allocated to the IT Cost Allocation Plan and the deficits in Fund 502 and Fund 503, leading to a cost shift of the expenses from those funds to Fund 680, the following outlines proposed reductions in personnel and non-personnel expenditures.

### **Personnel Reductions**

- Application Programmer Analyst II (vacant). This position supports several business systems used by City departments, including systems supporting Police and Fire operations. Eliminating this position will reduce the department's ability to respond quickly to system issues and enhancements affecting these critical systems.
- Customer Service III (311 / Service Desk) (vacant). This role supports the City's 311 customer service operations. Removing this position will reduce call-handling capacity and may result in longer response times for community members and City staff requesting assistance.
- Program Manager II (vacant). This position provides coordination and oversight for City technology projects. Eliminating this position will slow project implementation and reduce oversight of technology initiatives requested by City departments.
- Senior Information Systems Specialist (vacant). This position supports critical infrastructure systems including servers, network systems, and core technology platforms. Eliminating this position reduces IT's technical capacity to maintain and implement infrastructure and security improvements.

### **Non-Personnel Reductions**

- Avaya Replacement – This project transitions the City's voice communications from the existing Avaya VoIP system to a unified Microsoft Teams telephony model. This integration replaces the current dependence on physical, standalone VoIP desk phones with "softphones," allowing staff to manage City calls directly through the Teams app on their computers or mobile devices. Deferring this modernization means the City will remain on a legacy Avaya VoIP infrastructure and continue to rely on physical desk phones, unable to leverage the mobile and collaborative benefits of the Microsoft ecosystem.
- CompuCom Staff Augmentation. Reduces Service Desk capacity, resulting in slower response times and lower service levels.
- Integration Platform. Delays development of a centralized Accounts Receivable/General

Billing portal and other Integration improvements, affecting staff efficiency and customer service.

- Artificial Intelligence Tools. Eliminates planned investments in AI solutions that could streamline City processes and improve service delivery.

**Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront**

The Parks, Recreation & Waterfront (PRW) Department manages and maintains the City's parks, playgrounds, pools, camps, community centers, and waterfront facilities; delivers recreation programs and special events for youth, families, and seniors; operates the largest public marina on the Bay; and plans, designs, and constructs capital improvements across Berkeley's parks, recreation, and waterfront system. As one of the City's most visible and community-serving departments, PRW provides important services that support public health, youth development, equity, and quality of life.

To align with the City's fiscal balancing strategy, PRW identified expenditure reductions for FY 2027 and FY 2028. Because PRW's programs and facilities directly serve high-need populations, including low-income residents and youth, opportunities for reductions are difficult. Any decrease in funding reduces the City's ability to meet strong community demand and maintain equitable access to recreation and waterfront services.

**FTE Changes – All Funds**

Category	Baseline FTE	Proposed FTE	Change	Proposed FTE w/Sales & Use Tax	Change FTE w/Sales & Use Tax
Total Staffing	116	110	-6	113	-3

**Budget Changes – GF**

Category	FY27 Baseline Budget	FY 27 Proposed Budget	Change	Proposed Budget w/Sales & Use Tax	Change w/Sales & Use Tax
Personnel	5,160,028	4,269,535	-890,493	4,735,539	-424,489
Personnel – OT & Hourly	3,757,812	3,764,484	+6,672	3,764,484	+6,672
Non-Personnel	4,315,361	4,008,232	-307,129	4,008,232	-307,129

Category	FY28 Baseline Budget	FY 28 Proposed Budget	Change	Proposed Budget w/Sales & Use Tax	Change w/ Sales & Use Tax
Personnel	5,308,991	4,403,637	-905,354	4,880,850	-428,041
Personnel (OT/Hourly)	3,757,812	3,764,484	+6,672	3,764,484	+6,672
Non-Personnel	4,315,361	4,008,232	-307,129	4,008,232	-307,129

## Impacts

### Personnel Reductions – General Fund

- 2.46 FTE cost shifts from the General Fund to the Camps Fund and Parks Tax Fund, increasing the strain on the operating balance for each fund.
- Elimination of 3.0 vacant FTE in the Recreation Division (2 Assistant Recreation Coordinators and 1 Sports Official). Less career staff to schedule, program, and supervise part-time staff, resulting in:
  - Partial pool closures - Pools may be closed on weekends, or one weekend day, at one or both pools. Alternatively, one pool could be closed during the winter season.
  - Elimination of the Therapeutic Recreation program that supports up to 21 youth with special needs to participate in summer camp and afterschool programs.
  - Reduced teen trips and special events.
  - Reduced family oriented and DEI focused events.
  - Fewer programs for young children (Tots and Pre-Kindergartners) – less program offerings for the estimated 150 participants per week that attend drop-in programs; and the 168 participants that attend pre-k camp programs throughout the year.
  - Reduced summer camp enrollment by 36 slots and afterschool program enrollment by 36 slots to ensure appropriate child supervision. The afterschool reduction would represent 12 slots at each site: Francis Albrier, Live Oak, and James Kenney.
  - Reduced Community Center hours – centers will be closed on some evenings and weekends.
  - Increased need for scholarships to maintain access for low-income families. As an example, closure of the City's Playground Program, which is fully subsidized by the General Fund, would displace 72 participants each week during the summer. The Playground Program is the City's low-cost summer camp option where participants pay \$10/week to attend. Those 72 families would still need to find care for their children and would likely need scholarships to participate in higher-cost City programs. This cycle of subsidized program closures increasing demand for scholarships for other programs will likely lead to pressures to increase the budget for scholarships and reduce eligibility thresholds.

**To avoid immediate service reductions, the proposed Budget Balancing Plan recommends using onetime funds in FY 2027 to maintain the two (2) Assistant Recreation Coordinators and one (1) Sports Official until the outcome of the November 2026 Sales and Use Tax measure is known. This will obviate the need for reductions in after-school programs, camps, community center and pool operating hours, and other programs serving youth, outlined above. If the measure passes, new revenue will be proposed to sustain the positions and prevent impacts on programs and services for**

**youth and adults. If the measure does not pass, the position eliminations will be reconsidered for FY 2028.**

#### Non-Personnel Reductions – General Fund

- PRW currently receives \$450,000 annually to remove hazardous trees and vegetation. Reducing the fire fuel budget by \$243,000 is proposed to address the General Fund deficit. In the last fiscal year, PRW removed an estimated 210 tons in fire fuel debris from the Berkeley hills. As resources allow, Measure FF may be a potential funding source to maintain funding for this program.
- General Fund resources are currently used to advertise PRW programs and events, produce ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, and department-wide training. The department proposes reducing resources allocated to these activities by \$63,837 that will result in lower-quality public engagement and reduction in department training.

#### Personnel and Non-Personnel Reductions – Other Funds

Additional workforce, cost shifts and non-personnel reductions are needed to align staffing with available resources, given the sunset of the Measure T1 bond program, revenue shortfalls in the Marina Fund, and lack of capacity in other funds.

- Elimination of two Assistant Civil Engineers (one filled and one vacant) due to expiring Measure T1 funding, and lack of other capital funding sources. PRW hired two (2) engineers to support the Measure T1 bond program in 2017. With projects now complete or fully allocated, T1 staffing funds are fully expended, and PRW's other funding sources (Parks Tax Fund and Marina Fund) do not have capacity to absorb these positions. Losing these positions reduces the department's ability to deliver current capital projects and achieve future grant obligations.
- Elimination of the Waterfront Manager position (filled) in the Marina Fund, reducing capacity to apply for and implement grants, managing PRW leases, and supporting waterfront operations.
- Cost shift of 0.15 FTE from the Marina Fund to the Parks Tax Fund.
- Reduction of \$181,000 in waterfront maintenance and operations limits the department's ability to maintain waterfront infrastructure

These reductions are necessary to offset the existing structural deficit and anticipated additional loss of revenue from the Doubletree Hotel in FY27-28. The Marina Fund has been operating at a loss since the start of COVID and has needed a variety of General Fund infusions to stay in the black and now must manage its revenue and expenses such that the Fund remains positive. The Doubletree Hotel, which makes up 20% of waterfront revenue, has sustained many years of losses stemming from the region's weak recovery in the tourism sector; and is now unable to meet their rent obligations. While needed, these reductions will reduce PRW capacity to develop new waterfront community programs, help manage leases, address one-time needs, and support waterfront-wide operations.

Moving forward, it will be critical to preserve the Marina Fund’s boating revenue, which makes up approximately 2/3 of total revenue. To this end, PRW, as part of the Biennial budget process, will propose adding a Senior Marina Assistant to increase staffing and support for the Marina’s 1,000 slips and amenities. The City currently has 2 Marina Assistants (1 per every 500 berthers) and given the importance of this revenue, it is vital that the City provides a higher level of customer service. In the past, the City had anywhere from 3 to 4 Marina Assistants and given the level of complaints that are received, adding the Senior Marina Assistant will enable the City to address berth concerns including weekend availability, provide additional security, and other ancillary services that support berthers and boaters.

**Planning and Development**

The Planning and Development Department achieved the required 12.5% General Fund reduction primarily by reallocating eligible costs to enterprise funds. Beginning in FY 2027, \$89,268 in personnel costs will be shifted to Fund 621 (PSC) and \$60,720 to Fund 622 (CUPA), generating total General Fund savings of \$149,998 in FY 2027 and \$154,618 in FY 2028.

In addition, the Department identified that the General Fund share of Internal Service Fund charges was disproportionately high. Correcting this allocation results in General Fund savings of \$308,271 in both FY 2027 and FY 2028.

Combined, these adjustments produce \$458,269 in General Fund savings in FY 2027 and \$470,419 in FY 2028, meeting the 12.5% target in both years. These cost shifts do not create immediate service or community impacts; however, the Department will need to evaluate future fee adjustments to ensure enterprise funds can sustainably absorb the reallocated costs.

**FTE Changes (All Funds)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Baseline FTE</b>	<b>Proposed FTE</b>	<b>Change</b>
Total Staffing	104.04	104.04	0

**Budget Changes (GF)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY27 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 27 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Personnel	3,004,877	2,854,879	-149,998
Personnel – OT & Hourly	5,496	5,496	0
Non-Personnel	655,788	347,517	-308,271

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY28 Baseline Budget</b>	<b>FY 28 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Personnel	3,102,076	2,947,458	-154,618
Personnel – OT & Hourly	5,496	5,496	0
Non-Personnel	655,788	339,987	-315,801

## **Impacts**

### **Personnel Reductions**

The Department does not propose eliminating any positions. Personnel savings are achieved by shifting existing staff costs from the General Fund to special funds, specifically the PSC Fund and CUPA Fund.

### **Non-Personnel Reductions**

The Department reviewed the General Fund allocations for Internal Service Fund charges and adjusted the cost distribution to reflect a more accurate ratio. This included shifting a portion of costs to the appropriate enterprise funds. These corrections generate General Fund savings.

### **Police Department**

The Police Department is a personnel-driven organization that not only works proactively to address public safety but responds to calls for service – over the past five years (2021-2025), on average, the department has responded to 61,907 calls for service. With approximately 93% of its General Fund budget dedicated to staffing, meaningful reductions cannot be achieved through non-personnel savings; the proposed non-personnel cost shifts and overtime adjustments are insufficient to meet the reduction targets.

The Department is currently operating at minimum staffing levels and sustained the loss of seven (7) sworn personnel and six (6) non-sworn (5 dispatchers and 1 office specialist) vacant positions as part of the FY 25-26 Mid Biennial Budget. Retirements and ongoing separations make it increasingly difficult to sustain specialized units, and any additional reductions in sworn or dispatcher positions must be weighed against the City's capacity to deliver essential public safety services. Maintaining vacant positions for ongoing hiring is critical; without them, the City risks replicating the post-COVID staffing crisis, where depleted staffing led to slower response times, reduced service capacity, and prolonged recovery.

Within this context, the proposed 10% reduction in the Police Department requires significant personnel reductions that materially reduces public safety service levels and compromises the department's specialized units to respond effectively to community needs. For the Communications Center (9-1-1 Dispatch), the proposed budget reductions will threaten the department's ability to answer 9-1-1 calls and reliably dispatch police and fire resources. Patrol is the Department's core function and must be preserved to maintain basic emergency response. The proposed reductions of 25 sworn personnel before the proposal to restore positions through the Sales and Use Tax would require consolidation or elimination of specialty units, including Traffic/Motors Division, the Community Services Bureau, the Bicycle Team, and significant portions of the Detective Bureau—in order to backfill the Patrol Division. These reductions would diminish proactive policing, reduce visibility in high-priority areas, and limit the Department's ability to address complex community issues.

The Police Department budget balancing proposal may change depending on the outcome of the City Council Special meeting on the Police Department's technology initiatives.

## FTE Changes – All Funds

Category	Baseline FTE	Proposed FTE	Change	Proposed FTE w/ Sales & Use Tax	Change FTE w/ Sales & Use Tax
Sworn	174	149	-25	164	-10
Public Safety Dispatcher	36	23	-13	29	-7
Non-Sworn	80	79	-1	79	-1
<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>-39</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>-18</b>

## Budget Changes – GF

Category	FY27 Baseline Budget	FY 27 Proposed Budget	Change	Proposed Budget w/Sales & Use Tax	Change w/ Sales & Use Tax
<b>Personnel</b>	88,710,290	78,831,573	-9,878,717	84,177,458	-4,532,832
<b>Personnel – OT &amp; Hourly</b>	9,951,528	9,801,528	-150,000	9,801,528	-150,000
<b>Non-Personnel</b>	7,536,756	6,976,756	-560,000	6,976,756	-560,000

Category	FY28 Baseline Budget	FY 28 Proposed Budget	Change	Proposed Budget w/Sales & Use Tax	Change w/ Sales & Use Tax
<b>Personnel</b>	89,868,662	79,789,284	-10,079,378	85,242,588	-4,626,074
<b>Personnel – OT &amp; Hourly</b>	9,951,528	9,801,528	-150,000	9,801,528	-150,000
<b>Non-Personnel</b>	7,536,756	6,976,756	-560,000	6,976,756	-560,000

## Personnel Reductions

- Elimination of one (1) vacant Office Specialist II
- Elimination of twenty-three (23) Police Officer positions
  - Vacant = 14.0 FTE
  - Filled = 9.0 FTE
- Elimination of two (2) vacant Police Sergeant positions
- Elimination of thirteen (13) Public Safety Dispatchers
  - Vacant = 13.0 FTE

**Total Police Department reduction in force is thirty-nine (39) positions. Elimination of these 39 positions will have negative impact on the following service areas:**

### Communications Center (9-1-1 Dispatch)

The Communications Center is staffed at 20 of 32 authorized positions and relies heavily on mandatory overtime to maintain minimum coverage due to a limited number of fully trained Public Safety Dispatcher II personnel. The Department must be able to continue to hire.

Attrition among new hires has averaged 67% over the past four years, with most separations occurring during training. Training capacity cannot be expanded because of limited trainer availability. If all the department's vacant dispatchers are eliminated as part of the Department's 10% budget reduction plan, hiring will largely cease and increased workload and overtime will result in fatigue and burnout. Proposed staffing reductions will compromise the City's ability to answer 9-1-1 calls and reliably dispatch police and fire resources.

As mentioned above, the Department's 10% budget balancing plan will also require consolidation or elimination of various specialty units. The following provides an overview of the work of these units and community impacts.

### **Community Services Bureau**

The Community Services Bureau leads community engagement, problem-solving, special event coordination, and cross-departmental work on quality-of-life issues, including homelessness. Reductions would significantly curtail outreach and coordinated response efforts, shifting long-term, complex community concerns back to patrol units already operating with limited capacity. This would reduce the City's ability to sustain relationship-based policing and collaborative problem-solving.

### **Bicycle Team**

The Bicycle Team provides focused patrol in business districts and other high-activity areas while serving as one of the Department's most flexible deployment resources. The team supports warrant operations, special events, and patrol backfill, and maintains a visible presence in Downtown and South Campus. Further reductions would weaken crime-prevention efforts, reduce community engagement, and eliminate a critical resource that stabilizes operations during staffing shortages.

### **Traffic Bureau**

The Traffic Bureau conducts serious and fatal collision investigations, traffic enforcement, and traffic safety grant management, and supports Vision Zero initiatives and multi-department operations. These functions require specialized training not available in patrol. Reductions would shift complex collision investigations and traffic safety responsibilities to patrol, significantly limiting proactive traffic enforcement and reducing overall response capacity.

### **Detective Bureau**

The Detective Bureau handles follow-up investigations for serious and complex crimes, manages digital evidence and forensic analysis, and prepares cases for prosecution. Staffing reductions have already forced prioritization among critical cases and limited proactive investigative work, including cold case review and regional task force participation. Additional staffing reductions would increase case backlogs, reduce investigative follow-up and victim support, and impair the Department's ability to resolve crimes and maintain effective investigative operations.

Not being able to staff these specialty units will impact hiring efforts, as well. The Police Department will not be able to compete with other agencies that provide growth opportunities for their officers. As a result, it will be challenging for the Department to address vacancies that arise through attrition.

**The City Manager recommends utilizing one-time funds, as outlined at the beginning of this report, during Fiscal Year 2027. This approach is intended to delay the elimination of 21 positions, as outlined below, until the outcome of the November 2026 Sales and Use Tax measure is known.**

### **Police Department Positions Allocated to the Sales and Use Tax**

Vacant Police Officers	6
Filled Police Officers	9
Vacant Dispatchers	6
Total	21

Preserving these positions ensures that the Police Department maintains minimum staffing levels, can staff specialty units, and can continue hiring efforts.

**Should voters approve the Sales and Use Tax measure, the resulting revenue is proposed to be allocated to maintain the identified 21 sworn and non-sworn positions. If the measure does not pass, the position eliminations will be reconsidered for FY 28**

### **Other Reductions**

- Reduction in Overtime \$150,000

While the Department currently anticipates that it can reduce overtime costs, they can be further reduced through targeted technology investments. Communications Center Technology investments improve training success rates and reduce the volume of calls requiring dispatcher intervention, directly lowering dispatcher overtime and stabilizing staffing. The Public Safety Technology Package would reduce sworn patrol and investigative overtime by enabling a safer, lower minimum-staffing floor and shortening the time detectives spend on tasks that technology can complete more efficiently. Together, these initiatives would result in higher overtime cost reductions. Depending on the outcome of June 2, 2026, the City Manager may amend some of the Police Department budget balancing proposals.

- Other Non-Personnel Items \$560,000

Non-personnel expenditures identified for reduction are a combination of contractual expenses, training/travel, software subscriptions, uniform/gear, and other purchases that are proposed to be cost shifted to the following special funds: Citizen Option Fund (Fund 159), State Asset Forfeiture (Fund 106), and Prop 172 (fund 126).

### **Public Works**

To address not only the General Fund deficit, but deficits across several other funds, Public Works has developed a budget balancing plan that generates an estimated \$6.6 million (FY 2027) and \$6.9 million (FY 2028) in savings from personnel expenditure reductions, cost shifting, and non-personnel reduction across five operational divisions. With personnel costs representing approximately 68 percent of the Department’s budget, these reductions require the elimination of fifteen (15) full-time positions. Of the 15 positions, two (2) are filled and 13

are vacant. This plan also includes cost shifting 51 positions from distressed funds to healthier funds that still align with the work the positions are doing.

The proposed budget balancing plan for Public Works includes General Fund reduction of \$780,000 in FY 2027 and \$1.1 million in FY 2028 and reduction of personnel budget in the Capital Improvement Fund of \$2.2 million in FY 2027 and FY 2028. In FY 2027, an additional \$3.5 million and in FY 2028, \$3.6 million in personnel savings will come from Public Works' Enterprise and Special Revenue Funds, most notably the Parking Meter Fund, Off-Street Parking Fund, 1947 Center Street, and Building Maintenance Fund. These funds require budget balancing strategies as all are experiencing structural deficits.

Additional balancing measures include eliminating temporary staffing, reducing security contract services, and deferring capital outlay for meter replacements. Collectively, these actions will reduce service capacity and accelerate long-term infrastructure deterioration.

### FTE Changes (All Funds)

Category	Baseline FTE	Proposed FTE	Change
Total Staffing	352	337	-15

### Budget Changes (GF)

Category	FY27 Baseline Budget	FY 27 Proposed Budget	Change
Personnel	5,165,452	4,385,681	-779,771
Personnel – OT & Hourly	22,517	22,517	0
Non-Personnel	2,947,178	2,947,178	0

Category	FY28 Baseline Budget	FY 28 Proposed Budget	Change
Personnel	5,332,997	4,248,474	-1,084,523
Personnel – OT & Hourly	22,517	22,517	0
Non-Personnel	2,947,178	2,947,178	0

### Impacts

#### Personnel Reductions

- Mainly cost-shifting various positions resulted in \$779,771 (FY 2027) and \$1,084,523 (FY 2028) of General Fund savings.

The majority of PW's budget comes from enterprise funds and other special funds. The reductions from those funds and programs are listed below:

- Eliminate one (1) Assistant PW Engineer (vacant)
- Eliminate one (1) Chief of Party (vacant)
- Eliminate one (1) Building Maintenance Mechanic Trainee (vacant)
- Eliminate one (1) Environmental Compliance Specialist (filled)

- Eliminate four (4) Laborer positions (vacant)
- Eliminate one (1) Office Specialist II (vacant)
- Eliminate one (1) Occupational Health Safety Officer (vacant)
- Eliminate two (2) Public Works Supervisor positions (vacant)
- Eliminate one (1) Sewer Maintenance Assistant Supervisor (vacant)
- Eliminate two (2) Skilled Laborers positions (one filled and one vacant)

In addition to the reductions outlined above, Public Works proposes shifting the costs of 51 additional positions to other eligible funds, totaling \$4.2 million in FY 2027 and \$4.6 million in FY 2028. This level of cost shifting is necessary due to ongoing structural deficits in several funds, including the CIP, Off-Street Parking, Building Purchase and Management (1947 Center Street), and Building Maintenance funds, as well as required General Fund reductions. However, shifting personnel costs to healthier funds places additional pressure on their operating budgets and fund balances. This may result in delays or reductions in services, capital projects, maintenance activities, or staffing levels.

### **Non-Personnel Reductions**

- Reduce security services at the Corporation Yard netting the Building Maintenance Fund savings of \$250,000.
- Deferral of parking meter upgrades – while not a reduction, a deferral does produce savings in FY 2027 and FY 2028 for the City’s two parking funds that combined are experiencing structural deficit. However, the longer the City defers capital replacement of parking meters, the more these meters will become obsolete or non-which negatively impacts revenue generation,
- Lack of CIP Fund availability beyond the annual baseline results in deferrals or eliminations of projects, especially in the Facilities capital program, which carries compounding impacts over time. Samples of impacted projects are:
  - Animal Shelter HVAC – designed deferred until FY29-30
  - Corporation Yard Fences and Vehicular Gates - construction deferred until FY29-31
  - Fire Department Warehouse - construction (interior improvements, ADA upgrades, and fuel storage) deferred indefinitely

While the Department is committed to fiscal responsibility, the proposed reductions will fundamentally alter the service levels community members expect. The elimination of 15 full-time positions represents a 5 percent reduction in the Department’s workforce. More specifically, the proposed personnel reductions impact positions that are associated with Street Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance, and CIP Engineering, which will diminish maintenance crew sizes and technical engineering project management resources that support large capital improvement projects.

To mitigate impacts of the proposed workforce reduction, Public Works will prioritize services based on a Risk-Based Prioritization Framework. This framework prioritizes services that are essential for public life-safety systems, legal compliance, and preventing catastrophic infrastructure failure such as:

- Emergency Response to respond to storms, downed trees in the right-of-way, and immediate hazard mitigation (e.g., sinkholes or structural collapses).
- Regulatory & Environmental Compliance: Mandated inspections for San Francisco Bay water quality (trash capture) and ADA-mandated curb ramp installations attached to active paving projects.
- Critical Life-Safety Infrastructure: Maintenance of traffic signals at high-volume intersections and structural integrity of public buildings with high occupancy (e.g., City Hall, Public Safety Building).
- Essential Sanitation: Core trash collection and basic maintenance of public health facilities to prevent and address disease vectors.

Certain services that will be maintained but experience extended response times or reduced frequency include the following:

- Proactive Facility Maintenance: The Department will prioritize HVAC and electrical systems over aesthetic upgrades like painting or floor refinishing.
- Response times for non-emergency community concerns received through 311 (e.g., standard pothole repair, graffiti abatement, litter and illegal dumping) will be extended from 72 hours to 10-14 business days.

Services that may be suspended or experience delays, or reductions in the level of service include items such as:

- Elective Facility Improvements such as office reconfigurations, non-essential lighting upgrades, and furniture replacements.
- Special Event Support such that there will be a reduction in department labor provided for non-city-sponsored community events or parades.
- Clean City work will transition from proactive "scouting" to a strictly reactive, report-based collection model.

#### NEXT STEPS

- April 16 and April 23, 2026: Budget and Finance Policy Committee meetings when staff presents the Proposed Budget Balancing Plan and Committee provides recommendations on any adjustments.
- May 14, 2026: Budget and Finance Policy Committee meeting presentation and discussion of the City Manager's Proposed FY 2027 & FY 2028 Biennial Budget.
- May 19, 2026: City Council meeting
  - Presentation and discussion of the City Manager's Proposed FY 2027 & FY 2028 Biennial Budget – Public Hearing #1
  - FY 2027 Fee Increases – Public Hearing #1

- Second Amendment to the Annual Appropriation Ordinance (AAO#2)
- May 28, 2026: Budget and Finance Policy Committee meeting presentation and discussion of the City Manager’s Proposed Five-Year CIP.
- June 9, 2026: City Council meeting presentation and discussion of the 5-Year CIP – Public Hearing #1.
- June 16, 2026: City Council meeting discussion on potential revisions to Proposed Biennial Budget and 5-Year CIP.
- June 23, 2026: City Council Special meeting – Adoption of the FY 2027 and FY 2028 Biennial Budget and Five-Year CIP.
- June 24, 2026 – June 30, 2026: Capture and incorporate any last-minute changes from Proposed Budget to Adopted Budget.
- July 1, 2026: FY 2027 begins, and the adopted budget balancing measures take effect.
- July 2, 2026: Employees impacted by Adopted Biennial Budget and associated budget reduction plan to the adopted budget receives final layoff notices.

Staff will continue to work on developing and refining the biennial budget, conferring over impacts with the City’s labor groups up to the June Council meeting adoption date, incorporating Council direction into the Proposed Budget and preparing the necessary adjustments for adoption in June 2026.

**CONCLUSION**

Balancing the FY 2027 and FY 2028 budget requires difficult choices, and the City approaches them with full awareness of their impact on staff, elected officials, community members, and the programs people rely on. While one-time sources will continue to be used strategically for true one-time needs, they can no longer serve as an ongoing balancing tool. By addressing the City’s structural deficit, the City can avoid repeating large-scale budget reduction exercises in the future.

This proposed Budget Balancing Plan reflects both the fiscal discipline required at this moment and the City’s commitment to protecting essential services and the people who depend on them.

**CONTACT PERSON**

Maricar Dupaya, Budget Manager, City Manager’s Office, 981-7000  
 David White, Deputy City Manager, City Manager’s Office, 981-7000

Attachment:

1. Summary Position Reduction List
2. Vacancies 2026.04.03

Summary of Position Reduction List for FY 2027 FY 2028 Biennial Budget

Department	Original Proposed Reduction (Classification)	Filled/Vacant	Proposed Allocation to Sales & Use Tax	Revised Reduction After Sales & Use Tax Application
CMO	CMDEV PRJ CD	Filled		CMDEV PRJ CD
CMO	COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	Filled		COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
CMO	COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	Filled		COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
CMO	DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION OFFICER	Vacant		DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION OFFICER
CMO	ECODEV PRJ CD	Vacant		ECODEV PRJ CD
CMO	OFFICE SPECIALIST II	Vacant		OFFICE SPECIALIST II
CMO	OFFICE SPECIALIST III	Filled		OFFICE SPECIALIST III
CMO	PROGRAM MANAGER II U	Filled		PROGRAM MANAGER II U
CMO	SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	Vacant		SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST
<b>CMO Count</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
Finance	ASSOC. MANAGEMENT ANALYST	Vacant		ASSOC. MANAGEMENT ANALYST
Finance	REVENUE DEV. SPECIALIST I	Vacant		REVENUE DEV. SPECIALIST I
Finance	REVENUE DEV. SPECIALIST I	Vacant		REVENUE DEV. SPECIALIST I
Finance	SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST	Vacant		SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST
<b>Finance Count</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Fire	APPARATUS OPERATOR	Filled	APPARATUS OPERATOR	
Fire	APPARATUS OPERATOR	Filled	APPARATUS OPERATOR	
Fire	APPARATUS OPERATOR	Filled	APPARATUS OPERATOR	
Fire	ASSC MGT ANLY	Filled		ASSC MGT ANLY
Fire	FIRE CAPTII 40	Filled		FIRE CAPTII 40
Fire	FIRE CAPTII 40	Filled	FIRE CAPTII 40	
Fire	FIRE CAPTII 40	Filled	FIRE CAPTII 40	
Fire	FIRE CAPTII 40	Filled	FIRE CAPTII 40	
Fire	FIRE INSPECTOR	Vacant		FIRE INSPECTOR
Fire	FIRE MARSHAL	Vacant		FIRE MARSHAL
Fire	FIREFIGHTER	Filled	FIREFIGHTER	
Fire	FIREFIGHTER	Filled	FIREFIGHTER	
Fire	FIREFIGHTER	Filled	FIREFIGHTER	
Fire	PROGRAM MANAGER II	Filled		PROGRAM MANAGER II
<b>Fire Count</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Filled		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Filled		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	COM HEALTH WORKER SPEC	Filled		COM HEALTH WORKER SPEC
HHCS	COM SERVICE SPEC II	Filled		COM SERVICE SPEC II
HHCS	COM SERVICE SPEC III	Filled		COM SERVICE SPEC III
HHCS	MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM SUPV	Filled		MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM SUPV
HHCS	SR COMMNTY HEALTH SPECIALIST	Filled		SR COMMNTY HEALTH SPECIALIST
HHCS	VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN	Filled		VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN
HHCS	ASST MGMT ANALYST	Vacant		ASST MGMT ANALYST
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN I	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN I
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN I	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN I

Summary of Position Reduction List for FY 2027 FY 2028 Biennial Budget

Department	Original Proposed Reduction (Classification)	Filled/Vacant	Proposed Allocation to Sales & Use Tax	Revised Reduction After Sales & Use Tax Application
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN I	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN I
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II	Vacant		BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLIN II
HHCS	COM HEALTH WORKER SPEC	Vacant		COM HEALTH WORKER SPEC
HHCS	COM SERVICE SPEC II	Vacant		COM SERVICE SPEC II
HHCS	COM SERVICE SPEC II	Vacant		COM SERVICE SPEC II
HHCS	EPIDEMIOLOGIST	Vacant		EPIDEMIOLOGIST
HHCS	HEALTH EDUCATOR	Vacant		HEALTH EDUCATOR
HHCS	HEALTH SVCS PROGRAM SPCLST	Vacant		HEALTH SVCS PROGRAM SPCLST
HHCS	MENTAL HEALTH CLINICAL SUPV	Vacant		MENTAL HEALTH CLINICAL SUPV
HHCS	MENTAL HEALTH NURSE	Vacant		MENTAL HEALTH NURSE
HHCS	MENTAL HEALTH NURSE	Vacant		MENTAL HEALTH NURSE
HHCS	MENTAL HEALTH NURSE	Vacant		MENTAL HEALTH NURSE
HHCS	MENTAL HEALTH NURSE	Vacant		MENTAL HEALTH NURSE
HHCS	MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM SUPV	Vacant		MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM SUPV
HHCS	OFFICE SPECIALIST II	Vacant		OFFICE SPECIALIST II
HHCS	OFFICE SPECIALIST II	Vacant		OFFICE SPECIALIST II
HHCS	OFFICE SPECIALIST II	Vacant		OFFICE SPECIALIST II
HHCS	OFFICE SPECIALIST II	Vacant		OFFICE SPECIALIST II
HHCS	OFFICE SPECIALIST II	Vacant		OFFICE SPECIALIST II
HHCS	OFFICE SPECIALIST III	Vacant		OFFICE SPECIALIST III
HHCS	PROGRAM MANAGER II	Vacant		PROGRAM MANAGER II
HHCS	PSYCHIATRIST	Vacant		PSYCHIATRIST
HHCS	PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE	Vacant		PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE
HHCS	SENIOR BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLINC	Vacant		SENIOR BEHAVIORAL HLTH CLINC
HHCS	SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	Vacant		SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST
HHCS	SR. COMMNTY DEV. PROJ COORDINATOR	Vacant		SR. COMMNTY DEV. PROJ COORDINATOR
HHCS	VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN	Vacant		VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN
<b>HHCS Count</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>
HR	ASSOCIATE HR ANALYST	Vacant		ASSOCIATE HR ANALYST
HR	OCCUPATIONAL HLTH/SAFTY SPEC	Vacant		OCCUPATIONAL HLTH/SAFTY SPEC
<b>HR Count</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
IT	APP. PROGRAM ANALYST II	Vacant		APP. PROGRAM ANALYST II
IT	CUST. SVCS. SPECIALIST III	Vacant		CUST. SVCS. SPECIALIST III
IT	PROGRAM MANAGER II	Vacant		PROGRAM MANAGER II
IT	SR. INFO. SYSTEMS SPECIALIST	Vacant		SR. INFO. SYSTEMS SPECIALIST
<b>IT Count</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

Summary of Position Reduction List for FY 2027 FY 2028 Biennial Budget

Department	Original Proposed Reduction (Classification)	Filled/Vacant	Proposed Allocation to Sales & Use Tax	Revised Reduction After Sales & Use Tax Application
POLICE	OFFICE SPECIALIST II	Vacant		OFFICE SPECIALIST II
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Filled	POLICE OFC	
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Filled	POLICE OFC	
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Filled	POLICE OFC	
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Filled	POLICE OFC	
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant	POLICE OFC	
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant	POLICE OFC	
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant	POLICE OFC	
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant	POLICE OFC	
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant		POLICE OFC
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant		POLICE OFC
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant		POLICE OFC
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant		POLICE OFC
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant		POLICE OFC
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant		POLICE OFC
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant		POLICE OFC
POLICE	POLICE OFC	Vacant		POLICE OFC
POLICE	POLICE OFC 12.5	Filled	POLICE OFC 12.5	
POLICE	POLICE OFC 12.5	Filled	POLICE OFC 12.5	
POLICE	POLICE OFC 12.5	Filled	POLICE OFC 12.5	
POLICE	POLICE OFC 12.5	Filled	POLICE OFC 12.5	
POLICE	POLICE OFC 12.5	Vacant	POLICE OFC 12.5	
POLICE	POLICE OFC 12.5	Vacant	POLICE OFC 12.5	
POLICE	POLICE OFC 12.5	Filled	POLICE OFC 12.5	
POLICE	POLICE SERGEANT	Vacant		POLICE SERGEANT
POLICE	POLICE SERGEANT	Vacant		POLICE SERGEANT
POLICE	PS DISPATC I	Vacant	PS DISPATC I	
POLICE	PS DISPATC I	Vacant	PS DISPATC I	
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant	PS DISPATCII	
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant	PS DISPATCII	
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant	PS DISPATCII	
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant	PS DISPATCII	
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant		PS DISPATCII
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant		PS DISPATCII
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant		PS DISPATCII
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant		PS DISPATCII
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant		PS DISPATCII
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant		PS DISPATCII
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant		PS DISPATCII
POLICE	PS DISPATCII	Vacant		PS DISPATCII
<b>POLICE Count</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>
PRW	ASST. CIVIL ENG	Vacant		ASST. CIVIL ENG
PRW	ASST. CIVIL ENG	Filled		ASST. CIVIL ENG
PRW	ASST. RECREATION COORDINATOR	Vacant	ASST. RECREATION COORDINATOR	

**Summary of Position Reduction List for FY 2027 FY 2028 Biennial Budget**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Original Proposed Reduction (Classification)</b>	<b>Filled/Vacant</b>	<b>Proposed Allocation to Sales &amp; Use Tax</b>	<b>Revised Reduction After Sales &amp; Use Tax Application</b>
PRW	ASST. RECREATION COORDINATOR	Vacant	ASST. RECREATION COORDINATOR	
PRW	SPORTS OFFICIAL	Vacant	SPORTS OFFICIAL	
PRW	WATERFRONT MANAGER	Filled		WATERFRONT MANAGER
<b>PRW Count</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
PW	AST PW ENG	Vacant		AST PW ENG
PW	CHF OF PARTY	Vacant		CHF OF PARTY
PW	BLD MNT MEC TR	Vacant		BLD MNT MEC TR
PW	ENV COMPLNCE SP	Filled		ENV COMPLNCE SP
PW	LABORER	Vacant		LABORER
PW	LABORER	Vacant		LABORER
PW	LABORER	Vacant		LABORER
PW	LABORER	Vacant		LABORER
PW	OFF SPII	Vacant		OFF SPII
PW	OHS OFC	Vacant		OHS OFC
PW	PW SUP	Vacant		PW SUP
PW	PW SUP	Vacant		PW SUP
PW	SE MNT AST SUP	Vacant		SE MNT AST SUP
PW	SKILLED LABORER	Filled		SKILLED LABORER
PW	SKILLED LABORER	Vacant		SKILLED LABORER
<b>PW Count</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Grand Count</b>	<b>138</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>105</b>

## List of Vacant Positions as of 04/03/2026

Department	Position Description	Status
City Attorney	Assistant City Attorney	Vacant
City Attorney	Deputy City Attorney IV	Vacant
City Attorney	Legal Office Supervisor	Vacant
City Attorney	Risk Manager	Vacant
<b>City Attorney Count</b>		<b>4</b>
City Clerk	Assistant City Clerk	Vacant
<b>City Clerk Count</b>		<b>1</b>
CMO	Animal Control Officer	Vacant
CMO	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer	Vacant
CMO	Economic Development Project Coordinator	Vacant
CMO	Office Specialist II	Vacant
CMO	Senior Management Analyst	Vacant
CMO	Social Services Specialist	Vacant
<b>CMO Count</b>		<b>6</b>
Finance	Accounting Manager	Vacant
Finance	Administrative Secretary	Vacant
Finance	Associate Management Analyst	Vacant
Finance	Deputy Director of Finance	Vacant
Finance	General Services Manager	Vacant
Finance	Revenue Development Specialist I	Vacant
Finance	Revenue Development Specialist I	Vacant
Finance	Senior Systems Analyst	Vacant
Finance	Treasury Manager	Vacant
<b>Finance Count</b>		<b>9</b>
Fire	Administrative Assistant	Vacant
Fire	Fire Captain II	Vacant
Fire	Fire Marshal	Vacant
Fire	Fire Prevention Inspector (Sworn)	Vacant
Fire	Firefighter	Vacant
Fire	Firefighter	Vacant
Fire	Firefighter	Vacant
Fire	Office Specialist II	Vacant
Fire	Paramedic (R)	Vacant
Fire	Paramedic (R)	Vacant
Fire	Paramedic (R)	Vacant
Fire	Paramedic (R)	Vacant
Fire	Paramedic Supervisor I	Vacant
Fire	Paramedic Supervisor I	Vacant
Fire	Paramedic Supervisor I	Vacant
<b>Fire Count</b>		<b>15</b>
HHCS	Assistant Management Analyst	Vacant
HHCS	Assistant Management Analyst	Vacant

## List of Vacant Positions as of 04/03/2026

Department	Position Description	Status
HHCS	Associate Management Analyst	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician I	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician I	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician I	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician II	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician II	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician II	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician II	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician II	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician II	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician II	Vacant
HHCS	Behavioral Health Clinician II	Vacant
HHCS	Community Health Worker Specialist	Vacant
HHCS	Community Services Specialist II	Vacant
HHCS	Community Services Specialist II	Vacant
HHCS	Epidemiologist	Vacant
HHCS	Health Educator	Vacant
HHCS	Health Services Program Specialist	Vacant
HHCS	Mealsite Coordinator	Vacant
HHCS	Mental Health Clinical Supervisor	Vacant
HHCS	Mental Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Mental Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Mental Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Mental Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Mental Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Mental Health Program Supervisor	Vacant
HHCS	Mental Health Program Supervisor	Vacant
HHCS	Office Specialist II	Vacant
HHCS	Office Specialist II	Vacant
HHCS	Office Specialist II	Vacant
HHCS	Office Specialist II	Vacant
HHCS	Office Specialist II	Vacant
HHCS	Office Specialist III	Vacant
HHCS	Program Manager II	Vacant
HHCS	Program Manager II	Vacant
HHCS	Psychiatrist	Vacant
HHCS	Psychiatrist	Vacant
HHCS	Public Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Public Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Public Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Senior Behavioral Health Clinician	Vacant
HHCS	Senior Community Development Project Coordinator	Vacant

## List of Vacant Positions as of 04/03/2026

Department	Position Description	Status
HHCS	Senior Environmental Health Specialist	Vacant
HHCS	Senior Management Analyst	Vacant
HHCS	Senior Management Analyst	Vacant
HHCS	Senior Service Assistant	Vacant
HHCS	Social Services Specialist	Vacant
HHCS	Social Services Specialist	Vacant
HHCS	Supervising Public Health Nurse	Vacant
HHCS	Vector Control Technician	Vacant
<b>HHCS Count</b>		52
HR	Associate Human Resources Analyst	Vacant
HR	Employee Relations Manager	Vacant
HR	Occupational Health and Safety Specialist	Vacant
HR	Senior Human Resources Analyst	Vacant
<b>HR Count</b>		4
IT	Applications Programmer Analyst I	Vacant
IT	Applications Programmer Analyst II	Vacant
IT	Applications Programmer Analyst II	Vacant
IT	Customer Services Specialist III	Vacant
IT	Information Security Manager	Vacant
IT	Program Manager II	Vacant
IT	Senior Information Systems Specialist	Vacant
IT	Senior Information Systems Specialist	Vacant
IT	Senior Information Systems Specialist	Vacant
<b>IT Count</b>		9
Library	Director of Library Services	Vacant
Library	Librarian II	Vacant
Library	Library Aide	Vacant
Library	Library Assistant	Vacant
Library	Library Assistant	Vacant
Library	Mail and Materials Services Aide	Vacant
Library	Senior Human Resources Analyst	Vacant
Library	Supervising Librarian	Vacant
Library	Supervising Librarian	Vacant
Library	Supervising Librarian	Vacant
Library	Tool Lending Specialist	Vacant
<b>Library Count</b>		11
Mayor & Council	Legislative Aide	Vacant
Mayor & Council	Legislative Aide	Vacant
Mayor & Council	Legislative Aide	Vacant
Mayor & Council	Legislative Aide	Vacant
Mayor & Council	Legislative Aide	Vacant
<b>Mayor &amp; Council Count</b>		5

## List of Vacant Positions as of 04/03/2026

Department	Position Description	Status
ODPA	Director of Police Accountability	Vacant
ODPA	Police Accountability Investigator	Vacant
<b>ODPA Count</b>		2
Planning	Assistant Inspector	Vacant
Planning	Associate Management Analyst	Vacant
Planning	Associate Planner	Vacant
Planning	Associate Planner	Vacant
Planning	Building Plans Examiner	Vacant
Planning	Building Plans Examiner	Vacant
Planning	Hazardous Materials Specialist II	Vacant
Planning	Housing Inspector II (Certified)	Vacant
Planning	Office Specialist II	Vacant
Planning	Office Specialist III	Vacant
Planning	Permit Specialist	Vacant
Planning	Planning Technician	Vacant
Planning	Principal Planner	Vacant
Planning	Senior Planner	Vacant
<b>Planning Count</b>		14
Police	Community Service Officer	Vacant
Police	Community Service Officer	Vacant
Police	Community Service Officer	Vacant
Police	Community Service Officer Supervisor	Vacant
Police	Office Specialist II	Vacant
Police	Parking Enforcement Officer	Vacant
Police	Parking Enforcement Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant
Police	Police Officer	Vacant (temp)
Police	Police Officer	Vacant (temp)
Police	Police Sergeant	Vacant


## List of Vacant Positions as of 04/03/2026

Department	Position Description	Status
Police	Police Sergeant	Vacant
Police	Police Sergeant	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher I	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
Police	Public Safety Dispatcher II	Vacant
<b>Police Count</b>		<b>39</b>
PRW	Assistant Civil Engineer	Vacant
PRW	Assistant Management Analyst	Vacant
PRW	Assistant Recreation Coordinator	Vacant
PRW	Assistant Recreation Coordinator	Vacant
PRW	Forestry Climber	Vacant
PRW	Landscape Gardener Supervisor	Vacant
PRW	Recreation Program Supervisor	Vacant
PRW	Sports Official	Vacant
<b>PRW Count</b>		<b>8</b>
Public Works	Accounting Office Specialist III	Vacant
Public Works	Assistant Public Works Engineer	Vacant
Public Works	Associate Civil Engineer	Vacant
Public Works	Associate Civil Engineer	Vacant
Public Works	Associate Civil Engineer	Vacant
Public Works	Associate Transportation Engineer	Vacant
Public Works	Building Maintenance Mechanic	Vacant
Public Works	Building Maintenance Mechanic	Vacant
Public Works	Building Maintenance Mechanic Trainee	Vacant
Public Works	Chief of Party	Vacant
Public Works	Construction Equipment Operator	Vacant
Public Works	Deputy Director of Public Works	Vacant
Public Works	Director of Public Works	Vacant
Public Works	Electrician	Vacant
Public Works	Electrician	Vacant
Public Works	Equipment Superintendent	Vacant
Public Works	Laborer	Vacant

## List of Vacant Positions as of 04/03/2026

Department	Position Description	Status
Public Works	Laborer	Vacant
Public Works	Laborer	Vacant
Public Works	Laborer	Vacant
Public Works	Laborer	Vacant
Public Works	Lead Communications Technician	Vacant
Public Works	Lead Electrician	Vacant
Public Works	Lead Electrician	Vacant
Public Works	Manager of Engineering	Vacant
Public Works	Mechanic	Vacant
Public Works	Mechanic	Vacant
Public Works	Mechanic	Vacant
Public Works	Occupational Health and Safety Officer	Vacant
Public Works	Office Specialist II	Vacant
Public Works	Parking Meter Maintenance Worker	Vacant
Public Works	Parking Meter Mechanic	Vacant
Public Works	Principal Program Manager	Vacant
Public Works	Program Manager I	Vacant
Public Works	Public Works Supervisor	Vacant
Public Works	Public Works Supervisor	Vacant
Public Works	Public Works Supervisor	Vacant
Public Works	Service Technician	Vacant
Public Works	Sewer Maintenance Assistant Supervisor	Vacant
Public Works	Skilled Laborer	Vacant
Public Works	Solid Waste Truck Driver	Vacant
Public Works	Solid Waste Worker	Vacant
Public Works	Solid Waste Worker	Vacant
Public Works	Solid Waste Worker	Vacant
Public Works	Solid Waste Worker	Vacant
Public Works	Solid Waste Worker	Vacant
Public Works	Supervising Civil Engineer	Vacant
Public Works	Weighmaster	Vacant
<b>Public Works Count</b>		48
Rent Board	Accounting Office Specialist II	Vacant
<b>Rent Board Count</b>		1
<b>Grand Count</b>		<b>228</b>





No Material  
Available for  
this Item

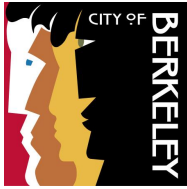
There is no material for this item.

**City Clerk Department**  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
(510) 981-6900

**The City of Berkeley Budget and Finance Policy Committee Webpage:**

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/city-council/council-committees/policy-committee-budget-finance>





Rashi Kesarwani  
Councilmember, District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 10, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Author)

SUBJECT: Budget Referral to Reissue the Request for Proposal (RFP) to Support Berkeley-Based Non-Profit Food Assistance Providers Serving Food Insecure Households and to Incorporate Food Insecurity as a Funded Category in Future Community Agency Grant Funding Cycles

**RECOMMENDATION**

Refer to the City Manager to reissue and fund a Request for Proposal (RFP) process as a short-term measure to support Berkeley-based non-profit food assistance providers serving food insecure households. Like the RFP that was issued in August 2024<sup>1</sup>, funds are intended for (but not limited to) the following needs:

- Expansion of capacity to service more people experiencing food insecurity, such as purchase of equipment;
- Hiring of additional staff to serve more people; and/or
- Other emerging needs to be determined.

Refer \$300,000 annually in funding to the biennial FY 2026-27 to FY 2027-28 budget process to fund qualified proposals resulting from the RFP.

Further, refer to the City Manager to establish food insecurity as a funded category for the Community Agency RFP process for future funding cycles to ensure city funds are permanently allocated to address this key priority and maximize sustainability for relevant non-profits.

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<sup>1</sup> The RFP was issued as a result of Council’s June 25, 2024 action to approve item #59: “Referral for Development of Request for Proposal (RFP) to Support Berkeley-Based Non-Profit Food Assistance Providers Serving Food Insecure Households”:  
<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-06-25%20Item%2059%20Referral%20for%20Development%20of%20Request%20for%20Proposal%20%28RFP%29.pdf>

## **CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

### ***Bay Area Food Prices Continue to Rise Deepening the Food Insecurity Trend...***

Between December 2024 and December 2025 food prices in the San Francisco Area increased by 4.3 percent, higher than any other household expense.<sup>2</sup> As food prices rose, reliance on food assistance became less certain as the federal shut down suspended funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) delaying assistance to families. This continued the trend of increasing food insecurity as Federal food assistance had already declined when COVID era emergency food allotments ended, reducing CalFresh benefits (California's food stamps program). A recent November 2025 poll by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that "three in ten Californians, and half of lower-income residents, say that they or someone in their household has reduced meals or cut back on food to save money."<sup>3</sup>

### ***...While the Future of Food Benefits Looks Bleak.***

While Alameda County allocated over \$8 million in October of 2025 to compensate for delayed CalFresh payments during the federal shut down, future access to food assistance is looking even more precarious. The budget reconciliation law H.R. 1, signed in July 2025, implements roughly \$186 billion in cuts to SNAP over the next 10 years. These cuts, the largest to food assistance ever, are estimated to affect most CalFresh households, reducing or eliminating altogether monthly benefits through state financing constraints and new eligibility requirements.<sup>4</sup>

## **BACKGROUND**

***Food Insecurity Impacts One in Five Californians.*** Limited or uncertain access to adequate food and nutrition can have long-term physical and mental health effects on adults and children alike.<sup>5</sup> The number of food insecure individuals and families is steadily climbing and food banks throughout the state are struggling to keep up.

### ***The Previous RFP to Support Food Assistance Providers Allocated Funds for Two Years Only.***

In August of 2024, the Berkeley Food Network (BFN), which provides a large on-site pantry, several neighborhood/community pop-up pantries, and home delivery of grocery boxes to over 130 households, was awarded the full

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area - December 2025: [https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/consumerpriceindex\\_sanfrancisco.htm#:~:text=3.0-Food,and%20shelter%20\(+1.7%20percent\)](https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/consumerpriceindex_sanfrancisco.htm#:~:text=3.0-Food,and%20shelter%20(+1.7%20percent)).

<sup>3</sup> Public Policy Institute of California: Statewide Survey - November 2025, Californians and Their Economic Well-Being: <https://www.ppic.org/publication/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-their-economic-well-being-november-2025/>

<sup>4</sup> California Budget and Policy Center: Federal Funding Cuts to SNAP (CalFresh) Will Have Sweeping Impacts on Californians, September, 2025: <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/federal-funding-cuts-to-snap-calfresh-will-have-sweeping-impacts-on-californians/>

<sup>5</sup> California Association of Food Banks website: <https://www.cafoodbanks.org/hunger-data-reports/>

amount of funds allocated to support food assistance programs. BFN also works with eligible community members to support their CalFresh application submissions. The RFP covered roughly 20 percent of their overall costs for FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26. Seventy percent of the funding by year went to program and operations staff directly supporting food sourcing, volunteer coordination, and food assistance program management. Thirty percent of the funding by year went to non-personnel costs, including office and food distribution supplies and equipment, and for subscriptions for core software. These funds will last through June of 2026.

On January 30 2026 the Berkeley Food Pantry, a nonprofit organization providing emergency groceries to over 1,000 Berkeley and Albany households annually, closed its doors for good. This loss will put additional strain on the existing pantries, particularly as the effects of H.R.1 become more deeply felt.

### **RATIONALE FOR THIS REFERRAL**

Overall, the cost of living in California is among the highest in the nation with housing costs and food prices outpacing other states.<sup>6</sup> While the City's RFP process for community agency funding ensures resources are allocated to key priorities such as housing, education and job training, it does not directly address food insecurity. Allocating funds to reissue an RFP for Berkeley-based food assistance programs will ensure food insecure households are more readily served over the next two years. Establishing food insecurity as a permanent funded category for the community agency funding cycle will maximize sustainability for those relevant, and much needed, agencies.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

\$300,000 annually to fund the RFP process for FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 and future years. Additionally, staff time will be required to develop and incorporate the RFP into the funding cycle, as well as review and select qualified proposals for the budget process.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

There is no significant environmental impact associated with this referral.

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<sup>6</sup> [LAHomes.com](https://www.lahomes.com/blog/california-cost-of-living-guide/): "California Cost of Living [2025]: How Expensive Is It to Live in California, posted by Courney Korb, April 16, 2025: <https://www.lahomes.com/blog/california-cost-of-living-guide/>

**CONTACT PERSON**

Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, District 1

(510) 981-7110

Attachments (1):

Referral for Development of Request for Proposal (RFP) to Support  
Berkeley-Based Non-Profit Food Assistance Providers Serving Food Insecure  
Households



Rashi Kesarwani  
Councilmember, District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 25, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Author) and Councilmembers Mark Humbert and Susan Wengraf (Co-Sponsors)

SUBJECT: Referral for Development of Request for Proposal (RFP) to Support Berkeley-Based Non-Profit Food Assistance Providers Serving Food Insecure Households

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to develop and fund a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to support Berkeley-based non-profit food assistance providers serving food insecure households. Funds are intended for (but not limited to) the following needs:

- Expansion of capacity to serve more people experiencing food insecurity, such as one-time purchase of equipment;
- Hiring of additional staff to serve more people; and/or
- Other emerging needs to be determined.

Refer \$200,000 annually in funding to the biennial FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26 budget process to fund qualified proposals resulting from the RFP.

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On May 16, 2024, the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee adopted the following action: M/S/C (Kesarwani/Bartlett) to send the item to the City Council with a positive recommendation and with an added amendment:

- Refer the issue of food assistance to the Community Agency RFP process the next time the RFP is developed.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

**Community Agency RFP Does Not Directly Address Food Insecurity . . .** The RFP process for community agency funding is one of the City's mechanisms to ensure City funds are allocated to agencies addressing key priorities, such as housing, education, and job training. However, the RFP does not directly address food insecurity.

**. . . But Food Prices Are On the Rise and Federal Pandemic-Related Food Aid Ended Earlier This Year.** From August 2022 through August 2023, food prices in the San

Francisco area increased by 4.5 percent.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, federal food assistance associated with the pandemic ended earlier this year in March 2023. When the pandemic began in 2020, recipients of CalFresh (California’s food stamps program) were allotted the maximum benefit available for their household size, likely contributing to rising enrollment over the last several years. When the emergency allotments ended, CalFresh benefits were reduced, sometimes dramatically. For some single-person households, CalFresh benefits dropped from \$281 to as little as \$23 per month.<sup>2</sup> As a result, food banks throughout the state are seeing increasing numbers of people served.

**Berkeley-Based Non-Profit Food Assistance Providers Report Increasing Demand.**

The Berkeley Food Pantry is a non-profit organization providing emergency groceries to Berkeley and Albany residents four days per week, two hours each day.<sup>3</sup> The Berkeley Food Network (BFN) provides an on-site pantry in addition to mobile pantries throughout the city and distribution to other local pantries like the Berkeley Food Pantry.<sup>4</sup> Both organizations have reported significant increases in the number of households they are serving in recent years, as shown in Exhibit 1.

**Exhibit 1: Growth in Number of Households Served (2021-2023)**

	<b>Berkeley Food Pantry Number of Households Served</b>	<b>Berkeley Food Network Number of Households Served</b>
<b>Sept. 2021</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>1,518</b>
<b>Sept. 2022</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>2,601</b>
<b>Sept. 2023</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>3,182</b>
<b>Overall Percent Growth (Sept. 2021-Sept. 2023)</b>	<b>68.4%</b>	<b>109.6%</b>

Sources: Berkeley Food Pantry and Berkeley Food Network

**Alameda County Community Food Bank Reports a 52 Percent Increase in Food**

**Distribution.** The Oakland-based Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB), which partners with more than 400 institutions to provide food assistance to Alameda County families and individuals, reports an increase in demand throughout the county. The ACCFB has gone from distributing 38 million pounds of food during pre-COVID years to 58 million pounds of food most recently.<sup>5</sup> As of October 2, 2023, 11.4 percent of Alameda County

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area - August 2023: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ri1T7alsDOPOnwV3Ob\\_OmQXFXKgF36dwlvZbvXvTI/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ri1T7alsDOPOnwV3Ob_OmQXFXKgF36dwlvZbvXvTI/edit)

<sup>2</sup> Cal Matters August 8, 2023 article: “How Hungry is California? Millions Struggle to Eat Well in an Abundant State” <https://calmatters.org/explainers/california-hunger-crisis/#2b5159b1-a710-41cb-839b-aac1ea2791e4>

<sup>3</sup> Berkeley Food Pantry’s website for a full description of services provided: <https://www.berkeleyfoodpantry.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Berkeley Food Network’s website for a full description of services and programs provided: <https://www.berkeleyfoodnetwork.org/who-we-are/about/>

<sup>5</sup> Alameda County Community Food Bank website: <https://www.accfb.org/about-us/what-we-do/>

residents are experiencing food insecurity—up three percent from just April 10, 2023, shortly after the federal pandemic-related food assistance ended.<sup>6</sup>

#### BACKGROUND

***Food Insecurity Impacts One in Five Californians.*** Limited or uncertain access to adequate food and nutrition can have long-term physical and mental health effects on adults and children alike.<sup>7</sup> The number of food insecure individuals and families is steadily climbing and food banks throughout the state are struggling to keep up.

***Increasing Demand for Food Assistance Is Impacting the Wider Bay Area.*** The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, for instance, is now serving 350,000 people across the two counties monthly, which is double their pre-pandemic levels of service. The San Francisco-Marin food bank went from serving 32,000 households weekly to more recently serving 56,000 households weekly. Food banks throughout the state are functioning more like supermarkets in terms of peoples' regular food procurement venue rather than sources of emergency aid.<sup>8</sup>

#### FISCAL IMPACT

\$200,000 annually to fund the RFP, and staff time to develop the RFP and review and select qualified proposals.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no significant environmental impact associated with this referral.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, District 1

(510) 981-7110

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<sup>6</sup> California Pulse Website for Alameda County: <https://stanford-datalab.github.io/covid-19-ca/alameda/#food-insufficiency>

<sup>7</sup> California Association of Food Banks website: <https://www.cafoodbanks.org/hunger-data-reports/>

<sup>8</sup> Cal Matters June 12, 2023 article: "A Catastrophic Hunger Crisis? California Food Banks are Being Flooded by Families Seeking Help:" <https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2023/06/california-food-banks/>

