

The City Council and the City of Laguna Beach also work with other commissions, agencies and boards such as the California Coastal Commission, Orange County Transportation Authority, Regional Water Quality Board (San Diego and Santa Ana), Southern California Association of Governments, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The City's Budget and Finances

For fiscal year 1999-2000, the City government has an annual operating budget of \$30 million, 222 full-time employees, and a capital budget of \$4.8 million.

Figures 18 and 19 illustrate the breakdown of anticipated citywide revenues and expenditures in 1999-2000. On the expenditures side, the three departments with the largest general fund budgets are police services (27%), municipal services (25%) and fire protection (20%). Property tax (39%) continues to be the largest source of revenue, while fees-for-service (14%), sales tax (13%), and transient lodging tax (13%) also contribute substantially to City revenues.

The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes major projects to replace or construct the public infrastructure, including streets, sewers, civic buildings, parks, street lights and storm drains. Due to ongoing flooding problems, the current CIP empha-

sizes improving the City's storm drainage systems. The City is also focused on improving public restroom maintenance and repairing existing sewer lines. The ten-year Capital Improvement Plan has a \$41 million budget.¹

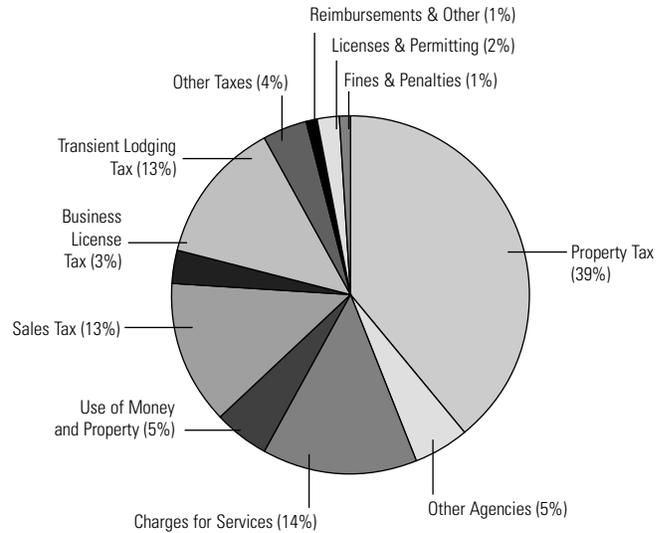


Figure 19
CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH
REVENUE BY SOURCE (FY 2000)

Source: City of Laguna Beach

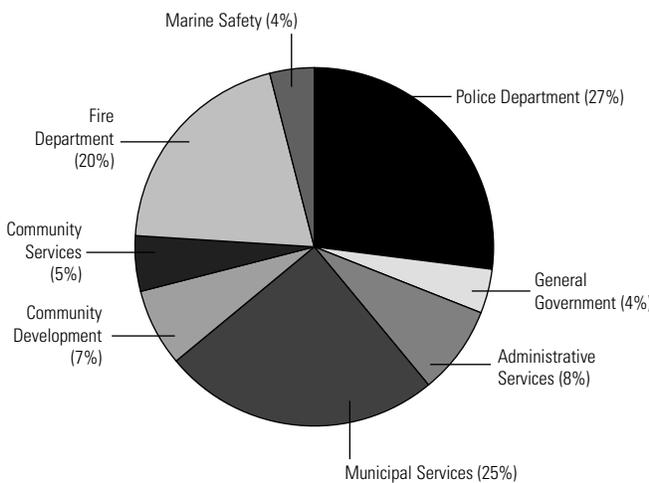


Figure 18
CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH
EXPENDITURE BY DEPARTMENT (FY 2000)

Source: City of Laguna Beach

Community Organizations

The quality of life in Laguna Beach is greatly enhanced by the community spirit of its residents. The number of service organizations that have been founded here in the last thirty years admirably demonstrates this. Today, over 30 neighborhood associations and over 100 community organizations address everything from environmental issues and the arts to homelessness and HIV/AIDS.² Indeed, without the active support of a large cross-section of residents, these organizations would not be able to survive. This generosity of spirit not only benefits people in crisis, but contributes to the quality of life enjoyed by the community as a whole.

Public Safety

Overall, Laguna Beach is a safe place to live. However, the City has experienced numerous natural disasters over the last decade. Consequently, crisis planning has become an important activity to ensure continued public safety.



Fire Services

The Laguna Beach Fire Department provides emergency fire, medical, and public assistance services. The Department operates four stations and responds to approximately 2,000 calls for service each year. Seventy percent of the service calls are medical aids and traffic accidents, 20% are house, vehicle and vegetation fires, and 10% are incidents such as flooding or mud slides. The Department maintains a fully-equipped emergency response force with a minimum of twelve fire-fighters on duty at all times for a total of 39 employees assigned to suppression, 5 assigned to management and administrative support, and 15 to reserve duties. Twelve of the above personnel are trained paramedics.³

Recent fire and flooding have spurred the formation of public safety prevention and planning programs throughout the City. The Fire Department's Weed Abatement Division oversees a program to reduce fire hazards that result from uncontrolled vegetation growth. Goats are used to reduce the fuel loading on public and private properties. The City has developed a community evacuation plan and there are plans to build a radio tower at Moorhead Reservoir that will transmit a countywide safety radio band.⁴

Police Services

The Laguna Beach Police Department, headquartered at City Hall in Downtown Laguna Beach, is divided into three divisions: field services, investigative services and support services. It has a staff of 82 personnel, with 49 sworn police officers. The department prides itself on following the principles of community-oriented policing and provides an array of programs designed to maintain personal and property safety.⁵ Some of the

Figure 20
LAGUNA BEACH CRIME STATISTICS (1993-1998)

Crime	1993	1998	Change
Homicide/Manslaughter	0	2	+2
Rape	5	5	0
Robbery	22	8	-14
Aggravated Assault	165	51	-114
Burglary	417	182	-235
Larceny	881	445	-436
Grand Theft Auto	146	36	-110
Arson	3	5	+2
TOTAL	1639	734	-905

Source: Laguna Beach 1999 Annual Report

programs include community beach patrol, neighborhood watch, parking enforcement, and youth diversion. The Police Department also staffs and operates the City's animal shelter and animal services activities. As Figure 20 suggests, Laguna Beach has experienced a 55% decrease in reported crimes over the five-year period 1993-1998.

Marine Safety

As a seaside community, the City of Laguna Beach Marine Safety Department must patrol 4.7 miles of City coastline and 14 square miles of ocean. In 1998, lifeguard coverage was extended to off-peak seasons to ensure marine safety 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Marine Safety Department now has 3 full-time positions and approximately 100 seasonal and recurrent

