



CITY OF SUNNYVALE

# QUARTERLY REPORT

Thoughts From Your City Manager

## Coming Full Circle in Sunnyvale



For retiring City Manager Gary Luebbers, his memories of Sunnyvale go back to his early days in the Air Force when he spent time at the Sunnyvale Air Station. Who could have predicted then that the base – eventually renamed Onizuka Air Station – would be closed, and Mr. Luebbers would come back as Sunnyvale’s City Manager to help shape its future through what the *Silicon Valley Business Journal* has dubbed one of the most creative land deals in the region. As he approaches this next career milestone, we sat down with Mr. Luebbers to get his reflections.

### On how to hook a fish

During interviews for this job in late summer 2008, Council members pitched Sunnyvale as a great opportunity. “It never rains in Sunnyvale,” they said. That December, I arrived in the midst of a downpour. “You’ll never have to do more with less,” they said. That September, Lehman Brothers collapsed and we were launched into a global recession. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

### On knowing then what I know now

I debated whether to contribute to an article like this. On one hand, it’s tempting to share wisdom gained over time. On the other, there’s something to be said for coming into an organization with fresh eyes, not yet knowing what you can’t do. That was me five years ago. Willing to challenge the sacred cows. Looking back, I wonder if some things would have been easier if only I knew then what I know now. Looking forward, I wonder what the results will be of decisions we’re making right now. Any successful organization keeps the right balance of new and seasoned people so that we can try new approaches with the wisdom of those who remember why they might not work.

### On working hard and being happy

Late in my Air Force career, my role as a contracting officer was to go to bases that weren’t doing well. I guess I do better in tough situations. I don’t mind working hard and when I’m seeing results, I’m happy. I’ve had three City Manager jobs and with each one I’ve learned how to do better in the next. In many ways I wish I could have come to Sunnyvale five years earlier and stayed five years longer. I could have been here before the recession to take full advantage of those “fresh eyes.” Instead, my instinct to move quickly toward changing some things was tempered by the fact that we had to deal with the impacts of the recession.

### On silver linings

Sunnyvale has long enjoyed a reputation of being well-managed and financially sound. Then the recession hit and revealed that, while our city was certainly better off than most, we simply weren’t as financially sound as we thought we were. We had finely tuned fiscal and performance measures that we tracked in minute detail, but we were not adequately assessing cost versus worth nor appropriately investing for

### Help Select Sunnyvale’s Next City Manager

The City is accepting applications for community members and business leaders who would like to serve on the interview panel for the selection of a new City Manager. Applications are available on the City’s website at [Sunnyvale.ca.gov](http://Sunnyvale.ca.gov).

the long-term. It would be like deciding not to change the oil in your car to build up your savings account by \$20, and then having to use that savings later to replace the engine you didn’t maintain. We needed to let our long-term plan inform our decisions versus drive them entirely. The recession forced us to prioritize expenditures in the face of reduced resources; renew our organizational structure and leadership positions; and pave the way for new service delivery models like Sunnyvale Works, the Community Service Officer program and a combined Library and Community Service Department.

### On learning from the past

During the recession, we owned our problems and pulled together to find and implement solutions. Now, as the economic outlook continues to improve, our own outlook improves and we naturally adapt to a new normal with greater expectations. We’ve

gone from simply wanting a roof over our heads just a few years ago to wanting a convertible now that it’s sunny again. The danger lies in forgetting where we were and how tough it was to make those difficult budget and organizational decisions. While we are now strategically rebuilding our staffing and service levels, we must do so prudently and not get carried away with too rosy an outlook. Always play like you’re behind and complacency can’t exist.

### On delivering good service

We exist as a City government to deliver good service to our community. How do we do that while balancing the compensation of our employees who enable us to deliver those services? I have found it works best to look at budgets holistically. How much do we need for trees, roads, libraries? What are our service level goals? Then, how

*See City Manager, page 3*



## Sunnyvale's FY 2013/14 Budget

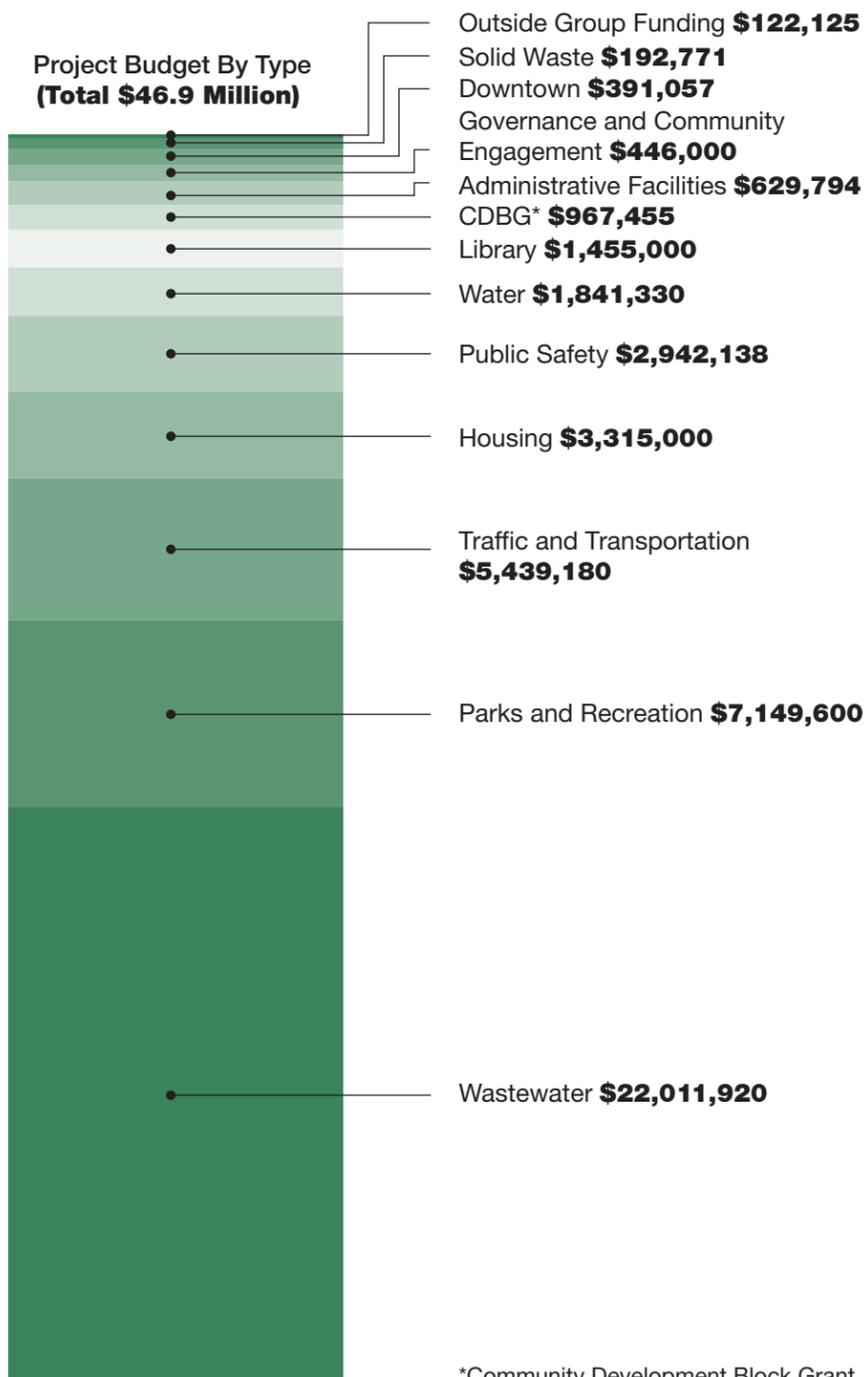
# Structurally-balanced and Sustainable

The City's budget appropriates its revenues and reserves to provide services to the community. Even though the City Council reviews and approves the budget annually, the City plans its budgets in two-year cycles – the first year of the cycle focuses on the City's Operating Budget while the second year focuses on its Projects Budget. Think of the Operating Budget as the recurring, day-to-day costs of running the City's operations, such as salaries, utility bills and fleet maintenance. The Projects Budget reflects non-operating activities such as capital and infrastructure projects that occur one-time or only periodically. The Fiscal Year 2013/14 Budget focuses on the Projects Budget, but also provides the following Operating Budget highlights.

### Projects Budget Highlights

The City plans for its long-term capital maintenance, renovation and replacement needs through the Projects Budget. Over the next twenty years, the City is planning to spend \$741 million on 252 projects, many of them multi-year. The FY 2013/14 budget contains \$46.9 million for 108 projects which include:

- rebuilding and rehabilitating the City's Water Pollution Control Plant;
- repairing and renovating buildings at the Sunnyvale Community Center;
- repairing, repaving and reconstructing city streets;
- the ongoing selection, recruitment and training of public safety officers;
- the design of a branch library facility in north Sunnyvale;
- accelerating construction of accessible sidewalks to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards; and
- improving building infrastructure and facilities at the Fremont Pool. 🌱



### Operating Budget Highlights

- The budget remains structurally balanced and continues the progress made over the past five years via the Five Key Commitments (see page 3).
- Moody's Investor's Services re-confirmed their highest credit rating of triple-A for Sunnyvale, citing the City's "exceptionally strong budget management and financial profile."
- The budget outlines the City's path to sustainable personnel costs, which includes assuming that all employees will pay the full share of their retirement costs through contract negotiations by Fiscal Year 2019/20.
- The funding to provide services at optimal levels has been restored in several key areas, such as improving the pavement condition on the City's streets and increasing the frequency of tree trimming services.
- Seven City staff positions have been budgeted including three in Public Safety (two public safety officers and a crime analyst), one in Public Works, one in

Human Resources, and two in Information Technology.

- The City's revenue projections for the year reflect continued robust economic activity; property taxes are experiencing healthy growth and development-related revenue and Transient Occupancy Tax have exceeded our budgeted expectations in recent years.
- Projections for the growth of sales tax have been moderated to reflect increasing volatility in this revenue source.
- In general, the revenue base needs to hold or be strengthened to maintain the long-term structural balance and increase services.

### Five Key Commitments Shape Sunnyvale's Budget Policy

Five key commitments outline the policy basis for the budget and twenty-year financial plan. They set a course of action based on past experience and critical future decision points. A complete discussion of each can be found in the City Manager's budget transmittal letter at [Budget.in.Sunnyvale.com](http://Budget.in.Sunnyvale.com).

### Twenty-year Planning: The Backbone of Sunnyvale's Financial Process

The City's twenty-year financial plan — often called the backbone of Sunnyvale's financial planning process — is a planning tool that projects revenues and expenses over the long-term to ensure that resources will be available to meet service needs. This helps decision-makers better understand the future impact of policy decisions being made today and guides the key assumptions incorporated into each budget that make the long-term plan fiscally sustainable. For example, assumptions about our revenue sources such as sales tax may not come to fruition due to economic volatility, which would cause the long-term plan to become imbalanced. With the inevitable ups and downs of the Silicon Valley economy and resulting volatility of our revenue sources, using the long-term plan and the Five Key Commitments is critical to keeping the City on a fiscally-sustainable path.



**Commitment 1: Manage our Personnel Costs**

As a service-providing organization, the City’s primary cost is our personnel. In fact, employee salaries and benefits constitute the largest component of the City’s budget at 60% of citywide operations. Therefore, managing personnel costs is critical to achieving and maintaining short- and long-term structural balance. One of the key strategies has been to lower future salary increase assumptions for personnel to ensure that these adjustments compete with all other expenses.

benefits and, through contract negotiations, increasing the contribution that our current employees make for their share of the pension expense. Further, the City has been making additional payments into a trust to ensure future retiree medical benefits are fully funded.

**Commitment 2: Fund Retirement Costs for Long-term Sustainability**

We have been taking essential steps to address the rising costs of pensions and move to a fiscally-sustainable structure for the long term. This has included moving all new employees to a pension plan with reduced defined

**Commitment 3: Get to Optimum Service Levels Strategically**

Because increases in personnel-related costs outpaced revenue growth in recent recession-hit years, it was necessary to reduce the workforce to maintain a structurally-balanced budget. Despite a population that is nearly 8% larger than a decade ago, our staffing levels are down 20% over that same period. By reorganizing our structure and implementing new service delivery models, we have been able to operate at a reduced staffing level and minimize the

impact on our services. With an improved economy, we can now look to strategically increase staff to improve service levels and this budget does so with seven new positions.

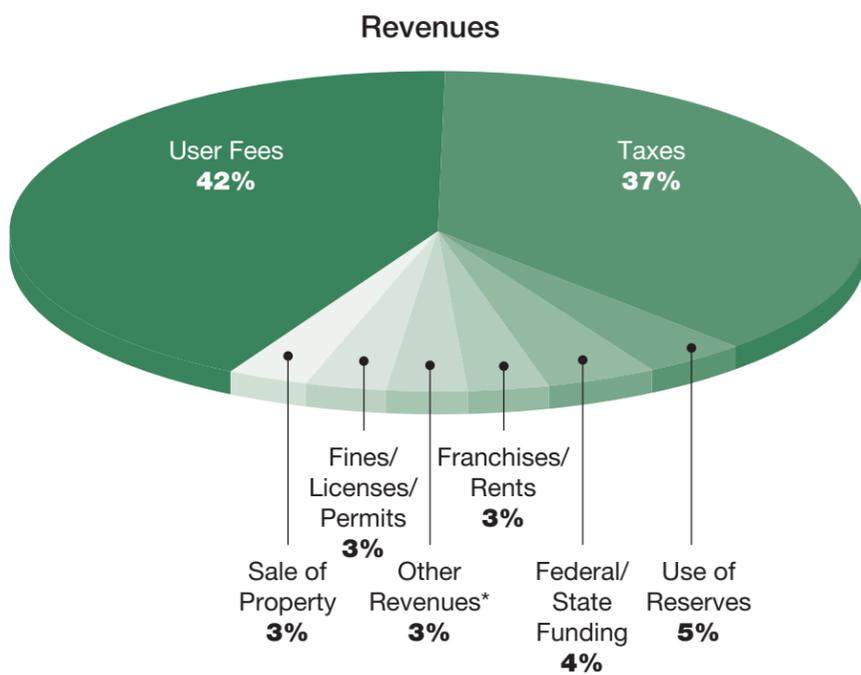
**Commitment 4: Establish Long-term Funding for the City’s Infrastructure Needs**

Long-term funding has been established for the City’s infrastructure needs. The City is improving the pavement condition on its streets and is adequately funded to maintain them going forward. We have also restored tree trimming services to a seven-year cycle which is a minimum of 5,000 trees a year. In addition, we’ve earmarked \$1.5 million annually to address the City’s aging administrative infrastructure, such as the Civic Center campus and Corporation Yard.

**Commitment 5: Commit to a Long-term Comprehensive Solution and Stay the Course**

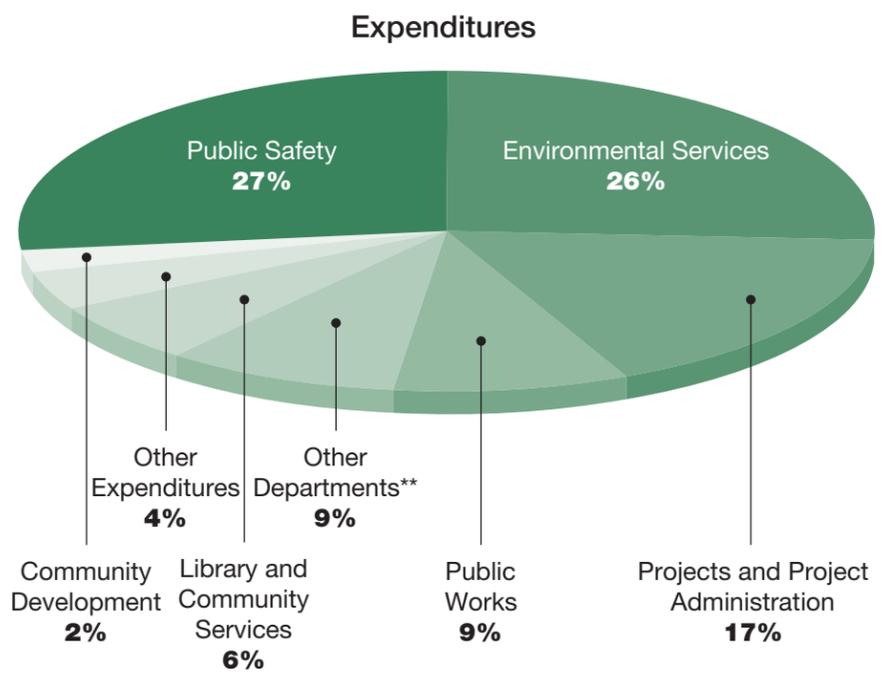
The budget and twenty-year financial plan weave various elements together like a tapestry to achieve long-term fiscal sustainability. Adjusting any one of the elements changes the threads of our financial future in sometimes dramatic ways. For example, if expenses prove higher than assumed in the plan, key reserve funds could go negative before 20 years have elapsed. While our focus has been on controlling expenses in recent years, we also need to consider strategies to increase our revenue base. Equally important is our ability to stay committed to our long-term approach and strategies so that we can ride out the inevitable volatility of the Silicon Valley economy and quickly adapt to new issues and challenges as they arise. 🌱

**City Revenues & Expenditures**



\*Other revenues include loan repayments to the Housing Funds, SMaRT Station Revenues, reimbursement from the county and other agency contributions

The City’s revenues and expenditures are balanced at \$285.1 million. The Revenues Budget contains all sources of City revenues, the largest of which are user fees and taxes. User fees include payments for water, sewer and garbage utilities, as well as fees for recreation services and development impact fees such as Park Dedication and Traffic Impact Fees. The majority of City tax revenue comes from property tax, sales tax, Transient Occupancy Tax and Utility Users Tax. The total



\*\* Other Departments include Office of the City Attorney, Office of the City Manager, Employment Development, Finance and Human Resources

citywide Expenditures Budget is comprised of the Operating Budget of \$225.5 million (79%), Projects and Project Administration Budget of \$49.6 million (17%), and other expenditures (e.g., equipment, lease and debt payments) at \$10 million (4%). These funds ensure Sunnyvale residents and businesses enjoy well-maintained streets, quality utility services, clean parks, first-rate library and community services, and a safe, secure community. 🌱

**City Manager, continued from page 1**

do we spread our resources equitably? In this model, salary and pension costs compete for available resources along with all of our other priorities. It’s not

an easy task initially but over time everyone wins.

**On staying grounded**  
As City Manager, I make

decisions every day and they’re not always popular. I keep a photo of me with some buddies I served with in Vietnam at my desk. On the most challenging days, I just have to look at that

picture and remember that it will never be that bad. If I survived that, I think I can survive a “little bit” of politics. It really helps keep things in perspective. 🌱



## Onizuka Air Force Station

# Former Base Set for New Frontiers

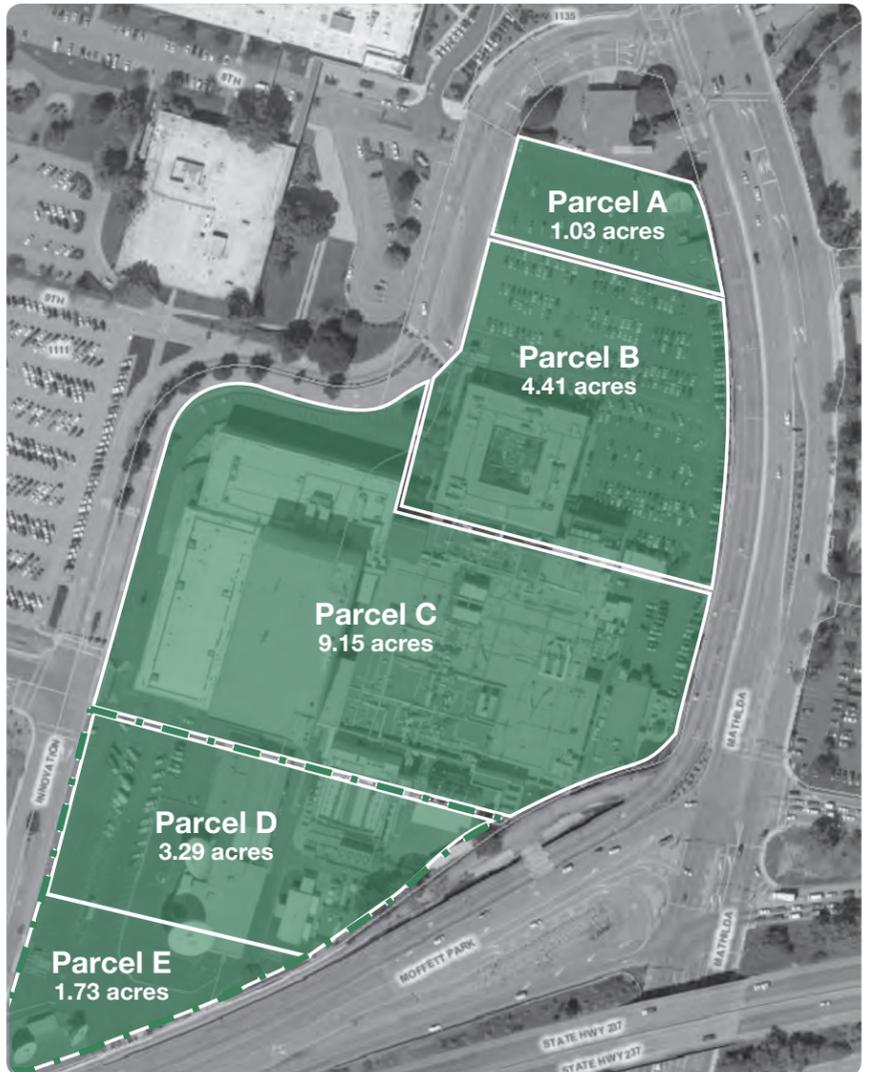
This summer marked the completion of what will likely become known as one of the most intricate and creative land deals in the region – the closure and transfer of the former Onizuka Air Force Station (Onizuka AFS). After the base was selected for closure in 2005 through the Base Realignment and Closure Act, the Air Force began working with the local community to transfer the property. As of this summer, five parcels consisting of more than 19 acres have now transferred over to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the City of Sunnyvale and the Foothill-De Anza Community College District (FHDA). This sets the stage for continued use of the property that will benefit the community in new ways while honoring its history and past contributions.



Photo courtesy of Onizuka AFS

Satellite schedulers at Onizuka AFS circa 1990

For more than 50 years, Onizuka AFS was a top secret member of the Air Force Satellite Control Network. It was initially commissioned in 1960 as the Sunnyvale Air Station, but was later renamed for Astronaut Col. Ellison Onizuka, who trained there and was killed in the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. Onizuka AFS played a critical role in our nation's security and protection. The Station conducted operations on the nation's first imagery satellite, the Corona spacecraft. It then became part of the Air Force Satellite Control Network, providing the world's only global antenna network for command and control for military, intelligence and civil spacecraft constellations. The military began the decommission process in 2010 and moved its operations to Vandenberg Air Force Base in 2011. 🌍



**A**

**Parcel A: City of Sunnyvale**  
**Date of Transfer: May 3, 2013**

**Planned Use:** Parcel A will provide additional land for Fire Station #5 which is adjacent to the parcel. The additional area will be used by public safety personnel for training and improved movement of equipment and apparatus such as fire engines, trucks and command vehicles.

**Status:** The City is currently exploring a land-swap proposal with a developer to construct a new Public Safety facility with an expanded fire station on a more central location in the Moffett Park area. Refer to [MoffettPlace.inSunnyvale.com](http://MoffettPlace.inSunnyvale.com) for more information.



Photo courtesy of Onizuka AFS

View of US Air Force Satellite Test Center



**B**

**Parcel B: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**  
**Date of Transfer: April 17, 2013**

**Planned Use:** Parcel B will be the VA's new *Sunnyvale Center*, home to some of their extensive research and development programs. Experts in clinical science and health care services will conduct clinical trials and studies in a dry lab setting that are advancing the practice of medicine across several disciplines. "In partnering with the City of Sunnyvale and others in the redevelopment of the former Onizuka AFS, we are pleased to be renewing the site's identity as a center for innovation and public service," said Jason Trollope, program manager with the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

**Status:** Beginning in 2014, the VA will first renovate an existing, two-story, 50,000-square foot building on the site and then build a 30,000-square foot addition and parking garage in future phases. The project is expected to achieve at least a LEED Silver certification. The VA will also be depicting the history of the site through interpretive displays honoring the former base and Colonel Onizuka. The VA will occupy the building in phases with the first expected to occur by late 2015.



Rendering courtesy of VA

**C**

**Parcel C: Foothill De Anza Community College District (FHDA)**  
**Date of Transfer: February 27, 2013**

**Planned Use:** FHDA is constructing a new higher education center that will offer general education and career training programs for community residents and workers, as well as customized contract education for local companies. "We are excited to bring a state-of-the-art higher education center to Sunnyvale," said district Chancellor Linda M. Thor, a Sunnyvale resident. "Our district's commitment to excellence and innovation is a perfect match for a growing and dynamic city. The Sunnyvale center will provide education and training opportunities for thousands of students and local employees every year." The education center will be operated as a regional resource by Foothill College, joined by De Anza College and Mission College in offering courses there.

**Status:** The building will be built with the goal of achieving a LEED Platinum certification. Work has begun to salvage and recycle materials and prepare the site for construction. FHDA expects to begin construction of the three-story, 50,000-square foot education center in late 2014 and open in 2016.



Rendering courtesy of FHDA

**D**

**E**

**Parcels D & E: City of Sunnyvale**  
**Date of Transfer: May 17, 2013**

**Planned Use:** The final piece of this intricate land-use puzzle came to fruition when the Air Force transferred Parcels D and E to the City of Sunnyvale (see *Affordable Housing: Armory's New Mission* below). Now that the land transfer has finalized, the City will continue evaluating its options for the future reuse of these parcels which can be developed with a use that is consistent with the Moffett Park Specific Plan.

**Status:** Several structures on the site will be removed as part of the demolition work currently being conducted by FHDA.

**Affordable Housing: Armory's New Mission**

Parcels D and E were originally reserved for MidPen Housing (MPH) and the Charities Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) to construct homeless housing. After evaluation, the redevelopment plan indicated that the homeless housing should be located in a more favorable residential setting with easy access to community services. The City-owned Sunnyvale Armory site (620 E. Maude Ave.) was identified as a possible location for this use when the National Guard terminated its lease with the City in June 2011. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved the plan in December 2012 to transfer the housing claim from Onizuka to the Armory with a 90-year ground lease on that property. This paved the way for MPH and CHDC to submit their applications for affordable housing projects, which include homeless housing, on the Armory site. The Sunnyvale City Council approved their development plans in April 2013 and has provided financial assistance for the project with funds that can only be used for affordable housing. The housing providers will build a combination of family units and studio apartments and also provide educational and assistance programs and services for residents.

**Status:** MPH and CHDC are currently seeking additional county and state financing and are hoping to break ground on their projects in 2014.



Rendering courtesy of David Baker + Partners



## Housing Element

# Planning for Sunnyvale's Housing Needs

As the heart of Silicon Valley, people are drawn to Sunnyvale for its quality of life and employment opportunities. This desirability creates high market demand for homes in our city, which in turn impacts housing availability and costs. In addition, when allowing for new homes to be built, cities must consider their location and type along with their effect on community services and amenities, traffic patterns, schools, and infrastructure. The result is a common challenge for all Bay Area communities – accommodating inevitable future growth in ways that support the diversity and uniqueness of each community and the region.

The need for housing is both a personal and community concern influenced by changing demographics and job growth. Now, more than ever, residents want a range of housing choices that suit different lifestyles. Where once Silicon Valley blossomed with single-family homes in suburban settings today many people prefer to locate in more compact communities near jobs, shops and services so that they can walk, bike, or take public transit. Demographic shifts are influencing this as baby boomers age and younger generations come into the workforce, many of whom want or need less space, prefer the flexibility of renting, or need access to transit because they don't own or are less dependent on cars.

Job growth and income levels are another crucial element. While Silicon Valley has a large percentage of well-educated workers in high-paying jobs, a report by the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California and Urban Habitat noted that more than 67 percent of the region's job growth will be

in sectors paying less than \$50,000 annually. And yet, a July RealFacts report shows that average rent is now \$2,128 in Santa Clara County, the highest in the state. Clearly, the availability of affordable housing for all income levels and a variety of needs is essential.

### State Housing Projections

To ensure that communities are adequately planning for growth, the state developed a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA, pronounced 'Ree-Nah') process. This determines how many housing units, including affordable units, each community must plan to accommodate. Sunnyvale needs to plan for nearly 5,500 new housing units across all income levels by 2022 to meet its RHNA. Nearly half of those new units should be affordable to low- and very low-income households. While market forces and developers determine whether this housing gets built, the City must provide the capacity for it through its General Plan, Zoning Ordinance and related development regulations.

### A Spectrum of Views

To update Sunnyvale's Housing Element, the City's Housing Division gathers public input about priority and unmet housing needs and how the City should try to meet those needs. These responses from a recent survey illustrate the spectrum of viewpoints that local residents have shared. Anyone who lives or works in Sunnyvale is encouraged to complete the short survey which is available, at [HousingElement.inSunnyvale.com](http://HousingElement.inSunnyvale.com) until the end of October.

“ I make too much to get low income services and too little to afford regular housing. ”

“ Too many apartment buildings add to the congestion and subtract from the charm of Sunnyvale. ”

“ [There is an] inability for young adults, single parents and elderly to find affordable housing. ”

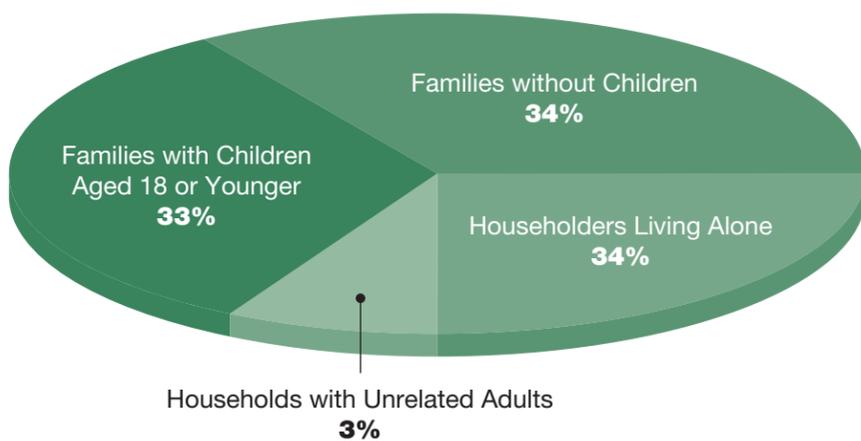
“ We need to increase the density and make areas designed on a people scale, not a car scale. ”

### Sunnyvale's Housing Element

Sunnyvale's General Plan already designates land that accounts for this growth and describes how the City will meet the housing needs for all income levels through a component of the Plan called the Housing Element. By law, the Housing Element must be updated every eight years and the City is currently in the process of doing that to reflect the 2014 to 2022 RHNA cycle. As part of

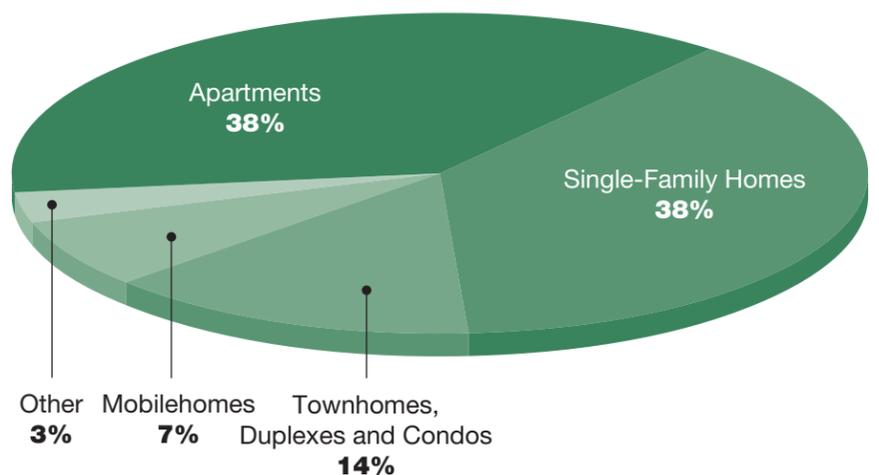
the update, the City includes recent data on demographics, the housing stock, funding availability, existing housing programs, barriers to affordable housing, and objectives to address the barriers and increase affordable housing production. By adopting an approved Housing Element, Sunnyvale also remains eligible for competitive regional, state and federal grants used to improve transportation infrastructure and support affordable housing. 🌱

Sunnyvale's Households by Type



The need for more housing choices will continue to grow as the demographics of Bay Area residents continue to change. For example, the region's population is aging, and the number of households without children is increasing. In many cases, people in these groups are looking for smaller homes that do not require as much maintenance. (Source: A Place to Call Home, Association of Bay Area Governments)

Sunnyvale's Current Housing Stock



Most infill housing is built in locations where higher densities are appropriate, such as downtowns, commercial corridors and near transit stations. This provides opportunities for a wider variety of housing choices, including apartments, townhouses, and condominiums. These units are often more affordable to community members who currently struggle to find homes, including seniors, young families, and low- and moderate-income households. (Source: A Place to Call Home, Association of Bay Area Governments)



## Housing Services

# Addressing Affordable Housing

Bay Area business and civic leaders acknowledge that the availability of affordable housing for a diverse workforce – from retail and restaurant service workers to teachers, health care providers and office assistants – is essential to our economic vitality. Sunnyvale has long been a leader in addressing this need by administering several federal grants and local programs to help expand and preserve the city’s supply of affordable housing.

### Homebuyer and Renter Assistance

The City offers two programs to help people buy a home – the Below Market Rate (BMR) and First-Time Home Buyer programs. The BMR program, established by the City in 1981, requires housing developers to provide a percentage of their new homes at prices affordable to moderate-income households. The City currently has about 300 BMR owner-occupied homes and nearly 200 BMR rental units in its inventory that are restricted to affordable prices. The BMR rental units are affordable to renters with low incomes.

The First-Time Home Buyer Loan Program helps eligible home buyers purchase market- or below-market rate homes in Sunnyvale with down payment loans. The program is available to first-time home buyers who live or work in Sunnyvale and whose incomes do not exceed the moderate-income level limits for their household size.

### Housing Rehabilitation

The City uses funds from two federal grants to rehabilitate affordable housing. For example, the City loaned MidPen Housing \$1.5 million in funds to rehabilitate the 20-unit Garland Plaza apartment complex, built in the 1950s. With rents for the units now restricted by the City and state for the next 55 years, this project has added 20 units for lower income households to the City’s affordable inventory.

In similar fashion, MidPen Housing is about to begin the third and final phase of work this fall to rehabilitate 211 units at Homestead Park Apartments. This project will be funded by a loan of \$5 million from the City’s housing fund, generated by impact fees on industrial development.

### Affordable Housing Development

The City uses federal grants and special housing funds to leverage financing for new



Robert Schweizow (with family dog Coco) was born and raised in Sunnyvale. He raised his three daughters here, works as a local HVAC contractor and is the President of his Home Owners Association. He purchased a Sunnyvale BMR home with the assistance of a First-time Homebuyer Loan in 2008. This enabled him to become a homeowner and stay and work in the place that he loves. “There’s no other place like Sunnyvale in the world,” touts Schweizow, “and I’m happy to give back.”

affordable housing projects. The City loaned nearly \$6 million for the construction of Fair Oaks Plaza on Fair Oaks Avenue, which now provides 124 apartments affordable to very low-income seniors. Similar funding sources are being used to help MidPen Housing and Charities Housing

Development Corporation develop 117 new affordable apartments at the site of the Sunnyvale Armory on East Maude Avenue (see *Affordable Housing: Armory’s New Mission* on page 5). A portion of these units will be reserved for homeless applicants. 🌱



The award-winning Fair Oaks Plaza is ideally located next to Valley Medical Center and near public transit and senior services.



This September, Garland Plaza had its grand re-opening ceremony after receiving a complete make-over, including landscaping and solar panels to provide green energy to the complex.

### Who Qualifies for Housing Assistance? The Numbers May Surprise You

Eligibility for local and state affordable housing programs is based primarily on household size and gross household income. Annually, the state determines each county’s maximum income limits for three income levels – very low-income, low-income and moderate-income. Sunnyvale’s home buyer programs are available to households earning up to the moderate-income limits. For example, a family of five can earn nearly \$137,000 and qualify to buy a BMR home, or a household of two can make up to \$101,300 annually and qualify for a first-time homebuyer loan. The BMR rental program is available to households with incomes up to the low-income limit, which is \$76,400 for a household of three, for example. Most non-profit rental properties offer affordable rental units to those in the very low-income category, which is \$42,450 for a household of two.

Homes and apartments that are part of the BMR inventory and other non-profit, affordable apartments are located throughout Sunnyvale. To find out about BMR homes for sale and how to apply, residents can visit [BMR.inSunnyvale.com](http://BMR.inSunnyvale.com). For affordable and BMR apartment complexes, the property managers screen applicants and maintain waiting lists. For a complete table of income limits, and a list and map of existing affordable rental properties, visit [Housing.inSunnyvale.com](http://Housing.inSunnyvale.com) or call (408) 730-7250.



## El Camino Real

# Sunnyvale's Dynamic "Royal Road"

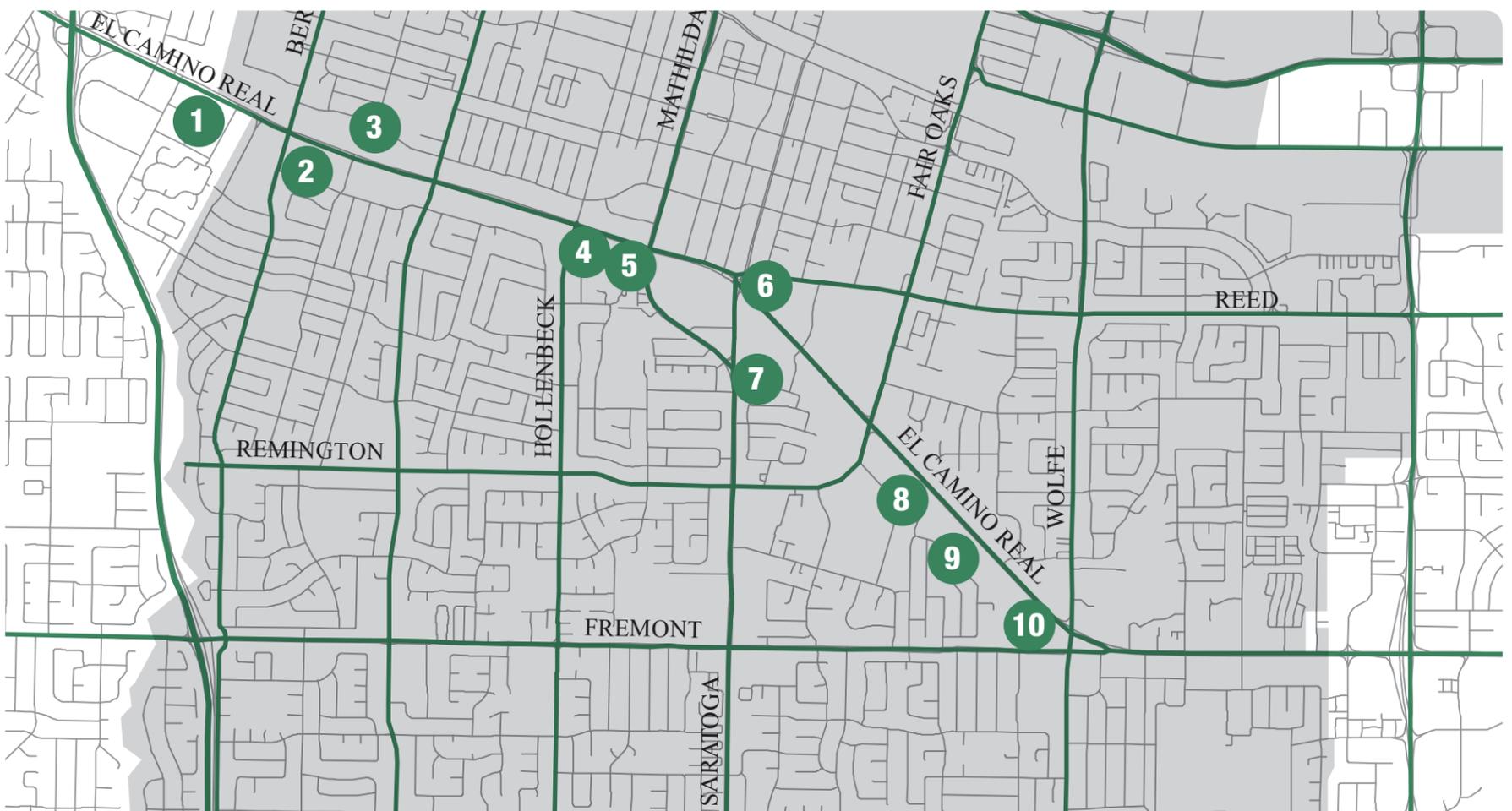
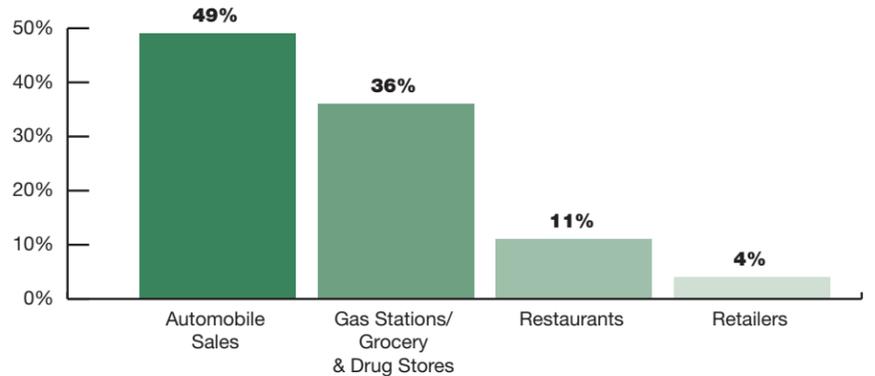
El Camino Real is the oldest transportation corridor in the City of Sunnyvale, having been originally established as a continuous roadway linking Spanish missions from San Diego to Sonoma. Today, as a state highway, it is the commercial spine of the city. El Camino Real carries the most automobile traffic of any street in the city and is the most-traveled bus corridor. Of particular significance, it also provides the greatest concentration of retail stores and services in Sunnyvale and accounts for nearly 25 percent of the City's sales tax revenue.

This dynamic corridor is envisioned to continue to provide a variety of commercial and retail uses, along with areas containing higher concentrations of mixed uses. Because of this, the corridor is constantly evolving as public and private projects bring new developments, improvements to existing buildings, and enhancements to transportation and infrastructure. This map highlights just some of the recent activity.

### The King's Highway is a Sales Tax King

Commerce at the 670 businesses on El Camino Real generates significant sales tax revenue for Sunnyvale. In Fiscal Year 2012-13, Sunnyvale received \$26.7 million in sales tax, which is 1 percent of all taxable sales in the city. Of that total, 23 percent, or \$6.2 million, came from the mostly consumer retail sales along El Camino Real. Automobile sales are a consistently powerful engine for the area making up nearly half of that 23 percent. In general, shopping locally – whether along El Camino Real or elsewhere in Sunnyvale – is one of the best ways to keep the city's businesses and tax revenues healthy and stable. 🌱

Percent of Sales Tax by Business Type on El Camino Real



## 1

### Paving Project

Beginning this fall, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will repave the northbound direction on El Camino Real from Lawrence Expressway to approximately 0.4 miles west of SR-85 or Bay Street in Mountain View. In addition, the project will modify or replace street loop detectors and other electrical systems and replace traffic stripes and pavement markers. Construction will be conducted mainly during evening hours between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays. The southbound paving project was completed in summer 2012.

### Bus Rapid Transit Project

The Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is currently conducting environmental analysis for alternatives that would upgrade rapid transit bus service along El Camino Real. The seven alternatives feature combinations of mixed flow and dedicated lane street configurations. The VTA expects to release a draft environmental impact report in 2014 which will be open to public review and comment. The City of Sunnyvale is closely monitoring and participating in this process. More information can be found at [vta.org/brt](http://vta.org/brt).



2

### Pearson GMC

1176 West El Camino Real

Major façade upgrades were completed at this property in early 2013.

4

### Las Palmas Townhomes/Courtyard by Marriott Hotel

660 West El Camino Real

This mixed use project is replacing a former Chevrolet dealership with 103 townhomes by Summerhill Homes and a four-story 145-room Courtyard by Marriott hotel by T2 Development. Summerhill has begun to construct the townhomes and model homes are expected to be open in March 2014; T2 plans to start construction on the hotel this fall.



Rendering courtesy of TAAG Architects

6

### Intersection Improvements

S. Sunnyvale Avenue at El Camino Real and Old San Francisco Road

This grant-funded project will create southbound left turn access from Sunnyvale Avenue to Old San Francisco Road with a new traffic signal and pedestrian access improvements. The nearby intersection of S. Sunnyvale Avenue and El Camino Real will also be modified to enhance pedestrian and bicycle movements, realign curbs and remove the pork chop-shaped islands on Sunnyvale Avenue. The roadwork began in March 2013 and is anticipated to be completed by October 2013.

8

### Sunnyvale Nissan

680 East El Camino Real

Major façade upgrades were completed at this property in early August 2013.

9

### Tesla Service Center

750 East El Camino Real

Tesla will open its first service center in the South Bay on the former site of an Acura dealership. Tesla is upgrading the existing buildings and plans to open late fall 2013.

3

### Sobrato Mixed-Use Project

1095 West El Camino Real

This 4-acre property was the site of the former Chrysler dealership until it closed in 2008. Now, the Sobrato Organization has filed an application to propose approximately 175 apartments along with a 40,000 square foot commercial building. The Palo Alto Medical Foundation will occupy the commercial building for its Sunnyvale Eye Care Center.



Rendering courtesy of the Sobrato Organization

5

### Chick-fil-A

550 West El Camino Real

Chick-fil-A is leasing this property from the owners of Beacon Lighting who retired after 35 years in business. The site is under construction and is scheduled to open on October 31.



Rendering courtesy of CRHO Architects, Inc.

7

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Improvements

The City applied for and received grant funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's One Bay Area Grant Program to improve Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road for bicyclists and pedestrians by installing a pedestrian traffic signal to control traffic on the high-speed, high-volume "off ramp" on Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road at Mathilda Avenue. A second project will eliminate high speed free right turns and improve pedestrian crossing distances at the intersection of Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road and El Camino Real. Both projects are planned for 2015.

10

### Butcher's Corner

871 E. Fremont Ave.

This 5.23-acre property was owned by the Butcher family for decades and recently sold to Sunnyvale-based De Anza Properties. The City council is scheduled to consider annexing the property from the County at a public hearing on October 8. The site currently contains two residential homes, several accessory structures and an orchard.



## Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

# New Grant Helps Promote Awareness

Sunnyvale residents promote walking and cycling with programs like the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) *Safe Routes to School*; the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*, which tackles obesity through increased activity; and a growing number of local cycling, walking and running clubs. At the same time, Sunnyvale Public Safety officers responded to a combined 101 bicycle and pedestrian accidents in our city during Fiscal Year 2012/13, and issued 161 citations for jaywalking, 69 citations for minors cycling without helmets, and 17 citations for not being visible at night by cycling without lights or reflective gear.

Recognizing the need for greater public education on people-powered transportation, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the NHTSA, just awarded Sunnyvale a \$50,000 grant to conduct public outreach on bicycle and pedestrian safety. Our City was one of only ten in California to receive the grant. We made our case by

demonstrating not only the need for the education but the support of the community for public safety initiatives.

This OTS grant will be used for bicycle and pedestrian safety in the form of public outreach, education and increased patrol presence in higher incident areas over the next year. Some programs will provide opportunities for minors to

receive free safety helmets and education on how to properly fit and wear helmets. Other initiatives planned include a bicycle rodeo with stunt cyclists, demonstrations and hands-on workshops. Public Safety also plans to produce locally-focused, multilingual public service announcements to air on radio, television and online.

Working together with residents, schools, nonprofits and volunteers, we hope that Sunnyvale will stay a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. To that end, the next page includes the proper way to fit helmets and some common issues that our officers see every day. 🌱

## Safe Routes to School Program

# Safe Routes Begin with Safer Roads

Parents need to know that their children can walk and bike on safe streets and sidewalks; that crossing intersections isn't a scary notion; and each child reaches school and home every day without a hitch. Doing that takes an entire community and Sunnyvale has stepped up to the challenge with help from the *Safe Routes to School* program.

A collaborative effort between cities, schools, parents and volunteers, *Safe Routes* encourages students and parents to give up driving to and from schools in the morning for alternative, people-powered transportation. Yet, it's more than just a school program. *Safe Routes* involves infrastructure updates through Public Works;

safety education for parents and children through Public Safety; encouragement of healthy, outdoor activity through the school district and Community Services; and alternative transportation programs to help reduce Sunnyvale's carbon footprint.

Two years ago, when Sunnyvale first received county

funding for the program, the first step was to assess a baseline for how safe it would be for children to travel under their own power to school and back. Volunteers and staff from the countywide Traffic Safe Communities Network coalition observed school transportation modes, adherence to safety rules and common safety issues in school zones. Then, parents, school staff, district staff, Public Works representatives and Public Safety Officers held meetings at area elementary and middle schools to hear the findings about alternative transportation safety concerns and where streets, sidewalks, lights, and signs might need to be improved before encouraging more students to use self-powered transportation methods.

After the assessment, Sunnyvale concentrated on improving the roads and sidewalks in areas where students are more likely to bike or walk to school. Since then,

county, state and federal funds were combined with other City projects to:

- install in-road flashing warning lights at Fairwood Drive between Sandia Drive and Prescott Drive, the intersection of Wright Avenue and The Dalles Avenue, the intersection of Remington Drive and Spinosa Drive, and the intersection of Fremont Avenue and Sydney Drive;
- put in new sidewalks along Cascade Avenue, which is across from a school, and gives students and residents a safe, alternative path before crossing the street;
- replace 17 pedestrian countdown signals citywide, including major intersections at Fair Oaks and Olive Avenue, Wolfe Road and Evelyn Avenue, and Fremont Avenue and Rembrandt Drive; and
- add and update voice warning devices at several pedestrian crossings around known school routes. 🌱



Crossing guard Nancy Landford helps kids at Stockmeir Elementary and gets a high-five as each student crosses



## Bike Helmets

# Helmet Hair is Healthy Hair

Sunnyvale’s Public Safety Officers responded to 67 bicycle accidents over the past fiscal year. And despite the numerous studies showing that helmets prevent fatal head injuries and permanent head trauma, fear of helmet hair or *galea-chaeto-phobia* (yes, we just made that up), likely prevents both children and adults from using one of the most effective safety devices to reduce serious injury or death from bicycle crashes.

### A cool helmet gets used

Pick something that you want to be seen in and show it off by wearing it every time. If buying for children, let them pick it out so they will want to wear it.

### Keep a level head

Helmets are ultimately about protection. So, when you do wear your new, cool helmet, make sure that it is level on your head and not tipped backward or forward. Most helmets come

**Anyone under the age of 18 is required to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle in Sunnyvale.**



An older student from a nearby school is stopped for not wearing a helmet, biking on the wrong side of the street, biking through a stop sign without stopping, not signaling at the turn and talking on his cell while cycling. The younger onlooker properly demonstrated how minors should be cycling.

with extra foam padding, which should be used around the sides and back of the helmet where impact is more likely to occur in an accident. Where a fitting ring is used for the one-size-fits-all helmets, tighten the ring until it is snug and touches the head evenly all around.

### How ‘bout them ears (and chin)?

Adjust the rear (nape) straps, then the front straps to where they form a Y just under the ears on each side. Then adjust the chin strap so that it is

comfortably snug. If a helmet has a rear stabilizer, adjust that last.

### Now shake!

The best way to test your helmet is shake your head to make sure that it doesn’t shift or move. If it does, readjust. You should also make sure that the helmet won’t slide back, so push up on the front edge to make sure that it won’t give and expose the forehead.

Check out a video on how to properly fit helmets from the NHTSA at [BikeSafety.inSunnyvale.com](http://BikeSafety.inSunnyvale.com).

## Bike Safety

# Some Do’s and Don’ts

### DO

#### Obey All Traffic Signs and Signals

Bicyclists are entitled to share the road with vehicles and must obey all traffic signals and stop signs.

### DON'T

#### Never Ride Against Traffic

Motorists are not looking for bicyclists riding against traffic on the wrong side of the road.

### DO

#### Be Seen So You Can Be Avoided

Use a strong headlight and rear reflector or taillight at night or when visibility is poor. Wear light-colored clothes with reflective tape for extra protection. Reflective tag bands are also effective.

### DON'T

#### Don't Get Too Close

To ensure drivers can see you, stay out of their blind spots and don't weave between vehicles. Ride far enough behind for the driver to see you, and far enough from the sides to avoid falling under a vehicle.



# sunnyvale reNews

Fall 2013



sunnyvale's environmental news source



## upcoming events

October 12, November 9  
Compost Workshops — New Location

October 19, November 16  
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

November 2  
Paper Shredding Event

extra dumping  
weekends

October 5-6, 12-13

stay connected

on the Web  
[Recycling.inSunnyvale.com](http://Recycling.inSunnyvale.com)



on Twitter  
[@SunnyvaleRecycl](https://twitter.com/SunnyvaleRecycl)



[Green.inSunnyvale.com](http://Green.inSunnyvale.com)



on Facebook  
City of Sunnyvale Environmental  
Services Department



## Four-City Open House Introduces Foam Food Container Alternatives

Seven months ago, City Council unanimously approved drafting an ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam food containers used by restaurants and food vendors. In a regional effort, the cities of Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Cupertino and Los Altos hosted an Open House at the Sunnyvale Senior Center on August 6, 2013, bringing together food container vendors with restaurants and other food vendors to learn about non-foam food container options. The goal was to explore an array of foam foodware alternatives, pick up free samples, talk with City staff about the planned ordinance, learn about end-of-life disposal for different materials, and even enjoy snacks served on alternative container samples.

Clutching a packed bag of samples, Danella Jenkins of The Sweet Life Catering in Cupertino claimed, "I found just the type of container that would be great for our food." Carlos Angel of Tu Mero Mole in Sunnyvale was equally enthusiastic about the possibilities as his restaurant continues moving away from foam containers. Idylwood Dietician Sandy Narasimhan was quoted in a *Silicon Valley Community Newspapers* article as saying, "We will have to price what is doable, but certain products definitely appeal to me. This is a good opportunity to learn and understand all of our options."

A common concern among many restaurants is maintaining food temperature, especially soup, in take-out containers. Devan Cox, a manager at P.F. Chang's, confirmed that, "Yes, soup really does stay hot in non-foam containers." Cupertino Chamber of Commerce government liaison, Mark Natsumoto, was able to talk with various vendors



Vendors display non-foam food containers.



Display board contains foam container debris found in a Serra Park storm drain, and the "Wall of Fame" featuring restaurants that are early adopters of alternative foodware products.

and gather information to allay the concerns of local soup-serving restaurants in his city.

The first reading of the draft ordinance will come before Council in October. If approved, a ban on restaurant use of EPS foam food containers would become effective as early as April 2014, followed later by a ban on retail sales of all foam food containers in Sunnyvale. Stay informed at [Recycling.inSunnyvale.com](http://Recycling.inSunnyvale.com), under *What's New, Foam Food Containers*.



# living the green life

## Wrap the Holidays With More Meaning — and Less Stuff

The holidays are meant to be a time of peace, reflection and celebration, but too often they exhaust, rather than uplift us. If you sometimes feel overwhelmed by the shopping, spending and frenzied preparations, you aren't alone. National surveys consistently show that Americans feel put off by the commercialization of the season and want more of what matters – not just more stuff.

Americans throw away a million tons of trash weekly, but during the holidays, there's an extra million per week – that's an additional five million tons, including 38,000 miles of ribbon and 4 million tons of shopping bags and gift wrapping (see [Use-Less-Stuff.com](http://Use-Less-Stuff.com)).

This year, resist the temptation to get swept up in the shopping and keep your credit card in check. Instead, consider creating holidays that instill more meaning into the season and encourage more sharing, laughter, creativity and personal renewal.

We hope the tips and activities outlined here will help you reduce stress and increase personal fulfillment during this holiday season. Your efforts will also be less impactful on the environment.



### Gift Wrap Ideas

- **AVOID PAPER WRAPPING ALTOGETHER** – when disposed of improperly or burned, it can contribute to litter and water and air pollution.
- **REUSE FUN PAPER** – use old, outdated maps, newspapers, comics, even junk mail.
- **MAKE THE WRAPPING PART OF THE GIFT** – scarves, reusable bags, kitchen towels, sheets – the options are endless.

### Celebrate Buy Nothing Day

- **PLEDGE TO BUY NOTHING** and instead of going out with the frenzy of shoppers on Black Friday, sleep in, spend time with your family, help an elderly neighbor or do community service! Visit [BuyNothing.co.uk](http://BuyNothing.co.uk) to learn more.

### Gift Creating and Giving

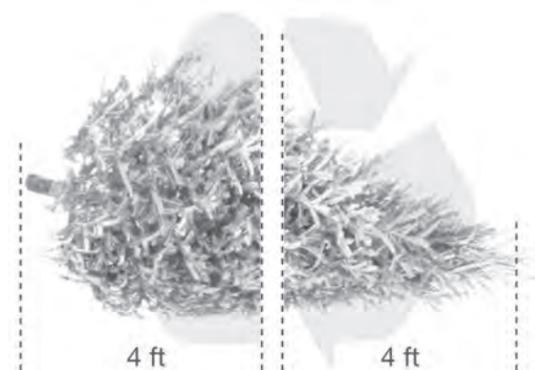
- **MAKE A COUPON BOOK** that can be redeemed for time with a child or parent, cooking a favorite dinner, a couch date for movie and popcorn or a fresh batch of cookies.
- **DRAW NAMES** for homemade gifts at home and at the office.
- **OFFER TO TEACH A SKILL YOU POSSESS** – knitting, photography, computer skills, financial planning, a foreign language, music lessons, canning tomatoes, cooking a favorite recipe.

### Gift Sharing

- **GIVE TO THE COMMUNITY** – prepare care packages for the homeless or senior citizens, or volunteer at a local organization to help those in need.
- **SHARE THE GIFT OF MUSIC** – go caroling, and include visits to elderly neighbors or a nursing home. Or, gather friends and family for an in-home holiday sing-a-long.

### Decorating and Food

- **ADOPT A “LESS IS MORE” ATTITUDE** toward holiday decorating. Opt for natural trimmings such as clippings from local evergreens and holly bushes.
- **PREPARE YOUR HOLIDAY MEALS** with as many seasonal, locally-grown and organic foods as possible.
- **RENT A HOLIDAY TREE** – A greener alternative to cut trees, search for living holiday tree rentals online.
- **RECYCLE NON-WORKING LIGHT STRANDS** at the SMaRT Station. Do not place them in your garbage or recycling carts.
- **TREE RECYCLING** at the curb is easy in Sunnyvale. All residents are asked to prepare their trees for collection. Remove all decorations, light strands and stands. Cut trees into four-foot lengths and place at the curb on collection day. Multi-family residents should place trees where designated by property owners or managers.



### glad you asked ...



**Q. I just got my new split-lid recycling cart and noticed that the label says “Small cardboard pieces OK.” Can I cut up corrugated cardboard boxes and recycle them in the paper side of my cart?**

**A.** Yes, small pieces are okay because they don't jam collection truck chambers. If you have a cardboard box larger than a shoebox, follow the standard process of bundling flattened cardboard pieces and placing the bundle at the curb for recycling.

### Extra Dumping Weekends

**October 5–6, 12–13**  
**SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road**  
**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Just in time for fall cleaning, Extra Dumping Weekends offer Sunnyvale residents no-cost disposal of unwanted stuff at the SMaRT Station. Consider donating or recycling items before sending them to the landfill. Single-family residents may prefer to schedule an On-Call Collection appointment for curbside disposal; call (408) 730-7400. Prevent Litter – Always cover your load with a tarp.

### Got Extra Holiday Garbage?

For just a few extra bags that don't fit inside garbage carts, purchase Extra Garbage Bag Tags for \$6 at local retail grocery stores or City facilities. Affix one tag per bag and place at the curb on service day.

Schedule an On-Call Collection for up to two cubic yards of bagged, boxed or otherwise contained extra trash PLUS two large (bulky) items including electronics. Call Utilities Customer Service at (408) 730-7400 for an appointment and collection on regular service days.



# reNewing infrastructure

## Your Wastewater Facility Needs an Upgrade

For more than 57 years, the Donald Summers Water Pollution Control Plant at Carl Road and Borregas Ave., has treated incoming wastewater from Sunnyvale’s showers, sinks and toilets flowing through 283 miles of underground sewer pipes to the Plant. After years of reliable, uninterrupted service to residents and businesses, it’s time for the vast facility’s infrastructure, consisting of 16 acres of buildings, tanks and machinery, to be

rehabilitated and rebuilt.

By 2015, City staff will have completed its comprehensive master and facilities planning efforts to meet recycled water service needs and identify the most appropriate technologies to treat wastewater so that it meets current and anticipated regulatory requirements. To support continuous facility operations for another 10 to 15 years while new facilities are being built, several

major rehabilitation projects are underway. Facilities related to the first stage of a three-treatment process – buildings, tanks, pumps and engines – will each be rehabilitated until the entire project is finished.

To learn more about the project, or to schedule a tour, contact Jackie Davison at (408) 730-7738.



Rehabilitation progresses on one of four air-flotation tanks that removes algae which forms on ponds during the secondary treatment process.

## Go with the Flow and Keep Pipes FOG-Free

When fats, oils and grease (FOG) are poured into drains, garbage disposals and even toilets, sewer pipes become clogged. Meat fats and juices, dairy products, bacon grease, cooking or salad oils and sauces wreak havoc on household plumbing and City main sewer pipes.

Of the 2,000 sewer maintenance calls received each year, more than 25 percent are sewer-related FOG issues. Dan Stevenson, Wastewater Operations Manager for the Environmental Services Department, states, “The number of FOG-related calls is increasing annually, primarily because FOG is being poured down residential drains. Out of 283 miles of sanitary sewer pipes, nearly 12 miles of pipe are cleaned at least every 2 months due to rapid FOG accumulation. Residents tend to dump anything that will fit down the drain, and don’t often think how it will affect things later – especially household plumbing and City sewer main piping.” Grease-related blockages cause sewage backups and manhole overflows on City streets that can lead to raw sewage entering storm drains which flow directly into the Bay. These sewer blockages and overflows can adversely impact public health and the environment. Additional maintenance required to clear pipes and clean overflows increases City operating costs which are passed on to ratepayers.

As you go with the holiday flow, when cooking and entertaining, remember these tips to keep your pipes FOG-free:

- NEVER pour grease or cooking oil down sink drains, toilets or garbage disposals.
- Mix small quantities of cooking oil with absorbent kitty litter and dispose as garbage.
- Pour large quantities of cooking oil into a plastic container, seal tightly and take it to the SMaRT Station for recycling.
- Store other fats, oils and grease in a sealable bag or container and dispose as garbage.
- Use food strainers or baskets in kitchen sinks to catch food particles, then empty them into the garbage.

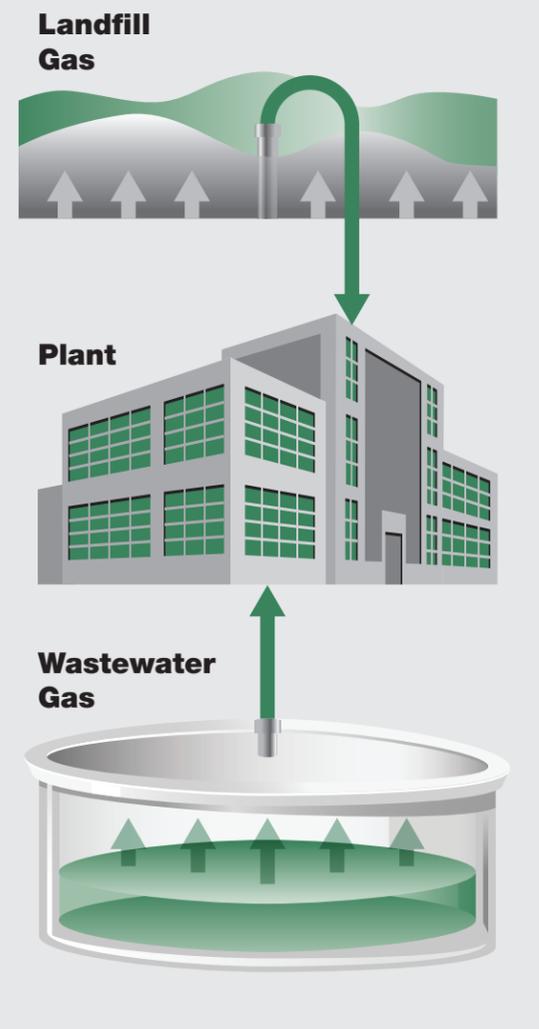
To learn more about grease disposal, or to receive a free pan scraper, call (408) 730-7717, or e-mail [WPCP@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:WPCP@sunnyvale.ca.gov). Visit [SewerSmart.org](http://SewerSmart.org) for a step-by-step guide to sewer maintenance in your home.



A four-inch lateral residential pipe to City sewer main clogged with FOG.

### Turning Gas to Energy at the Plant: How Do They Do That?

It takes a lot of energy to treat and convert wastewater into adequately clean water before discharging it into the Bay. The Water Pollution Control Plant, however, generates nearly 79 percent of its own energy! How does it do that? Two processes – wastewater treatment and anaerobic decomposition occurring in the adjacent Sunnyvale landfill – produce methane gas. The Plant’s power-generating facility combines natural gas with the methane by-product and creates enough energy to operate the Plant’s pumps and equipment.





## upcoming events

# Your Sunnyvale Certified Green Business

### For Other Living Things

1261 S. Mary Ave.

When For Other Living Things first opened its doors in 2001, owner Anita Ledtje had realized her dream. ReNews staff visited Ledtje to find out what sets this certified Green Business apart from other pet stores.

**ReNews:** How did you get into the pet supply business?

**Anita:** I've dreamed of owning a pet supply store since I was a kid. From an early age I even had the name picked out.

**ReNews:** What makes your pet store unique?

**Anita:** My philosophy is very different from the big box stores. For Other Living Things is pretty particular about the products it carries. They have to benefit the animals and have minimal impact on the environment. Everything has to be critter-, people- and Earth-friendly! For example, you wouldn't eat junk food every day, so why would you feed it to your pets? We like to spend time helping each customer, as much as 45 minutes or more, just discussing their pet's feeding issues.

**ReNews:** You host lots of small animal adoption fairs. How did you come to be a small animal advocate?

**Anita:** Animals have always been a part of my life and my children's lives, too.

**ReNews:** What motivated or inspired you to get certified as a Green Business?



Owner Anita Ledtje cuddles a bunny during a pet adoption fair.

**Anita:** It's a natural extension of who we are. We care for each other, the animals and the planet. Green business certification was the next step!

For a complete list of all Sunnyvale Green Businesses, visit [greenbusinessca.org](http://greenbusinessca.org). If you are interested in becoming a green business, visit [ReduceWaste.org](http://ReduceWaste.org) or call (408) 282-3180 for more information.

# Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance Revised

After more than a year of Sunnyvale's plastic bag ban, Council approved a few minor changes to the ordinance upon staff's recommendation. Changes that took effect the end of September of particular interest to shoppers are that the:

- Paper bag charge will remain at 10 cents in 2014; and
- The existing 10-cent paper bag charge will also apply to reusable plastic bags provided by the store at checkout.

Has the bag ban has been successful at reducing plastic bag litter as intended? Yes it has! In fact, a litter survey conducted in San Jose revealed a marked drop in the number of plastic bags retrieved from storm drain inlets, creeks and rivers, and neighborhoods – a drop that was also seen at materials recovery facilities, such as the SMaRT Station, that process cities' trash.

# Volunteers Needed for World Water Monitoring Day in Sunnyvale



**Saturday, October 19**  
**10 a.m. – noon**

**Stevens Creek – Behind West Valley Elementary School**

**Free event – Pre-registration required**

What's happening at Stevens Creek? The City of Sunnyvale and Acterra Stewardship Program invite you to join them for the local World Water Monitoring Day event. Activities will include water

quality testing, insect and wildlife observations, kid crafts and watershed pollution prevention presentations.

Participants of all ages are welcome, although children under 16 need to be accompanied by an adult. Due to space limitations, participation is limited to the first 50 volunteers who pre-register. For more information or to sign up for the event, call (408) 730-7717 or e-mail [WPCP@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:WPCP@sunnyvale.ca.gov).

The Environmental Services Department offers events geared toward sustaining a greener, healthier environment. See *Contact Us* to call for event details.

### Compost Workshops

**October 12 • November 9**  
**10 a.m. to noon**

To register for a workshop, call (408) 918-4640, or register online at [ReduceWaste.org/Classes](http://ReduceWaste.org/Classes). Registration required.

*Las Palmas Park building*  
*850 Russet Drive, Sunnyvale*

### Extra Dumping Weekends

**October 5-6 and 12-13**  
**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

*SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road*

### Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Events

**October 19 • November 16**  
**8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

No-cost HHW disposal.  
*164 Carl Road*

### Paper Shredding Event

**November 2**  
**8 a.m. to noon**

*SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road*

### World Water Monitoring Day

**October 19**  
**10 a.m. to noon**

Stevens Creek behind West Valley Elementary School

Volunteers register at (408) 730-7717, or [WPCP@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:WPCP@sunnyvale.ca.gov)

## contact us

City Business hours:  
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
City TDD (408) 730-7501

### Recycling Program Customer Service

**(408) 730-7262**

**[Recycling.inSunnyvale.com](http://Recycling.inSunnyvale.com)**

**[Recycling@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:Recycling@sunnyvale.ca.gov)**

- Recycling answers and event details

### Utilities Customer Service

**(408) 730-7400**

**[PayMyBill.inSunnyvale.com](http://PayMyBill.inSunnyvale.com)**

- Garbage service accounts
- Cart orders, repairs, replacements
- On-Call Collection appointments
- Debris box rentals

### Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling

**(408) 565-9900, [sswr.com](http://sswr.com)**

- Missed pickups
- Collection service issues

### SMaRT Station

**301 Carl Road, Sunnyvale**

**(408) 752-8530**

Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day, December 25, January 1

- Garbage disposal fees
- Compost availability

### Water Pollution Control Plant

**1444 Borregas Ave., (408) 730-7738**

**[WPCP.inSunnyvale.com](http://WPCP.inSunnyvale.com)**

- Plant Tours
- Environmental Outreach



CITY OF SUNNYVALE  
**QUARTERLY  
REPORT**

## Know How to Be Flood Safe in Sunnyvale

With the rainy season underway, it is important to know how to prepare for a flood and what to do if you see or experience one.

Flooding is typically caused by a creek topping its banks or by clogged catch basins or storm drains. If you observe flooding in any part of the city, call the Utilities Customer Service Center at (408) 730-7510. If needed, City staff will visit the property to review its flood problem and explain ways to stop flooding or prevent flood damage.

In addition, Sunnyvale has 1,800 acres of the city that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA); the SFHAs are generally located in the northeast portion of the city.

To find out whether your property is in a SFHA or for flood protection assistance information, visit the City's flood safety website at

[FloodSafety.inSunnyvale.com](http://FloodSafety.inSunnyvale.com) or call the Public Works Administration Division at (408) 730-7415. Flood zone maps and flood protection reference materials are also available at the Sunnyvale Public Library.

### Flood Insurance

Your property insurance does not cover losses from flooding. Federal law requires flood insurance if you have a federally-regulated mortgage and your building is in an SFHA area as designated by FEMA.

Everyone in Sunnyvale is eligible for discounted flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), including renters. You can call your insurance agent for information about flood insurance, or call the NFIP customer service number at (800) 638-6620 or visit their website at [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov). 

### CITY OF SUNNYVALE QUARTERLY REPORT

October 2013

#### Sunnyvale City Council

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Jim Griffith, Vice Mayor  
Christopher R. Moylan  
David Whittum  
Pat Meyering  
Tara Martin-Milius  
Jim Davis

#### City Manager

Gary Luebbers

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[Communications@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:Communications@sunnyvale.ca.gov)

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