

Many residents in the community expressed their displeasure with the dispensaries. The City Council heard the residents and in August, 2010, the City Council adopted a new ordinance that prohibited medical marijuana dispensaries and gave them until February 2, 2010 to terminate their operations. For those dispensaries that felt that the deadline would create a financial hardship, the ordinance allowed dispensaries to appeal the amortization deadline if they could show that they were not able to recover their investment by that deadline. We are currently reviewing 5 such appeal applications.

Our Housing and Rehabilitation Program continues to assist low to moderate income residents. In 2010, the City completed 10 Housing Rehabilitation Programs. This program assisted residents with much needed housing maintenance, including bathroom, kitchen, carpeting, drywall, and roof repairs.

*The year ahead.....*

Although it is important to remember what we have accomplished, it is equally important to embark upon the future of La Puente. Over the year, the City will undergo a number of projects. Some of the more notable projects include the construction and development of the Puente Creek Nature Education Center near Nelson Elementary School and the Puente Creek Channel. This 1-acre project has been a long time in the making since the City will construct this project entirely out of grant funding and no general funds will be utilized. The City is currently soliciting qualified developers for the construction of the project. During this time, the City continues to seek out additional grants, to include more features to this facility.

In an effort to increase valuable open space, the City proposes to establish a new neighborhood park on Main Street. The Park is proposed along a vacant site next to the La Puente Valley County Water District water tanks on Main Street up the hill from City Hall. The City is currently in negotiations with the Water District and a private property owner to purchase the site. We envision a playground, walking trail, exercise stations, a community garden, and drought resistant landscaping. This year, the City will undergo several street improvement projects including Inyo Street and Ardilla Avenue. The proposed street reconstruction projects will include reconstruction of sidewalks; curb ramps, driveway approaches, and the restoration of existing improvements. The City will use over \$323,000 of the balance from Prop 1B along with \$240,000 of the Gas Tax funds to fund the proposed reconstruction projects. The City has successfully received a Safe Routes to School grant for over \$664,000. The project will include street improvements along Del Valle Elementary School, Sierra Vista Middle School, and Nelson Elementary School. Construction is anticipated to begin in April, 2011 and completed by June, 2011. The City has also received a grant from the California Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Improvement Program in the amount of almost \$300,000 for the installation of left turn signals at the intersection of Temple Avenue and Orange Avenue, the intersection of Temple Avenue and Sunset Avenue, and the intersection of Valley Boulevard and Ferrero Lane. The City also received a grant in the amount of over \$200,000 for the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Amar Road and Tonopah Avenue. With the utilization of Community Development Block Grant and State funds, the City will undergo Phase 2 of the Valley Boulevard Street Improvement Project. The decorative block wall will begin construction mid year and will continue heading west on Ferrero Lane to further achieved a coordinated, uniform appearance.

Last but certainly not least, we are happy to announce that the vacant site formally know as the La Puente Bowling Alley Site has been recently approved by the Redevelopment Agency to develop this 9.5 acre site into a 100,000+ square feet shopping center. Prospective tenants include El Super grocery store, Michael's Arts and Crafts, Panda Express, and 24 Hour Fitness.

*Thanks to our Sponsors!*

**The State of the City Address held on March 31, 2011 was made possible by the generous donations by the following sponsors.**

**Co-Sponsor**

**Kiwanis Club of La Puente/Industry**

- Alvarez Printing ~ Donut Time ~ E & L Landscape Services ~ Joe A. Gonsalves & Son**
- Knights of Columbus ~ La Puente / Industry Lions ~ La Puente Valley County Water District**
- Meyers Nave ~ Piedragil Party Rentals ~ Queen Beach Printers**
- Southern California Edison ~ The Dragon Bakery ~ Valley Vista Services ~ West Coast Arborists, Inc.**
- Willdan Engineering ~ Wok Express**



2011

*State of the City*  
**ADDRESS**

MAYOR  
DAVID ARGUDO

MAYOR PRO TEM  
DAN HOLLOWAY

COUNCILMEMBER  
VINCE HOUSE

COUNCILMEMBER  
NADIA MENDOZA

COUNCILMEMBER  
JOHN SOLIS

# State of the 2011 City Address

This past year, as in the prior year, the City has continued to feel the negative effects of the economy. The fiscal outlook, for both the Federal and State, continue to remain doubtful due to high unemployment, mortgage foreclosures, and a troubled global economy.

At the local level, Cities have had to assist the State of California financially by lending fiscal resources to assist the State's budget deficit. In La Puente, we are no exception. Over the past few years, we have experienced a decline in revenues from sales and property taxes and an increase in expenditures. However, despite these negative ramifications, the City continues to find a balance in maintaining sufficient service levels to meet the needs of our residents.

## *Our efforts in this economy...*

We have continued our aggressive lobbying efforts in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. In 2010, the City requested federal appropriations in excess of \$3 million for much needed street improvements including the repair of the storm drain system on Valley Boulevard and Temple Avenue street improvements.



## *Financial Update*

For the past and current fiscal year, the City has been faced with decreasing revenues and increasing expenditures that resulted in the implementation of 10% staff furlough to help lower the budget deficit. However, in the upcoming years the biggest challenge that the City will face is the debt obligations that will have an impact on the General Fund reserve if the City does not have a balanced budget.

The anticipated budget deficit in Fiscal Year 11/12 could be as high as \$3.7 million dollars assuming that there are no proceeds from sale of land. Following Fiscal Year 11/12, the City will have annual debt obligations ranging from \$959,000 to \$588,000 for the next 17 years on a \$10 million dollar loan issued in Fiscal Year 08/09 to fund the improvements of the Community Center and the construction of the Youth Learning Activity Center.

In order to avoid depleting the General Fund reserves, Council had to take drastic measures to lower expenditures through a re-organization of its staff while maintaining the service levels that the City of La Puente residents expect. The estimated savings of \$950,000 generated from the re-organization will hopefully help balance the general fund budget so that reserves will not be depleted.

## *Public Safety Improvements*

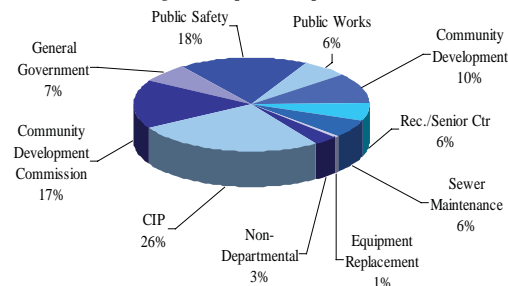
A significant part of making La Puente a pleasant place to live and work is our commitment to public safety. In July of 2010, the City of La Puente appointed a new Chief of Police, Lieutenant Pete Cacheiro of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Lieutenant Cacheiro is responsible for the oversight of the Law Enforcement, Code Enforcement and Emergency Preparedness Services in the City. Efforts in these services are to enhance public safety in the community by improving the communication process between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the City.

In October of 2010, councilmembers attended the Operation "Red Rein" news conference. Operation "Red Rein" targeted 40 violent street gang members. Two of the targeted gang members were arrested in the City of La Puente. This Operation took three years to investigate and involved more than 800 federal and local law enforcement.

## *Public Works Improvements*

The City has completed several street improvements along Temple Avenue, Del Valle Avenue, Dora Guzman Avenue, Loukelton Street and Unruh Avenue. These improvements included street resurfacing, re-stripping, repaired damaged curbs, gutters, driveway aprons, and sidewalks. These improvements enhance the overall appearance of the streets for both motorists and pedestrians. The City has also completed the 1st phase of the block wall project along Valley Boulevard.

**Budgeted Comparative Expenditure**



## *Recreation and Senior Services*

In 2010, the City was a recipient of the Imagination Playground in a Box from Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and KaBOOM! This playground has become an important element of the Recreation Services Department STARS After-school program, Tiny Tot Program, and more!

There are several notable recreational program increases and accomplishments that occurred in 2010. In 2010, Summer Camp registration increased 20% from 2009. The adult sports program increased from 31 teams in 2009 to 60 teams in 2010. A total of 421 Adult Gym Memberships were sold in 2010, compared to 300 memberships in 2009. Since its inception in spring 2009 the computer registration program has over 5,000 enrollees.

On June 17, 2010, the La Puente Senior Center celebrated its 15th Anniversary. The City's Senior Services Program has received several distinct awards, including the Los Angeles County Committee on Aging, Volunteer of the Year award. In addition, the Senior Center received the 2010 Distinguished Site Award and the Silver Thermometer Award for its Lunch Program.

In 2010, the Senior Center has also increased attendance for dances to 20%, daily lunch program to 50%, special excursions to 20%, and overall attendance at the Senior Center to 50%.

## *Community Development*

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries - In late 2009, the City was inundated by business license applications for medical marijuana dispensaries. Prior to that, the City had no dispensaries and no laws to regulate them. In January, 2010 the City adopted an ordinance that restricted the total number of dispensaries to six.

However, by the effective date of the ordinance in February, 2010, 10 dispensaries had already been established.