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MONTEREY CITY BUDGET MEETINGS

Monterey, CA – The City of Monterey plans to hold a series of meetings on proposed budget reductions, and encourages public participation as its priority-based budgeting process moves closer to adoption of the budget in June.

Proposed reductions totaling $5 million will be outlined at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 19th at 7 p.m. The preliminary budget proposal will include positions being considered for elimination or reduction across the City organization, as well as possible employee concessions, and service reductions. The City also will be asking the Council for its direction on the proposed budget plan. The Council's guidance will be factored into the final budget recommendation that will be submitted by the City Manager to the Council in June.

"We have cut millions of dollars out of the City budget over the last two years, and there really isn't anything left to cut that won't be painful for our residents and our employees," said City Manager Fred Meurer. "That is why we have worked diligently this year to get the all of our stakeholders involved in the priority-based budgeting process."

The budget process will provide several opportunities for public input on proposed reductions during City Council meetings from April through June. Public involvement in the City budget process began last fall when the community was asked to set their

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priorities for the services they really want. That effort enabled the City to look at the 150 programs it provides to the community through different filters, such as public priorities, legal mandates, and cost to the general fund. The program rankings have helped inform the City's budget decisions and are being used in addition to other decision-making tools, including the recommendations of City department heads.

Priority-based budgeting will move the City away from line-item budgeting and toward program budgeting. Program budgeting eventually will help the City determine the true cost of the programs it delivers; see if the fees charged, or perhaps should charge, cover the costs of a program; and build a budget for the future based on what the City can afford.

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