

A Message from **Mayor Elaine Gennawey**



Hello Laguna Niguel - Let's talk about making progress and the future!

I can proudly assure you that my fellow City Council colleagues and I continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of all of our residents, while always considering our remarkable city's future. We recognize that Laguna Niguel is home to a rich tradition of strong fiscal responsibility, which serves to ensure both our short-term and long-term sustainability. With this in mind, I am proud to share that during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 7th, your City Council, unanimously approved a balanced Operating and Capital Budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year, 2022/2023.

The City's newly adopted budget totals \$60 million, including \$9.4 million in funding for capital projects. The budget provides for the continuation of City services and maintains and builds upon the City's infrastructure, all while continuing the important conservative budgeting practices that Laguna Niguel is so well-known for. Most importantly, the long-standing fiscal policy of not having any debt continues with the adopted budget. In addition to the budget, my City Council colleagues and I also approved a number of capital projects that address the areas of City infrastructure. The approved Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Capital Improvement Program provides funding for street improvements, landscaping and wall improvements, traffic signal synchronization, park improvements and upgrades at City Hall. The implementation of these projects will not only benefit the community now, but well into the future. I encourage you to visit bit.ly/2022-23_Inbudget to view the City's Adopted Fiscal 2022/2023 Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget.

Speaking of the future, I would also like to provide an update on the Laguna Niguel City Center Project. During the City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 21st, your City Council unanimously approved the proposed project. The project will feature specialty retail, indoor/outdoor restaurants, office space, community-oriented event spaces, integrated residential apartment homes, a new community library, and extensive walkable open spaces, paseos, and plazas. My City Council colleagues and I fully support the Laguna Niguel City Center Project and look forward to the dynamic mix of restaurants, retail, new library, and amenities that this brings to our city. The residents of Laguna Niguel deserve the best and this long awaited project will be an incredible asset to our community at no cost to the taxpayer. The site of the Laguna Niguel City Center Project is approximately 25-acres in size and is generally bounded by Pacific Island Drive to the north, Alicia Parkway to the east, Crown Valley Parkway to the south, and multifamily residential communities to the west. The Laguna Niguel City Center Project will transform this area into a long envisioned vibrant city center. To learn more about the Laguna Niguel City Center Project and view artist renderings of the project, I encourage you to visit www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/CityCenter.

As you can see, it is the City Council's great responsibility to carefully evaluate recommendations and make decisions that are in the best interest for the community today and for our future generations. My fellow City Council colleagues and I take great pride in being good stewards of your tax dollars and the City's finances. It is our promise that we will surely continue this wise tradition for years to come.

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Mayor, City of Laguna Niguel