City of Calistoga Staff Report

TO:

Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

James C. McCann, City Manager and

Bill Mushallo, Administrative Services Director

DATE:

May 19, 2009

SUBJECT:

Discussion regarding Fiscal Years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 Budget

Update and Forecast

ISSUE: To consider a brief revenue update and discuss the process and timing for providing the City Council with a spring 2009 financial update to the fiscal year 2008/09 and 2009/10 budgets.

RECOMMENDATION: To review and provide feedback regarding the upcoming budget update process.

BACKGROUND: City staff originally presented draft 2008/09 and 2009/10 budgets to the City Council in June, 2008. At that time, the proposed budgets were discussed and feedback was received. Staff was directed to integrate the recommendations into the budget proposals.

In September of 2008 the revised 2008/09 and 2009/10 budgets were formally adopted by the City Council. The budgets were adjusted to reflect City Council input, adjustments in projected revenues, reductions related to the delay in the development of the Terrano Project, and operational costs associated with the City Pool.

In January of 2009 the General Fund 2008/09 budget was updated to reflect reductions in revenues resulting from the effects of the national recession, along with operational cost reductions. Revenues were reduced \$338K and expenditures were reduced by \$160,000. Department Heads were also instructed to submit additional expenditure reductions in order for the City to maintain a balanced budget. Ending fund balance at June 30, 2009 was projected to be \$1.8 million or 24% of operating expenditures. No adjustments to the FY 2009/10 projected budget were done at that time. It was noted that the adjustments to the current year budget would carry forward to 2009/10 and that the continuing recession, along with potential state actions, could also effect the 2009/10 budget.

Subject: Fiscal Years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 Budget Update and Forecast

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<u>DISCUSSION</u>: Since the January, 2009 budget update the local and regional economies have continued to struggle as the recessionary conditions have continued and worsened. Consumer confidence had deteriorated earlier this calendar year but rebounded in April due to optimism related to strong equity markets and falling interest rates. Manufacturing markets and the housing market have also been very weak but are beginning to show signs of stabilizing. Unfortunately, economic weakness over the past few months has negatively affected TOT, the City's major revenue source. TOT results for February and March were 11% and 22% less than the same periods in the prior fiscal year. April's results, while not yet available in total, appear to be down from amounts received during the prior fiscal year. Year to date TOT revenues are down 1% from 2007/08 year to date amounts.

Total General Fund operating revenues for Fiscal Year 2008/09 are estimated to end the fiscal year at approximately \$7.2 million. This is approximately \$0.2 million lower than what was anticipated at mid-year. (In January actual revenues were approximately \$130,000 or 4% above the same six months in the prior fiscal year. We anticipated a flat revenue picture for the remainder of 2008/09). This shortfall is primarily due to several factors. First, lower TOT revenues are anticipated due to the continued slow economy. Second, construction related revenues continue to fall below earlier projections. Third, fines and vehicle license fees are coming in below estimates. Finally, recreation and aquatic fees are lower than anticipated due to a later pool opening than planned along with less than anticipated revenues received for recreation programs.

Fiscal Year 2009/10 revenues are projected to be approximately 2% higher than forecasted 2008/09 amounts. Property tax valuations have grown dramatically over the past several years and that trend is not expected to continue. It is anticipated that assessed valuations will grow slightly during 2009/10. Sales taxes will be lower due to multiple one-time 2008/09 items not recurring in 2009/10. Several one-time sales tax payments were received during 2008/09 and the spike in fuel prices is not anticipated to recur during 2009/10. Transient Occupancy Tax revenue is projected to stabilize within the next couple of months and should grow about 3% next fiscal year. Based on development projects currently in the pipeline, licenses and permits revenue is projected to grow significantly in 2009/10.

Staff will continue to update revenue estimates based on actual results reported during April and May. Projections will also be updated as more information is received regarding the state budget and the economy. Finalized revenue projections will be presented for Council consideration in the near future. The chart on the next page shows preliminary summary General Fund operating revenue projections by major category.

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	Mid Year Estimate FY 08-09	Spring Estimate FY 08-09	Dollar Change	% Chg	Spring Estimate FY 09-10	Change From FY 08-09	% Change
Operating Revenues:							
Property Taxes	1,588,000	1,572,000	-16,000	-1.0%	1,601,500	29,500	1.9%
Sales Taxes	809,000	841,000	32,000	4.0%	764,000	-77,000	-9.2%
TOT	3,479,463	3,394,463	-85,000	-2.4%	3,496,352	101,889	3.0%
Other Taxes	322,500	322,500	0	0.0%	338,000	15,500	4.8%
Licenses & Permits	109,000	83,000	-26,000	-23.9%	184,000	101,000	121.7%
Fines, Forfeits & Other	260,600	195,100	-65,500	-25.1%	233,100	38,000	19.5%
Charges for Services	795,850	803,800	7,950	1.0%	747,900	-55,900	-7.0%
Total Operating Revenues:	7,364,413	7,211,863	-152,550	-2.0%	7,364,852	152,989	2.1%

Note: The above projections do not include any State take-aways. Currently the Prop 1A take-away impact on Calistoga is projected at about \$150,000.

City Departments are currently working on updates of their expenditure budgets for 2008/09 and 2009/10. Departments have been directed to spend funds for critical items only during the remainder of 2008/09. Expenditure reductions will help bridge the \$152,000 revenue shortfall mentioned above. While it is not anticipated that significant service level reductions will be required during the upcoming fiscal year, departments have been asked to scale back expenditures wherever possible. Any current or future vacant positions should remain un-filled. Contract services and project expenditures should be closely evaluated and budgeted for only critical, must do items.

It is anticipated that departments will finish updating their budgets in the next few weeks. The City Manager and Administrative Services Director will then review those updates and provide feedback. Administrative Services will then compile the results and bring updated summary budget information back to the Council for consideration. Our goal is to have that process completed by June.

ATTACHMENTS:

Mid-Year Budget Update Report

City of Calistoga **Staff Report**

TO:

Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

James C. McCann, City Manager

David W. Spilman, Interim Administrative Services Director/City

Treasurer

DATE:

January 22, 2009

SUBJECT: FY 08-09 General Fund Budget Mid-Year Review

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:

James C. McCann, City Manager

ISSUE:

To review the FY 08-09 General Fund Budget and mid year

adjustments due to economic conditions and State Budget actions.

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To review and discuss adjustments to the FY 08-09 **RECOMMENDATION:** General Fund budget.

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BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION: The City practices a two-year budget process, which calls for an annual regular review, modification, update and new projections to reflect on-going and new economic conditions and local needs. In addition, as economic or programming conditions warrant, a mid year review is done in January or February of each year.

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This is a preliminary summary review, based on the information we know now and is subject to change and one of several more detailed reviews over the remainder of the fiscal year and the next in the coming months. The State Special Session on amending the State budget to deal with the projected \$40+ billion deficit still has not developed a workable plan that is acceptable to the

15 Governor. The new Federal administration is working with Congress to develop

16 broad economic stimulus programs that are planned to impact various sectors 17

over the next 3 to 12 months. It is unknown, at this time, what State and Federal

18 actions will impact the City revenues and expenditures. This will be a challenging 19

period and there are opinions that we will continue to see instability and 20

downturns before the economic stimulus programs and other changes have * 21

effect. 22

Subject: FY 08-09 General Fund Budget Mid-Year Review

The economic conditions, in many sectors for the Nation and State, have had an impact to the City economics in varying degrees. The good thing is that the City does not depend on big box retail, auto dealers or has experienced significant property development or housing turnover in recent years. These things generate sales and property tax revenues and have been significantly impacted in other communities by the economic conditions. However, the City does depend on tourism for in excess of 50% of the general fund revenues. The type of tourism the City attracts, overnight and day visits, is showing a weakening that is reflected in the transient occupancy and sales tax revenues.

It is extremely difficult to accurately project changes in future local revenues based on the past data in an unstable economy that is being impacted by larger economic changes in all sectors. However, we can see and predict trends based on data and anecdotal observations, which can give us reasonable estimates to base budget projections and decisions. The key will be to continue to closely monitor the data and trends and make future adjustments as warranted.

FY 08-09 Budget Status and Adjustments to Operating Budget

The City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2008-10 General Fund Budget, which includes Fiscal Years 2008-09 and 2009-10 in September 2008. These budgets were, and still are, balanced with conservative projections of revenues and expenses, based on various assumptions. The budgets maintained reserves of \$1.8 million or 24% and 23%, respectively, for each fiscal year.

The staff continued the day to day operations of the City and continued or began to implement City Council priorities in the various capital improvement and special projects and address the changes in operations with the addition of the Community Pool and Recreation Facility. In monitoring the major revenue sources, it became more apparent that the conservative projections needed to be adjusted based on the updated economic information we were seeing and revised projections.

We are now projecting General Fund Operating revenues to be \$338,500 lower for FY 08-09 than was initially projected, a 4.4% revenue decline. The primary reduction is in Transient Occupancy Tax revenues revised from a 6% growth projection to a 2.4% growth from the prior year. The other projections are Property and Sales taxes down 2% and 6%, respectively, and other development and business related revenues down by around 2% of total revenues. However, the operating costs are also projected to be \$160,000 lower than budgeted due to vacant personnel positions unfilled and changes in positions, a 2% expenditure reduction. This will result in a projected net operating deficit of \$92,800, which is \$178,300 lower than the initial \$85,500 net operating surplus.

The \$92,800 operating deficit would reduce the projected ending fund balance to \$1.7 million from the initial estimated \$1.8 million. This would still leave available reserves of an estimated 23% of operating expenditures, a reduction of 1% from the adopted budget of 24%.

Date: January 22, 2009 Subject: FY 08-09 General Fund Budget Mid-Year Review

Last month, I directed each of the Department Directors to closely review their department expenditures for the remaining 6 months of the fiscal year and curtail non-critical expenditures until we have a better understanding of the impact of the economic conditions to the City revenues. I have asked the Department Directors to identify actual reductions in operating expenditures for the remaining of the fiscal year that will be sufficient to reduce the estimated \$92,800 operating deficit to zero and, possibly, generate an operating surplus for the year.

In the meantime, there are some other options to offset the estimated revenue reductions. In the FY 08-09 Budget, \$450,800 was budgeted for capital improvement and special projects, of which an estimated \$398,200 has not been spent or committed at this time. Several of these projects could be delayed, the allocations deferred or project scope reduced to further reduce expenditures in FY 08-09 and bring the projected ending fund balance back to \$1.8 million or increase it for the future fiscal year. In the attached chart, we have identified reductions in certain project budgets that would restore the estimated fund balance for FY 08-09 to \$1.8 million

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Since the FY 08-10 Budgets cover a two year period (FY 08-09 and FY 09-10), changes in FY 08-09 revenue projections will have an effect on the FY 09-10 revenues. However, it is too soon to project what that impact will be. The Federal economic stimulus programs and the State budget solutions will play a much larger role in determining the City revenues and expenditures. We will continue to monitor the City finances over the next few months and, later in the spring, we will have a better understanding what the next fiscal year budget and propose changes at that time.

Below is a summary of the changes to revenues and expenditures, which were discussed above. Attached are schedules and charts that illustrate the narrative.

Transient Occupancy Tax (47% of total General Fund revenues)

For the fiscal year to date, from July to November, TOT revenues are a little over 3% greater than the same period last year. The FY 08-09 Budget projection was based on an annual average of 6%. The 42 lodging operators are categorized by Bed & Breakfast, Inns & Motels and Hotels & Resorts. The 12 Hotel & Resort operators generate almost 80% of the TOT revenues with 520 rooms and show an 8% increase for the same period over the prior year. The Bed & Breakfast and Inns & Motels have averaged a -4% and -15% decline over the same period, respectively. While the TOT revenues vary during the year with operator type and occupancy, there is a growing weakness in tourism due to the economy.

If the revenues for the remaining of the fiscal year (December to June) remain at an average of only 3% above the prior year, then the TOT revenues will be down by an estimated \$110,000 from those projected in the adopted budget. However, the Hotel & Resort operators are showing a downturn and will likely not maintain the average growth for the remaining of the year. If we assume an average 1.5% increase for the remainder of the fiscal year, then the TOT revenues will be down

Subject: FY 08-09 General Fund Budget Mid-Year Review

by an estimated \$128,000 from the level projected in the adopted FY 08-09
Budget. This is a conservative projection and we will continue to monitor the
revenues each month for changes (For each 1% change, plus or minus, is an
estimated \$17,000 for the remaining of the fiscal year).

Property Tax (21% of General Fund revenues)

Property tax revenues were projected to grow 7% in FY 08-09 from the assessed valuation increases. In developing the annual allocations of property taxes, the County Auditor-Controller has estimated a 5% growth in actual property tax revenues. The reduced amount is estimated at \$34,600 less than the budget estimate.

Assessed valuation growth is based on a combination of (1) statutory 2% or the Personal Per Capita Income, whichever is less; (2) sale or transfer of ownership triggering a revaluation; (3) new development or additional improvements; (4) and reductions in valuation due to reassessments.

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Calistoga property valuations do not reflect the dynamic changes over the last year in other communities. As the County Assessor has stated, upper valley properties have been protected from dramatic changes in valuations. That said, the Assessor will be reviewing the property valuations as January 1st (for the FY 09-10 tax roll) for possible revaluations of homes and businesses. The revaluations along with the other changes in the assessed valuation will be reflected in the FY 09-10 tax roll and revenues.

Sales Tax (11% of General Fund revenues)

Restaurants & Hotels, Fuel & Service Stations & General Consumer Goods make up almost 60% of the sales tax revenues to the City and these are primarily from tourism. Based on 3rd quarter sales tax returns from the State Board of Equalization (sales through September/October), the locally generated sales tax revenues are up by 11% for the year over the previous same period. This is due primarily to fuel sales. Restaurants & Hotels were at 0% change and Consumer Goods at -3%.

We are projecting sales tax revenues, which were estimated at 3% above the prior year, at an estimated -3% below the prior year ending estimate. This is a reduction of \$50,000 for the year. This projection includes the drop in fuel prices from the highs last summer and reduced tourism for the balance of the year. The Restaurants & Hotels and Consumer Goods are projected to have a -15% to -10% reduction, respectively, and allocations from the County/State pool (11% of the sales tax revenues) is estimated at a -10% overall decline for the year.

Other significant Revenue Changes affected by the economy

The Other Taxes category includes real property transfer tax (\$20,000 annual estimate) which is based on sales of property in the City. In the first half of the

Subject: FY 08-09 General Fund Budget Mid-Year Review

year, only 30% of the revenues have been received and we have adjusted the annual estimate down by 50% to \$10,000. The Business and Manufacturing taxes are all estimated to be down by around 3% or an additional \$5,000, however, we will have a better indication after the annual Business tax renewals are completed in April.

The revenue from Development related fees from building permits, other permits, other land use fees and plan check fees are down for the first half of the year with only 30% of the annual revenue estimate received. While it is typical to have an increase in development activity in the last half of the year, the unstable economy will likely still dampen development. There are many projects being discussed with the City, however, they will likely not generate permit fees over the next six months. The budget estimate was 15% above the prior year based on development projections late last spring and adjustments in the fees charged. We are projecting an estimated -15% decrease of \$100,000 for the year. Again, we will be closely monitoring development and fees over the next several months to adjust this estimate.

The State Motor Vehicle License Fees (VLF) (\$32,500 annual estimate) is significantly reduced due to a drop in new car sales statewide. These fees are allocated to local government by a complex priority formula that resulted in no allocations for November to the City. We are projecting a 30% reduction of \$10,000 for the year.

Expenditure Reductions

The preliminary expenditure reductions for the FY 08-09 Budget are in personnel positions. Authorized in the budget was the Deputy City Clerk/Administrative Analyst position that has not been filled and will not be for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Emergency Services Coordinator/Administrative Analyst position will not be filled for the remainder of the year and the duties will be transferred to the Fire Department. The vacancy in the Community Resources Director and the decision not to fill this position, but reclass and recruit for an Aquatics/Recreation Manager, that will be filled soon, will result in a net cost savings for the year. The cost savings of these three actions will be an estimated \$160,150 or 2% of the General Fund operating budget.

The departments have been requested to reduce operating expenditures where they can and defer equipment expenditures. Over the next month, the departments will be looking at ways to reduce costs and generate additional savings for FY 08-09. Over the next several months, staff will explore the demands for programming, operating and maintenance needs to determine areas that can be reduced.

Subject: FY 08-09 General Fund Budget Mid-Year Review

Other Capital and Special Projects reductions

In the FY 08-09 Budget, \$450,800 was budgeted for capital improvement and special projects, of which an estimated \$398,200 has not been spent or committed at this time.

Several of these projects could be delayed or the allocations deferred or reduced to further reduce expenditures in FY 08-09. It is proposed to defer and reduce the scope in various project expenditures by \$178,320.

Next Budget Review

If the City Council concurs, the budget actions discussed above will require an amendment to the appropriations resolution that was adopted in September. This amended resolution can be brought back to the City Council at the next meeting. However, it is proposed that the next budget review be done in the first or second meeting in March in order to have a better understanding of the State budget actions that may affect the City and the possible impacts of the Federal economic stimulus programs on City revenues.

In the meantime, as discussed above, I will ask the departments to curtail non-critical expenditures to reduce operating expenditures for this year.

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FISCAL IMPACT: The reduction in revenue estimates of \$338,470 for FY 08-09 are proposed to be offset by operating expenditure savings of \$160,150 and reductions in certain capital and special project budgets of \$178,320. The proposed changes will have maintained the estimated ending fund balance at \$1.8 million or 24% of the operating expenditures.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Summary of adjustments to FY 08-09 Budget
- 2. September General Fund Budget Transmittal Letter

General Fund Sources and Uses Mid Year Review FY 08-09 Budget

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	Revised FY 08-09	Mid Year FY 08-09	Change Amount	%
Operating Revenues				
Property Tax	1,622,621	1,588,000	(34,621)	-2.1%
Sales Tax	859,850	809,000	(50,850)	-5.9%
Transient Occupancy Tax	3,607,463	3,479,463	(128,000)	-3.5%
Other Taxes	337,500	322,500	1	
Licenses and Permits	159,000	109,000	(50,000)	-31.4%
Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties	55,600	55,600	_	0.0%
Interest and Use of Property	50,000	50,000	_	0.0%
Revenues From Other Agencies	96,000	86,000	(10,000)	-10,4%
Grants - Operations	19,000	19,000	_	0.0%
Charges for Services	845,850	795,850	(50,000)	-5.9%
Other Revenues	50,000	50,000		0.0%
Total Operating Revenues	7,702,883	\$35.44 S	£388540)	
Operating Expenditures				
Support Services	1,527,300	1,447,700		
1			(79,600)	-5.2%
City Council & City Clerk	220,950	220,950	-	0.0%
Fire Services	754,200	754,200	. –	0.0%
Planning & Builidng	759,550	759,550	-	0.0%
Police Services	2,281,000	2,249,150	(31,850)	-1.4%
Public Works	1,291,450	1,291,450	·	0.0%
Community Resources	782,900	734,200	(48,700)	-6.2%
Total Operating Expenditures	461 / Ac 150 L	7,457,200	(160450)	27,1%
Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	85,533	(92.787)	(178,320)	
Other Sources				
Debt Proceeds	3,849,950	3,849,950	-	
Grants - Improvements	1,311,300	1,311,300	_	
Other Uses				
Equipment Replacement Charges	=	=	_	
Special Projects	410,000	335,580	(74,420)	
Capital Improvement Projects	10.000	40.000	- [
Streets Parks	16,000 62,000	16,000 62,000	-	
Buildings	7,634,800	7,555,900	(78,900)	
Other	87,900	62,900	(25,000)	
Total Capital Projects	7,800,700	7,696,800	(103,900)	

General Fund

Sources and Uses Mid Year Review FY 08-09 Budget

Debt Service		Revised FY 08-09	Mid Year FY 08-09	Change Amount	%
Public Safety Fund	Debt Service	<u> </u>			, , ,
Public Safety Fund	Proprietable Average Commence of the Commence				
Gas Tax Fund 111,900 111,900					
Police Grants Fund Recreation Donations 16,350 15,350 16,3	•			-	
Recreation Donations			ı	-	
Landscape Maintenance Funds Mobile Home Park Programs Fund 10,468 10,48 10,488 10,488 10,488 10,488 10,488 10,488 10,488 10,488 10,488		-			
Mobile Home Park Programs Fund			· •	-	
Quality of Life Fund 692,550 692,550 -				-	
Community Pool Fund	-			-	
CDBG Fund 70,000 70,000 - Debt Service Fund (169,050) (169,050) - Debt Service Fund (169,050) (169,050) - Debt Service Fund (169,050) - Debt Service Fund Surplus or (Deficit) (383,017) (383,017) (0) Debt Surplus or (Deficit) (383,017) (383,017) (0) Debt Surplus or (Deficit) (1797,611 1,797,610 1,797,610 (1,001) Debt Surplus or (Deficit) (16,015	•			-	
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Emergencies (1) 761,735 745,720 (16,015) General Contingency (1) 930,876 946,890 16,014 General Liability Claims (5) 105,000 105,000 Total Reserves 1,797,611 1,797,610 (1) Undesignated Fund Balance 1,797,611 1,797,610 (1) All Reserves As A Percent of Operating 2494 2494					
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General Liability Claims (5) 105,000 105,000 1 Total Reserves 1,797,611 1,797,610 (1) Undesignated Fund Balance 0 Total Ending Fund Balance 1,797,611 1,797,610 (1) All Reserves As A Percent of Operating 24% 24%	General Contingency (1)	930,876	946,890		
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All Reserves As A Percent of Operating					
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LANGINGROUGE	· - 1	24%	24%		
Total Fund Balance As A Percent of Operating Expenditures 24% 24%	Total Fund Balance As A Percent of	24%	24%		

⁽¹⁾ In FY 01-02, the City Council adopted a policy to maintain an Emergency Reserve at 10% and General Reserve at 20% of operating expenditures

⁽⁵⁾ This reserve is set at three times the \$10,000 General Liability Self Insured Retention (SIR) and \$25,000 Workers Compensation SIR.

General Fund

Selected Capital & Special Projects With General Funding Mid Year Review FY 08-09 Budget

Capital & Special Projects	Revised FY 08-09	Spent or Committed YTD	Balance Available	Mid Year FY 08-09	Change	Comments
5155 Pioneer Park	62,000	<u>.</u>	62,000	62,000	-	No Change
5505 Community Pool Geothermal	40,000	16,000	24,000	20,000	(20,000)	Fund feasibility study and grant application
5501 City Hall Improvements	40,000	6,000	34,000	6,000	(34,000)	Delay changes to future fiscal years
5507 Police Station Improvements	45,900	5,000	40,900	21,000	(24,900)	Implement critical changes and defer others to next fiscal year
5187 Soils Remediation	22,900	1,600	21,300	22,900	-	No Change.
5504 Blycycle transporation Plan	15,000	-	15,000	15,000	<u>-</u>	No Change
5502 Access, Facility & Sidewalk	50,000	9,000	41,000	25,000	(25,000)	Defer to future years
Special Projects						
4606 Comm Enhancement & Beautification	100,000	15,000	85,000	50 ,580	(49,420)	Reduce scope of improvements
4607 Services & Dev Impact Fee Update	50,000	-	50,000	25,000	(25,000)	Define scope to carry over to next fiscal year
4608 Green Initiatives	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	-	No Change
Total	450,800	52,600	398,200	27/27/4810	(178/320)	

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