
AGENDA

Meeting of the San Marcos Budget Review Committee

Meeting Date: March 25, 2026 | **Meeting Time:** 6:00 PM

Location: San Marcos Room, 1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos CA 92069

Public Comment: To submit a public comment at the Budget Review Committee meeting, please email JBrotherton@SanMarcosCA.gov and write "Public Comment – Budget Review Committee" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the item number and/or title of the item as well as your comments. Email comments on matters not on the agenda must be submitted prior to the time the Chair calls the Oral Communications item. Email comments on any agenda item must be submitted prior to the time the Chair closes public comments on the agenda item. Please be advised that all emailed comments are subject to the same rules as would otherwise apply to speaker comments at any Budget Review Committee meeting, and that electronic comments on agenda items for this meeting may only be submitted by email. Comments via text message and/or social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.), will not be accepted.

The Budget Review Committee Secretary will read all email comments, provided that the reading will not exceed three (3) minutes, or such other time as the Commissioners may provide, consistent with its ability to set time parameters for public comment at a Budget Review Committee meeting. If persons submitting comments do not want their comment to be read out loud at the meeting (not to exceed three minutes), they should note "Do Not Read Out Loud at Meeting" at the top of the email. All emailed comments received by 10:00 a.m. will be provided to the Budget Review Committee members and included as "Supplemental Information" on the City's website prior to the meeting. Those comments received after 10:00 a.m. and prior to close of public comment on the applicable agenda item will be added to the record and will be shared with the Budget Review Committee members at the meeting.

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Agenda-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet will be available for public inspection at the time of distribution at the Information Desk counter located on the first floor of City Hall, 1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos, CA, during normal business hours.

1. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda may be heard at this time; however, no action will be taken until placed on a future agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 18, 2026

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. None

7. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Overview Department Budget Requests and Capital Improvement Program overview

8. BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE COMMENTARY

9. ADJOURNMENT

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO) ss.
CITY OF SAN MARCOS)

I, Jessany Avila, Secretary, San Marcos Budget Review Committee, hereby certify that I caused the posting on March 20, 2026 of this agenda in the glass display case at the north entrance of City Hall.

DATED: March 20, 2026



Jessany Avila,
Budget Review Committee Secretary

MINUTES

Meeting of the San Marcos Budget Review Committee

Meeting Date: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Location: SAN MARCOS Room, 1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos, CA 92069

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Salvador Roman called the Budget Review Committee Meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

2. **STAFF INTRODUCTIONS:** Staff introductions were made.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: FREEMAN, GARCIA, HARRIS-MALONE, KNOWLTON, ROMAN, BUSSEN,
BADAL

ABSENT: BARLOW, SMITH

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager, Michelle Bender; Finance Director, Donna Apar; Budget & Analysis Manager, Janet Brotherton; Senior Management Analyst, Jessica Molina; Office Specialist, Jessany Avila.

4. **SELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Motion made by James Knowlton to nominate: Salvador Roman

Seconded by: Chris Freeman. Vote: 7-0

New Chair: Salvador Roman

AYES: FREEMAN, GARCIA, HARRIS-MALONE, KNOWLTON, ROMAN, BUSSEN, BADAL

NOES: None

ABSTAINS: None

New Chair takes over.

Motion made by Chris Freeman to nominate: Joanne Harris-Malone

Seconded by: Jim Garcia. Vote: 7-0

New Vice Chair: Joanne Harris-Malone

AYES: FREEMAN, GARCIA, HARRIS-MALONE, KNOWLTON, ROMAN, BUSSEN,
BADAL

NOES: None

ABSTAINS: None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Chris Freeman made a motion to accept the minutes as written. James Knowlton seconds the motion. Motion carries.

AYES: FREEMAN, GARCIA, HARRIS-MALONE, KNOWLTON, ROMAN, BUSSEN, BADAL

NOES: None

ABSTAINS: None

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. None

8. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

a. FY 2025-2026 Mid-year budget overview and FY 2026-2027 Preview

9. BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE COMMENTARY

- a. Chris Freeman inquired whether the Budget Review Committee (BRC) could formally vote on a recommendation that the City Council approve the proposed budget. Finance Director Donna Apar confirmed that the Clerk's Office advised the Committee may take a formal vote on a motion to support the budget proposed by staff at the final BRC meeting, should the members choose to do so. The Committee expressed consensus to proceed with a vote to indicate whether the full Committee supports the budget being recommended to the City Council.
- b. Salvador Roman commended staff for their work, noting their strong support of the BRC and listening to the feedback of the BRC.
- c. James Knowlton welcomed new BRC Members.
- d. Jim Garcia inquired about new housing and apartment developments and the impact to property tax. Staff noted that the share of property tax for apartments is the same as single family homes, though added density associated with apartment type housing does have a benefit for City property tax income. Staff also noted that developers also pay revenue to the City in the form of Impact Fees for infrastructure needs.
- e. Salvador Roman commented that economic development is beneficial and that investment is necessary to generate future revenue. He also noted that the City has to maintain its status as an attractive location for housing developers.
- f. Edward Badal asked whether impact assessments are conducted by developers or by a third party. Staff responded that the impact fees are set by the City via a Nexus Study and are publicly available on the City's website, allowing developers to estimate costs in advance.
- g. Edward Badal further inquired how frequently the City's fee schedule is updated. City Manager Michelle Bender stated that it was updated approximately one year ago, and the intent of staff is to update it regularly.
- h. Salvador Roman also noted that, in addition to partnering with Developers for projects, community partners such as TrueCare can also be leveraged for City goals and community services.

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- a. None

11. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Salvador Roman adjourned the meeting at 6:56 PM.

Salvador Roman, Chair
Budget Review Committee

ATTEST:

Jessany Avila, Secretary
Budget Review Committee

DRAFT