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Capital Improvements Highlight Orinda's Budget

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda adopted what may be its largest appropriations budget ever on July 5. The city's capital improvement plan (CIP) accounts for almost \$16 million of the \$18,241,511 expenditures and includes two new projects: stabilization of the city hall parking lot and the Camino Sobrante path at La Plaza.

Fifty-eight percent of the CIP budget is devoted to roads, and that increases to 88 percent if draining projects are included.

While the city benefited from over \$1 million in grants, it also received the unwelcome news that, owing to an error in calculation, it received an overpayment in sales tax receipts of between \$540,000 and \$560,000. The miscalculation occurred because of a mistake in the mileage included by Caltrans.

Orinda has opted to repay the amount over two years, which will reduce the city's return to \$228,000 for the next two years, after which it will be \$440,000 for the remaining 15 years of that measure. The Contra Costa Transportation Authority will put another sales tax measure on the November ballot, which has been supported by Orinda. If it passes, the city stands to garner about \$1 million per year for the next 17 years.

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