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# GLOSSARY

**Accounting System** - The set of records and procedures that are used to record, classify, and report information on the financial status and operations of the City.

**Accrual Basis Accounting** - Under this accounting method, transactions are recognized when they occur, regardless of the timing of related cash receipts and disbursements.

**Ad Valorem** - Latin for “in proportion to the value”. This refers to property taxes levied on value and includes the General Obligation (G.O.) Bond rates added to the 1% rate allowed by Prop. 13. These rates are applied to the secured, unsecured, supplemental, and other miscellaneous tax rolls.

**Adoption** - Formal action by the City Council, which sets the spending limits for the fiscal year. The City's budget is adopted by Council resolution.

**Agency Fund** - A fund used to account for assets held by the City in the capacity of an agent for individuals, organizations, or other governmental entities.

**Annual Budget** - A budget applicable to a single fiscal year.

**Appropriation** - An authorization made by the City Council, which permits officials to incur obligations against and to make expenditures of government resources. Appropriations are typically granted for a one-year period.

**Assessed Valuation** - A value established for real property for use as a basis in levying property taxes. For all agencies in the State of California, the County for the secured and unsecured property tax rolls establishes assessed value; the utility property tax roll is valued by the State Board of Equalization. Under Article XIII of the State Constitution (Proposition 13 adopted by the voters on June 6, 1978), properties are assessed at 100% of full value. Proposition 13 also modified the value of real taxable property for fiscal 1979 by rolling back values to fiscal 1976 levels. From this base of assessment, subsequent annual increases in valuation are limited to a maximum of 2%. However, increases to full value are allowed for property improvements or upon change of ownership. Personal property is excluded from these limitations, and is subject to annual reappraisal.

**Assessment Fund** - A fund used to account for special levies made against certain properties to defray part or all of the costs of a specific improvement or service deemed to primarily benefit those parties.

**Audit** - Prepared by an independent Certified Public Accountant (CPA), the primary objective of an audit is to determine if the City's Financial Statements present fairly the City's financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. In conjunction with their performance of an audit, it is customary for an independent auditor to issue a Management Letter stating the adequacy of the City's internal controls as well as recommending improvements to the City's financial management practices.

**Balanced Budget** – Balanced budget is a budget with operating revenues equal to operating expenditures and neither a budget deficit nor a budget surplus. More generally, it refers to a budget with no deficit, but possible with surplus.

**Bonds** - A bond is a written promise to pay a specified sum of money (called the face value or principle amount) at a specified date or dates in the future (called the maturity date) together with period interest at a specified rate. Bonds are typically used to finance capital facilities.

## ∞ GLOSSARY ∞

**Budget** - As the City's financial operating plan for the fiscal year, the budget displays the estimated expenditures (costs) for providing services and the estimated sources of revenue (income) to pay for them. Once the City Council adopts the budget, the total becomes the maximum spending limit. Sonora' budget encompasses fiscal year (July 1, through June 30).

**Budget Amendment** - The Council has the sole responsibility for adopting the City's budget, and may amend or supplement the budget at any time after adoption. The City Administrator has the authority to approve administrative adjustments to the budget as outlined in the Financial and Administrative Policies set by the Council.

**Budget Calendar** - The schedule of key dates which the City follows in the preparation and adoption of the budget.

**Budget Document** - The official financial spending and resource plan submitted by the City Administrator and adopted by the City Council explaining the approved budget to the public and City Council.

**Budget Message** - Included in the opening section of the budget, the Budget Message provides the Council and the Public with a general summary of the most important aspects of the budget, comparative data from previous fiscal years, goals and objectives, and the views and recommendations of the City Administrator.

**Budget Overview** - This section provides an overview of the changes adopted in the budget. Additionally, the significant impacts of budgetary changes are outlined along with dollar amounts (increase/decrease).

**Budget Policies** - General and specific guidelines adopted by the Council that governs the financial plan's preparation and administration.

**Building Permit** - Fee required for new construction or for any alteration or addition to a residence or commercial building. The fee is based on square footage and valuation. Electrical or plumbing/mechanical work will require a similar permit.

**Business License Tax** - A tax imposed on those conducting business within the City limits. Business License Tax is a non-regulatory tax implemented for the purpose of raising revenue to support General Fund activities.

**Capital Acquisitions/Assets** – See “Fixed Assets.”

**Capital Expenditures** - Funds spent for the construction, improvement, or rehabilitation of City infrastructure.

## ∞ GLOSSARY ∞

**Capital Projects** - Expenditures that have a value of \$25,000 or more which result in the acquisition of, construction of, rehabilitation of or additions to, infrastructure and fixed assets with a useful life of at least 5 years at a fixed location.

**Depreciation** – The process of allocating the total cost of fixed assets over each period of their usefulness to the government.

**Capital Projects Fund** - In governmental accounting, a fund that accounts for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of capital facilities. The total cost of a capital project is accumulated in a single expenditure account which accumulates until the project is completed, at which time the fund ceases to exist.

**Cash Basis Accounting** - A basis of accounting under which transactions are recognized only when cash is received or disbursed.

**Certificate of Participation (COP)** - A type of financing in which investors purchase a share of the lease revenues of a program rather than the bond being secured by those revenues. The authority usually uses the proceeds to construct a facility that is leased to the municipality, releasing the municipality from restrictions on the amount of debt that they can incur.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** - Federal grant funds distributed from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that are passed through to the City. The City primarily uses these funds for housing rehabilitation, public improvements and local social programs.

**Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)** - The official financial report of the City. It includes an audit opinion as well as basic financial statements and supporting schedules necessary to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions.

**Contingency** - A budgetary reserve set aside for emergencies or unforeseen expenditures not otherwise budgeted.

**Contingent Liabilities** - Items which may become liabilities of the City but are undetermined at a given date, such as pending lawsuits, unsettled disputed claims, unfilled purchase orders and uncompleted contracts.

**Contract Services** - Services provided to the City from the private sector or other public agencies.

**Debt Service** - Payment of the principal and interest on an obligation resulting from the issuance of bonds, notes, or Certificates of Participation (COPs).

**Debt Service Fund** - A fund established to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest.

**Deficit** - The excess of liabilities over assets.

**Department** - A major organizational unit of the City, which has been assigned overall management responsibility for an operation, or a group of related operations within a functional area. In Sonora, Department Heads are the chief administrators within a department.

## ☞ GLOSSARY ☞

**Encumbrances** - Commitments against an approved budget for unperformed (executory) contracts for goods or services. They cease to be encumbrances when the obligations are paid or otherwise terminated.

**Enterprise Funds** - Established to account for the financing of self-supporting activities of governmental units, which render services on a user charge basis to the general public.

**Equipment Replacement Fund** - This fund is used to account for the replacement of existing fixed assets as equipment, machinery or building improvements become unserviceable or obsolete.

**Expenditure** - The outflow of funds paid or to be paid for an asset obtained or goods and services obtained. Note: An encumbrance is not expenditure; an encumbrance reserves funds to be expended. (See encumbrances.)

**Fiduciary Funds** - Used to account for assets held by the City acting in a fiduciary capacity for other entities and individuals. Such funds are operated to carry out the specific actions of trust agreements, ordinances and other governing regulations. There are two categories of fiduciary funds: Trust and Agency.

**Fiscal Year** - A 12-month period to which the annual operating budget applies and at the end of which the City determines its financial position and results of its operations. The City's fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Fixed Assets** - Non-consumable assets of long-term nature such as land, buildings, machinery, furniture, and the other equipment. The City has defined such assets as those with an expected life in excess of one year and value in excess of \$10,000.

**Franchise Fees** - Imposed on utility companies for the privilege of doing business in the City. Fees are usually based upon a percentage of gross revenue derived from business conducted in the City.

**Full-time Equivalents (FTE)** - The amount of time a position has been budgeted for in terms of the amount of time a regular, full-time employee normally works in a year. Full-time employees are paid for 2,080 hours in a year equating 1.0 FTE. Correspondingly, a part-time employee who worked 1,040 hours would equate to 0.5 FTE.

**Fund** - An independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts in which cities record financial transactions relating to revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities. Each fund type typically has a unique funding source and purpose. Establishing funds enables the City to account for the use of restricted revenue sources and carry on specific activities or pursue specific objectives.

**Fund Accounting** - System used by non-profit organizations, particularly governments. Since there is no profit motive, accountability is measured instead of profitability. The main purpose is stewardship of financial resources received and expended in compliance with legal requirements.

**Fund Balance** - Also known as financial position, fund balance is the excess of current assets over current liabilities, and represents the cumulative effect of revenues and other financing sources over expenditure and other financing uses.

**GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles)** - Uniform minimum standards for financial accounting and reporting. They govern the form and content of the basic financial statements of the City.

∞ GLOSSARY ∞

***Gann Appropriation Limit*** - This is the common name of Proposition 4, approved by voters on November 6, 1979 which mandated an appropriation limit on the amount of tax revenues that government jurisdictions may appropriate within a fiscal year. This bill was named after Paul Gann, who was a co-sponsor of the famous Proposition 13 initiative enacted by the voters of California on June 6, 1978 which resulted in a cap on property tax rates in the state, and a prominent author and advocate of this subsequent spending limitation bill.

***Gas Tax Fund*** - The Gas Tax Fund is used to account for revenues and expenditures apportioned under the Streets and Highways Code of the State of California. Expenditures may be made for any street related purpose in the City's system of streets.

***General Fund*** - In governmental accounting, fund used to account for all assets and liabilities of a non-profit entity, except those particularly assigned for other purposes in another more specialized fund. It is the primary operating fund of the City.

***General Government*** - City Council, City Administration, Personnel, Finance, Community Development, Police, Public Works, and Fire.

***General Obligation Bond*** - A municipal bond backed by the credit and "taxing power" of the issuing jurisdiction rather than the revenue from a given project. General obligation bonds are issued with the belief that a municipality will be able to repay its debt obligation through taxation or revenue from projects. No assets are used as collateral.

***Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)*** - GFOA is the professional association of state/provincial and local finance officers in the United States and Canada, and has served the public finance profession since 1906. Approximately 16,000 GFOA members are dedicated to the sound management of government financial resources.

***Governmental Funds*** - the fund used to account for all assets and liabilities of a government agency, except those particularly assigned for other purposes in another more specialized fund. There are five different types of governmental funds: the general fund (which is the primary operating fund), special revenue funds, debt service funds, capital project funds, and permanent funds.

***Grant*** - External contributions, and/or gifts of cash, or other assets typically from another governmental entity to be used or expended for a specific purpose, activity, or facility. An example is Community Development Block grant funding from the Federal Government.

***Housing Fund (RDA)*** - Fund is used to account for the 20% set aside property tax increment revenues and the associated expenditures to be used for increasing or improving low and moderate-income housing.

***Infrastructure*** - The basic facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of a community or society, such as streets and roads, sidewalks, bridges, communications systems, water and power lines, and public institutions including schools, police stations, libraries, and post offices.

***Interest Income*** - The prudent investment of idle funds. The types of investments that can be made are limited by the Government Code to protect the safety of taxpayers' money. The City's funds are invested in the Local Area Investment Fund (LAIF) Account.

## ☞ GLOSSARY ☞

***Intergovernmental Revenue*** - Revenue received from other governmental agencies and municipalities, such as grants from the State or Federal government. Accounts include Proposition 172 – Public Safety, State Mandated Costs Refund, Post/Training Reimbursement and Motor Vehicle in Lieu Tax.

***Internal Services Fund*** - The Internal Service Funds are used to finance and account for special activities and services performed by a designated City department for other departments on a cost reimbursement basis.

***Inter-Fund Transfers*** - When the City moves money between its various funds, it makes an inter-fund transfer, referred to as transfers-in and transfers-out. In aggregate, transfers in and out offset each other for the fiscal year.

***Levy*** - To impose taxes, special assessments or service charges for the support of governmental activities. The total amount of taxes, special assessments or service charges imposed by Tuolumne County levying property taxes.

***Licenses and Permits*** - Revenues earned by the issuance of licenses or permits levied in accordance with the benefits conferred by the license or permit. Accounts include Intermittent Vendor permits, Portable Food Vendor Permits, Building Permits, Parking Permits, Street, Curb, and Encroachment Permits.

***Limited Obligation Bond*** - A bond sold by a municipality to finance projects which are secured by the revenue generated by those projects.

***Line-Item Budget*** - A budget that lists detailed expenditure categories (salaries & benefits, office supplies, travel, dues, rents, etc.) separately, along with the amount budgeted for each specified category. The Summary Budget reflects the program rather than line item budgets. The Detail Budget reflects the line-item detail.

***Major Fund*** – Major funds are funds whose revenues, expenditures/expenses, assets, or liabilities are at least 10 percent of corresponding totals for all governmental or enterprise funds and at least 5 percent of the aggregate amount for all governmental and enterprise funds for the same item. The General Fund is always a major fund. The City may also select other funds it believes should be presented as major funds.

***Modified Accrual Basis*** - Under this accounting method, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures for the most part are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred except for prepayments, accumulated employee leave and long-term debt. All governmental funds and expendable trust funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting.

***Motor Vehicle in Lieu Fee*** - A State fee charged for the privilege of operating a vehicle on public streets. A VLF is levied annually against the market value of a motor vehicle and is imposed by the State “in lieu” of local property taxes.

***Non-Departmental*** - This program has the sole purpose of accounting for all expenditures that the City cannot specifically designate to any operating department within the General Fund.

***Non-major Fund*** – Non-major funds are all governmental and enterprises funds that are not classified as major funds.



## ☞ GLOSSARY ☞

**Objective** - A statement of specific direction, purpose, or intent based on the needs of the community and the goals established for a specific program or service level.

**Ordinance** - A formal legislative enactment by the City Council. It has the full force and effect of law within City boundaries unless pre-empted by a higher form of law. An Ordinance has a higher legal standing than a Resolution and is typically codified in a City's municipal code.

**Operating Budget** - The operating budget is the primary means by which most of the financing of acquisition, spending and service delivery activities of a government are controlled. The use of annual operating budgets is required by law.

**Other Revenues** - Revenues from sources other than those specifically identified that are too immaterial in amount to justify the creation of new revenue account line items. Accounts include Rental Income, Parking Lot Rental income, Sale of Property, Cemetery receipts, Insurance/Accident Reimbursement, FEMA/OES/CDR Reimbursement, Insurance Premium Reimbursement, Opera Hall Facility Rental, Insurance Administration Fee, Opera Hall Piano Rental.

**Performance Measure** - Sets forth a performance objective and a goal for achieving the objective.

**Personnel Benefits** - Those benefits paid by the City as conditions of employment.

**Personnel** - City employees.

**Present Value** - The amount that a future sum of money is worth today given a specified rate of return.

**Proposition 218** - A statewide initiative passed by the voters of California on November 5, 1996. The initiative provided voters with the right to vote on new taxes.

**Program** - As subdivisions of departments, programs are budgetary or organizational units of government with limited sets of work responsibilities within their respective departments. Programs also serve to increase budgetary accountability. Sonora's budget is compiled on a program basis.

**Property Tax** - Imposed on real property (land and permanently attached improvements). The tax is based upon the assessed value of such property. Accounts include Secured and Unsecured property taxes, other property taxes, homeowners exemption, real property transfer tax and pass through from RDA.

**Proprietary Funds** - Funds that focus on the determination of operating income, changes in net assets (or cost recovery), financial position, and cash flows. There are two different types of proprietary funds: enterprise funds and internal service funds.

**Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)** - Provided for the City's employees, by the State of California.

**RDA** - Redevelopment Agency, while a component unit, the Agency is a legal entity separate from the City.

**Redevelopment Agency Fund** - Fund is used to account for the proceeds of notes, advances and other forms of indebtedness, and the expenditure of these funds for improvement, reconstruction and redevelopment projects within the specified boundaries of the City of Sonora Redevelopment Agency.

## ☞ GLOSSARY ☞

**Reserve** - An account used to indicate that a portion of fund equity is legally restricted for a specific purpose.

**Resolution** - A special order of the City Council which has a lower legal standing than an ordinance.

**Resources** - Total amounts available for appropriation including estimated revenues, inter-fund transfers, and beginning fund balances.

**Revenue** - Sources of income, which the City receives during a fiscal year. Examples of revenue include taxes, intergovernmental grants, charges for services, resources forward from the prior year, operating transfers for other funds, and other financing sources such as the proceeds derived from the sales of fixed assets.

**Sales Tax** - .87% is returned to the City by the State Board of Equalization on a monthly direct deposit basis.

**Special Assessment Bonds** - Bonds payable from the proceeds of special assessment.

**Special Revenue Fund** - In governmental accounting, fund used to account for the proceeds of special revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trusts, or for major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditure for specified purpose.

**Service Charge** - Charges for specific services rendered. Accounts include Zoning and Subdivision Fees, Sale of Maps & Publications, Fingerprint Services – PD, Police Department Services, Street Cleaning – State Highway, Fire Department Services, Debris Pick-up, Banner Installation, Sunrise Hills Admin Fee/Assessment Collection.

**Services and Supplies** - Expenditures for services and supplies which are directly related to a department's primary service activities.

**Successor Agency to the City of Sonora RDA** – Effective February 1, 2012, all redevelopment agencies in the State of California were dissolved pursuant to AB 1X 26. Following the provisions of the Dissolution Act, the City Council of the City of Sonora adopted a resolution accepting for the City role of Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Sonora.

**Supplies** - An expenditure classification for articles and commodities purchased for consumption or resale.

**Taxes** - Compulsory charges levied by the City, County and State for the purpose of financing services performed for the common benefit.

**City Code** - A book that contains the City Council approved ordinances currently in effect. The code defines City policy with respect to areas such as planning, etc.

**Transient Occupancy Tax** - Imposed on hotels, motels, inns or other lodging facilities. The rate in Sonora is 10%.

**Transfers In/Out** - Money transferred from one City fund to another. Differs from revenues and expenses - see definition of these terms.

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

Following is a list of acronyms common to local government terminology:

<b>AB</b>	Assembly Bill
<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act
<b>AFIS</b>	Automated Fingerprint Identification System
<b>ARS</b>	Automated Reporting System
<b>BMP</b>	Below Market Price (Housing)
<b>BSCC</b>	Board of State and Community Corrections
<b>CAFR</b>	Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
<b>CDBG</b>	Community Development Block Grant
<b>CEQA</b>	California Environmental Quality Act
<b>CERT</b>	Community Emergency Response Team
<b>CHP</b>	California Highway Patrol
<b>CLEEP</b>	California Law Enforcement Equipment Program
<b>COP</b>	Certificates of Participation
<b>COPS</b>	Community Oriented Policing Services
<b>CPUC</b>	California Public Utilities Commission
<b>CSJVRMA</b>	Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Association
<b>CSMFO</b>	California Society of Municipal Finance Officers
<b>CSO</b>	Community Services Officer
<b>CY</b>	Current Year
<b>DARE</b>	Drug Awareness Resistance Education
<b>DART</b>	Disaster Aid Response Team
<b>DOJ</b>	Department of Justice
<b>DUI</b>	Driving Under the Influence
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Center
<b>ERAF</b>	Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<b>FTE</b>	Full-Time Equivalent (2080 annual work hours)
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal Year
<b>GAAP</b>	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
<b>GASB</b>	Governmental Accounting Standards Board
<b>GFOA</b>	Government Finance Officers Association
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>GO</b>	General Obligation (Bond)
<b>HCD</b>	Housing and Community Development

**∞ ACRONYMS ∞**

<b>HHW</b>	Household Hazardous Waste
<b>HUD</b>	Housing & Urban Development
<b>HUT</b>	Highway Users Tax
<b>HVAC</b>	Heating / Ventilation & Air Conditioning
<b>JPA</b>	Joint Powers Authority
<b>LAIF</b>	Local Agency Investment Fund
<b>LLD</b>	Landscaping & Lighting District
<b>LTF</b>	Local Transportation Fund
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MVLF</b>	Motor Vehicle in Lieu Fee (see also VLF)
<b>OCJP</b>	Office of Criminal Justice Planning
<b>OES</b>	Office of Emergency Services
<b>PCI</b>	Pavement Condition Index
<b>PEPRA</b>	Public Employees' Pension Reform Act
<b>PERS</b>	Public Employees' Retirement System
<b>POST</b>	Peace Officers Standard Training
<b>PPW</b>	Parks & Public Works Department
<b>PSAP</b>	Public Safety Answering Point
<b>PY</b>	Prior Year
<b>RDA</b>	Redevelopment Agency
<b>RSTP</b>	Regional Surface Transportation Program
<b>SB</b>	Senate Bill
<b>SA</b>	Successor Agency
<b>SAFER</b>	Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response
<b>SLESF</b>	Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund Grant
<b>SWAT</b>	Special Weapons and Tactics
<b>TCTC</b>	Tuolumne County Transportation Council
<b>TDA</b>	Transportation Development Act
<b>TFCA</b>	Transportation Fund for Clean Air
<b>TOT</b>	Transient Occupancy Tax
<b>VLF</b>	Motor Vehicles In Lieu Fee (see also MVLF)
<b>VIP</b>	Volunteers in Policing