



City Beat

www.modestogov.com
(209) 577-5200 • TDD (209) 526-9211

MARCH 2014



WIPES CLOG PIPES!

Many personal hygiene wipes, baby wipes, and cleaning products are marketed as being "flushable." Despite the confusing and misleading labels, you should never flush "flushable" or "disposable" products. These products do not break down as they move through the sewer system and may cause blockages in your home sewer lines, resulting in sewer backup in your home. They can also cause blockages in the City's sewer pipes and pumps, causing sewer overflows, costly cleanup and repairs, and extensive environmental damage.



Remember, the only things that should be flushed are human waste and toilet paper. Do not flush items such as disinfecting wipes, paper towels, baby wipes, towelettes, or mop refills. These items should be placed in the trash.

Please contact the City of Modesto Environmental Compliance Section at 577-6200 with any questions.

WATER CONSERVATION... more important than ever!

The City of Modesto thanks its water customers for doing their part to help combat the current drought conditions. Water flow reports indicate our water demand is being sustained. It is still vitally important to conserve water year round as it is a precious resource.

In March of 2003, the Modesto City Council adopted Stage One Water Restrictions of the City's Drought Contingency Plan. This plan was developed to address water capacity issues, including implementing measures to reduce water consumption through the water restrictions and the year-round watering schedule.

Stage One Water Restrictions include:

- No outdoor watering on Mondays
- Outdoor water use only before noon and after 7 p.m.
- **Addresses ending in odd-numbers are only water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday**
- **Addresses ending in even-numbers are only water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday**
- Car washing is subject to the above-cited limitations with the use of a positive shut-off nozzle
- Hosing of concrete areas, building exteriors, etc. may only be done with a City-issued permit and a positive shut-off nozzle
- Water leaks, once identified, must be repaired within 24 hours
- Restaurants are encouraged to serve water only upon request
- New landscaping (residential and commercial) must comply with existing landscape ordinances.
- All new single-family residences must have a water meter installed

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. As a rule, water in 5-minute cycles.
2. Turn-off automatic sprinklers when it rains; most automatic sprinkler systems have a rain delay mode or can be put in the "OFF" position without affecting the programming.
3. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants; this slows evaporation of moisture and, as a bonus, discourages weed growth and soil erosion.
4. Check for leaking pipes and faucets; small leaks that are not repaired immediately can waste more than 50 gallons of water a day, or 2,500 gallons per year.
5. Check for toilet tank leaks; place a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, if you see the food coloring seep into the bowl, you have a leak.
6. Install low-flow shower heads; they can save up to eight gallons of water each minute the shower is used, or 4,800 gallons per person each year.
7. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
8. Wash only full loads in your washing machine.

Water conservation is more important than ever to maintain our quality of life in the valley. Using only the proper amount of water and avoiding peak usage times has many benefits for the community such as:

- Preventing the waste of a precious resource that we all depend upon daily
- Improving the pressure in the distribution system so customers and the fire department have enough water when they need it
- Saving money by reducing the electricity needed to pump the water to your home or business.
- Reducing unnecessary wear on equipment, which reduces maintenance costs

Mo-Gro Pro

Contents: Composted Yard Waste, Paper and Food Waste

Quality Organic Compost
1 cu. ft. bags - \$3.25 (tax inc)
Bulk sales - call for pricing

Senior Citizens Center
Bag purchase available March 17 - November 14
211 Bodem St.
Monday: 10am-1pm
Tues-Friday: 9am-1pm

Modesto's Compost Facility
Bag or bulk purchase available all year round
7001 Jennings Rd.
571-5144
Mon thru Fri 8am-3:30pm



25th Annual
Earth Day in the Park Festival
A community supported event. Keep it growing!

April 19, 2014

It's that time again to mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our communities Earth Day in the Park Festival. We will be celebrating Green on Saturday, April 19th from 10am-4pm, in beautiful Graceada Park, located in downtown Modesto on the corner of Needham & Sycamore!

This FREE community event provides a wonderful opportunity to interact with vendors and artisans to see what is happening in our community as we continue to look for creative and innovative ways to conserve resources, promote sustainability, and protect our environment in a family-friendly atmosphere.

In honor of our 25th year being earth-friendly, we are looking for imaginative students to use their artistic abilities and enter our Trashformation recycled art contest, sponsored by Bertolotti Disposal. The contest is open to all school age children from public, private, and homeschooled organizations that want to create a masterpiece out of recycled materials for an opportunity to win cash prizes! See your school or our website for details. Good luck!

Be sure to attend the no cost Boyett B Green Recycling Event held on Stoddard Avenue between Park and Sycamore Avenues. This is a convenient drive thru event where all recyclables donated are matched dollar for dollar by Boyett Petroleum. 100% of the funds are applied to the City of Modesto "Adopt a Park" Program, which is currently raising money for new play equipment at Wesson Ranch Park in Modesto. Items accepted for recycling include:

- On site document shredding (limit 5 file boxes or grocery bags per person)
- CRV Bottles, Cans, Plastic & Scrap Metal
- E-Waste (TV's, computers, laptops, video games, electronics, etc.)
- Ink Jet, toners, cartridges

In addition, Covanta Energy will be collecting small batteries, cell phones and used mercury thermostats/thermometers. Stanislaus County Regional Transportation (StaRT) will be providing a FREE park and ride shuttle from the CrossPoint Church parking lot on Needham to and from Graceada Park every 20 minutes. Look for their booths!

This year's entertainment includes an environmental vaudeville act by the well-known EarthCapades, fun and games with Bubblemania & Company, and music by a local DJ. Also, back by popular demand, a demonstration from the Modesto Police Department's K9 Unit. Please save the date and bring your family and friends and celebrate 25 years of being Green with us!

For more information, visit: www.modestogov.com/earthday
or contact Vicki Rice, Recycling Program Coordinator at (209) 577-5495.

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

In 2011 Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill (AB) 341 into law and it became effective January 1, 2012. If you own and/or operate a business or have rental properties in California, this new law MAY impact you.

Assembly Bill 341 now requires businesses that produce four or more cubic yards of waste per week, and multifamily residences with five or more dwellings, to recycle, reuse and/or divert some of their waste from disposal.

Businesses in the City of Modesto that meet the above threshold must place recyclable materials in the bins or containers provided by their local garbage collection company, or may also donate, sell and/or make other arrangements for pick up and recycling of the materials to a "not for profit" organization. Businesses may also self-haul the materials to a recycling facility. Businesses must retain documentation and/or proof of receipt of method of recycling and make it available for inspection by the City of Modesto or CalRecycle upon request.

Information about California's mandatory business recycling requirements is available from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/>. You can also contact the City of Modesto Solid Waste Division at (209) 577-5458 for more information.

GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

Green Waste Collection is a monthly service provided (Jan-Nov) to residents living within the Modesto city limits. No appointment is needed.

Large green waste such as shrubbery, limbs, branches, brush and tree trimmings are collected from streets and alleys on a monthly basis (except December when only leaves are collected). Green waste is not collected on privately owned streets.

Small green waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and weeds are to be placed in the GREEN waste toter - not in the street or alley. The green yard waste toter is serviced on the same day as your black garbage toter.

In order to have your green waste collected, please follow these simple instructions:

- **Pieces must be:**
 - less than 6 feet long
 - less than 6 inches in diameter
 - single piece must weigh no more than 50 pounds
- **Piles must be:**
 - no more than 3 feet high
 - extend into the street no more than 3 feet
 - must be 18 inches away from curb
 - should not be placed on or near driveways, sidewalks, fire hydrants, drains or other utility fixtures
 - in alley, should be 18 inches from fence line or other obstruction

To view the collection map and scheduled collection times for your area, visit: www.modestogov.com/prnd/trees/green_waste

For more information, call the Green Waste Office at (209) 577-5463.

CITY OF MODESTO UTILITY BILLING

NEW **Online ePay**
Convenient • Fast • Easy

View your balance, billing history, make your payment, and more.



Enroll in Online ePay

www.modestogov.com/epay

Go Green with paperless billing and receive your statements via email, sign up for eBilling today!

For more information, visit us online at www.modestogov.com.



Modesto money

THE FISCAL FACTS ABOUT THE CITY OF MODESTO

Where do your tax dollars go?

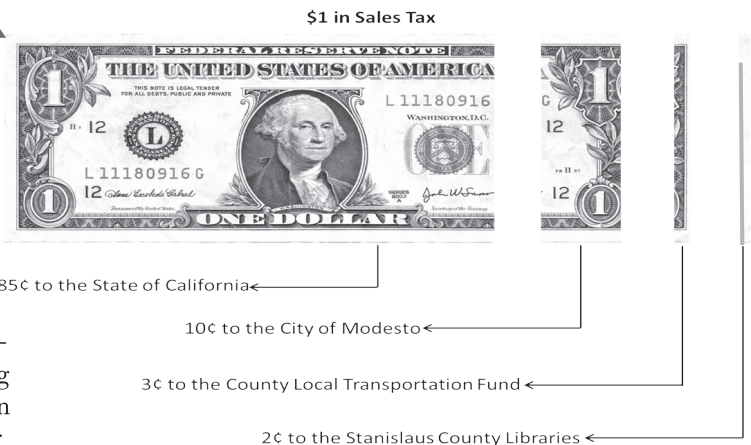
Sales Tax

The current sales tax rate in the City of Modesto is 7.625%. The rate increased on January 1, 2013 due to the passing of Proposition 30. Proposition 30 raised the state's sales tax by 0.25% to 7.5%.

The additional funding from the passage of Proposition 30 became

available to the state to fund programs in the state budget helping to prevent spending reductions in education programs in fiscal year 2012-13.

The 0.125% difference between the state's sales tax rate of 7.5% and the City of Modesto's sales



tax rate of 7.625% goes to the Stanislaus County Library system. It was a transaction and use tax that came into effect in

1995 and was maintained by vote through the passing of Measure T in June 2012.



In Stanislaus County, the property tax rate is currently 1% of a property's assessed value, plus any bonds or fees approved by the voters.

Property assessments cannot increase more than 2% annually.

Property Tax

On an average \$200,000 home, the semi-annual property tax paid is \$1,000 (1% of the assessed value).

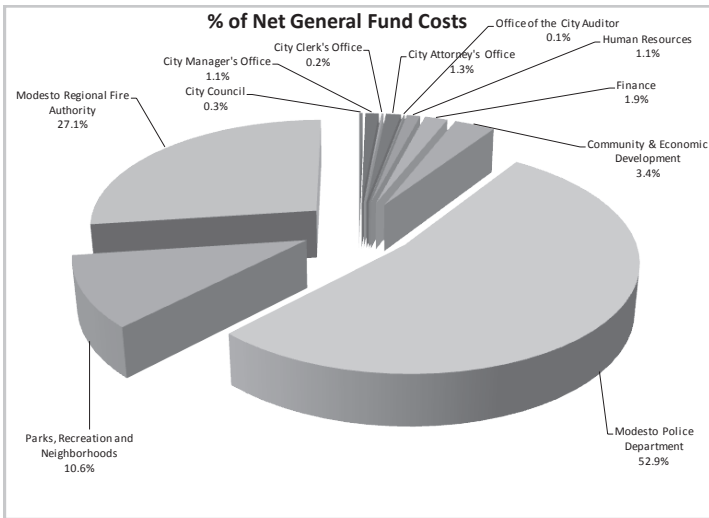
Of that, the City of Modesto receives \$68 to fund police, fire, parks, roads, and other services.

Property tax revenues support multiple general fund needs and services. However, if it was all placed into one service area or departments, the impact would be insignificant.

For example, if all of the revenue received by the City of Modesto from property tax was put into public safety, it still would only cover approximately 1/3 of the expenses for the Police Department.

The General Fund

Where does it all go?

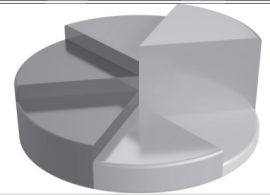


The main revenue sources of the General Fund include: property tax, sales tax, utility taxes, business licenses and franchise taxes, and certain other general purpose revenues from the State.

Police and Fire services require the bulk of the General Fund revenues, with the balance going to a variety of programs including parks, recreation, city trees, sidewalk maintenance, planning, economic development and general government (as you can see in the chart to the left).

The City's General Fund is the primary operating fund.

Revenue Trends



Current projections from MuniServices, a consultant who assists the City with its sales tax projections, show that the sales tax figures for the City of Modesto will increase over the next five years; but other areas are still showing a decline.

The Motor Vehicle License Fees that the City has received from the state in the past (roughly \$600,000 to \$700,000) are no longer guaranteed to be received from the state and have not been budgeted in fiscal year 2012-13 and beyond. Since fiscal year 2002-2003, City revenue generated from Motor Vehicle License Fees has dropped from \$11.7 million to \$0.

Property tax continues to drop as commercial areas that have been affected by the recession are showing declining property values. They are expected to show only slight increases over the next five years.

Making a Difference

<http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us/mpd/>

Did you know that in 2013 Modesto Police Department ranked in First Place for our National Night Out?

Winning the prestigious award for our National Night Out event was due, in large part, to the Modesto community coming together to get to know their neighbors and taking a stand against crime. National Night Out is only one night a year. What are *YOU* doing the other 364 days to make your neighborhood a safer place to live?



Take the Challenge!

- o Use the squares above as a challenge to get to know your neighbors by name. Fill in the boxes with the contact information of the neighbors living beside you, behind you, and across the street. Getting to know your neighbors is the start to forming a close neighborhood of people who protect each other.
- o Join a Neighborhood Watch group—or start one. Neighborhood Watch is the number one crime-prevention tool. For more information on Neighborhood Watch, contact Modesto Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at (209) 572-9639.
- o Make your neighborhood undesirable to criminals. Remove all valuables from your parked vehicle; leave outdoor lights on; place a lock on your gates; and keep trash receptacles behind locked gates.
- o And remember to always report suspicious activity immediately to the Police Department by calling (209) 552-2470!



CITY OF
MODESTO
CALIFORNIA

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Visit us online at
www.modestogov.com.