



SAN MATEO NEWS

Your City, Our Community

OCTOBER 2025



Building San Mateo's Future Together: Our First Citywide Strategic Plan

On Sept. 15, 2025, the City Council approved San Mateo's first citywide Strategic Plan—a milestone that

marks a new chapter in how we serve our community. This plan is more than just a document; it is a roadmap built on years of listening, learning, and planning with you, our residents. It will help us prioritize resources, align our work with community values, and move intentionally toward a shared vision for San Mateo's future.

A Plan Rooted in Community Voices

The Strategic Plan reflects years of input gathered through our General Plan 2040 process, a statistically significant Community Opinion Survey conducted earlier this year, and dozens of community conversations—particularly with historically underrepresented groups in San Mateo. Over half of our residents identify as Latino, African American, Asian American, or Pacific Islander, and it was vital to ensure these perspectives shaped the initiatives that will guide us forward.

Through these efforts, residents told us what they value most: safe neighborhoods, resilient infrastructure, affordable housing, economic opportunity, sustainable practices, and a government that listens and responds. These priorities became the backbone of the Strategic Plan.

Mission, Values, and 10 Strategic Initiatives

Our mission is clear: *to cultivate a vibrant, safe community through collaboration, innovation, and sustainability.* To carry this mission forward, the plan is anchored in five values—Prosperity, Inclusivity, Diversity, Resiliency, and Integrity.

With those values in mind, the City Council selected 10 Strategic Initiatives that represent the key areas of focus for the years ahead:

- Climate Resiliency
- Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Healthy Community for All Ages
- Public Safety
- Land Use
- Organizational Health and Good Governance
- Community Engagement and Communications

Each initiative includes specific goals designed to make measurable progress. For example, our Climate Resiliency initiative commits the City to both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and seeking external funding for projects that help us adapt to a changing climate. Our Public Safety initiative highlights not just traditional fire and police services, but also the innovative mental health assistance programs that are increasingly vital in serving our community.

Priority Initiatives for 2026/27

While all 10 initiatives matter, four will be prioritized as we enter the next two-year budget cycle: **Climate Resiliency, Infrastructure, Transportation, and Housing.**

These areas were identified as the most urgent to address in the near term and will guide both policy and budget decisions.

That means you will see investments in maintaining and upgrading critical infrastructure, advancing housing solutions, improving east-west travel and last-mile connections, and expanding our work to prepare for climate impacts such as sea-level rise and stronger storms.

A Shared Path Forward

I am proud that San Mateo now has a Strategic Plan that reflects our values, our diversity, and our aspirations. It is a living document, meant to evolve as our city evolves. Most importantly, it is built on the idea that government works best when it listens to its people.

As City Manager, I am committed to making sure this plan is more than words on paper. It will guide our daily decisions, from budget priorities to community programs, so that together we can build a San Mateo that is safe, resilient, inclusive, and prosperous for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we move into this exciting new chapter.

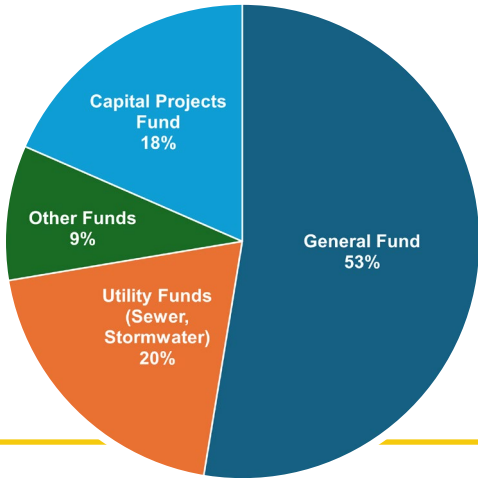
— Alex Khojikian
City Manager, City of San Mateo

BUDGET UPDATE

San Mateo Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Update

This past June, the City Council adopted the FY 2025-26 budget, totaling \$333.5 million for operations and capital improvements. As shown in the pie chart, 53% of the budget is attributed to the General Fund, which supports core services like police, fire, library, parks and recreation, engineering, street maintenance, housing, planning, and general administration. The

second largest allocation (20%) funds City utilities, including sewer services and stormwater and flood control. For capital projects, \$61.5 million (18%) is budgeted for completion of the Clean Water Program, roads and bridges rehabilitation, bikeway/pedestrian safety projects, and parks and facility improvements.



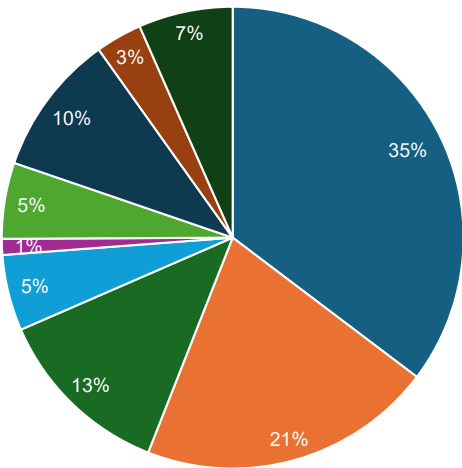
General Fund Budget

The General Fund budget for FY 2025-26 is \$187.8 million, with \$175.4 million for operating expenditures and \$12.4 million in transfers out, of which \$8.9 million supports capital improvements. The budget reflects moderate growth in most General Fund revenues. The top three revenues are property tax, sales tax, and real property transfer tax. Property tax growth is expected to continue at a steady 3-4% which is lower

than in previous years and reflects the slower housing market and uncertainty around interest rates. Additionally, there is concern in this area due to shortfalls of property tax in-lieu of Vehicle License Fee (VLF) that the City receives from the State of California. Sales tax revenue remains flat at \$28 million. Real property transfer tax revenue, which fluctuates with economic conditions, is budgeted conservatively at \$8 million, but may be

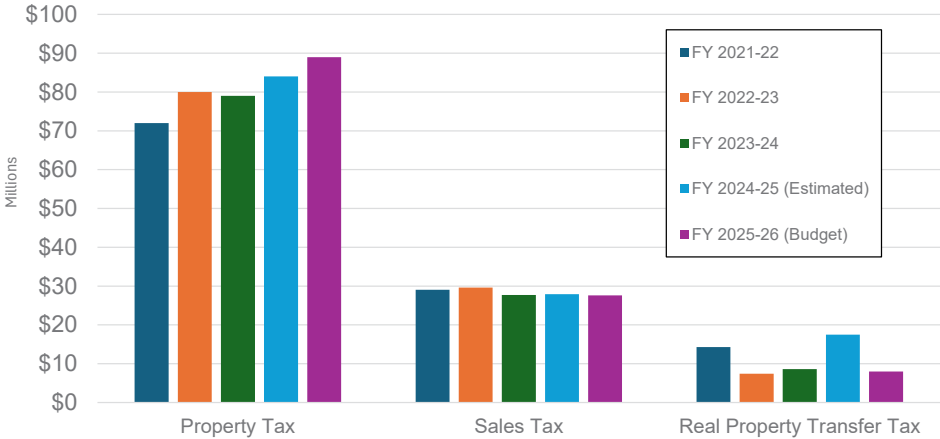
higher depending on commercial and residential transactions during the year. With expenditures also estimated to grow and anticipated to exceed revenues, the General Fund faces an estimated \$12 million budget deficit for FY 2025-26 to maintain service levels and continue our investment in critical capital projects.

General Fund Expense Budget By Department



- Police
- SMC Fire
- Parks & Recreation
- Library
- Community Development
- Public Works
- General Admin
- Non-Departmental
- Transfer Out

General Fund Top 3 Revenues



Boards & Commissions

San Mateo needs passionate, involved individuals to advise our elected leaders on matters of community interest. We're seeking diversely skilled citizens from all walks of life to share their ideas and expertise.

Could our next vacancy be filled by you?
Learn More: www.cityofsanmateo.org/61



Financial Sustainability

The FY 2025-26 budget was developed amidst various financial challenges, including slow home sales, high commercial vacancy rates, elevated interest rates, inflation, rising service costs, and aging infrastructure. While the General Fund currently has healthy reserves to cover this year's anticipated \$12 million deficit, relying on reserves to balance the City's budget is not sustainable. Instead, the reserves give the City time to develop and implement its financial sustainability plans. This includes evaluating all the levers at its disposal to reduce the City's ongoing structural deficit including expenditure control, revenue enhancements, cost recovery and cost allocation, grant opportunities and economic development.

The City's annual budget is an important framework for summarizing the City's financial situation, prioritizing limited resources, and balancing the varied needs of the community. The budget both authorizes funding for ongoing City services and sets aside capital to invest in our infrastructure and facilities. Funding both areas is critical as ongoing operations includes services such as police and fire, street and park maintenance, library services and other general services while the capital funding is invested in updated parks and playgrounds, welcoming libraries and recreation centers, smooth and safe streets, effective clean water infrastructure and important storm and flood controls. For more information on the City's annual budget process please visit the Finance Department's website with links to current and past business plans.

www.cityofsanmateo.org/Finance

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Historic Policy Update Effort

The City of San Mateo is moving forward with updating its Historic Resource policies and preparing a Citywide Historic Context Statement. These efforts will ensure our historic preservation policies reflect today's best practices while celebrating the unique history and character that make San Mateo special.

Over the past several months, we've gathered valuable input from the community through focus groups, workshops, and our Digital Time Capsule project. This feedback is helping shape the vision for how we protect and honor San Mateo's historic places.

What's Happening Now

City staff and the project team are reviewing the feedback collected to date and planning the next phase of engagement, including mobile workshops and additional focus groups. Draft policies and recommendations will be developed and shared with the community in the coming months, offering more opportunities for residents to help guide the future of historic preservation in San Mateo.

How to Stay Involved in the Digital Time Capsule:

- Share your perspective: **Contribute to the Digital Time Capsule** with a photo, story, or reflection on what makes San Mateo meaningful to you.
- Stay informed: **Visit the Historic Policy Update project website** for updates, resources, and upcoming event details. www.cityofsanmateo.org/historicpolicyupdate
- Join the conversation: Look out for our upcoming community workshops—another chance to share your perspective before draft policies are finalized.



Comprehensive Zoning Code Update Underway

This fall, the City of San Mateo is launching a comprehensive update of the Zoning Code (Title 27 of the Municipal Code) to align with the recently adopted **Strive San Mateo General Plan 2040** and **2023–2031 Housing Element**.

The General Plan 2040—shaped by years of community input—sets a vision for San Mateo's future: focusing housing and jobs near transit, promoting sustainability, supporting economic development, and maintaining our community's quality of life.

Updating the Zoning Code will:

- Create standards and processes to implement General Plan 2040.
- Remove outdated rules and requirements.
- Align development standards with community priorities.
- Make the code clearer and easier to use.

Learn more and find out how to get involved at www.StriveSanMateo.org.

HISTORY FUN FACT

San Mateo's Recording Studio

Did you know San Mateo once had a legendary recording studio? In 1968, guitarist Paul Curcio founded **Pacific Recording Studios** at 1737 South El Camino Real. As the Bay Area's first 16-track studio, it quickly became a hot spot for musicians drawn to its cutting-edge technology and famously "good vibes."

Over the next decade, big names like Neil Young, Santana, Malo, Cold Blood, Elvin Bishop, Taj Mahal, Grateful Dead and Big Brother recorded there.



Credit: Ernst Fosselius, Artist

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE



San Mateo Celebrates Completion of \$597 Million Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade — One of the Most Sustainable Treatment Plants in the Nation

Federal, state, and local leaders joined community members on Sept. 24 to cut the ribbon on San Mateo's new **state-of-the-art Wastewater Treatment Plant**, the largest component of the City's **\$1 billion Clean Water Program**.

The upgraded facility replaces 75-year-old infrastructure, eliminates sewer overflows, and introduces advanced treatment technologies that protect public health and safeguard **San Francisco Bay** for generations to come.

Largest-of-its-kind features include:

- **One of the largest BioActiflo systems in the world**, enabling treatment of up to **78 million gallons per day** during heavy storms.
- **A 5.3-million-gallon Underground Flow Equalization System (UFES)** at the San Mateo Event Center — one of the largest wastewater storage facilities of its kind in California — preventing neighborhood flooding and protecting the Bay.
- **Five-stage Biological Nutrient Removal and Membrane Bioreactor systems**, making this one of the most advanced treatment facilities in California.
- **A LEED Silver-certified administration building**, plus new public pathways, landscaping, and educational signage.

Congressman Kevin Mullin praised the federal loan program, which provided \$277 million in low-interest funding and **"saved millions for local ratepayers"** while ensuring the project could move forward."

City Manager Alex Khojikian called the facility "a once-in-a-generation investment that prepares our community for climate change — from sea-level rise to more extreme storms. At the same time, we wanted to build more than an industrial facility. This plant doubles as a community

amenity, with walking paths, public art, and educational features that connect residents to the importance of protecting our Bay."

Mayor Rob Newsom added: "Wastewater treatment may not be glamorous, but it is essential. This plant reflects our commitment to San Mateo's Climate Action Plan — planning for the future, cutting emissions, and protecting public health every single day."

Construction, led by Sundt, Jacobs, and HDR, began in 2019 and was completed while the old plant stayed in operation. Co-owned by San Mateo and Foster City/EMID, the upgraded facility also serves half of Hillsborough, the Crystal Springs County Sanitation District, and parts of unincorporated San Mateo County — serving more than 170,000 residents.



Community Voices Shape Safer Streets in San Mateo

Evaluation of **alternatives to the Humboldt Bike Lanes** continues to progress. The second community meeting was held on August 25, at which staff shared concepts for potential bike boulevards on Idaho and Fremont Street, shaped by earlier feedback. The final community meeting is scheduled for Oct. 27, 6-8:30 p.m. at Fiesta Gardens International School. Staff brings community feedback to the Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission in December and City Council in February 2026.

The **Fashion Island Blvd./19th Avenue multi-modal improvement project** will install protected bike lanes, provide pedestrian enhancements, and provide congestion relief along 19th Avenue

and Fashion Island Blvd. This project was presented to City Council on Sept. 15 to introduce the project design and discuss preliminary traffic analyses. The second series of community meetings-- Nov. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at College Park Elementary and Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. via Zoom--will both present the same revised designs and traffic analysis findings that reflect community input from the first meeting on July 15.

The **Delaware Safe Routes to School project** held a final community meeting on August 19 to present a revised design for a portion of the corridor to the community. Positive feedback from that meeting, along with feedback from City Council at the Sept. 2 meeting, confirmed that the project will move

forward into construction with that revised design. City Council action on a construction contract is anticipated in late November. Thank you to all who continue to share ideas and participate!

The **3rd and Norfolk Safety Improvements – Bike Access and Traffic Signal Modification** project has completed a number of concrete and striping improvements. Final work will be started pending receipt of the traffic signal equipment, which is anticipated in November or December this year. As a reminder, northbound bicyclists on Norfolk should continue to use extra caution approaching 3rd Avenue, while the team finishes the signal and safety improvements at the new Creek Trail crossing.

Quieter, Safer Rail Crossings Ahead for San Mateo

On August 18, 2025, the City Council approved and directed staff to proceed with the permanent closures of Villa Terrace and East Bellevue Avenue at the railroad tracks to establish a Train Quiet Zone. Prior to the City Council's decision, City staff conducted traffic studies and extensive public outreach to gather resident feedback about the proposed closures. The project is currently in the design phase, with construction anticipated to begin in Fall/Winter 2026.

Once established, the Train Quiet Zone Program will reduce the routine noise of train horns near rail crossings and increase rail safety. Trains may still sound their horns as a safety measure in certain scenarios, such as when approaching station platforms, entering construction zones, or encountering a hazard on the tracks. In addition, other safety warning devices, such as locomotive bells and flashing lights at railroad crossings, will remain in use.

For more information about the Train Quiet Zone Program, please visit www.cityofsanmateo.org/trainhornnoise.

Smooth Streets Progress & Pavement Restoration Goals

The City of San Mateo's Smooth Streets Program is dedicated to rebuilding roads that have deteriorated beyond the point of regular maintenance. Since its launch in 2013, the program has reconstructed approximately 15 miles of roadway, with a total of 22 miles identified citywide for improvements. The effort is funded in part by Measure S, a voter-approved sales tax extension that supports community priorities such as street rehabilitation.

Phase 4 is wrapping up this season and planning for Phase 5 is already underway, with pre-construction coordination currently in progress. Phase 5 construction is anticipated to begin in Spring/Summer 2026, and its completion will mark the successful conclusion of the Smooth Streets Program. The City will continue making roadway improvements across its 220 miles of streets as part of its ongoing pavement management program. More information about the program and its upcoming 5-year project plans are available here: www.cityofsanmateo.org/pavingprogram.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE *Continued*



Adopt-A-Drain Program

Winter is quickly approaching, which means that now is a great time to volunteer to adopt a drain near your home and keep it clear of debris. You can sign up from our Adopt-A-Drain website, www.cityofsanmateo.org/adoptadrain. Residents currently help the City maintain 302 storm drains, helping reduce flooding and preventing pollution of our waterways. We have over 3,000 drains still available for adoption. By helping to keep storm drains clear, you decrease flooding from storms, protect water quality, and keep trash from storm drains and connected creeks and water bodies. Thanks for helping keep San Mateo and the San Francisco Bay beautiful and litter-free! If you have any questions, please reach out to our team at adoptadrain@cityofsanmateo.org.

Storm Season Readiness + Resident Action Tips



During wet weather, residents can use **free 24/7 self-serve sandbag stations**, limited to 10 bags per vehicle, with proof of residency required. For locations and details, visit our sandbag information website at www.cityofsanmateo.org/sandbags.

Residents should also take necessary **prevention measures** including gathering emergency supplies, cleaning gutters, securing outdoor furniture, checking sump pumps, protecting valuables in flood-prone areas, and keeping nearby drains free of debris. Community members are encouraged to **check on neighbors**, especially the elderly or those with mobility challenges.

For timely information, residents can sign up for SMC Alerts at www.smcgov.org/dem/smc-alert or the San Mateo Police Department's Nixle alerts at www.cityofsanmateo.org/emergencyalerts.

Emergencies on public property, such as flooding, blocked drains, or fallen trees, should be **reported to Public Works at (650) 522-7300 (or 522-7700 after hours)**. Downed power lines require a 9-1-1 call. In the event of major flooding or evacuation, residents can call 2-1-1 for shelter locations and recovery resources, while San Mateo County Public Health provides guidance on cleanup and safety.

The City is also working hard on its **storm season readiness efforts**. This includes preventative maintenance checks at all of our pump stations; inspecting and cleaning all City-owned trash racks, trash capture devices, and storm drain catch basins; continuing to



update our Storm Drain Master Plan; and preparing for spot dredging of the Marina Lagoon in summer of 2026.

Sandbag Stations Now Open – Protect Your Home Before the Storm!

Great News, San Mateo! Sandbag stations are now OPEN! Be prepared with sandbags at three convenient, self-serve locations:

- Corp Yard – 1949 Pacific Blvd.
- Beresford Park Parking Lot – 2720 Alameda de las Pulgas
- Anchor Road/Bay Trail Parking Lot – Anchor Rd at 3rd Ave. / J. Hart Clinton Drive
- Max 10 bags per vehicle (be prepared to show proof of residency/ownership)
- Bring your own shovel and heavy-duty trash bags in case bags run out!
- Sand and bags are available while supplies last, so act fast! Fill your own bags at these self-serve locations and be ready for whatever comes your way!

Stay safe, San Mateo!

www.cityofsanmateo.org/Sandbags



Pardon Our Dust – Building San Mateo!

If it feels like there's a lot of construction happening in San Mateo's parks, you're right! The City's Parks and Recreation Department is investing in upgrades that will make our community spaces safer, more fun, and more inviting for years to come.

Central Park Playground Project

Construction began this summer on a full renovation of Central Park's playground. The new **Adventure Village** design is a magical, forest-inspired space nestled into the park's beloved tree canopy. The project also includes a new prefabricated restroom, covered picnic shelter, utility upgrades, and site improvements. Demolition and new sewer line installation are complete, and we expect custom play equipment to arrive soon. *(Partially funded by Measure S.)*

East Hillsdale Park Improvements Project

This neighborhood park is getting a much-needed refresh with modern play equipment, a repaved perimeter pathway, upgraded lighting, and storm drainage improvements. *(Partially funded by Proposition 68 – the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018.)*

Poplar Creek Golf Course Irrigation Well Project

A new well will enhance the golf course's water supply, efficiency, and long-term sustainability by supplementing the existing well.

Additional Facility Upgrades (Public Works partnership)

- Field lighting upgrades at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park — construction planned Oct.–Nov. 2025
- Emergency generator upgrades at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center — recently completed

All of these projects reflect years of planning, community input, and citywide collaboration. We're excited to deliver parks and facilities that keep San Mateo thriving!



“Boos” and Brews on B Street

The City of San Mateo Parks and Recreation Department and the Downtown San Mateo Association invite you to **“Boos” and Brews on B Street** — a free, fang-tastic celebration on **Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, from 3–5 p.m.** on the **Downtown Pedestrian Mall (B Street between 1st & 3rd avenues).**

Bring the whole family for kid-friendly activities, crafts, a photo booth, music, and of course, **trick-or-treating!** Costumes are encouraged for all ages.

Make a day of it: grab lunch before or enjoy dinner downtown after the event.

New this year: Devil's Canyon Brewing Co. will be selling beer and wine on-site, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the **San Mateo Police Activities League.**

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025
- **Time:** 3–5 p.m.
- **Location:** B Street Pedestrian Mall (between 1st & 3rd avenues.)

Don't miss this spook-tacular afternoon of fun for the whole community!

More details at: www.cityofsanmateo.org/specialevents



LIBRARY



Marina Library Renovation Update

Construction on the **Marina Branch Library** began Sept. 8 and is expected to take about 16 months. The project, partially funded by Measure S, will strengthen the building's foundation and level the sloping floors.

Inside, the library will be refreshed with new paint, carpet, furniture, and bookshelves, and will feature a new **community and teen space**.

While the branch is closed, eastside residents can conveniently **pick up library holds at the Shoreview Recreation Center** on select days of the week.

Learn more at: www.cityofsanmateo.org/marinarestoration.



Meet Mateo 2.0, Our New Outreach Van!

Our new outreach van, Mateo 2.0, is hard to miss with its bold, vibrant wrap that makes it instantly recognizable wherever it goes!

This summer, Mateo popped up weekly at Storytime in Beresford Park and joined the fun at National Night Out. In the months ahead, you'll spot Mateo at community festivals, farmers markets, schools, parks, and more—bringing library services and resources right to you.

The Main Library will be closed **Oct. 30-31** for a maintenance project. Hillsdale Library will be open regular hours on both days.

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE



Lend a Hand, Build a Stronger San Mateo

The City of San Mateo's Volunteer Program offers a wide range of opportunities to share your talents, energy, and passion with the community. From supporting seniors and leading youth activities to helping at neighborhood cleanups or lending a hand in the library, there's a role for everyone who wants to give back.

Volunteering is a great way to connect with neighbors, learn new skills, and strengthen the programs that keep San Mateo vibrant and welcoming. Explore opportunities that match your interests and join us in making a lasting, positive impact across our city.

Learn more at our Volunteer site, www.cityofsanmateo.org/Volunteer.



Gas Leaf Blowers are on their Way Out in San Mateo: Make the Switch to Electric and Get Your Rebate Now!

On Oct. 6 the City Council directed staff to draft an ordinance banning gas-powered leaf blowers to help reduce our carbon footprint. Take advantage of the City's Electric Leaf Blower rebate program today. Residents in San Mateo can get up to \$100 and landscaping businesses with an active San Mateo business license are eligible for up to \$500 toward the purchase of an electric leaf blower and batteries. Electric models are quieter, cleaner and the future of landscaping in our city. Share this program with your gardener or neighbor – together, we can make a real impact.

Find out more at www.cityofsanmateo.org/leafblowers

San Mateo is Exploring Reach Codes for Cooling Upgrades and Home Renovations to Reduce GHG Emissions from Buildings

Reach codes are local amendments to the state code that go beyond minimum state requirements. The adoption of reach codes is key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings to advance our climate goals.

The City of San Mateo is exploring the following reach codes for the 2025 Code Cycle (2025-2027).

Potential Reach Code Options for 2025 Code Cycle

COVERED PROJECT	BUILDING TYPE	REACH CODE REQUIREMENT
Cooling Upgrades	<i>Single Family, Townhome, Duplex</i>	Install heat pump or AC system with energy efficiency measures that exceed State Code
Cooling Upgrades	<i>Nonresidential Building</i>	Install heat pump or AC system with energy efficiency measures that exceed State Code
Major addition or renovation	<i>Single Family, Townhome, Duplex</i>	Choose from a menu of energy efficiency, electrification and/or electric readiness measures to meet target score
Kitchen renovation, laundry area renovation	<i>Single Family, Townhome, Duplex</i>	Electric-readiness measures (reserved breakers space, receptacles, conduit)
New Construction	<i>Residential and Nonresidential Buildings</i>	Energy performance margins; cost effectiveness studies should be available in 2026 and would have to be reviewed at a future date if Council directs action

Come join the conversation and participate in the next **community meeting**:

- **Nov. 3, 2025 City Council**, City Hall (330 W. 20th Ave.) and Zoom, tentative
- www.cityofsanmateo.org/2025reachcodes

Take advantage of rebates while reducing your carbon footprint!

San Mateo residents and businesses are eligible for all types of rebates to make sustainable changes.



Peninsula Clean Energy electric equipment rebates and loan program

Upgrade from appliances powered by fossil fuels to modern and efficient electric appliances. Home electrification helps the environment and improves health impacts by reducing the pollution from buildings.

- Heat Pump Water Heater up to \$2,500
- Heat Pump AC \$1,500
- Electrical panel upgrade \$1,000
- Zero-interest loan program, \$10,000

Don't know where to start? From do-it-yourself to done-for-you, Peninsula Clean Energy can help you find the rebates and services you need to move easily from gas to electric. Everything you need to go electric, efficiently, and on budget. Get personalized support through Peninsula Clean Energy.



BAWSCA Rain Barrel rebate

Save water, reduce runoff and pollution, and collect pure rainwater for your garden!

- Rain Barrel up to \$200 per barrel



Cal Water conservation rebates

Cal Water offers both indoor and outdoor rebates and programs to help customers save water every day.

- Lawn to garden, \$3 per square foot max 1,500 SF
- Spray-to-drip, \$.50 per square foot
- High-efficiency toilet, \$50
- High-efficiency clothes washer, \$150

Visit www.cityofsanmateo.org/sustainability for more information.



Step Up for Safety: Join CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact San Mateo, and trains them in basic disaster response skills. CERT training involves nine sessions and consists of interactive lectures and hands-on practice. The next series of community CERT classes will begin in early 2026. Be the first to know when new CERT classes become available by joining the CERT academy notification list here: www.smcfire.org/cert-academy-notification-list.

Building an Inclusive San Mateo: Language Access Plan

To help ensure meaningful access to programs and services, San Mateo is developing a Language Access Plan. The goal of this work is to ensure that the City and its departments provide meaningful access to information, programs, benefits, and services to people with limited English proficiency and ensure that language is not a barrier to accessing vital city services. We are in the process of reviewing our public programs and services to ensure we provide information effectively in languages other than English.

Be Ready San Mateo: Build Your Own Emergency Kit

The City of San Mateo recently stocked every employee workstation with a three-day emergency backpack kit to ensure staff are prepared to respond and keep services running during a disaster. If it's important for City staff, it's just as important for your household. Emergencies like earthquakes, power outages, or storms can disrupt normal services for several days. That's why we encourage every San Mateo resident to build their own family emergency kit with enough supplies to last at least 72 hours.

What to include in your kit:

- Water (one gallon per person per day) and non-perishable food
- First-aid kit and necessary medications
- Flashlight, batteries, and light sticks
- Masks, gloves, and basic tools
- Blankets, warm clothing, and personal hygiene items
- Copies of important documents and contact numbers

Need a step-by-step guide? Visit www.ready.gov/kits for a full checklist and resources.

Preparedness is a community effort. By building your own kit, you're helping keep your family safe — and making San Mateo stronger and more resilient in the face of any emergency.

Shop Local, Feel Welcome: San Mateo's Age-Friendly Businesses

San Mateo is proud to recognize local shops and services through our **Age-Friendly Business Certification Program**, which is tailored to be welcoming to seniors.

From clear signage to customer service that values every generation, these certified businesses are helping make our community more vibrant and age-friendly.

See the list of certified businesses here:
www.cityofsanmateo.org/agefriendly.

Have a favorite neighborhood spot that should be recognized? Share this program with them and help us expand the network of age-friendly businesses in San Mateo!

October Safety Spotlight: Fire Prevention & Earthquake Preparedness

Each October, we recognize **Fire Prevention Month** to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and raise awareness about fire safety. This year's national campaign theme is **"Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home!"**—highlighting safe use of battery-powered devices we rely on every day.

October is also when Californians participate in the **Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill**, making it a perfect time to review both **fire** and **earthquake safety** practices.



Recent examples of lithium-ion explosion and fire

Fire Safety Tips

- **Use batteries wisely:** Smartphones, tablets, vacuums, headphones, e-scooters, e-bikes, e-wheelchairs, and e-vehicles often contain lithium-ion batteries that can overheat, catch fire, or explode if damaged or misused.
- **Shop safe:** Choose products with a nationally recognized testing lab mark. Items without certification (often sold online) pose higher risks.

- **Charge smart:** Place devices on hard surfaces, follow manufacturer instructions, avoid overcharging, and unplug once fully charged.
- **Protect your home to prevent or mitigate fires:**
 - Install smoke alarms on ceilings or high on walls, at least 10 feet from stoves. Test monthly and replace every 10 years.
 - Use fire-resistant building materials and clear flammable vegetation around your home.
 - Make sure street names and house numbers are visible for first responders.

Wildfire Readiness

- Create defensible space in the **three home ignition zones** (moderate, high, very high).
- Sign up for **SMC Alert** at smcalert.info to get emergency alerts in multiple languages by text, email, or voice.
- Use **Genesys Protect** (protect.genesys.com) for real-time evacuation maps and updates to help families and first responders stay coordinated.

Earthquake Preparedness

Every October the Great ShakeOut Drill is an important reminder to practice *"Drop, Cover, and Hold On."*

Additional earthquake safety tips:

- **Before:** Secure heavy furniture, mirrors, and items on shelves; keep

an emergency kit with water, food, flashlight, and medications.

- **During:** Drop to your hands and knees, cover your head and neck under sturdy furniture, and hold on until shaking stops. Stay away from windows.
- **After:** Check for gas leaks and damage before re-entering buildings. Expect aftershocks and be ready to evacuate if needed.



What to Do During an Earthquake:



Shake Out

Learn more at ShakeOut.org

For more information on fire safety, check out the Fire Prevention & Life Safety webpage at smcfire.org/fire-prevention-life-safety. For earthquake safety go to shakeout.org.



Kayla Adams Joins SMPD as Domestic Violence Advocate

The San Mateo Police Department is proud to welcome **Kayla Adams** as a Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team (DVERT) Advocate. In this new role, Kayla will respond alongside officers to domestic violence calls, providing immediate trauma-informed support to survivors and connecting them with critical resources.

Kayla brings more than a decade of experience as a mental health case manager in Seattle and most recently worked with San Mateo County Probation. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Washington.

The DVERT Pilot Program is a partnership between the County Sheriff's Office, Daly City Police Department, SMPD, and CORA. Advocates are embedded with law enforcement to ensure safety, provide compassionate support, and connect survivors with services when they are most needed.

Kayla will also serve on SMPD's Holistic Oriented Policing & Engagement (H.O.P.E.) team, which combines law enforcement, clinicians, and specialists to enhance public safety and deliver holistic support to the community.



San Mateo City Hall

330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

PRESORT
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 185
SACRAMENTO, CA

SAN MATEO NEWS

Your City, Our Community

*****ECRWSEDDM*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, the minimum wage will increase to \$18.60 per hour for all employees working within the City of San Mateo. This minimum wage applies to all businesses within city limits, regardless of size.

Additionally, the minimum salary for full-time exempt employees will increase from \$68,640 to \$70,304 per year on Jan. 1, 2026, in accordance with California's requirement that exempt employees must earn at least twice the state minimum wage for full-time work.

Learn more about the City's minimum wage ordinance and how to report violations on our web page:

www.cityofsanmateo.org/MinimumWage.

WE ARE HIRING!

Competitive wages

Comprehensive benefits

Diverse and inclusive workplace

Meaningful, impactful work

CURRENT OPENINGS INCLUDE:

- Building Inspector I/II
- Custodian (Per Diem)
- Deputy Director of Finance
- Maintenance Assistant I – Per Diem (Parks)
- Police Officer (Lateral) \$30,000 Hiring Bonus
- Senior Instrument Control Technician
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Mechanic I/II

Learn More and Apply at

www.calopps.org/city-of-san-mateo

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE CITY

MAIN PHONE NUMBERS

City Clerk (Public Meetings) 650-522-7040
 Planning/Building/Permits 650-522-7200
 Code Enforcement 650-522-7150
 Business Licenses 650-522-7113
 Fire Department 650-522-7900

Main Library 650-522-7802
 Parks and Recreation 650-522-7400
 Police 650-522-7700
 Public Works 650-522-7300
 Trees 650-522-7420

You can choose to be informed and engaged by signing up for news, announcements, emergency alerts, events and programs through our digital communications channels.



Sign up for our
eNewsletter

www.cityofsanmateo.org/enews



如需本期通讯的数字版本，请扫描此二维码。

For digital version of this newsletter scan this QR code

Para la versión digital de este boletín escanee este código QR.

www.cityofsanmateo.org/sanmateonews

Follow us on social media: @cityofsanmateo



www.cityofsanmateo.org/socialmedia