



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR MAHAN

FROM: Councilmember Bien Doan

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: 5/22/2025

Approved

Date 5/22/2025

RECOMMENDATION

Modify the City Manager's 2025-2026 Proposed Budget to incorporate the following budget proposal, including any required funding allocation adjustments.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Improving Health Safety and Cleanliness at the Alma Senior Center

Amount of City Funding Required: \$6,000

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): 35

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

In response to growing concerns from staff, residents, and facility users, this Budget Document will fund \$6,000 to either the Community Center or Public Works to increase the frequency of power washes and bio-waste clean ups at Alma Senior Center resulting in monthly and as-needed power washing of the grounds.

The Alma Senior Center is experiencing ongoing quality of life and safety challenges related to bio-waste and other sanitation issues. These conditions have worsened due to impacts stemming from the unsheltered population in the surrounding area, including the presence of individuals facing addiction and mental health challenges. These conditions have made it increasingly difficult for seniors and families to safely enjoy the center and its programming.

This budget document requests funding for additional routine power washing services and targeted maintenance contracts (in addition to what already exists) to address:

- Cleanup of biohazardous waste (e.g., human waste, needles)
- Repugnant smells and odors
- General exterior sanitation and power washes to maintain a clean and welcoming environment

The Senior Center is in a busy intersection situated between a PATH project, a school, the DMV, and Sacred Heart Community Service. Over the past year, the exterior of the center has frequently been used as a restroom by unhoused individuals. Most mornings, staff are unpleasantly surprised by the odor and presence of bio-waste left behind overnight, often extending from the building's entrance to the mulch around nearby vegetation. The Senior Center hosts the Senior Nutrition Program, and the smell often lingers as seniors arrive to eat and socialize.

Due to the frequency of the incidents, additional biowaste clean ups, exterior sanitation, and power wash services are necessary not only for public health reasons but also to preserve the dignity of the site and to support community programming that serves a vulnerable senior population.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Jenny Choi, Avi Yotam, and Walter Lin – Deputy Director
LIB, PRNS, & PW

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