



October 18, 2010

To the Honorable Mayor, Members of the City Council and Citizens of the City of Riverside:

It is our pleasure to submit the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the City of Riverside (the City) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010.

This report consists of management's representations concerning the finances of the City. Consequently, management assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of all of the information presented in this report. To provide a reasonable basis for making these representations, management has established a comprehensive internal control framework that is designed both to protect the City's assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to compile sufficient reliable information for the preparation of the City's financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Because the cost of internal controls should not outweigh their benefits, internal controls have been designed to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatement. As management, we assert that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

The City's financial statements have been audited by Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C., a firm of certified public accountants. The independent auditor concluded, based on the audit, that there was a reasonable basis for rendering an unqualified opinion on the City's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. The independent auditor's report is presented as the first component of the financial section of this CAFR.

The independent audit of the financial statements of the City was part of a broader, federally mandated "Single Audit" designed to meet the special needs of federal grantor agencies. The standards governing Single Audit engagements require the independent auditor to report not only on the fair presentation of the financial statements, but also on internal controls and compliance with legal requirements, with emphasis on those involving the administration of federal awards. These reports are available in the City's separately issued Single Audit Report.

Management has provided an overall analysis of the financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it. The City's MD&A can be found immediately following the report of the independent auditors.

## Profile of the City of Riverside

The City of Riverside, incorporated on October 11, 1883, is located in the western portion of Riverside County about 60 miles east of Los Angeles. The City currently occupies a land area of 81.507 square miles.

The City operates under the council-manager form of government, with a seven-member council elected by ward for four-year overlapping terms. The mayor is elected at large for a four-year term and is the presiding officer of the Council, but does not have a vote except in the case of a tie. The City Council is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk. The City Manager is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the Council, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the City, and for appointing the heads of various departments. The Council is elected on a non-partisan basis.

The City provides a full range of services which include general government, public safety (police, fire, disaster preparedness and building inspection), construction and maintenance of highways and streets, economic development, culture and recreation, electric, water, airport, refuse, sewer, and senior citizen/handicap transportation. In addition to general City activities, the Council is financially accountable for the Riverside Redevelopment Agency, Riverside Housing Authority, Riverside Public Financing Authority and the Riverside Municipal Improvements Corporation; therefore, these entities are included as an integral part of the City's financial statements. Additional information on these legally separate entities can be found in Note 1 in the notes to the financial statements.

The annual budget serves as the foundation for the City's financial planning and control. The City Manager presents the proposed budget to the City Council for review at least thirty-five calendar days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The Council is required to hold public hearings on the proposed budget and to adopt a final budget no later than June 30, which is the close of the City's fiscal year. The appropriated budget is prepared by fund and department. Department heads may make transfers of appropriations within a department. Transfers of appropriations between departments, however, require the approval of the Council. Budget-to-actual comparisons are provided in this report for each individual governmental fund for which an appropriated annual budget has been adopted. For the general fund, this comparison is presented on page 27 as part of the basic financial statements for the governmental funds. For governmental funds other than the general fund, with appropriated annual budgets, this comparison is presented in the governmental fund subsection of this report, which begins on page 71.

**Local economy:** The City is located in the Inland Empire, which consists of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties (the "MSA"). The population of the Inland Empire at approximately 4.2 million is larger than 23 states. The City leads the Inland Empire in most measures of economic power, including population, income, employment, bank deposits, assessed valuation, office space and college enrollment. The population of the City is 304,051, which places it as the sixth largest in Southern California.

Until recently the MSA has experienced a very strong economic environment. However, unemployment is currently at 14.6%. The budget for the City for fiscal year 2010/2011 projects a 1.5% drop in revenue, but is balanced. Reduced expenditures are being achieved by selectively not filling vacant positions and carefully monitoring all expenditures, with all services continuing.

The MSA is projected to grow rapidly in future years because land values remain well below those in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties. Among the City's challenges is a lack of available space for manufacturing and industrial development within current boundaries.

**Priorities for the future:** A Citywide Strategic Planning document has been developed through a series of meetings, workshops, and surveys with the community, elected officials, and City employees. The plan, as updated, sets forth five goals as follows:

- **Economic Development**
- **Environmental Leadership**
- **Transportation**
- **Livable Communities and Neighborhoods**
- **Arts and Culture**

**Long-term financial planning.** Annually, the City updates a five (5) year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Planned capital expenditures during fiscal years 2010/11 - 2014/15 total approximately \$903 million. The level of capital improvements is significantly greater than the historical level. The projects encompass all seven Council wards and enhance the life of all residents. Funding comes from multiple sources, including existing funds; General Fund certificates of participation; Redevelopment Agency tax allocation bonds; and regional, state and federal funds. In addition to routine electric, water, sewer and transportation-related projects, the CIP includes improvements to parks in the City; railroad grade separations; library, museum, convention center and Municipal Auditorium improvements/expansions/rehabilitations; and, public safety projects.

**Financial policies.** A portion of fund balance within the General Fund is set aside and designated for future economic contingencies. The amount that has been set aside is equal to approximately 15% of General Fund expenditures.

### **Awards and Acknowledgements**

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Riverside for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. This was the twenty second consecutive year that the City has received this prestigious award. The City received this award for publishing an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR that satisfied both GAAP and applicable legal requirements.

This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current CAFR continues to meet the Program's requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA again this year.

The preparation of this report would not have been possible without the efficient and dedicated services of the entire staff of the Finance Division, particularly the leadership of Jason Al-Imam, Controller. We would like to express our appreciation to all members

of the Division who assisted and contributed to its preparation. Credit also must be given to the Mayor and the City Council for their unfailing support for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in the management of the City's finances.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Bradley J. Hudson  
City Manager

  
Paul C. Sundeen  
Assistant City Manager/CFO/Treasurer