

## **Budget Questions/Answers**

### **May 2009**

The Carson Valley Swim Center is this East Fork Swimming Pool District, a Special Assessment District within Douglas County. It was founded in 1989 and is governed by a five person Board of Trustees elected by District voters.

1. Question: What are the District's plans for future expansion and capital projects?

Answer: At this time the Board has no plans for expansion of the facility. The District is required to file a 5 year capital project plan with the Nevada Dept. of Taxation. The current 5-year plan contains ongoing maintenance projects such as re-painting the building, re-plastering pools and replacing major mechanical items for the preservation of the plant.

2. Question: Where does funding for the District come from?

Answer: The District receives ad valorem (property tax) revenue which is collected by the County and distributed to the various special assessment districts within the County. The maximum allowed total tax rate for the special assessment districts that serve the area you live in along with the county & school district tax is 3.66. The EFSPD tax rate is 0.1645. The East Fork Swimming Pool District tax rate will be approximately 4 1/2% of a resident's property tax bill. No other tax money, such as sales tax or general fund money, goes to the District. The District charges fees to those who use the facility, and sells items such as food, drinks, and goggles to raise additional funds. Revenue from sales and fees cover approximately 1/3 of the total annual operating costs.

3. Question: Why do I have to pay both property tax and an admission fee?

Answer: Just as parks, schools, and senior facilities benefit an entire community, so does a swim center. Those using the facility benefit more and should expect to pay a fair and reasonable fee. Resident fees have not been raised for several years to try and make the center affordable to as many residents as possible.

4. Question: Do non-residents, who do not pay taxes for the pool, pay more?

Answer: The District charges non-residents of the District higher fees. Non-residents pay \$8.00 more for lessons and approximately 20% more for swim and exercise passes. Non-resident school groups pay \$4.00 per student compared to \$2.00 per student for Douglas County District schools. The daily entrance fee (our highest swim fee) is the same for non-residents, as it is not feasible to have drop in swimmers show proof of residency at our busy

counter every time they come to swim. The more people who use the pool, resident or non-resident, the more revenue the District will collect and the higher the percentage of total costs will be covered by user fees.

5. Question: Why do I need to share the pool with children or school groups? "I am used to my routine and like having my own lane."

Answer: The pool was built next to Douglas High School for a reason. Originally all 9th graders were at Douglas High School and required to take aquatics. We had 6 classes a day, not just the 2 we now have. We always try and give notice of our programs - both ongoing such as high school aquatics class, swim team practice and meets, as well as our drop in school groups. There is plenty of water time available each week for adults. It is just a matter of scheduling. Children's families pay taxes. When our large swim meets are held here it benefits the community in many ways economically.

6. All other costs are fairly fixed meaning they would not go down much whether the pool were to be open 5,000 hours per year or only 2,000 hours per year. Gas and electricity are about \$200,000/year or about 12% of total cost. Benefits account for approximately 25% of the total personnel costs.