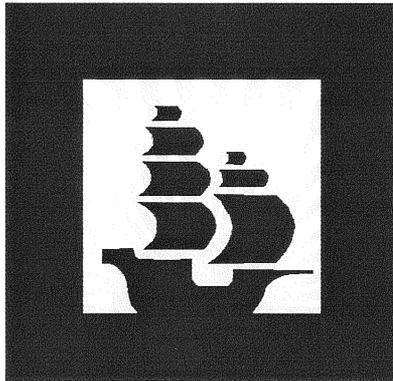


CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA CALIFORNIA



AS ADOPTED BY THE ELECTORATE OF THE
CITY OF SANTA MARIA
AT THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
HELD NOVEMBER 7, 2000

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the City of Santa Maria, declare our intent to restore our community to the historic principles of self-governance inherent in the doctrine of home-rule. We are sincerely committed to the belief that local government has the closest affinity to the people governed, and firm in the conviction that the economic and fiscal independence of our local government will promote the health, safety, and welfare of all the citizens of this City. We do hereby exercise the express right granted by the Constitution of the State of California to enact and adopt this Charter for the City of Santa Maria.

ARTICLE I. MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Section 100. Municipal Affairs.

The City shall have full power and authority to adopt, make, exercise, and enforce all legislation, laws, and regulations and to take all actions relating to municipal affairs which may be lawfully adopted, made, exercised, taken or enforced under the Constitution of the State of California. Without limiting in any manner the foregoing power and authority, each of the powers, rights, and responsibilities described in this Charter is hereby declared to be a municipal affair, the performance of which is unique to the benefit and welfare of the citizens of the City of Santa Maria.

ARTICLE II. GENERAL LAWS

Section 200. General Law Powers.

In addition to the power and authority granted by the terms of this Charter and the Constitution of the State of California, the City shall have the power and authority to adopt, make, exercise and enforce all legislation, laws and regulations and to take all actions and to exercise any and all rights, powers, and privileges heretofore or hereafter established, granted or prescribed by any law of the State of California or by any other lawful authority. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Charter and the provisions of the general laws of the State of California, the provisions of this Charter shall control.

ARTICLE III. AMENDMENTS

Section 300. Amendment to Charter, Revised or Repealed.

This Charter, and any of its provisions, may be amended by a majority vote of its electors voting on the question. Amendment or repeal may be proposed by initiative or by the governing body.

ARTICLE IV. INTERPRETATION

Section 400. Construction and Interpretation.

The language contained in this Charter is intended to be permissive rather than exclusive or limiting and shall be liberally and broadly construed in favor of the exercise by the City of its power to govern with respect to any matter which is a municipal affair.

Section 401. Severability.

If any provision of this Charter should be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or otherwise unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

ARTICLE V. REVENUE RETENTION

Section 500. Reductions Prohibited.

Any revenues accrued to and/or collected by the City shall not be subject to subtraction, retention, attachment, withdrawal or any other form of involuntary reduction by any other level of government.

Section 501. Mandates Limited.

No person, whether elected or appointed, acting on behalf of the City, shall be required to perform any function which is mandated by any other level of government, unless and until funds sufficient for the performance of such function are provided by said mandating authority.

ARTICLE VI. COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES

Section 600. Public Works Contracts.

The City shall have the power to establish standards, procedures, rules or regulations to regulate all aspects of the bidding, award and performance of any public works contract, including, but not limited to, the compensation rates to be paid for the performance of such work, and the establishment of local preferences.

Section 601. Purchasing.

The City shall have the power to establish standards, procedures, rules, or regulations related to the purchasing of goods, property, or services, including, but not limited to, the establishment of local preferences.

Section 602. Public Financing.

The City shall have the power to establish standards, procedures, rules, or regulations related to any public financing.

Section 603. Utility Franchises.

The City shall have the power to adopt ordinances providing for the acquisition, development, or operation by the City of any utility, or any ordinance providing for the granting of a franchise, license, permit, or easements to any utility which proposes to use or is using City streets, highways, or other rights-of-way.

Certification

Pursuant to Government Code Section 34460, the undersigned officers of the City of Santa Maria hereby certify that the foregoing Charter of the City of Santa Maria was approved by the voters of the City at an election duly called and held on November 7, 2000 in the City of Santa Maria pursuant to Section 15301, et seq. of the California Elections Code.

Donald E. Lahr
Donald E. Lahr, Mayor

12/7/00
Date

Stephanie Swarna
Stephanie Swarna, City Clerk

12/7/00
Date

ATTEST:

Stephanie Swarna
Stephanie Swarna, City Clerk

12/7/00
Date

Filed with and chaptered by the California Secretary of State, and effective on the 12th day of December in the year 2000.