

## DEBT SERVICE SUMMARY

Debt service expenditures include payments of principal, interest, sinking fund contributions, costs of issuance and bond reserve requirements for bonds issued. The debt service allowance in 2006-07 for existing debt and future bond sales is \$705,485,000. This is funded by Secondary Property Tax (17%), Water (14%), Aviation (36%), Wastewater (11%), City Improvement (10%), Arizona Highway User Revenue (4%), Convention Center (3%), Solid Waste (3%) and other funding sources (2%). Other funding sources include Sports Facilities, Golf and Grant funds. City Improvement includes \$67.6 million in non profit corporation bonds debt service payments funded by the General and Transit 2000 funds. Secondary property tax reflects the annual tax levy for debt service and related interest earnings.

### **Types of Bonds Issued and Security**

Under Arizona law, cities are authorized to issue voter-approved general obligation, highway user revenue and utility revenue bonds. For the City of Phoenix, this includes property tax-supported bonds and revenue bonds (such as water revenue and airport revenue bonds).

The city's general obligation bonds are "full faith and credit" bonds. This means they are secured by a legally binding pledge to levy property taxes without limit to make annual bond principal and interest payments. Water and airport revenue bonds are secured by a pledge of these enterprises' net revenues (revenues net of operation and maintenance expenses) and do not constitute a general obligation of the city backed by general taxing power. Highway user revenue bonds are secured by state-shared gas taxes and other highway user fees and charges and also are not general obligations of the city.

### **Debt Management**

In general, the city has used general obligation bonds to finance capital programs of general government (non-enterprise) departments. These include programs such as fire protection, police protection, libraries, parks and recreation, mountain preserves and storm sewers. The debt service on these bonds is paid from the secondary property tax levy. By state law, the city can only use its secondary property tax levy to pay principal and interest on long-term debt.

To finance the capital programs of enterprise departments, the city has made substantial use of revenue bonds secured by and repaid from the revenues of these enterprises. In the past, the city also has used general obligation bonds for water, airport, sanitary sewer and solid waste purposes when deemed appropriate. However, these bonds are repaid from the revenues of these enterprises, not from property taxes or other general revenues.

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The city's policy of servicing bonds issued for enterprise purposes with enterprise revenues (for both revenue and general obligation bonds) is viewed favorably by municipal bond analysts. This practice permits the city to maintain a low-to-moderate debt burden on the property tax base. This debt burden is a key measure evaluated by analysts to assess the city's financial strength. Since the 1950s, the city has used a community review process to develop and acquire voter approval for general obligation bond programs. To prepare for the special bond election held on March 14, 2006, the mayor and the City Council appointed the 2006 Citizens' Bond Committee composed of nearly 700 members to review the city's fiscal capacity, capital facility needs and operating and maintenance costs of needed facilities. This committee recommended an \$878.5 million bond program to the voters which assumed a continuation of the city's current property tax rate of \$1.82 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

As a result of the efforts of this committee, the voters approved all \$878.5 million of recommended bond authorizations in the March 14, 2006 special election. These authorizations provided funding to construct capital improvements in the following areas:

- Police and Fire Protection
- Police, Fire and Computer Technology
- Parks, Recreation and Mountain Preserves
- Education Facilities
- Library Facilities
- Street Improvements
- Storm Sewers
- Senior Facilities
- Cultural Facilities
- Affordable Housing Neighborhood Revitalization

### **Bond Ratings**

The city's bonds are rated favorably by the major bond rating agencies, Moody's Investors Service and Standard and Poor's. The city's general obligation bonds are rated Aa1 and AA+ respectively. These ratings are half of a rating category below each agency's highest rating.

Maintaining high bond ratings has resulted in a broader market for the city's bonds and lower interest costs to the city.

The following table is a statement of the City's bonded indebtedness as of April 1, 2006.

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**Statement of Bonded Indebtedness<sup>(1)</sup>**  
**(In Thousands of Dollars)**

**General Obligation Bonds**

	Non- Enterprise General Obligation Bonds	Revenue- Supported General Bonds	Total General Obligation Bonds	Revenue Bonds	Total Bonds
Various	\$1,111,027	\$ ---	\$1,111,027	\$ ---	\$ 1,111,027
Airport	---	24,375	24,375	37,315	61,690
Sanitary Sewer	---	66,499	66,499	---	66,499
Solid Waste	---	39,910	39,910	---	39,910
Water	---	121,296	121,296	---	121,296
Public Housing	---	---	---	1,725	1,725
Street and Highway	---	---	---	170,771	170,771
Subtotal	\$1,111,027	\$252,080	\$1,363,107	\$209,811	\$ 1,572,918
Less: Restricted Funds	(265,974)	---	(265,974)	---	(265,974)
Direct Debt	\$ 845,053	\$252,080	\$1,097,133	\$209,811	\$ 1,306,944
Less: Revenue Supported	---	(252,080)	(252,080)	(209,811)	(461,891)
Net Debt	\$ 845,053	\$ ---	\$ 845,053	\$ ---	\$ 845,053

(1) These figures do not include the outstanding principal amounts of certain general obligation bonds, water revenue bonds, and street and highway user revenue bonds that have been refunded or the payment of which has been provided in advance of maturity. The payment of the debt service requirements on such bonds (including redemption premiums where applicable) is secured by federal securities that were purchased with proceeds of the refunding issues and other available monies that are held in irrevocable trusts and special investment funds held by the city.

**Debt Limitation**

Under the provisions of the Arizona Constitution, outstanding general obligation bonded debt for combined water, sewer, lighting, park, open space and recreational purposes may not exceed 20 percent of a city's net secondary assessed valuation. Outstanding general obligation bonded debt for all other purposes may not exceed 6 percent of a city's net secondary assessed valuation. Unused borrowing capacity as of April 1, 2006 based upon 2005-06 assessed valuation is shown in the following tables.

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**Water, Sewer, Lighting, Parks, Open Space and Recreational Purpose Bonds**

20% Constitutional Limitation		\$ 2,283,923,814
Direct General Obligation Bonds Outstanding		<u>(817,086,934)</u>
Unused 20% Limitation Borrowing Capacity		<u>\$ 1,466,836,880</u>

**All Other General Obligation Bonds**

6% Constitutional Limitation		\$ 685,177,144
Direct General Obligation Bonds Outstanding	\$546,020,000	
Less: Principal Redemption Funds held in Restricted Fund	<u>(265,973,680)</u>	
Direct General Obligation Bonds Outstanding		<u>(280,046,320)</u>
Unused 6% Limitation Borrowing Capacity		<u>\$ 405,130,824</u>

**Debt Burden**

Debt burden is a measurement of the relationship between the debt of the city supported by its property tax base (net direct debt) to the broadest and most generally available measure of wealth in the community: the assessed valuation of all taxable property and the assessed valuation adjusted to reflect market value. In addition, net debt can be compared to population to determine net debt per capita. The city makes these comparisons each time it offers bonds for sale. They are included in the official statements (bond prospectuses) that are distributed to prospective investors. The following table provides debt burden ratios as of April 1, 2006.

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	Per Capita Debt Pop. Est. as of April 1, 2006 <u>(1,548,720)</u>	Secondary Assessed Valuation <u>(\$11,419,619,072)</u>	Full Cash Valuation <u>(\$92,214,844,914)</u>
Direct General Obligation Bonded Debt Outstanding as of April 1, 2006	\$708.41	9.61%	1.19%
Net Direct General Obligation Bonded Debt Outstanding as of April 1, 2006	\$545.65	7.40%	0.92%

The city's debt burden remains in the low-to-moderate range. This means the amount of net debt supported by the city's property tax base is moderate relative to the value of that tax base.

The city has considerable bonded debt outstanding. However, the use of revenue bonds for enterprise activities and enterprise-supported general obligation bonds, in combination with a well-managed, property tax-supported bond program, has permitted the maintenance of a low-to-moderate debt burden.

**General Government Non Profit Corporation Bonds**

In addition to bonded debt, the city uses nonprofit corporation bonds as a financing tool. This form of financing involves the issuance of bonds by a nonprofit corporation for city-approved projects. The city makes annual payments equal to the bond debt service requirements to the corporation.

The city's payments to the corporation are guaranteed by a pledge of excise taxes or utility revenues generated by the city's airport, water system or wastewater system. Pledged excise taxes may include city sales, use, utility and franchise taxes; license and permit fees; and state-shared sales and income taxes.

The city has used nonprofit corporation financing selectively. In general, it has financed only those projects that will generate revenues adequate to support the annual debt service requirements or that generate economic benefits that more than offset the cost of financing. Similar to bonded debt, these financings are rated by bond rating

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agencies. The most recent ratings for excise tax revenue bonds by Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investors Service were AAA and Aa2 respectively.

**Debt Service Expenditures by Source of Funds  
(In Thousands of Dollars)**

Fund	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Estimate	2006-07 Budget
Secondary Property Tax	\$101,466	\$109,653	\$121,017
Aviation	63,468	62,272	77,172
Arizona Highway User Revenue	29,206	31,247	31,242
Convention Center	9,638	20,424	18,590
General*	20,999	23,856	29,514
Golf	394	579	849
Grant Funds - Transit and Housing	2,142	2,139	2,148
Public Housing	63	0	0
Solid Waste	17,226	17,797	22,533
Sports Facilities	9,136	7,020	9,842
Transit 2000*	15,137	27,683	38,452
Wastewater	47,204	58,950	70,776
Water	54,249	83,202	94,195
Capital Funds - Various Sources	<u>14,905</u>	<u>16,971</u>	<u>189,155</u>
Total	<u>\$385,233</u>	<u>\$461,793</u>	<u>\$705,485</u>

\*Includes City Improvement debt service payments.