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# OPERATING COST MANUAL

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**FOR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS**  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE



Revised January 2016

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## FOR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS

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## Foreword

This is the 14th revision of this manual, which was first published in 1975.

The manual is designed as a guideline to assist homeowners associations, developers, and management firms of common interest subdivisions in budget preparation. The materials are applicable, at least in part, to the following common-interest subdivisions:

- Planned developments (PDs)
- Condominiums (Condos)
- Community apartments (Com. Apts.)
- Stock cooperatives (Stock Co-ops)
- Undivided interest subdivisions/TIC (Tenancy in Common)

The cost data are considered to be reliable as of January 2016. Costs incurred in maintaining and operating the common facilities in common interest subdivisions are likely to be affected by inflation. Inflationary influences should therefore be considered in budget preparation for budgets that are prepared far in advance of the operating period covered by the budget.

The data in this manual has been collected by the Budget Review Section staff of the California Department of Real Estate (DRE/Department) from a variety of sources, including homeowners associations, professional management firms, service organizations, public utilities, and manufacturers.

It has been assembled in a form to facilitate multi-purpose use by lay governing bodies of homeowners associations, developers, and professional management firms alike. As such, some parts of this manual may not apply to your situation and other resources should be solicited. THIS MANUAL IS NOT INTENDED TO INSTRUCT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS IN ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES OR FORMAT.

The Department will appreciate receiving suggestions for improvement of the manual. Please send to:

**Department of Real Estate  
Budget Review Section  
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105  
(213) 576-6983**

Please include your telephone number on correspondence to facilitate follow-up communication by telephone.

## Using the Manual

Items to be budgeted have been divided into the following five categories:

- 100's**—Fixed Costs (taxes, insurance, etc.)
- 200's**—Operating Costs (utilities, goods and services)
- 300's**—Reserves (for replacement and major maintenance)
- 400's**—Administration (legal, accounting, etc.)
- 500's**—Contingency

Each of the first four major categories have been divided into subcategories or into component line item expenses to facilitate the inventory and budget preparation processes.

The costs that have been developed for condominium developments are those customarily associated with low-rise or garden-type condominiums. Extra care should be taken in using the format or content of this manual when developing budgets for high-rise and luxury buildings.

### High-Rise Structures

Typically, a high-rise condominium project will employ a full-time staff and additional employees to perform maintenance and repair. Moreover, some of the building components may be under full-service contracts so that the need for replacement of major components may not arise. All high-rise (over 70 feet) buildings are subject to certain safety codes, e.g., fire and elevator safety, which may require the installation of equipment at a specified date. Funds for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of such equipment should be included in the budget.

**A limited list of the high-rise components not included in other sections of the Operating Cost Manual are:**

Central heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) comprised of chillers, compressors, and boilers; cooling towers; gas-fired boilers equipped with heat exchangers; emergency diesel generators for emergency purposes; fire sprinkler system with storage tanks and diesel fuel pumps; master antenna systems; building security systems; closed circuit TV systems, electric door releases; intercom

systems; house phones; music and paging systems; glass caulking; window washing/cleaning; compactor maintenance; local license inspection fees; exterior surface repair; etc.

**Refer to Addendum “A” for a limited checklist that may be submitted with the budget for high-rise or mid-rise projects.**

**A limited list of the high-rise personnel and indirect expenses not included in the Operating Cost Manual are:**

Manager(s), engineer(s) and assistants, head janitor and assistants, security guards, valet(s), door attendants, PBX operators, concierge, front desk; relief, vacation, and bonuses; workers' compensation, and payroll taxes.

Because of the complexity of budgets for high-rise condominiums, a 10 percent contingency factor is not considered unreasonably high.

### Other components not included in this manual:

A common interest subdivision may include a common facility which is not covered in this manual. In budgeting for such a facility, it is best that it be broken down into its component expenses. In the case of a stable, for example, consideration should be given to such component item expenses as electricity, water, custodial service, and painting. It should be possible to use data in this manual to calculate the various component costs and to estimate the aggregate cost of maintaining and operating the facility. **EVEN THOUGH AN AMENITY OR COMPONENT MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN THIS MANUAL, IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET.**

To use this manual, those responsible for budget preparation should first make a list of all expenses that the association is likely to incur. An analysis of the governing documents for the subdivision and the association is extremely important in the budget preparation process. The governing documents enumerate the duties of the homeowners association and specify or suggest areas in which costs will be incurred.

The cost data in Part II of the manual is applicable for a majority of developments located in and around major population centers of California. Data provided is for Northern California and for Southern California, but a further breakdown into smaller geographical areas is only provided for certain expense items, e.g., landscape maintenance for the Palm Springs area. No cost data has been developed for special resort areas such as Lake Tahoe, where costs for goods and services are likely to be substantially higher than costs for comparable goods and services in metropolitan, urban, and suburban areas.

Parts III and IV of this manual consist of reserve cost data and budget worksheets to assist in the compilation process.

To estimate certain expenses, e.g., carpeting and painting, it is necessary to have reliable data concerning dimensions of common areas and facilities. One of the first tasks of the governing body or management agent of an association is the preparation of a complete inventory of the areas and facilities to be maintained.

In preparing the inventory, it is best to start with a map, diagram, or sketch delineating all of the common areas and facilities. For completed or existing projects, the best source of information in completing the map and project inventory is a set of as-built plans covering the project common area. These plans are not only helpful in preparing the project inventory, but also in coping with certain practical problems of management such as turning off water in the event of a broken water line.

If construction plans for the common area of a planned development are not available, the recorded map of the subdivision can serve as a source of information in preparing the project inventory map. For a condominium project, it will usually be necessary for the budget preparer to obtain a copy of the condominium plan from the county recorder or subdivider, as well as:

- Copy of the final or tentative map.
- Architectural elevations and plan views.  
Engineering plans.
- Landscape architectural drawings.

Other possible sources of information to prepare the project inventory map include a land-use map (usually available from the city or county planning department) and the county assessor's map. If all else fails, a reasonably accurate inventory can be taken through the process of measuring and counting areas and facilities in place.

The inventory of fixtures, furniture and other personal property of the association is usually best made in the beginning by a physical count and by measurement where appropriate. This is probably also the best method for inventorying some items of real property such as lighting fixtures.

**It is recommended that associations consider verification and, if necessary, correction of their major component inventory after project start-up. This may be necessary to comply with Civil Code section 5300.**

### Variable Assessments

Proration is a procedure to determine the amount to be assessed to each unit in the subdivision to meet budgeted expenses. Prorations may be either equal or variable. Equal proration involves the simple process of dividing the total costs of a budget item by the number of units in the subdivision. Variable prorations entail the use of a factor or factors that differ from one unit to the next, e.g., square footage of floor space. Equal assessments should be used wherever reasonably equitable, since variable proration can be a complicated and controversial process.

Variable prorations should be employed only when services are provided to units in unequal proportions. DRE regulations allow the use of variable assessments against units only if one unit will derive as much as 10 percent more than another unit in the value of common goods and services supplied by the association. Examples of services provided in unequal proportions directly to units are insurance, domestic water and gas, if applicable, and exterior and roof maintenance (the budget items for exterior and roof maintenance are ordinarily the reserves to carry out this maintenance when it is due).

Within a particular project, more than one proration factor may be applied. For example, consider a condominium project with central air conditioning, a swimming pool and valet parking services. It would not be unreasonable to allocate these expense items to each unit as follows:

1. Central air conditioning costs on the basis of the square footage of each unit.
2. Expenses attributable to the swimming pool equally for each unit.
3. Valet parking costs according to the number of parking spaces for each unit in proportion to total parking spaces for the project.

An example of how to determine whether proration is advisable is presented in **Figure “A”**:

Assume a budget for a 100 unit condominium project consisting of 50 two-bedroom units of 1,000 square feet of floor space each and 50 three-bedroom units with 1,200 square feet each. There is a single master meter for domestic water supplied to the project. Electricity and gas are individually metered to each condominium unit.

Using the completed worksheet (see **Figure “B”**), variable assessments can be computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Highest Assessment - Lowest Assessment} \\ &\div \text{Lowest Assessment} = \% \text{ Differential} \\ &(\$93.46 - \$88.55 \div \$88.55 = 5.5\%). \end{aligned}$$

The difference in the monthly assessments for the two floor plans is \$4.91. The assessment for a 1,200 square foot unit is only 5.5 percent greater than the assessment for a 1,000 square foot unit. A variable assessment is not considered appropriate since the difference in the level of services supplied to the two floor plans by the owners association is less than 10 percent, the minimum difference allowable for variable assessments under DRE regulations. In most instances, however, variable

proration is not considered preferable to equal proration if differential in the level of services supplied by the association to the units is less than 20 percent. Variable assessments should be used when the differential exceeds 20 percent. After determining the percent of benefit derived from services provided by the association, an easy chart to follow would be:

Less than 10%	— equal assessments
From 10% to 20%	— variable or equal
Over 20%	— variable assessments

RE 623, Budget Worksheet, Page 14, has a blank proration schedule worksheet for your use. Your management documents must agree as to equal or variable assessments. Check the appropriate box on page 4 of the Budget Worksheet.

### Management Documents

It is recommended that the subdivider, attorney, and budget preparer discuss the specific maintenance responsibilities of the association prior to preparing the Declaration of Restrictions and budget. In the past, there have been problems in determining whether the individual unit/lot owner or the homeowners association was responsible to maintain or repair items in the subdivision. The CC&Rs should be clear enough to avoid confusion.

A general statement that the HOA is responsible to maintain common areas may be insufficient. There are subdivisions where the purchaser acquires title to a lot but the subdivider, in order to maintain the esthetic appeal to the subdivision, will require the association to maintain exterior paint or landscaping in front yards. Since these areas are owned in fee by the lot owner, the usual definition of common area would not be sufficient. In addition, areas designated as exclusive use common areas have caused confusion in the past because of conflicting or confusing definitions in either the CC&Rs or the condominium plan.

Figure “A” Budget

Budget — Monthly Column			
Description	Monthly Costs	Equal Costs	Variable Costs
Insurance	1,000		1,000
Electricity	600	600	
Gas (for pool)	200	200	
Water	400		400
Custodial	500	500	
Landscaping	2,500	2,500	
Refuse	300	300	
Streets	100	100	
Pool	100	100	
Misc. Maintenance	300	300	
Paint Reserve	600		600
Roof Reserve	700		700
Light Reserve	100	100	
Carpet Reserve	100	100	
Pool Reserve	100	100	
Furniture Reserve	100	100	
Paving Reserve	200	200	
Management	700	700	
Legal	100	100	
Accounting	100	100	
Contingency	300	300	
	<b>\$9,100</b>	<b>\$6,400</b>	<b>\$2,700</b>

Figure "B"

**PRORATION SCHEDULE WORKSHEET**

**Section I Variable Assessment Computation**

A. Variable Costs Description	Monthly Cost	
1. Insurance		<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
2. Domestic Gas (if common)		<u>\$ 0.00</u>
3. Domestic Water (if common)		<u>\$ 400.00</u>
4. Paint		<u>\$ 600.00</u>
5. Roof		<u>\$ 700.00</u>
6. Hot Water Heater (if common)		<u>\$ 0.00</u>
7. Other		<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Total Variable Cost</b>		<b><u>\$ 2,700.00</u></b>
B. Total livable square footage of all units from condominium plan:		<u>110,000</u>
C. Variable Factor ( <i>variable monthly costs ÷ square footage = variable factor</i> ):		<u>.02455</u>

Multiply this factor by each unit size below in Section III.

**Section II Equal Assessment Computation**

A. Total Monthly Budget		<u>\$ 9,100.00</u>
Less Variable Costs		<u>\$ 2,700.00</u>
Total Monthly Equal Costs		<u>\$ 6,400.00</u>
B. Monthly Base Assessment:		<u>\$ 64.00</u>

*(total monthly cost ÷ number of units = monthly base assessment)*

**Section III Assessment Schedule**

<i>Unit Size</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Variable Factor</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Variable Assessment</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>Base Assessment</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Mth. Assessment</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Unit Count</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Mth. Budget *</i>
A. 1,000 s.f.	x	.02455	=	\$24.55	+	\$64.00	=	\$88.55	x	50	=	\$4,427.50
B. 1,200 s.f.	x	.02455	=	\$29.46	+	\$64.00	=	\$93.46	x	50	=	\$4,673.00
C. _____	x	_____	=	_____	+	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
D. _____	x	_____	=	_____	+	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____

<b>VERIFICATION OF COMPUTATIONS</b>		<u>\$9100.50</u>
	Total Monthly Budget (Section III)	<u>\$9100.50</u>
	Total Monthly Budget (Section IIA)	<u>\$9100.00</u>

\* Total Assessment x number of units of each type.

**Section IV Variable Assessments**

<i>Highest Assessment</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Lowest Assessment</i>	<i>÷</i>	<i>Lowest Assessment</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>% Differential</i>
<u>\$93.46</u>	<i>-</i>	<u>\$88.55</u>	<i>÷</i>	<u>\$88.55</u>	<i>=</i>	<u>5.5 %</u>



## 100's—Fixed Costs

### 101. Property Taxes

#### Stock Cooperatives

Under Revenue and Taxation Code section 2188.7, effective January 1, 1981, the governing body of a stock cooperative may request segregated taxes and separate tax bills upon satisfying certain conditions of the code. Because of the time involved, the budget for a stock cooperative or community apartment project should include the estimated annual property tax against all unsecured real property comprising the subdivision.

Under provisions of the Revenue and Taxation Code, if a unit in a stock cooperative or community apartment project is purchased or otherwise changes ownership, only that unit can be reappraised by the assessor. Because of these provisions, it is incumbent upon county assessors to separately assess the individual units in stock cooperative and community apartment projects. A single tax bill covering the entire property may be issued the first year.

#### Planned Developments

In planned developments, common area taxes are normally assessed on a pro rata basis to the individual dwelling units that make up the development in accordance with Section 2188.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code. There is ordinarily no need for the association to budget for property taxes against common areas and facilities in a planned development. There are reports, however, that some county assessors may assess a portion of the value of common area and improvements to the association having title to the property as a means of assuring that the property does not escape a fair assessment. It is, therefore, strongly suggested that an owners' association consult with the county assessor on his proposed plan for assessment of the common areas and facilities before preparing the budget. Common area lots might also be assessed property taxes under provisions of Mello Roos Special Tax Districts.

#### Condominiums

In the case of a condominium development in which the owners' association holds title to recreational common area, it is possible that this property will be separately

assessed to the association. Again, this is information that should be obtained from the county assessor before a budget is prepared.

Common area which is owned by owners of individual units as tenants in common must be assessed on a prorated basis to each owner of a condominium unit pursuant to section 2188.3 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

#### Lien Date

Real property is assessed in California on March 1 of each year (lien date). Under section 75.12 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, property will be reassessed at the date the new construction is deemed complete. Availability for use and occupancy may affect this date if proper notice is given to the assessor's office. If the first sale of a unit in a subdivision has not been closed as of that date, the tax collector may bill the association or builder for the entire subdivision. Shortly thereafter, the first or supplemental tax bill will be sent to the new owner.

### 102. Corporation Franchise

Most associations can qualify for tax exempt status under State law if they are able to meet federal requirements for treatment as tax exempt organizations under Federal Income Tax Codes. If an exemption is granted by the Franchise Tax Board, an incorporated association will not have to pay the minimum State franchise tax (currently \$800 per annum). If granted, all associations—both incorporated and unincorporated—must annually file an informational tax return with the Franchise Tax Board. The annual fee is currently \$10 and the initial fee is \$25. As in the case of the federal law, an association must file a tax return and pay income tax to the State for its non-exempt income.

### 103. Insurance

The following information is not intended to cover all facets of insurance for common interest subdivisions. There are a great many aspects that should be considered to give the association proper coverage. The purpose of this section is to alert governing bodies to the need of tailoring casualty insurance and commercial liability insurance to the needs of the owners and association collectively.

The minimum insurance coverage required to be carried by a common interest subdivision association is usually specified in the governing documents for the development as well as governed by Civil Code 5805 and 5800. However, the governing body will have many factors to consider in determining the most adequate insurance coverages to obtain for the most reasonable cost. It may not be in the association's best interest to obtain only the minimum insurance as required in the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. All common interest developments should consider insurance covering commercial property, commercial liability, directors and officers liability, fidelity insurance, workers compensation insurance, and earthquake insurance.

### **Fire and Allied Coverage Insurance**

A Broad Form Endorsement is now generally considered to be the basic minimum casualty insurance coverage that governing instruments stipulate. The causes of loss covered under this type of policy include:

Fire losses covering fire and lightning; extended coverage endorsement losses covering smoke damage, explosion, riot, civil commotion, falling aircraft, vehicle, hail, and wind.

Policies may be written with a special form coverage endorsement more commonly referred to as Risk of Direct Physical Loss. This endorsement covers losses not specifically excluded in the policy form. Typical losses excluded are: wear and tear, earthquake, flood, earth movement, loss occasioned by an ordinance, war, and nuclear reaction. Typical property items excluded are: plumbing, heating, air conditioning, steam boilers, machinery, electrical appliances, metal smoke stacks, limited glass, lawns and fences. Many of the losses specifically excluded may be added to the policy or other policies obtained covering specific losses. Examples of coverages that may be added to the policy for additional cost are losses due to: earthquake, boiler and machinery, and glass breakage. A flood insurance policy can be purchased separately.

### **Flood Insurance**

If the development is located in a designated Flood Hazard Area, as determined by the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development, the lender will require flood insurance. Contact a local insurance agent or broker for further information.

### **Planned Development Coverage**

Fire, casualty and other insurance carried by the homeowners' association in a planned development is customarily limited to coverage attributable to destruction, damage and injuries that occur on the property owned by the association or by the owners in common. The individual owner in a planned development normally carries fire and liability insurance on the individually owned lot. In some cases, however, where the planned development involves clustered or townhouse-type residential structures, the association obtains a blanket policy covering all dwelling units. An advantage to the blanket policy is the lower premiums for equal coverage.

### **Condominium Insurance Coverage**

In a condominium development, there are two distinct ownership interests in real property to be insured. There is commonly owned property, which normally comprises all of the real property except that which is enclosed by the interior surfaces of the cubicles of space. Within the cubicles of space are such items of insurable real property as built-in cooling systems.

Lenders financing the condominium development with attached units, as a whole, will insist upon a blanket insurance policy providing single coverage for all of the insurable real property within the development. An association must obtain coverage sufficient to satisfy the requirements of all lenders involved in rebuilding units in the project in case of a major loss. Failure to do so could result in creating problems between some unit owners and their mortgagees. Each individual owner should satisfy themselves that the master policy adequately covers their insurable interest in the real property. If it does not, the individual owner may (if allowed by CC&Rs) secure their own insurance for the real property as well as the personal property located within the cubicle of space that is individually owned.

### Package Policies

Package policies are available which usually offer more coverages at a lesser cost than coverages sold separately. Optional coverages are available to meet specific needs.

### Clauses Affecting Fire and Other Hazard Coverages

Some of the features of commercial property insurance policies with which governing bodies should be familiar in discussing coverage with the insurers or insurance agents include the following:

#### *Suspension of Coverage*

Many standard policies include a condition under which insurance is suspended if the particular hazard insured against is increased by means within the control or knowledge of the insured. Governing bodies negotiating insurance policies should seek the deletion of this clause or at least modification.

#### *Co-Insurance Clause*

Some policies include a co-insurance clause which will operate to limit the insurer's liability (with a corresponding reduction of policy premium) in the event of a loss if the improvements are insured at less than 80% of their current replacement value at the time of loss. A "co-insurance clause" places the responsibility of insuring the improvements at 80% or more upon the owners to avoid having a depreciated value given to the improvements in settlement of a loss. The effect of this clause is that if the amount of insurance falls below the required percentage of current replacement value the insured will co-insure replacement costs with significant out-of-pocket costs involved. In most cases a "co-insurance" clause can be deleted through a waiver of co-insurance with an "Agreed Amounts" endorsement. In this case the insurance company agrees to pay a "flat" amount of the actual loss up to the agreed amount limit per occurrence per year.

#### *Commercial Liability Insurance*

Liability insurance in the past few years has become the single most important coverage available to any common-interest subdivision association. The possibility of financial loss from a liability claim is many times greater than a loss by fire.

The primary coverage under any commercial liability insurance is the protection against financial loss caused from being legally liable for the death or bodily injury of another and/or for damage to property of another. Liability coverages must be designed to conform to the unique features of each development to preclude any lapse in coverage which could financially peril the common-interest association. General liability policies do not cover all incidents which could result in financial loss. Care must be taken to determine what is covered and what additional coverages are needed to fully protect the individual association.

The commercial liability policy should be written to insure the association, its governing body and members of the association. It may also be advisable to include employees of the association as additional insureds.

### Umbrella Commercial Liability Coverage

This type of liability coverage is usually written above a base coverage amount. Then the so-called liability umbrella coverage may then be purchased in increments of \$1,000,000. Also available in umbrella policies are "first dollar defense" coverage which provides for payment of all cost incurred in legal defense even without being held legally liable. Refer to Civil Code 5805 regarding civil liability protection to owners.

### Workers' Compensation

Workers' compensation is a form of liability insurance coverage that by California law must be maintained by any entity which falls within the statutory definition of "employer" to secure the payment of compensation to employees or their survivors in case of the injury or death of the employee attributable to his employment. **Because the definition of an "employee" is extremely broad, it is recommended that an allowance for this be included in all budgets.**

### Other Insurance

Insurance can be purchased for protection against loss not ordinarily provided by fire or liability policies. These include fidelity insurance for loss through the fraudulent or dishonest acts of employees, and errors and omissions insurance to protect the association against loss resulting

from negligent acts, errors, omissions, or breach of duty by officers or directors of the association.

### Costs

The best estimate can be obtained from an insurance agent prior to premium renewal or before start-up of a new association. **IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT A BID OR RELIABLE ESTIMATE BE OBTAINED FROM AN INSURANCE BROKER WHENEVER POSSIBLE. BEFORE CONTACTING AN AGENT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO READ YOUR GOVERNING DOCUMENTS TO DETERMINE YOUR INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.** A proposal for insurance should be included as backup to the budgeted figure. Also, your lender may have additional requirements that should be considered.

Associations that have a deductible of \$1,500 to \$5,000 or more should consider setting up a fund to cover small claims not normally covered by the policy and to cover the deductible expense.

**If your documents require additional coverage such as directors and officers, fidelity bond, workers compensation, earthquake, etc., this amount should be included with your proposal.**

*Note: Ordinarily the fidelity amount should include three months of operating income plus an amount equal to the accumulated balance of the reserve fund.*

The rate for your area should be determined by contacting several agents or insurance companies.

### 104. Local License and Inspection Fees

Local governing bodies (city and county) require license and inspection fees on swimming pools, elevators, and tot lots. The dollar amount for these annual inspection and license fees vary from city to city. Elevator fees may run from \$350-\$450/year, swimming pool inspection fees may run \$250-\$300/year, and tot lot inspection fees may run from \$400-\$500/year. Check local agencies for actual amounts.

Business licenses may be required if homeowners associations install vending machines or coin operated laundry machines.

### 105. Estimated Income Taxes

Under provisions of the Federal Tax Reform Act of 1976, a condominium or planned development association may elect to be treated as a tax-exempt organization for federal income tax purposes for taxable years after 1973 if certain prescribed conditions are met. Among other conditions, the association must be organized and operated for “exempt function purposes,” not less than 60 percent of its gross income for the taxable year must consist of dues or assessments from members who are owners of dwelling units in the subdivision and at least 90 percent of the expenditures of the association for the taxable year must be for “exempt function purposes.”

Exempt function purposes is defined to mean the acquisition, construction, management, and maintenance of property held by the association or property commonly owned by members of the association or governmental property that is used for the benefit of residents of the association.

If a homeowners association qualifies as a tax-exempt organization, net non-exempt function income is still subject to income tax. Non-exempt function income includes fees from nonmembers for use of the facilities of the association and amounts paid by members over and above regular dues and assessments for special use of facilities. The situation is now quite similar with respect to the payment of State income taxes.

The amount to be budgeted for federal and State income taxes will depend in large part upon the anticipated extent of income-producing, non-exempt functions of the association. The governing body of the association should seek advice from a CPA or good accountant with respect to obtaining tax-exempt status and in reporting non-exempt function income.

The required filing of the Statement By Domestic Nonprofit Corporation, Form 100, must be filed annually to the Secretary of State in California. The filing fee must accompany the statement and designate the agent for service of process.

## 200's—Operating Costs

### 201. Electrical Energy

Due to fluctuations in energy costs and the unpredictability of future rates, it would be of little assistance to budget preparers to show electrical power rates for even the major utilities in California. Therefore, it is recommended that the budget preparer obtain current rate information from the supplier of electrical power prior to completing the Electrical Energy Consumption Worksheet in Part IV.

The ways in which electrical energy is consumed within a subdivision development are too diverse to guess the costs of electrical power to the common areas without an inventory of electrical equipment, appliances, etc., including the consumption rate of the equipment and an estimate of the hours of use over a given period of time. The worksheet in Part IV of this manual is designed to assist the budget preparer in this inventory process.

#### Hot Water

If hot water, heated by electricity, is supplied by the homeowners association to each dwelling unit (including laundry facilities), 540 KWH per month, per unit per 30-gallon water heater is a reasonable estimate of consumption.

#### Air Conditioning

One ton (1 ton = 12,000 BTUs) of refrigeration will serve approximately 400 to 600 square feet of floor area in a residential structure. Each ton of capacity requires approximately 1.4 KWH per hour of operation. The hours of operation of an air conditioning unit depend upon such factors as the outside temperature, insulation in the structure, exposure to the direct sun and other factors. If you assume a 500-square-foot recreation building is used eight hours a day, seven days per week, the cost can be calculated as follows:

8 hrs. x 7 days/wk. x 52 wks. x 1.4 KWH = 8.15 KWH/SF/YR

The factor shown on the electrical worksheet is estimated for 6 months of use per year.

### Pools and Spas

The electrical energy needed for swimming pools and spas is consumed by a water circulating pump in each unit plus a blower motor in the spa (or occasionally electric heaters). A rough estimate of energy consumption per month for each can be made if the horsepower of the motors can be determined. Circulation pumps generally operate 8 to 12 hours per day, 100% of the year due to health and sanitary reasons. Spa blowers operate when the unit is used. Twenty minutes per unit, per day is a reasonable estimate of time use for spa blowers on smaller projects. Large projects would use up to 12 hours maximum. (See electric worksheet.)

Pump Type	Typical Motor Sizes
Spa/pool pump	1 – 2 HP
Spa blower	1 1/2 – 2 HP
Solar pump	1/12 – 1/4 HP
Sump pump	1/4 – 1/2 HP

Larger spas and pools will require larger motors.

Hours of use for solar pumps would depend on the size, location (climate) and efficiency of the system. A closed system that is tied to the pool circulation pump would run while the cleaning/circulating pump is operating.

### General Equipment Requirements

Size of Pool	Motor	Heater
Average Spa	1 HP + 1 1/2 to 2 HP Blower	250,000 BTU
15,000 gallon	1 HP	250,000 BTU
20,000 gallon	1 1/2 HP	325,000 BTU
40,000 gallon	2 HP	400,000 BTU
150,000 gallon	Varies	2 @ 400,000 BTU

### Other Pump and Motors

Hot water circulation pumps can range from 1/12 to 1/4 HP.

Security gate motors can vary depending on size and weight of the gate and method of opening.

Normally, structures with subterranean parking should include a sump pump(s) as a line item in the budget. If an electrical ventilation system is installed, include on the electrical consumption worksheet.

## 202. Gas Energy

Due to increases in energy costs over the past few years and the unpredictability of future rates, it would be of little assistance to budget preparers to show gas rates for even the major utilities. Therefore it is recommended that the budget preparer obtain current rate information from the supplier of gas as far down the line as possible in the budget preparation process. The rate schedule for common-interest subdivisions should be used rather than the rate schedule for single family residences.

Gas rates are usually “per therm.” A therm or thermal unit is equivalent to approximately 100,000 BTUs. A cubic foot of natural gas presently contains approximately 1,050 BTUs.

Charges for natural gas can be approximated by multiplying the estimated consumption in therms by the rate for the area in which the subdivision is located. (See Gas Consumption Worksheet in Part IV.)

Example: Assume a heating unit with a 50,000 BTU/hour input rating is to be operated 70 hours per month. (The BTU rating of equipment utilizing gas energy is shown on a metal plate on the equipment. If both an input and output rating are shown on the plate, the input rating should be used in all calculations.)

50,000 BTUs x 70 hrs. = 35 therms/month  
100,000

### Hot Water

Generally, the cost of supplying hot water to the individual dwelling units in any common-interest subdivision is billed to the owner or resident of the unit. The water heater itself is usually a part of the dwelling unit. In some cases, the owners' association must pay the costs associated with supplying hot water. In budgeting for hot water, the governing body of the association should consider the following facts:

- If water heated by natural gas is supplied by the association to each dwelling unit (including the laundry facilities with the unit), consumption should average approximately 20 therms per unit per month.
- A recreation room with a kitchen in a clubhouse facility consumes energy approximately equivalent to that consumed by one dwelling unit.
- If automatic washers and dryers are coin operated by the association, it is not ordinarily necessary to budget gas as an expense item because the income derived normally offsets the utility and maintenance costs.
- For associations that supply domestic hot water to units heated by propane, the following conversion factors may be helpful:

Approximately 800 cubic feet or 22 gallons of propane is necessary to supply one dwelling unit per month.

### Pool Heating

Consumption of gas for pool heating is subject to many variables. On the average, it costs seven times more to heat a pool in winter than during the summer. Outside temperature, wind, and humidity can also affect the amount of gas consumed in any one month for heating pool water by as much as 50%. The human factor must also be taken into account. If the users of the pool insist upon a water temperature of more than 75 degrees, the cost of heating is significantly increased.

In calculating the monthly cost of pool heating, the following information should prove useful:

- 8.33 BTUs are required to heat one gallon of water one degree Fahrenheit in one hour.
- 100,000 BTUs equals 1 thermal unit or therm.
- 40,000-gallon pools in Southern California rarely lose more than 8 degrees overnight.
- If propane gas is used for pool heating, it should be noted that 1 therm = 1.1 gallons and 1 gallon = 36.4 cubic feet. Also, 1 cubic foot = 2,500 BTUs. This information should allow you to compute the cost if you know the cost per gallon (see Gas Worksheet).

*Note: The presumption is a recreation pool, with heating equipment, will be used all year or 100%. For very hot or cold climates where a heater will not or cannot be used all year, a 70% usage should suffice.*

### **Space Heating**

The best guide in budgeting for an existing facility is to multiply the historical energy consumption times the current utility rate. If there is no history or if for any reason the history is not reliable, one can assume that the installed heating unit or units are of adequate capacity. To calculate the cost of heating, multiply the BTU input of the heater by the anticipated hours of operation per year and divide the product by 100,000 to determine the number of therms per annum. Then multiply the number of thermal units by the per therm cost of gas in your area. Add 15% for pump and blower operation.

The number of hours that heat will have to be supplied to a structure will vary according to climatic conditions and construction features. In a moderate climate, 800 hours per year is a reasonable estimate based on 4 hours per day, 200 days per year.

### **Solar Heating**

#### *Solar Pool and Spa Heating*

Solar systems for pools can greatly reduce or eliminate the need for expensive natural gas for pool heating, depending on the level of swimming comfort and the length of swimming season desired. Solar can also be used to heat hot tubs or spas in conjunction with conventional heaters and may reduce gas consumption by up to 25%.

“Active” solar pool heating includes collector panels, controls, and plumbing. The pool’s own filter pump serves to pump the water up to the collectors, where it is warmed, and back down to the pool. The collector area needed to provide 100% of pool heating needs is equivalent to the surface area of the pool; typically, systems are sized to provide 60%–75% of the need. Price per square foot installed is in the range of \$12–\$14. Homeowners’ association sized pool heating systems cost in the range of \$4,500–\$8,500.

#### *Solar Water Heating*

Solar water heaters are generally sized to meet 70% of the demand for hot water on an annual basis. “Backup” systems using electricity or natural gas supply the other 30%. In a condominium building, solar water heating is most economically installed as a central system with centralized backup. In a townhouse-type development, individual systems for each unit are often used. Solar water heating systems may be integrated with solar pool heaters.

Solar water heating systems include glazed collectors, a storage tank, a pump, controls, and plumbing. The size of system required depends on the hot water needs of the residents. Common rules of thumb hold that hot water use is 20 gallons per person per day in multifamily housing; that 1/2–3/4 square foot of collector space is needed for every gallon of demand; and that 1 1/2–2 gallons of storage capacity must be provided for every square foot of collector space. Thus, a family of four using 20 gallons of water apiece will require 40–60 square feet of collector and between 50 and 120 gallons of storage space. On multifamily new-home construction, the California Energy Commission estimates the cost per unit for solar water heating to be about \$1,000. Townhouse-type construction with individual solar systems generally cost more.

The California Energy Commission estimates that the average family of four living in a multifamily housing structure will save 211 therms of gas a year with a solar water heater.

#### *Solar Space Heating*

Ideal installation can expect a maximum savings in energy consumption for space heating of 50%.

#### *Leasing Solar Equipment*

It has become more popular to lease solar equipment for hot water and pool heating. In many cases, the monthly savings in energy is enough to make the lease payment. In addition, users of leased solar equipment may still be eligible for some tax credits. If your association leases equipment, the monthly payment amount should be included in the budget.

### 203. Water

Common-interest subdivisions use water for irrigation purposes for common areas, for supplying water for swimming pools, clubhouses, recreational facility showers, laundry rooms, and dwelling units that are not individually metered.

Water rates vary appreciably from place to place and the rate for estimating association expenses should be obtained from the supplier of water to your subdivision. Rates are customarily quoted as cost per 100 cubic feet.

Irrigation of landscaping typically consumes four acre feet of water per acre, per year. However, weather conditions and the type of soil can have a significant effect on this average. Projects in the Palm Springs area generally use 8–12 acre feet per year. Water usage will vary greatly with sprinkler system design.

Domestic consumption assuming 2 1/2 occupants per unit can be estimated at between 200 and 250 gallons per day, per unit or about 33 cubic feet per unit, per day.

Some developments equipped with sprinkler systems or fire hydrants may be subject to a fire standby charge and should be included in the budget.

You may obtain the proper rate from your water district by contacting the customer service department of the water supplier to your subdivision. Also, a determination should be made whether or not any fees will be required. A worksheet for calculating water costs is included in Part IV of this manual.

#### Water Sub-Metering

Water sub-metering is becoming more common. Common water expense must first be included under item 203 on the budget worksheet before it can be listed as revenue offset under item 503 of the budget worksheet. Typical fees include:

- \$2/unit/yr., plus \$100/year per project for inspections by the Bureau of Weights & Measures.
- Meter reading, \$4–\$8/unit/mo. with a minimum of \$175–\$250 per month. Small projects may be done by the management company.

Typical reserves for equipment include:

Sub-meters cost \$300 each. Replacement by new certified meters needs to be done every 10 years. Other equipment may include batteries and computerized reading equipment with signal repeaters.

### 204. Sewer

The cost of sewer treatment is most commonly charged in one of three ways: 1) additional charge on individual property tax bill; 2) surcharge on water bill based on amount of water usage; or 3) flat fee per unit or lot.

If the project for which the budget is being prepared has separate water meters for domestic use and the sewer charge is on the water bill, this item should be marked with a zero and noted accordingly.

#### Septic Tanks

Properly installed and operating septic tanks should last the life of the improvement being served. On an average of every three years, septic tanks must be pumped at a cost ranging from:

Normal Maintenance and Operating Costs/Per/Year

- Pumping septic tanks \$250–\$350/tank
- Emergency services \$30\* (unit/year)

\* Associations that tend to have continual problems should raise this portion of the cost to \$30–\$40 per year.

#### Storm Drains/Water Retention Basins

Some projects may include storm drains or water retention basins. Proper maintenance and reserve costs should be allocated for these items, as well as the cost to replace the filters based on local agencies' maintenance and/or manufacturer's requirements.

### 205. Cable Television/Master Antenna

The monthly contract rate for cable TV may range from \$40–\$50 per unit or more, depending on the locality and the extent of the service offered. Check with your cable provider to determine the actual amount.

Some projects may be served by a master antenna system. These installations normally consist of a master antenna



receiving certain signals and amplifying and conveying the signals by cable to the individual units. The cost of maintaining this system may be minimal if the antenna is mounted on the roof of a two- or three-story multiple-family structure and serves only the units in the structure. In such cases, the maintenance cost normally ranges from \$0.75–\$1.25 per unit, per month.

More extensive systems are provided in large projects and may require extensive underground cabling. Costs for this type of service generally run from \$2.50–\$5 per unit, per month.

## 207. Custodial

This category includes the cost of services for floor cleaning, carpet vacuuming and shampooing, window washing, furniture dusting, and similar janitorial work. For cleaning and maintenance of carpet, figure \$0.10–\$0.18 per square foot per month. For care of hardwood floors and tile, estimate \$0.18–\$0.25 per square foot per month. If the work is independently contracted for, the rate will be approximately \$18–\$25 per hour. If the work is to be done by employees of the association, \$12 per hour, or two-thirds of the contract rate is a reasonable estimate of the expense.

The cleaning and maintenance of restrooms and laundry rooms may be provided for under a blanket maintenance contract with an independent contractor. If not, the separate cost for this work should be budgeted at \$40 per cleaning for each two restrooms and \$30 per month for each laundry room. Five to nine cleanings per month should be adequate to keep the restrooms in presentable condition.

There are always economies of size, and large areas (over 3,000 square feet) will cost far less per square foot than small areas. **In no event should custodial service be calculated at less than \$350 per month for any type of custodial cleaning.** In small projects it might be more economical to have the landscape contractor do the custodial work.

All employers in California are required to implement and maintain an effective written Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) (California Labor Code

6401). Should the association determine to hire its own employees rather than independent contractors for services such as janitorial, landscape maintenance, pool and spa maintenance, the association then becomes the employer and must comply with the IIPP requirements for employers in California.

## 207A. Custodial Supplies

An additional line item should be considered to cover the cost of custodial supplies. An average of \$50–\$200 a month is a good preliminary amount until the association has some history of expenses in these areas.

## 208. Landscape Maintenance

With the exception of high-rise structures, landscaping costs often represent one of the largest single budgetary items in common-interest subdivisions. Proper budgeting requires careful consideration of the anticipated intensity of use of the landscaped area and the level of maintenance desired.

The costs represented in the tables are averages for the three areas listed. Urban areas in Northern California should use the costs shown next to Southern California.

**In any case, not less than \$175 per month should be used.**

### Golf Courses

Normal maintenance, not including over-seeding or flower planting, averages approximately \$0.70/SF/YR (SF/YR = square foot per year). In addition to a cost per square foot per year, the budget preparer should create a landscape maintenance budget that would consider the cost of staff, equipment, irrigation repair and other unique activities that are mandated for the maintenance of golf courses. It is recommended that bids be obtained in order to determine your cost more accurately.

### Classes A and B

Areas consisting of 60%–70% grass and 30%–40% shrubs, trees and flower beds. (If planting areas are broken up into a large number of small plots, the rate is likely to be higher than for the maintenance of mass plantings.)

Statewide—\$0.40–\$0.60/SF/YR

**Class C**

Areas with 90%–100% lawn sufficiently open to permit the use of a large riding mower.

Statewide—\$0.35–\$0.60/SF/YR

**Class D**

Gentle slopes with low maintenance ground cover and/or drought tolerant plants.

Palm Springs—\$0.30–\$0.40/SF/YR

Southern California—\$0.15–\$0.25/SF/YR

Northern California—\$0.15–\$0.25/SF/YR

Steep and/or show slopes.

Palm Springs—\$0.35–\$0.45/SF/YR

Southern California—\$0.25–\$0.35/SF/YR

Northern California—\$0.20–\$0.30/SF/YR

**Class E**

Unplanted or natural areas requiring weed abatement, fire breaks, rodent control (see Item 217), erosion/drainage control, trash pickup, etc. Small natural areas and fuel-modified zones or those requiring brush control should use the high end of the range. Large areas of open space can use a lower amount.

Small natural areas and irrigated fuel-modified zones—\$0.06–\$0.10/SF/YR

Large natural areas and non-irrigated fuel-modified zones—\$0.02–\$0.05/SF/YR

**Class F**

Bridle paths—\$0.05/SF/YR

**Class G**

Parkways—\$0.48–\$0.50/SF/YR

**Class H**

High-Rise or Mid-Rise projects with minimal landscaping: pots/planters—\$16 per pot/planter per month

**Trees**

If trees exist on the property and require additional maintenance, see Item 313.

**Environmental Compliance**

Costs for maintaining environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, oak tree preservation, tide pools, etc., should be estimated by professionals specializing in this type of maintenance.

**208A. Landscape Supplies**

An additional line item should be considered to cover the cost of supplies, sprinkler repairs and landscape replacement. An amount of \$0.05/SF/YR for irrigated areas is a good preliminary number until the association has some history of expenses in these areas.

**209. Refuse Disposal**

This service may be supplied by a municipality or a service district. It is more frequently provided by an independent contractor. The service may provide for individual garbage can collection or for bin pickup. Normally, there is one bin for 12 units.

Where individual garbage can collection service is provided, it is unusual for the association to bear the costs of refuse collection except that provided to the recreational common area of the development.

It is best to contact the local agency or vendor in your area to get an accurate cost estimate of pickup charges. Include the name and telephone number on Page 3 of RE 623 if applicable. Costs have averaged \$15 per unit per month.

Individual cities may impose special requirements for recycling, etc. This should also be considered when determining the cost of this service.

**210. Elevators**

The most commonly used elevators are either overhead traction or hydraulic lift. The costs for service contracts are as follows:

**Overhead Traction Type**

Full service contract—\$4,500–\$5,500/YR

**Hydraulic Lift Type**

Full service contract—\$2,500–\$3,000/YR

**High-Speed Elevator**

High-speed overhead elevators are usually found only in high-rise buildings. They are ordinarily serviced under a long-term service contract provided by the manufacturer. Maintenance costs payable by the association will be contained in the contract. If these elevators are not maintained by an independent contractor under service contract, information necessary to budget for the maintenance should be obtained from the manufacturer or its representative. The cost averages \$7,200 per year per elevator.

Include an additional \$200 per year per elevator for interior maintenance or refurbishment.

**211. Private Streets, Driveways, and Parking Areas****Sweeping**

Sweeping is normally done once a month. The present contract rate is approximately \$50 per acre of street surface area per sweeping with a minimum charge of \$100. Occasionally the cleaning of streets, driveways, and parking areas are included in the maintenance contract for landscaping. Sometimes costs are based on a per unit or per lot cost rather than on an acreage basis.

Maintenance costs will vary due to such factors as soil condition, road base, weather conditions, and quality of construction.

Subterranean garages should be swept once a week and washed to remove oil and grease stains at least once a month. In budgeting for this work, use a figure of \$1 per space per month, or one half-cent per square foot of garage area per month. If this service is included in the landscape maintenance contract, there is no need to budget separately for it.

**212. Heating and Air Conditioning Maintenance**

In all planned developments and in most cluster, garden, and low-rise condominium structures, heating and air conditioning equipment for dwelling units is individually owned by the owner of the dwelling unit. The individual owner has sole responsibility for the costs of operating, repairing and replacing the heater and air conditioner, which supplies the dwelling unit. Sometimes air conditioning units are located within the interior of a condominium unit, but the cooling coil may be connected by tubing and electrical wiring to a condensing unit on the roof within the common area. The CC&Rs usually provide that the maintenance and replacement of the condensing unit is the responsibility of the unit owner even though it is located within the common area.

It is not uncommon for a condominium owners' association to own central heating and/or air conditioning equipment which supplies dwelling units within the development. In planned developments, the association owns and maintains heating and air conditioning equipment for the clubhouse, dressing rooms, and other structural improvements of the common area.

Simple wall heaters and floor furnaces usually only require regular periodic cleaning. This generally can and will be handled by the building custodian in a recreation building and by the individual owner in a dwelling.

Forced air heating units require filter cleaning or changing and occasional lubrication. These costs can generally be handled under miscellaneous repairs.

Combined heating and cooling units require a regular servicing and an allowance of \$25 per month should be considered for average recreation rooms. Larger installations may be on a separate service contract and a budget allowance should be provided to adequately cover the contract price.

**213. Swimming Pools And Spas****Weekly Service**

Cost for professional pool service varies with size and location. The average charge for a pool is \$45 per call. If a

spa is included, the charge is \$60 per call. Average winter service can be taken care of with one or two calls a week. Summer service can be done with two or three calls per week. However, heavy use in large projects or those with many young people will require more frequent care than the average.

Multiple pools in one location can reduce the average costs per pool as much as 40%.

Prices shown do not include chemicals (see 213A).

Pool only—\$200/month  
Spa only—\$125/month  
Pool and spa—\$325/month

*Note: The costs represented are averages only. Cleaning services vary on frequency of cleaning, and new inspection guidelines will warrant higher monthly fees. It is highly recommended that estimates be obtained from local maintenance companies.*

For larger pools in excess of 500 square feet, \$0.50 per square foot per month should be used to estimate the monthly service cost.

### 213A. Pool and Spa Supplies

An additional line item should be considered to cover the cost of supplies. It is recommended to allocate 20%–30% of the monthly contract amount.

### 214. Tennis Courts

#### Maintenance and Operation (Asphalt or Concrete)

- Sweeping  
(1 HR/WK at \$10/HR)—\$40/month
- Refuse pickup  
(10 min./day at \$10/HR)—\$50/month  
Total—\$90/month
- Night lighting energy cost—use worksheet.

Sweeping and refuse pickup may be included in the landscaping contract.

### 215. Access Control

There are any number of systems and devices that can be employed to enhance the control of access to the property. These include:

- Individual key systems with magnetic locks providing entry to individual dwelling units. This may be used in conjunction with an intercom, telephone or closed circuit television setup. Operational and maintenance costs may be carried by individual owners or the association.
- Motorized gate maintenance costs are estimated as follows:

Type of Gate	Maintenance (per month per gate)
Arm type	\$70
Sliding gate	\$70
Overhead gate	\$70
Swinging gate	\$90

- A patrol service on a contract basis. If motorized, figure \$18–\$30 per hour. For a foot patrol, slightly less.
- Attended guard gates. If 24-hour per day service is provided by contract to the association, it will require 4.5 people on a 40-hour workweek basis with all the normal employee benefits. At a monthly rate of \$4,000 per person, the annual cost per guard gate would amount to \$216,000. In some developments, cost reductions for automobile entry gates are being realized through the use of closed circuit television. If an automobile is assigned to a guard gate, add \$4,000 per automobile to the annual budget.

#### Intercoms and Telephone Entry Systems

Intercoms would normally require \$1 per unit per month to cover maintenance and service calls, with \$25 per month as a minimum. Costs for telephone entry systems average \$45 per location per month per directory location. If you have rented telephone entry equipment,

the monthly cost may be higher. Contact your telephone company for an estimate. If a TV system is included, the servicing could be higher and a reserve for the equipment should be provided.

If your project includes a major recreation facility, it is recommended that consideration for a telephone be budgeted at each center at an estimated cost of \$50/telephone/month.

### 216. Reserve Study

Subject to certain limitations, California Civil Code section 5550 requires the governing body of a common interest development to cause a study of the reserve account requirements of the subdivision every three years. It is recommended that a subdivision within the first year of its operation initiate the beginning of the three-year requirement and have the reserve study performed. It is also recommended that as subsequent phases become annexed into the subdivision, the reserve study be amended to reflect the new reserve components recently annexed.

**Our Operating Budget Guidelines are intended for use during the first year of operation of a common-interest subdivision. It is recommended that the governing body of the association transition the use of the DRE budget to that of an operating budget, reflecting current actual costs as they exist.**

Reserve study costs generally fall within \$1,000–\$7,500 or \$350–\$2,500 per year. Depending on the size of the community and amenities included, it may go higher. Updates can be as minimal as \$500 per study. Larger communities with multiple and complex components require a more detailed study.

### 217. Miscellaneous Maintenance

#### Minor Repairs

For miscellaneous maintenance of common facilities and dwelling units for new construction, include the following on a per unit per month basis:

- With association maintained exteriors—\$5
- Without association maintained exteriors—\$1

- Condominium conversions with exterior maintenance—\$7
- High-rise projects (over six stories)—\$12

#### Pest Control

For those projects requiring pest control services, the average cost is ordinarily \$2 per unit per month.

In accordance with Civil Code section 4780, a community apartment, condominium project, or stock cooperative, as defined in Sections 4105–4190, is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the common area occasioned by the presence of wood destroying organisms unless the CC&Rs indicate otherwise.

The required reserve for termite extermination has been removed from this manual. This reserve item can now be considered optional. When and where an infestation occurs and how severe the infestation will be is difficult to predict. Annual inspections are needed to discover any infestation in its early stages before it becomes a serious problem. For all potential pest problems, frequent pest control inspections are necessary. **The average cost for pest control service is ordinarily \$2 per unit per month or \$30 per month, whichever is the higher cost.**

It is suggested that if an infestation does occur, obtain at least three bids from extermination companies. If a reserve has not been established, a special assessment may be needed at that time to pay for the extermination expenses. In addition to pests, larger planned developments with detached units may have a problem with rodents. Slope areas can incur considerable damage from rodents. Allowing \$75–\$150 per acre per month of irrigated landscaping for rodent control is reasonable.

#### Lakes and Waterways

Maintenance, operation, and reserve costs for water works projects are directly related to the initial engineering of the system. A poorly designed system will be less energy efficient and therefore more costly to maintain and operate.

The average cost to maintain small lakes and waterways range from \$0.20–\$0.25/SF/YR with waterways at the high end of the range. The cost to maintain large lakes (10–13 acres) ranges from \$0.72–\$0.84/SF/YR. Add to this cost \$25 per pump per month for pump maintenance.

Operating and reserve estimates for larger lakes should be determined by a geotechnical engineering study of the entire system and/or a consultant specializing in lake environments.

### **Snow Removal**

Snow removal costs should be based on an average year's snowfall. When snow removal is to be contracted, estimates or bids should be obtained from local contractors. Average cost is approximately \$.20/SF/YR.

If the association is to use its own equipment and employees, the full hourly rate of employees is to be multiplied by the necessary hours of work involved. The costs of operating any equipment should be added. Reserves must be established to replace tools and equipment.

### **Community Network**

Many developers and builders are installing high-speed cable systems in their homes with the idea of providing community intranet or a website. Costs associated with this technology can run from \$8,000 per year to \$200,000 per year depending on the level of sophistication of the system and the site.

The fee to the service provider will run about \$35 to \$75 per unit per month depending on the level and number of services provided. Actual contracts should be used to support the cost used in the budget whenever possible.

Allow \$300–\$500 per month for a regularly updated Association website. This should include Internet service (ISP) and technical support.

### **Maintenance Manual Inspections**

Many projects are provided with a maintenance manual that details the requirements for maintenance, repair, and replacement of the common area improvements. Language for implementation of the manual is spelled

out in the CC&Rs and includes multiple inspections, including an annual inspection. Most of the inspections can be or will be performed by the vendors providing the services to the association or the property manager. The independent annual inspection is typically provided by an inspection expert or the maintenance manual company and will cost from \$500–\$3,000 per year, depending on the size and complexity of the project.

### **Lighting Maintenance and Supplies**

Some projects may consider or include lighting maintenance service. A contract for lighting maintenance and supplies can provide for regular inspection, upkeep and timely replacement of lighting components and fixtures. The coordination of light and motion sensors with timers can also help reduce energy cost. The cost of this contract will vary with the size and complexity of each project.

## **218. Fire Sprinklers, Fire Alarms and Fire Extinguishers**

The State Fire Code requires any structure over 5000 square feet or over three stories to have fire sprinklers. Typical fees for maintenance include:

- Off-site monitoring runs from \$40–\$55 per location per month. Each location requires a separate alarm panel with two phone lines. Each phone line normally costs from \$38–\$50 per month. Wireless monitoring may also be available. Consult vendor for cost estimate.
- Annual inspections of the fire sprinkler system cost from \$125–\$200 per building, and fire sprinkler quarterly inspections range from \$85–\$100 per building. A five-year recertification of the system, which includes inspecting all of the sprinkler heads, costs from \$300–\$400 per building.
- Fire alarm systems should be inspected quarterly and usually costs about \$45. A typical fire alarm panel costs around \$3,000 and should usually last 15–20 years before having to be replaced.
- Fire extinguishers need to be inspected, recharged, and recertified annually at a cost of \$15–\$20 per extinguisher.

## 300's—Reserves

**The reserve section of this manual only includes components or costs for items most frequently found in common interest subdivisions. Reserve items for your budget may not be limited to those found in this manual. Your budget should be tailored to fit your project and include necessary reserves for all appropriate items.**

Different components wear out at different rates. A deck chair may be unusable after two years while the roof may last for 20 years. Good property management practices call for a fixed amount to be allocated each year to ensure that the association will have sufficient funds on hand when a predictable major expense must be paid. Even if every existing owner believes that he or she will sell before the roof must be replaced, the existence of a reserve fund for replacement may increase the marketability and value of units to knowledgeable purchasers.

An important policy issue for the Board is the decision to use current costs, or estimated future costs. Use of an inflation rate will generally result in higher estimates of future costs.

If the Board uses current costs, it is essential that the association Board review the reserve costs annually based upon updated current replacement costs plus currently required or anticipated expenditures. The annual cost for each component would be calculated by dividing the unfunded replacement cost by the remaining useful life. THIS APPROACH IS VALID ONLY IF REPEATED EACH YEAR.

If the Board chooses to use an inflation rate, it would apply an average annual long-term cost inflation rate to all components from the time of the study until the year of replacement (based on recent average component cost data). TO KEEP THIS PLAN CURRENT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ANNUALLY REVIEW AND UPDATE PROJECTED EXPENDITURES, INFLATION FACTORS AND OTHER ASSUMPTIONS.

There are a number of ways to select an inflation rate for estimating component costs in future years. Examples of reliable sources of information for inflation factors in California are the following:

- The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Published information from construction cost estimating companies such as R.S. Means Company, Inc.
- The California State Allocation Board

In the pages that follow under this subject, there are precalculated reserve factors for several components. The reserve worksheet in Part IV provides space for use of either these precalculated factors or factors obtained from other sources. Some building components are generally expected to last the lifetime of the structure (electrical, plumbing, etc.). Normally no reserve is established for these items.

The reserve factors in this manual are based upon new building components and equipment. Therefore, these reserve factors need to be adjusted to be used for an existing development or for the conversion of an existing structure. For existing structures you would normally divide the cost of replacing the component by its remaining useful life.

The best estimate of a component's useful life can normally be obtained from a contractor or expert in the particular field. The average lives of some of the larger building components are listed in the reserve section.

Replacement costs are difficult to estimate. However, with some effort it should be possible to arrive at a reliable estimate of replacement costs by studying appropriate building trade publications or by discussions with the customer service departments of major suppliers of building components.

### 301. Painting

#### Average Costs

Painting reserves are estimated by measuring the perimeter of each structure and multiplying that amount by the height using 10 feet per story. This is adequate for the normal one- to three-story structure. No discount or additions are considered for the openings (doors and windows). Frequency of painting will vary with the surface as well as the exposure. The basis used in this manual assumes a 10-year cycle on stucco and five years

on trim with an overall average for most structures of seven years. Each association will develop a greater or lesser amount for this reserve as experience will dictate. The estimate based on this manual is considered to be an adequate minimum for most developments. For high-rise projects it is highly recommended that multiple estimates be obtained.

The total estimated painting cost per square foot is \$1.75/SF or \$0.25/SF/YR for stucco and \$0.30/SF/YR for wood trim.

The square footage estimate for calculating interior painting should be added to the exterior area when making the calculations. Costs will vary depending upon the amount of preparation work needed or building structure. For example, scaffolding for multi-story buildings (over two stories).

All areas to be painted should be included in your calculations. Commonly overlooked items are: gates, mailboxes, utility closets and doors, garage areas and courtyards.

### Wood Siding

For associations with exterior walls of wood siding, fiber cement/Hardie, or Masonite, an adjustment should be made to the average cost indicated above. After computing the surface area of the wood siding, a factor of \$0.40/SF/YR should be used to compute the reserve cost. If both stucco with normal trim and wood siding make up the exterior walls, they should be listed separately on the reserve worksheet.

### Decks, Porches, Etc.

Associations without wood siding that have wood decks, porches, covered or latticed patios should also adjust their paint reserve. The factor used for wood siding would normally apply in this situation. Since this type of work is more labor intensive, similar items requiring stain instead of paint should also use the higher factor, if applicable.

## 302. Roofing

The following are the recommended reserves for the various types of roofing. In Palm Springs, add 20% for added costs to satisfy environmental requirements.

Roof Type	New Cost SF/YR	Average Life*
Concrete tile	\$0.20	35 yrs.
Built-up paper/rock roofs	\$0.35	14 yrs.
Asphalt/composition shingles	\$0.30	20 yrs.
Wood shake	\$0.25	24 yrs.
Wood shingles	\$0.25	22 yrs.
Fiberglass shingles	\$0.25	20 yrs.

\* Life will vary with the quality of workmanship, material used and weather conditions.

If the old roof must be removed, there will be additional costs that must be included when determining the total replacement cost.

*Note: Projects over 10 years old are required to have a roof certification completed by a licensed roofing contractor. The certification should indicate the estimated remaining life of the roof and the cost to replace. A copy of the certification must be included with the Duplicate Budget Package (DBP).*

## 303. Water Heaters

The estimated reserve includes the retail cost of the heater and professional installation including disposal of old unit. Estimated life is based on a 9–12 year average replacement cycle.

Capacity	Cost/Year
40 gallon capacity	\$90
70–80 gallon capacity	\$150
100 gallon, quick recovery	\$300
Boiler (20 year life)	\$300
Tankless Water Heaters	Replacement cost/Useful life



**Circulating Pumps — Quick Recovery/Boilers**

Line Size	Cost/Year	Average Life
1-inch	\$45	7 years
2-inch	\$65	7 years
3-inch	\$105	7 years

**Solar Heating**

The California Energy Commission estimates that the collector will last at least 20 years, the tank 15 years, pumps and controls 10 years, and the plumbing 20 years. Replacement reserves estimated at 6.5% of the installed cost per year should be adequate. Maintenance is 0.5% of installed cost per year. The pump (usually 1/20–1/40 hp) will run 8–10 hours a day and consume approximately 350 kilowatt hours of electricity a year.

**304. Electric Lighting Fixtures**

The reserve for this item is for replacement of the fixture itself. It is assumed that bulb replacement costs are a minor repair item.

Exterior fixtures being exposed to the elements have a shorter estimated life. The following amount is considered minimum.

Exterior fixture \$10–\$12/year/fixture  
 Street lights \$100–\$150/year/light

**305. Floor Coverings**

Floor Type	New Cost SF/YR	Average Life
Carpeting	\$0.80	5-7 years
Linoleum	\$0.30	10-14 years
Hardwood (refinishing only)	\$0.40	7-10 years
Vinyl Tile/Sheet	\$0.40	15 years
Waterproofing (deck/patio/terrace)	\$0.60	3-5 years
Slip Sheet Floor	\$10-\$12	12-15 years
Tile Seal	\$0.50	3-5 years
Tile Grout	\$0.30	5-7 years

**306. Elevators**

An elevator replacement reserve is not required since the elevator usually lasts as long as the structure itself. There is need, however, for a major component reserve as well as a budget item for a monthly service contract. The cost of periodic servicing of the overhead traction elevator is higher than that for the hydraulic lift type. The mechanism to operate the hydraulic lift elevator is much more extensive and complicated.

Hydraulic \$1,050/year (see note)  
 Traction Full service only—no reserve

*Note: Less than a full-service contract on a hydraulic-type elevator will require a reserve as shown above. Less than full service is normally referred to as “oil and grease contract service.”*

**307. Street and Driveways**

**Asphalt – Intermittent Care**

Budgeting should consider the long term care of streets, driveways and parking areas. A full cycle of maintenance should be provided that includes all applicable items shown below.

Seal coat	Slurry coat
Culverts	Provision for storm damage
Sign replacement	Striping
Re-oiling	Patching
Re-graveling (gravel roads)	Berming

Asphalt surfaces should be resealed every 3–5 years. They will probably also need intermittent care such as striping and patching. The reserve based on a cost of \$0.20 per square foot per year can be used to defray these costs in moderate climates. Where there are special problems such as severe weather or unusual physical conditions as in Northern California, the cost could double.

**Oil and Chip**

“Oil and Chip” surfaces normally have a life of 3 or 4 years and would require \$0.12 per square foot per year reserve.

### Cost Summary

Surface Type	SF Cost Per Year
Asphalt surfaces (blacktop (moderate climates))	\$0.20
Oil and chip surfaces	\$0.12
Concrete repairs	\$0.05
Pavers	\$0.05

Large areas may cost less on a cost per square foot basis. It may be advisable to get a bid if you fall into this category.

### 308. Heating and Air Conditioning

Type	Average Cost Per Year	Average Life
Forced air furnace (for average recreation room)	\$150	20 years
Forced air furnace with A/C (for avg. recreation room)	\$250	20 years
Heat Pump (used with central unit)	\$150	—
Thru wall A/C units	\$100	9 years
Floor or wall furnaces	\$75	13 years
Central Heat, A/C for units	Cost ÷ 20-year life	

The best method of setting up reserve costs for these items is to determine the cost of the equipment installed, and divide by the life indicated.

### 309. Swimming Pools and Spas

Pool and spa costs will vary for large custom pools or spas. Accordingly. For standard sizes, average costs are:

Item	Average Cost Per Year	Average Life
Pool Re-plaster	\$800	10 years
Pool Heater	\$550	10 years
Pool Filter	\$175	10 years
Spa Re-plaster	\$350	7 years
Spa Heater	\$300	8 years
Spa Filter	\$250	10 years
Pool/Spa Pumps	\$150	5 years
Elastomeric Caulking	\$5/LF	5 years

### Solar Heating

Reserve requirements will vary with the type of collector panel used as well as with the price. Most pool systems use “unglazed” collectors which are cheaper than those used for water heating. Unglazed collectors vary, also: those made of metal will last longer than plastic. The California Energy Commission has not made public its figures on the useful life of this equipment. Depending on how the system is used, there may be a small increase in electricity used to run the filter pump. Replacement reserves amounting to 6.5% of the installed cost per year should be adequate. It is recommended that several estimates are obtained from vendors when budgeting for this item.

### 310. Tennis Courts

Item	Cost Per Year
Net replacement (3 yrs.)	\$165-\$350
Wind screen (full court; 5 yrs.)	\$2.50/SF
Asphalt resurfacing (4–7 yrs.)	\$2.25/SF
Concrete resurfacing (5 yrs.)	\$4.25/SF
Light fixtures	\$200
Elastomeric caulking (4-6 yrs)	\$5/LF

### 311. Furnishings and Equipment

Item	Cost
Furnishings	Cost ÷ 5 years
Appliances	Cost ÷ 10 years
Equipment	Cost ÷ 6 years

### 312. Walls and Fences — Replacement/Repair

Item	Cost Per Year
Chain Link (repair/replacement; 17 year life)	\$1.00 linear foot
Concrete block (repair)	\$0.25 linear foot
Concrete block (paint)	\$0.30 square foot/side
Tubular fence (paint)	\$1.00 square foot

Tubular fence (repair/replacement; 15 year life)	\$3.00 linear foot
Wood (repair/replacement; 10 yr life)	\$3.00 linear foot
Wood (paint/stain)	\$0.80 square foot/side
Wrought Iron (paint)	\$1.00 square foot/from paint worksheet
Wrought Iron (repair/replacement; 20 year life)	\$5.00 linear foot
View Panels (20 year life)	\$2.00 linear foot
Wood Siding (repair/replacement; 15-year life) (See item 301 in this manual for Wood Siding paint)	\$0.60 square foot

**313. Miscellaneous**

Item	Cost Per Year
Sump pumps (12 year life)	\$60
Sewer lifts (pumps; 10 yr life)	\$250
Garage ventilation systems (each parking level)	\$300
Solar systems (Also see Gas & Pools)	Total Cost ÷ 10–15 yr. life
Racquetball courts	\$240
Lakes/waterways	Provide engineer’s report for construction cost, yearly maintenance and reserve costs.
<b>Motorized gates</b>	
Gate	\$275 (repair/replacement; 15-year life – large double gates, \$500/yr)
Gate operator	\$180 (all types–5 yr. life)
<b>Total Per Gate</b>	<b>\$455</b>
Loop Detector (3-5 yr. life)	\$150-\$200
Wallpaper (10 yr. life)	\$0.19 square foot
Tree Trimming: (small to mature trees)	\$45-\$95 per tree
Landscape reserve	\$0.05/square foot

**Reserve cost for septic tank**

Use 6% of the total cost for leach field excavation, gravel, paper, straw and other backfilled materials, leach field pipe, distribution boxes, and valves. This cost is approximately \$75 per living unit per year.

**Emergency Power Systems**

Most mid-rise and high-rise projects are equipped with emergency lighting equipment. Costs typically include inspection and maintenance of the generator(s), if any, and replacement of the battery pack for each emergency lighting unit. The battery packs typically cost about \$150 each and have a nine-year life.

**314. Fountains**

Fountains will cost anywhere from \$1,975 to \$35,000 depending on size, water flow and spray design. Fountain pumps typically last 5–6 years while the fountain itself will have a life of approximately 20 years.

## 400's—Administration

### 401. Management

The management function of a community association is administrative in nature. The Board of Directors is the principal policy making body for the association. Their role is to govern by establishing policies, operational standards, procedures, fiscal policies and eventually the association's operation budget. Implementing policy governance means the Board does not get involved in the day-to-day operations of the association. The role of the community management professional is to implement the policies and procedures established by the board.

There are various approaches to association management; including the use of unpaid volunteers, hiring association paid staff or utilizing a third party management firm, each of which has its pluses and minuses. Whatever the level of management services selected for the association, clearly defined tasks, and responsibilities will contribute to the overall successful management of the association.

Although the governing body of the association may be willing and capable of managing the physical plant of the association, it may be unwilling or unable to manage the fiscal responsibilities mandated by the governing documents and compliance with existing law. This service may be provided by a management company or financial institution, which will provide fiscal billing for members and in some instances, pay the bills incurred by the association. A higher level of service than that provided by a financial institution may be required to assist the governing body in sound fiscal control management.

The hiring of professional management, whether they be a direct employee of the association or a management firm, is a critical administrative task. Community association management has become a highly technical profession requiring a trained practitioner educated in the State-specific laws in managing California community associations.

As laws continue to be added each year requiring additional compliance of the duties and responsibilities of the board of directors, the association may be well-served to hire skilled professionals in the management of a community association.

The best approach to use when hiring a professional management firm is to clearly articulate prescribed desired and undesired results from management. If this does not occur, it will be impossible and unfair to evaluate the results. It is important to evaluate results and not procedures.

#### **Professional management company**

The higher level of fiscal management, or financial service, can usually be obtained through a professional management company. The customary financial service provided by a management firm may include, but is not limited to: collection of assessments, payment of bills, preparation of comprehensive financial reports, which includes: a balance sheet, an income vs. expense statement, receipts and disbursement journal, check register, and delinquency reports. Delinquency follow-up reports and a current members listing are other types of reports that can be generated.

#### **Fiscal billing and collection**

An association electing to contract with a management firm that offers minimal fiscal services, or fiscal billing and collection activities (other than delinquency collection), should budget an amount of \$10/unit/month or \$350, whichever is greater.

#### **Financial service**

An association electing to contract with a management firm that offers a higher level of fiscal service, or financial service including billing, collection, payment of invoices, preparation of financial statements and fiscal compliance to California Civil Codes should budget \$13/unit/month or \$850 per month, whichever is greater.

#### **Third-party common-interest specialist**

The association may wish to contract for management by a third party professional management company specializing in common-interest subdivisions. Not all associations require the same level of management services and not all management companies provide the same level of services.

The cost of professional management is not minimized based on the size of a common interest subdivision. Duties performed are defined in the contract between the board of directors and the managing agent. Functions identified in the contract are driven by the number of hours it requires to perform the required services and not the size of the subdivision. The basis for this approach is legal and statutory as current laws do not differentiate between size or type of common interest subdivisions, or the types of amenities contained within, or whether the subdivision is attached or detached.

When budgeting for professional management in the common interest subdivision, many factors must be considered to facilitate the overall success of the community association. A proposed contract from any service provider that is not sufficient to meet the needs of the community and its future growth will most likely not meet the requirements of Civil Code Sections 5300-5320. This may jeopardize the fiscal health of the community and the owners, and create potential liability to the governing body.

### **Administration and compliance program**

The administration and compliance program encompasses all financial activities of a routine basis for any given fiscal year. They include day-to-day communication and problem solving with unit owners on common area issues and communication with subcontractors performing services for the association. Also included is record keeping for the association, the paper documentation required by law for compliance with State, federal and local regulations and requirements, as well as the attendance at the board of directors meetings and the annual meeting of the association members.

Many new compliance requirements for common interest developments are added each year through legislation. Most new requirements will require additional budgeting costs to Cost Manual line items such as legal, accounting, insurance, management, and education. It is advisable to identify any new laws added each year and budget for any cost required for implementation.

An association that elects to contract for an administrative and compliance program that includes financial services, administrative duties, and compliance with State and federal laws and regulations should budget \$17/unit/month or \$1,900/month, whichever is greater.

### **Full-service management**

Full-service management for the association typically includes the aforementioned administrative services, financial services, support of physical services such as customer service and maintenance requests, plus other administrative services such as recordkeeping, communications with owners, and coordination of meetings. The base management fee should provide for a defined number of personnel hours per month for the management firm to assist the client association. This should include an hourly fee for every hour spent in excess of the defined monthly hours. This fee is exclusive of reimbursable association operating expenses, costs, escrow transactions, collection charges, and implementation of new legislative requirements.

An association that elects to contract for a full service management program, as well as defined management services including the creation and implementation for maintenance of physical components, should budget based on project type.

Some associations may choose to employ a full-time association manager and other staff to perform similar functions “on-site” for the day-to-day operations. The salary for the manager or any employee will depend on a number of factors, including experience and training. An employee manager is referred to as the general manager and the contract should be negotiated by the board of directors in advance of the annual budget. This arrangement is typically found in communities with 300 or more units. Annual salaries for general managers can range from \$50,000–\$160,000, based on experience and the type of community they will manage.

General managers for high-rise and large-scale or master planned communities will typically command higher salaries due to the skill set necessary. High-rise communities, depending on the complexity and needs of the infrastructure, should consider budgeting for a chief engineer or plant facilitator. Chief engineers are usually

certified in two or more trades. Careful consideration should be given to all staffing requirements for these types of communities.

If an association wants to have an “on-site” manager but does not wish to become the employer, it should contract with a managing agent who will hire the general manager to be placed on-site. An association electing to implement this employee program should budget for the salary requirements plus an additional 35%–40% for payroll costs and benefits, exclusive of the basic services included in the base management fee.

As developments increase in size, the work to be performed intensifies as the number of members who have access to management increases with each unit added. Additionally, as the association ages, the cost to perform services (administration) intensifies as the reactive mode of operation is more time consuming and costly to perform.

### Summary

Whatever form of financial, administrative, or management program is budgeted for the association, the following cost guidelines have been developed from actual industry practices:

- *Small associations*  
with less than 12 units self-managed  
\$10 per unit per month or  
\$150 per month, whichever is greater
- *Fiscal billing and collection activities (other than delinquency collection)*  
\$10 per unit per month or  
\$350 per month, whichever is greater
- *Financial service*  
including billing, collection, payment of invoices, preparation of financial statements, and fiscal compliance to California Civil Codes  
\$13 per unit per month or  
\$850 per month, whichever is greater
- *Administrative and compliance program*  
which includes financial services, administrative duties, and compliance to regulations and California Civil Codes

\$17 per unit per month or  
\$1,900 per month, whichever is greater

- *Full-service management program*  
which includes financial services, administrative program, as well as defined management activities involving the creation and implementation of plans for the maintenance of physical amenities—larger associations  
\$20–\$30 per unit per month or  
\$4,000 per month, whichever is greater
- *Full-service management program by full-time association employee*  
large associations  
\$4,200 or more (depending on size) a month per manager plus 35% for payroll costs and benefits
- *Full-service management by product type*  
*Attached units*  
Base fee of \$2,500/month or \$15–\$20/unit/month, whichever is greater.

Mid-Rise Condominiums (30–60 feet high): Base fee of \$3,500/month or \$25–\$35/unit/month, whichever is greater.

High-Rise Condominiums (over 70 feet): Base fee of \$4,500/month or \$35–\$50 unit/month, whichever is greater.

#### *Detached Units*

Master Planned Communities: Base fee of \$2,500/month or \$15–\$20/unit/month, whichever is greater.

Planned Developments: Base fee of \$2,500 or \$15–\$20/unit/month, whichever is greater.

Some mid-rise projects can be as labor intensive as a high-rise project and, conversely, some high-rise projects may be less labor intensive. Costs will depend on the complexity and level of service provided.

If on-site staff is added, additional budget line items should be factored in for personnel costs. These costs are not included in the base management fee. Any employee hired by the association or provided through the management

company will cost the rate of the salary commensurate with current market conditions plus 35–40% for payroll costs and benefits.

Other typical services required but not included in the above programs include, but are not limited to:

- Coordination of alternative dispute resolutions litigation
- Minute taking and preparation of meetings of the association
- Collection of delinquent accounts
- Property inspections
- Rules enforcement/proceedings
- Architectural processing and monitoring
- Attendance at association meetings beyond one per month
- Transfer of owner documentation
- Securing proposals for subcontractors work (particularly with reserve items)

These services are typically charged on an hourly basis to the association that may cost \$55 or more per hour depending on the complexity of the program. Amounts that are less than or exceptionally higher than what is covered under this section must be submitted with the appropriate substantiating documentation.

#### 402. Legal Services

The association may require counseling services of an attorney for any number of reasons. It is considered advisable to budget during the early years of an association's existence for these counseling services. For projects less than 12 units, the figure of \$850 per year should be sufficient, and for projects more than 12 units, use the figure of \$1,500 per year or \$50 per unit per year, whichever is the larger amount.

If the association becomes involved in litigation that requires the payment of a substantial amount for attorney fees and costs, and such expenses can be anticipated for a budget year, the regular assessment should be increased

to defray these costs. In those cases where the expense is an unexpected one, the money may have to be raised by a special assessment.

#### 403. Accounting

Civil Code sections 5300 and 5305 require that the CC&Rs or bylaws of a common interest subdivision provide for the preparation and distribution of an annual operating statement and a balance sheet of the association to members within 120 days after the close of the fiscal year. In any fiscal year in which the gross income to the association exceeds \$75,000, these fiscal year financial statements must be the result of an external review by an independent public accountant. Even where an external review is not required, an expense will be incurred by the association unless a member of the association with accounting expertise is willing to donate his/her services.

According to Civil Code section 5300, the board of directors is required to give annual financial statements to all members. These statements include, but are not limited to, an annual proforma operating budget. See Civil Code section 5300 for details about other requirements.

For associations with expected gross annual income of more than \$75,000, the cost of an uncertified audit or financial review may begin at \$1,200. As the number of units increase, so will the cost. Therefore, we recommend budgeting \$1,200 per year or \$15 per unit per year, whichever is greater. The minimum cost for a certified audit ranges from \$1,800–\$4,500 depending on the size of the community.

For associations with expected gross annual income of less than \$75,000, financial review/tax preparation can be expected to cost \$750 per year.

It is a good practice to obtain quotes from several accountants as the basis for the budgetary estimate for the annual review or certified audit and preparation of federal and State tax returns.

#### 404. Education

Due to the sophistication required in running a homeowners' association, it is incumbent that board members and officers be familiar with the laws, regulations, codes, governing documents, etc. that impact their fiduciary duties and responsibilities. Courses and seminars are available through various industry groups such as the Building Industry Association (BIA), Community Associations Institute (CAI), California Association of Community Managers (CACM), Executive Council of Homeowners (ECHO), etc. There are also courses available at community colleges, adult education programs, etc.

Since board members change and courses are not always available when needed, the cost for education should be continuous. The recommended minimum is \$2 per unit per month or \$25 per month whichever is greater, but no more than \$3,000 per year. This is based on the assumption that not all board members will attend courses at the same time, or even the same course. Another way for boards to keep abreast of current changes in the laws, etc. is to purchase reference material and/or industry periodicals.

*Note: If education is provided as part of the Association management contract, it is not necessary to budget separately for this item. Provide a copy of the management contract when submitting the Duplicate Budget Package.*

In addition to this manual, DRE publishes another manual titled *Reserve Study Guidelines for Homeowners' Association Budgets*. Also, two other good sources for real estate law and regulations are the *Real Estate Law Book*, published by DRE, and the *Condominium Blue Book* published by Branden E. Bickel, B&B Publications.

#### 405. Miscellaneous

This category encompasses the purchase and repair of supplies and equipment for the conduct of the association's business and the cost of renting business office, storage and meeting space if such space is not available within the subdivision common area. If office and storage space within the common area is non-existent or inadequate, it may be necessary to rent such space from a resident within the subdivision or in a nearby community. Additional expenses could include newsletters and/or correspondence.

Frequently the common area does not include a meeting room large enough for regular or special meetings of the members of the association. Such rooms are generally available at no cost or at a nominal cost in churches, schools, or other public buildings.

It is recommended to budget \$4–\$5/per unit per month for this category.



## 500's—CONTINGENCY

### 501. New Construction

It is seldom possible to anticipate every expense that will be incurred by an association during an operating year. In the case of new construction, a contingency equal to 3% of an annual budget is recommended for unforeseen operating and reserve items. If the subdivision is more than 12 months old, use 6%.

For high-rise buildings (over 70 feet) a 10% contingency is reasonable.

### 502. Conversions and Existing Structures (Over 12 Months Old)

Where a condominium development is created out of the conversion of an existing apartment house or complex, a contingency reserve of 6% of the total budget should normally be adequate. Also, If the subdivision is more than 12 months old, use 6%.

For high-rise buildings (over 70 feet) a 10% contingency is reasonable.

### 503. Revenue Offsets

Normally, revenue derived through leasing, renting, laundry, etc. will just cover anticipated costs for repair, replacement, utilities, cleaning, etc. For leased equipment, replacement or repair may be done by the leasing company and only utilities or minor maintenance may be covered by the revenue received.

Another source of revenue for existing associations may be interest income. Interest income may be considered non-exempt income in some cases and be taxable.

Existing associations with a strong history (2 years or more) of a revenue source may, if the amount is significant, use the revenue as an offset against total expenses. If so, all related expense items noted earlier should also be included in the budget. Attach supporting financial records and calculations used in determining the amount shown in the budget.

## Budget Submittal and Review Summary for Those Required to File With the Department

Regardless of the type of common interest subdivision you are involved with, completing a Duplicate Budget Package (DBP) for Department review is very important. The information necessary for compliance can be found in the application packets RE 624 (Common Interest), RE 635 (Amendment/Renewal), RE 658 (Stock Cooperative or LEHC), or in the Subdivision Public Report Application Guide (SPRAG). The instructions and guide are available at the subdivision offices in Sacramento or Los Angeles.

The general procedures given here will apply to the majority of the projects reviewed by the Department. Completing the budget form (RE 623), including computing various costs, is explained in the remainder of the manual. Other required forms or documents are listed in Parts I and II of the application packets. You may wish to contact the Department's Budget Review Section for additional information.

### Plans and Maps

As part of the submittal, a plot or site plan is required. This plan should show the layout of the buildings, streets, recreation facilities, walls and entry structures, if applicable. Also, the plan should be a scale drawing. Large, especially phased, projects may require a separate plot or site plan for each phase. A map showing the phasing plan for the entire project must also be submitted.

The tract map and/or condominium plans should also show legible dimensions and be a scale drawing. All of these are necessary for verification of area calculations and location of the common facilities. A legible and adequately detailed vicinity map is required.

### Phase Projects

When submitting DBPs for phased projects, only provide budgets for those phases that are projected to be completed within three years. If the association has been formed, see the Existing Homeowner Associations Section below for procedures. Also, an estimated assessment for the built-out project should be submitted. Budgets are

considered acceptable for 24 months from the date the Special Investigator completes the review. Changes in the offering budget or non-issuance of a Public Report before 24 months expire may be cause for a second review of the budget.

### Existing Homeowner Associations

When submitting a DBP for review of an existing homeowner association, the following information should be included in the Duplicate Budget Package:

- The association's current financial statements (audited, if available) for the past two years or from start-up, whichever is less; balance sheet (less than 90 days old at the time of submittal); and a year-to-date statement (current year only).
- A copy of the current or latest reserve study as required by Civil Code section 5550.
- The Assessment and Reserve Funding Disclosure Form required by Civil Code section 5570.
- A copy of the association's current adopted budget. If the HOA has approved the budget for the next fiscal year, also include and indicate the commencement date for the fiscal year.
- A statement from the association showing the dollar amount of past due delinquencies. In particular, the statement should indicate assessments due, if any, from the subdivider.
- A copy of the Association's most current reserve and operating bank account statements (less than 90 days old at the time of submittal).
- A copy of the following information as required to be distributed to the membership under Civil Code section 5300 (a comprehensive reserve study should cover the items listed below):
  - The amount of the total cash reserves of the association currently available for replacement or major repair of common facilities and for contingencies.

- An estimate of the current replacement costs of, and the estimated remaining life of, and the methods of funding used to defray the future repair, replacement or additions to, those major components of the common areas and facilities that the association is obligated to maintain.
- A general statement setting forth the procedures used by the governing body in the calculation and establishment of reserves to defray the costs of repair, replacement, or additions of major components of the common areas and facilities for which the association is responsible.

After the above documents have been reviewed, it may be necessary to request additional information if a clear picture of the financial status of the association is not presented. If the existing association has operating deficiencies and/or underfunded reserves, a special note will be included in the Public Report.

If the subdivider is delinquent in payment of assessments, then the subdivider will be required to pay the delinquent assessment amount prior to the issuance of the Public Report. Also, reserve delinquencies owed by the subdivider must be remedied prior to the issuance of the Public Report, or a special note will be included in the Public Report, depending on the circumstances.

### Conversions and Existing Structures (more than 12 months old)

For submittal on buildings converted to, or previously built as, condominiums or stock cooperatives, TICs, a Reserve Study must be completed and included with the DBP. A RE 639 form must also be included in the DBP if the project is a conversion. If a reserve component has been replaced or renovated after the reserve study has been completed, then supporting documentation should be included in the DBP. Reserve amounts in the budget may change depending on the remaining life of the building components and equipment. The costs shown for reserve estimating in this manual are for new building components and equipment. Also, shown in the reserve section is the expected useful life of each item.

### Reserve Studies

The Department of Real Estate understands that data provided in a reserve study may not always be a perfect fit with the format provided in the DRE budget form. In addition, the Department will normally accept the data from a competent reserve study, except where errors are found. Aside from this, the information used from the study should match that included in the DRE budget form.

The reserve study must be current (no more than 24 months old) and prepared by a qualified, independent professional company.

### Bonds for Completion

When using a bond as security for completion of on-site construction work, RE 611 must be completed and submitted for review and acceptance by the Department. Hard cost and/or in-house estimates must include an additional 20% in the total cost to complete. Items that are subcontracted and are verifiable by executed contracts normally need not include the 20%. Also, an annual inflation factor should be added, prorated on a monthly basis, for the months left until completion.

Although not specifically required, if the completion bond includes the living units, building plans may be requested if the required maps/plans are inadequate for cost verification.

### Worksheets

As noted earlier, this manual contains forms and worksheets to assist you in preparing a budget. It is important that all worksheets and forms are completely filled in (if applicable) prior to submittal to the Department of Real Estate.

### Cost Centers

The “cost center” term, as used for budget purposes, identifies an area of a project used by only some of the owners within a homeowners’ association. Typically, this may be a guard gate or recreational facility utilized only

by a portion of the association membership. It would be unreasonable in these cases to require all members of the association to contribute to the maintenance of a facility only benefiting a portion of the project.

A cost center may also be used for projects with mixed product types. When a project includes both attached and detached units, a cost center can be created to provide for the exterior maintenance of the attached units. Additional maintenance costs for special benefit facilities/services, or exterior maintenance of certain product types within the project may be managed through a cost center or a sub-association.

### Range of Assessments

*Defined:* Range of Assessments (ROA) is a method or procedure used for setting up an assessment/budgeting program for large projects with multiple builders or one builder with multiple product types. The estimated range is established for the project through review of the proposed assessment program from start-up to build-out. The range is useful for projects with multiple product types and provides flexibility for phases to close out of sequence. The minimum size of a project for use of this procedure is 150 lots/units, and 10 phases, including build-out. The ROA shall commence after Phase 1 and may include additional stand-alone phases prior to the ROA procedure commencing. Any exceptions to these criteria would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For use of this procedure, the ROA budget package may be submitted to the Supervising Special Investigator for a preliminary review and approval, or it may be submitted at the time of filing the Duplicate Budget Package. Contact the Budget Review Section for more information.

Once the ROA procedure is approved by the Supervising Special Investigator of the Budget Review Section, the budgets are reviewed by staff upon DBP submittal for accuracy, quality, and sufficiency within our minimum cost manual guidelines.

### Level Assessment Procedure

*Defined:* The Level Assessment procedure is a method used for setting up an assessment/budgeting program for large projects with one or more subdividers. Generally, the

Level Assessment selected falls within a range of the actual assessments, which are both above and below the level amount. Also, the level amount can be “stepped,” usually down, as the assessments decline towards build-out.

The estimated Level Assessment or assessments are established for the project through review of the proposed assessment program generally from start-up to build-out. The established level assessment amount cannot be more than 15% above or below the actual estimated assessment for any given phase. Any “step” in the Level Assessment must include a minimum of three phases. The minimum size of a project for use of the procedure is 100 lots/units with 10 or more phases.

By definition, there will be phases where the established level amount is less than the estimated actual expenses or budget. For that reason and in order for this procedure to be viable, some surplus funding of the operating account is necessary in the initial phases of the project. During the life of the Level Assessment Procedure, the cumulative operating surplus, combined with actual assessments, should not drop below three months of funding, or 10% of the current monthly budget, whichever is higher. Any exceptions to these criteria would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For use of this procedure, a preliminary review and approval should be completed prior to filing with the Department. Contact the Budget Review Section for more information.

Once approved for use by the Supervising Special Investigator of the Budget Review Section, the budgets are reviewed by staff upon DBP submittal for accuracy, quality, and to make sure they meet our minimum cost manual guidelines.

### Large Increment Assessment Procedure

*Defined:* The Large Increment Assessment Procedure is a method of structuring an assessment program for very large projects, normally master-planned communities, with multiple builders and front-loaded amenities. Use of this procedure requires that the number of lots/units per increment (similar to a phase) not be less than 300 and that the minimum size of the overall project not be less than 1200 lots/units.

Each subsequent increment, including construction of the infrastructure, must be contiguous to the first or previous increment annexed to the project. Also, this procedure requires the use of a Deficit Subsidy Agreement which requires the developer to subsidize any excess of expenses over revenue. Builders are required to only pay assessments on unsold lots/units that are subject to a final Public Report.

For use of this procedure, it is recommended that a preliminary review and approval be completed prior to filing with the Department. The minimum documents required for review include: the incremental budgets, including HOA Common Facilities (RE 624A) forms completed for the first three years of the project, plus build-out; a phasing map that depicts all of the increments; a draft deficit subsidy agreement; a range of assessment; spreadsheet for each increment; and a current marketing study. The marketing study should be prepared by a third-party professional not related to the developer and must include the projected sales absorption rates from start-up to build-out.

Once the procedure is approved by the Supervising Special Investigator of the Budget Review Section and the filing for a final Public Report is received, the budgets will be reviewed upon DBP submittal by staff for accuracy, quality and to make sure they meet DRE minimum cost manual guidelines.

### Ratio Utility Billing System (RUBS)

Using a RUBS for allocating various commonly metered utility expenses (typically water) based on unit size so they can be excluded from the association budget is not acceptable under DRE guidelines. Liability for these common expenses still lies with the homeowners' association and must be included in the budget. When applicable, allocation of common utilities based on unit size can be done by using the Proration Schedule Worksheet part of the Budget Worksheet (RE 623) included in this manual.

*Note: Specific management and budget guidelines are available and must be adhered to in order to utilize these procedures.*

**BUDGET WORKSHEET**

RE 623 (Rev. 12/15)

BUDGET REVIEW

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

This budget is a good faith estimate from plans prior to construction and/or completion (for new projects) or from a combination of plans and/or site inspections (for existing projects). For existing projects, there may have been historical data as support for some line items, but changes to the project may make historical data not applicable or reliable. This budget was prepared for the purpose of obtaining a public report.

The association must adopt a budget in accordance with the California Civil Code. If that budget is less than 10% or greater than 20% from this budget, you should contact the Bureau of Real Estate. The association may increase or decrease its budget. It is typical for costs to increase as the project ages. The association should conduct a reserve study after its first year of operation to adjust the reserve funding plan for any changes which may have taken place during construction.

CalBRE FILE NUMBER (IF KNOWN)	MASTER CalBRE FILE #	SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ASSIGNED FILE (IF KNOWN)
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**SUBDIVISION IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

NAME AND/OR TRACT NUMBER		
NAME TO BE USED IN ADVERTISING (IF DIFFERENT THAN NAME OR TRACT NUMBER)		

STREET ADDRESS (IF ANY)	CITY	COUNTY
MAIN ACCESS ROAD(S)	NEAREST TOWN/CITY	MILES/DIRECTION FROM TOWN/CITY

**TYPE OF SUBDIVISION**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condominium                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Development Land Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condominium Conversion             | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Development Mobile Home  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stock Cooperative                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Apartment              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stock Cooperative Conversion       | <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-State                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Equity Housing Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Undivided Interest               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Development                | <input type="checkbox"/> Undivided Interest Land Project  |

NUMBER OF LOTS/UNITS	PHASE #	TOTAL # IN PROJECT	PREVIOUS CalBRE FILE #	# OF ACRES
----------------------	---------	--------------------	------------------------	------------

**BUDGET PREPARER**

NAME	ATTENTION	TELEPHONE NUMBER (    )
ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE

**Certification**

*I declare under penalty of perjury that the representations and answers to questions in this document and all documents submitted as a part of the homeowners budget are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

SIGNATURE OF BUDGET PREPARER	DATE
------------------------------	------

**IMPROVEMENTS WORKSHEET**

❖ If this phase will have any line items shown on pages 3, 4 and 5 hereof exempted from payment of assessments under Regulation 2792.16(c), asterisk those items on pages 3, 4 and 5 and list any partially deferred costs on a separate sheet showing calculations and attach. All exempted improvements must be covered by reasonable arrangements for completion. Include Planned Construction Statement (RE 611A) for review.

- 1. Number of buildings containing residential units ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Completion year for the residential units included in this phase..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Completion year for the common area and facilities included in this phase ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Type of residential building for this project (i.e., high-rise, cluster, garden, etc.)..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Type of construction for these buildings (i.e., steel, concrete, wood frame, etc.) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Type of roof (i.e., shake, etc.)..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Type of paving used in the project. .... \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Type of exterior wall for residential buildings ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Number of residential units per building..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Number of floors per building. .... \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Number of bedrooms per unit. .... \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Square footage of units (list number and size of each unit type)..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Type of parking facilities and number of spaces (i.e., detached garage, tuck-under, subterranean, carport, open, etc.). .... \_\_\_\_\_

***Complete 14 and 15 for Phased Condominium Projects Only***

- 14. Have you submitted budgets for all phases to be completed within the next three calendar years and a built-out budget?.....  Yes  No
- 15. If this condominium project involves phasing with a single lot, submit a budget for *each* phase plus a budget which will be used *if* future phases are not completed. (Commonly referred to as a *worst case budget*.)

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

PHASE NUMBER	DATE OF BUDGET	CalBRE FILE NUMBER
NUMBER OF UNITS	TRACT NUMBER/NAME OF PROJECT	

		<i>Per Unit Per Month</i>	<i>Total Monthly</i>	<i>Total Annual</i>
<b>100 FIXED COSTS</b>	101. Property Taxes			
	102. Corporation Franchise Taxes			
	103. Insurance (attach proposal)			
	104. Local License & Inspection Fees			
	105. Estimated Income Taxes			
	<b>100 – Subtotal</b>			
<b>200 OPERATING COSTS</b>	201. Electricity (attach work sheet)			
	Lighting: Leased			
	202. Gas (attach work sheet)			
	203. Water (attach work sheet)			
	204. Sewer/Septic Tanks/Storm Drains/ Water Retention Basins (include if not in 203)			
	205. Cable TV/Master Antenna			
	207. Custodial Area: <i>Number of Restrooms:</i>			
	207a. Custodial Supplies			
	208. Landscape Area: <i>(See page 15.)</i>			
	208a. Landscape Supplies			
	209. Refuse Disposal <i>Vender Name:</i> <i>Telephone Number:</i>			
	210. Elevators <i>Number:</i> <i>Type:</i>			
	211. Private Streets, Driveways, Parking Areas <i>Area:</i>			
	212. Heating & Air Conditioning Maintenance <i>Area:</i>			
	213. Swimming Pool <i>Number:</i> <i>Size:</i> <i>Mths. heated:</i> Spa <i>Number:</i> <i>Size:</i>			
	213a. Swimming Pool/Spa Supplies			
214. Tennis Court <i>Number:</i>				



		<i>Per Unit Per Month</i>	<i>Total Monthly</i>	<i>Total Annual</i>
<b>200 OPERATING COSTS</b>	215. Access Control <i>Guard hours per day:</i> <i>No. of motorized gates:                      Type:</i> <i>No. of Intercoms/Telephone Entry:</i>			
	216. Reserve Study			
	217. Miscellaneous			
	Minor Repairs			
	Pest Control			
	Snow Removal			
	Lakes/Waterways			
	Community Network			
	218. Fire Sprinklers, Fire Alarms & Fire Extinguishers			
<b>200 - Subtotal</b>				
<b>300 RESERVE</b>	301-314 (attach reserve work sheet)			
	<b>300 - Subtotal</b>			
<b>400 ADMINISTRATION</b>	401. Management ❶			
	402. Legal Services			
	403. Accounting			
	404. Education			
	405. Miscellaneous, office expense			
	<b>400 - Subtotal</b>			
<b>TOTAL (100-400)</b>				
<b>500 CONTINGENCY</b>	501. New Construction 3%			
	502. Conversions 5%			
	503. Revenue Offsets (attach documentation)	(                      )	(                      )	(                      )
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>				

❖ CalBRE regulations allow the use of variable assessments against units only if one unit will derive as much as 10 percent more than another unit in the value of common goods and services supplied by the association.

After determining the percent of benefit derived from services provided (page 14) by the association, an easy chart to follow would be:

Less than 10%.....	equal assessments
from 10% to 20%.....	variable or equal
Over 20%.....	variable assessments

The budget and management documents indicate (check appropriate box):

equal assessments

variable assessments

❖ The inventory and quantities used in the preparation of this budget are normally derived from plans completed prior to construction and may vary slightly from actual field conditions. The calculated budget is a good faith estimate of the projected costs and should be deemed reliable for no more than one year. The Board of Directors should conduct an annual review of the Association's actual costs and revise the budget accordingly.

❶ Depending upon the level of service selected by the Association, the amount shown may be insufficient to cover the cost and may be higher.

### RESERVES WORKSHEET

CalBRE FILE NUMBER		TRACT NUMBER				
Item	(1) ① Sq. Ft. or Number	(2) ① Unit Cost HOA Manual	(3) ① Replacement Cost	(4) ① Remaining Life	Yearly Reserve Columns 1x2 or 3+4	Cost Per Unit Per Month
Paint						
Wood Siding (paint/stain)						
Roof - Type:						
Roof - Type:						
Water Heaters						
Exterior Lights						
Hard Floors - Type:						
Carpets						
Elevators						
Streets & Drives						
Heating & Cooling						
Pool Re-plaster						
Pool Heater						
Pool Filter						
Spa Re-plaster						
Spa Heater						
Spa Filter						
Pool/Spa Pumps - No:						
Tennis Courts – No:						
Furnishing/Equipment						
Fences (paint/stain)						
Fences (repair/replace) - Type:						
Walls (paint)						
Walls (repair/replace)						
Wrought Iron Fencing (paint)						
Wrought Iron (repair/replace)						
Pumps/Motors - Type:						
Motorized Gates						
Wood Decking						
Septic Tanks						
Fountains						
Storm Drain Filters						
Other						

① Use either Columns 1 and 2 or 3 and 4, but not both for a particular item.

<b>TOTAL RESERVE</b>	
----------------------	--

**Note:** For space purposes, we have included only the components most frequently found in common-interest subdivisions. Reserve items should not be limited to the list above, but be tailored to your particular project.

**GENERAL PROJECT INVENTORY**

- ❖ Complete schedules 1 through 6 below, then transfer the totals to Site Summary area.
- ❖ Frequently several buildings will be repeated in a subdivision. These may be combined on one line. Wherever additional space is required attach computations on a separate sheet.

SITE SUMMARY – TOTAL SUBDIVISION AREA			
_____	acres x 43,560 =	_____	Total square feet.
1. Building(s) footprint	_____	_____	sq. ft.
2. Garages or carports	_____	_____	sq. ft.
3. Recreational facilities	_____	_____	sq. ft.
4. Paved surfaces	_____	_____	sq. ft.
5. Restricted common areas	_____	_____	sq. ft.
6. Other: (attach description)	_____	_____	sq. ft.
Subtotal (1–6)	_____	_____	sq. ft.
Total Square Ft. (from above)		_____	sq. ft.
Subtract Subtotal (1–6)		_____	sq. ft.
<b>Remainder = landscape area</b>		_____	sq. ft.

**INDIVIDUAL SUMMARY SCHEDULES**

1. Buildings Containing Units

<i>Length</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Width</i>	=	<i>Area of Each Bldg.</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>No. of Buildings</i>	=	<i>Total Area Square Feet</i>
_____	x	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
_____	x	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
_____	x	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
_____	x	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
<b>Total for Summary Item 1 above</b>								_____

2. Multiple Detached Garages and Carports

_____	x	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
_____	x	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
_____	x	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
<b>Total for Summary Item 2 above</b>								_____

3. Recreational Facilities

**Total Area**

a. Recreation Room, Clubhouse, Lanai, or other  
(length x width = total sq. ft.)

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

b. Pools

Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

c. Spas

Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

d. Tennis Courts

Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surface Type: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

e. Other: (describe)

\_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

**Total for Summary Item 3 above** \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

4. Paved Areas (streets, parking, walkways, etc.)

(length x width = square foot area)

*Paving Material (concrete, asphalt, etc.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total for Summary Item 4 above** \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

5. Restricted Common Areas Use (patio, etc.)

*Describe and attach calculations*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Total for Summary Item 5 above** \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

6. Other – Describe and attach calculations

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Total for Summary Item 6 above** \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

**ROOF RESERVE WORKSHEET**

(See page 15)

<i>Building</i> ❶	<i>Flat Roofed Area</i>	<i>Shingled Area</i>		<i>Cement/Spanish Tile or Wood Shake Area</i>
<b>Totals</b>				
<b>Modifications</b>		x	x	x x
<b>Grand Totals</b>				

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Rise</i>	<i>Multiplier</i>
One eighth	3" in 12"	1.03
One sixth	4" in 12"	1.06
Five 24ths	5" in 12"	1.08
One quarter	6" in 12"	1.12
One third	8" in 12"	1.20
One Half	12" in 12"	1.42
Five eighths	15" in 12"	1.60
Three quarters	18" in 12"	1.80

❶ Take areas of all buildings listed in Sections 1, 2 and 3a. Add 6% (a 1.06 multiplier) for each foot of roof overhang. In addition, adjust for roof pitch based upon the table above. The table converts horizontal area to roof area.

**PAINTING WORKSHEET**

**EXTERIOR**

Exterior painting area is determined by measuring the structure to find the perimeter (total distance around) and multiplying that by 10 for each story. Use a separate line for each story if the configuration of the building changes from story to story (for wood siding see Item 301 in the Cost Manual).

- Buildings (include garages, recreation buildings)

Type of Surface	Perimeter	x	10 ft.	x	No. of Stories	x	No. of Bldg. (if identical)	=	Total Area
_____	_____	x	10 ft.	x	_____	x	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	x	10 ft.	x	_____	x	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	x	10 ft.	x	_____	x	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	x	10 ft.	x	_____	x	_____	=	_____
<b>Total building paint area</b>									_____

- Walls

Linear Feet	x	Height	x	2	•	=	Total Area	
_____	x	_____	x	2	•	=	_____	
_____	x	_____	x	2	•	=	_____	
_____	x	_____	x	2	•	=	_____	
<b>Total wall paint area</b>								_____
<b>Total exterior paint area</b>								_____

**INTERIOR**

Interior painting reserve is determined by measuring the room perimeter and multiplying by 8' and adding ceiling area.

Room/Type	Walls	x	8 ft.	=	Wall Area	+	Ceiling (Length x Width)	=	Total Area
_____:	_____	x	8 ft.	=	_____	+	_____ x _____	=	_____
_____:	_____	x	8 ft.	=	_____	+	_____ x _____	=	_____
_____:	_____	x	8 ft.	=	_____	+	_____ x _____	=	_____
_____:	_____	x	8 ft.	=	_____	+	_____ x _____	=	_____
_____:	_____	x	8 ft.	=	_____	+	_____ x _____	=	_____
_____:	_____	x	8 ft.	=	_____	+	_____ x _____	=	_____
<b>Total interior paint area</b>									_____

**TOTAL EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR**

**FENCES**

Fence requiring paint or stain (see Item 312 in manual for wood and wrought iron)  
 Compute separately using higher cost—put on separate line on page 5 of the Reserve Worksheet.

Linear Feet	x	Height	x	2	•	=	Total Area
_____	x	_____	x	2	•	=	_____
_____	x	_____	x	2	•	=	_____
_____	x	_____	x	2	•	=	_____
<b>Total fence area</b>							_____

• Always multiply by 2 to cover the area for both sides of the wall or fence. If the wall or fence will be painted or stained on one side only, adjust your calculation and make appropriate notation on the worksheet.

**ELECTRICAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION WORKSHEET**

A. Lights (see Note ❶)  
*(number of lights x average watt per light  
 x average number hours in use per day x .03 = KWH per month)*

**KWH per month**

1. Interior Lights (*hallways, lobbies, garage, stairwells, etc.*)

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x .03 = \_\_\_\_\_

2. Garage Lights

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x .03 = \_\_\_\_\_

3. Outdoor and walkway lights

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x .03 = \_\_\_\_\_

4. Street Lights

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x .03 = \_\_\_\_\_

B. Elevators (*number of cabs x number of floor stops per cab x 167 KWH = KWH per month*)

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x 167 KWH = \_\_\_\_\_

C. Tennis Court Lights (*number of courts x 1000 KWH = KWH per month*)

\_\_\_\_\_ x 1000 KWH = \_\_\_\_\_

D. Electric Heating  
*(0.25 KWH x sq. ft. heated = KWH per month for warm climates)  
 (0.65 KWH x sq. ft. heated = KWH per month for cold climates)*

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

E. Hot Water Heating (*320 KWH x number of 40 gallon tanks = KWH per month*)

320 KWH x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

F. Air Conditioning (*number of sq. ft. cooled x .34 KWH = KWH per month*)

\_\_\_\_\_ x .34 KWH = \_\_\_\_\_

G. Electrical Motors (*see Notes ❷ and ❸*)  
*(horsepower x watts x hours of use per day x .03 x % of year in use = KWH per month)*

Motor #1	_____	x	_____	x	_____	x	.03	x	_____	=	_____
Motor #2	_____	x	_____	x	_____	x	.03	x	_____	=	_____
Motor #3	_____	x	_____	x	_____	x	.03	x	_____	=	_____
Motor #4	_____	x	_____	x	_____	x	.03	x	_____	=	_____

H. Pool/Spa Heating  
*(Number of heaters x KWH rating x hours of daily use x 30 days = KWH per month)*

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x 30 days = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL KWH PER MONTH**

\_\_\_\_\_

## I. Total Monthly Cost

(total KWH per month x rate per KWH = total cost)

• \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• Monthly common meter charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Monthly Cost** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes**

- ❶ Do not include leased lights. Instead use lease agreement with rate schedule with budget work sheet. Put monthly charge into Item 201 leased lights. Use a minimum of 10 hours per day average usage for exterior lighting.
- ❷ Motors are found in swimming pool pumping systems, circulating hot water systems, ventilation systems in subterranean garages, security gates, interior hallways, and interior stairwells and also in private water systems and fountains. (Hours of use for pool pumps – see Item 201 in the Cost Manual.)
- ❸ Normally 1,000 watts per horsepower should be used. Check plate on motor or manufacturer's specifications. If wattage is not listed, it can be calculated by multiplying amps x volts.



### GAS CONSUMPTION WORKSHEET

1. Water Heaters **Therms**  
*(number of dwelling units on association meters + laundry rooms + outdoor showers + recreation rooms = number units x 20 Therms = Therms per month)*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ x 20 Therms = \_\_\_\_\_

2. Pool (see Note ❶)  
*(BTU rating x hours of daily use x .0003 x % of year in use = Therms)*  
 Pool #1 \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x .0003 x \_\_\_\_\_ % = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pool #2 \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x .0003 x \_\_\_\_\_ % = \_\_\_\_\_

3. Spa  
*(Number of spas (by size) x therm range = Therms used)*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (8' diameter) x 300 Therms = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (10' diameter) x 350 Therms = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (12' diameter) x 400 Therms = \_\_\_\_\_

4. Central Heating  
*(BTU rating x average hours of daily use x .0003 = Therms used)*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x .0003 = \_\_\_\_\_

5. Other  
*(number of gas barbecues, fireplaces, etc.) x 5 = Therms*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x 5 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Therms** \_\_\_\_\_

*(therms x rate = monthly charge)*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Meter Charge** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Monthly Cost** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

❶ The presumption is a recreation pool with heating equipment will be used all year or 100%. For very hot or cold climates where a heater will not or cannot be used all year, a 70% usage should suffice. Less than 70% usage will require a Special Note in the Subdivision Public Report.

**WATER AND SEWER WORKSHEET**

A. Domestic (use only if units are billed through association)  
 (number of units [include rec. rooms] x rate/100 CF x 10 = Water Cost)

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x 10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. Irrigation (see Note ❶)  
 (landscape area x rate/100 cf. x .0033 = Water Cost)

\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ x .0033 = \_\_\_\_\_

C. Sewers (see Note ❷)  
 (Charge per unit per month x number units = Sewer Cost)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

or alternate calculation (% of A and B, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (A) x \_\_\_\_\_ % = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

D. Meter Charge

Line size: \_\_\_\_\_ (2", 3" etc.) Charge per month: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY WATER COST:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes**

- ❶ Average usage is four-acre feet of water per acre of landscaping per year. This formula is based on four-acre feet of usage. Some areas like the low desert will require 8 to 12-acre feet of water per acre of landscaping per year and the "B" figure should be adjusted accordingly. (Example: 4 x figure for B = 12-acre feet.)
- ❷ If some other method of billing is used for the sewage charge and/or this will not be a common expense, provide a letter from the sanitation district and or water company (whichever applicable) which so states.

**PRORATION SCHEDULE WORKSHEET**

**Section I Variable Assessment Computation**

A. Variable Costs Description	Monthly Cost
1. Insurance	\$ _____
2. Domestic Gas (if common)	\$ _____
3. Domestic Water (if common)	\$ _____
4. Paint	\$ _____
5. Roof	\$ _____
6. Hot Water Heater (if common)	\$ _____
7. Other	\$ _____
<b>Total Variable Cost</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

- B. Total livable square footage of all units from condominium plan: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Variable Factor (*variable monthly costs ÷ square footage = variable factor*): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Multiply this factor by each unit size below in Section III.

**Section II Equal Assessment Computation**

A. Total Monthly Budget	\$ _____
Less Variable Costs	\$ _____
Total Monthly Equal Costs	\$ _____
B. Monthly Base Assessment:	\$ _____
<i>(total monthly cost ÷ number of units = monthly base assessment)</i>	

**Section III Assessment Schedule**

<i>Unit Size</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Variable Factor</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Variable Assessment</i>	<i>+</i>	<i>Base Assessment</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Mth. Assessment</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Unit Count</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Mth. Budget *</i>
A. _____	x	_____	=	_____	+	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
B. _____	x	_____	=	_____	+	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
C. _____	x	_____	=	_____	+	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____
D. _____	x	_____	=	_____	+	_____	=	_____	x	_____	=	_____

**VERIFICATION OF COMPUTATIONS**

Total Monthly Budget (Section III) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Monthly Budget (Section IIA) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Total Assessment x number of units of each type.

**Section IV Variable Assessments**

<i>Highest Assessment</i>	-	<i>Lowest Assessment</i>	÷	<i>Lowest Assessment</i>	=	<i>% Differential</i>
_____	-	_____	÷	_____	=	_____ %

**SUPPLEMENTAL WORKSHEET**

**LANDSCAPE**

A. Complete chart and transfer "total landscape cost per year" to line #208 on page 3 (cumulative per phase).

Type	Percent	Area	Annual Cost per S.F.	Total Cost per type
Ground cover				
Lawn				
Open space maintained				
Open space non-maintained				
Landscape repairs/supplies				
Other				
<b>Total</b>	100%			
<b>TOTAL LANDSCAPE COST PER YEAR</b>				

B. Please provide information regarding water requirements of drought resistant plants/areas, if any. Indicate as a percentage of normal or standard watering requirements and provide source of information.

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**ROOF**

A. If there is only one type of roof, with a constant slope factor across all roof surfaces, the following chart may not need to be completed. When this chart is completed, transfer total to roof line item on page 5.

Building	Type of Roof	Width of Overhang	Quantity (incl. overhang)	$\times$ Pitch Multiplier	=	Adjusted S.F.	$\times$ Annual Cost per S.F.	=	Total Annual Cost
				<b>X</b>	=		<b>X</b>	=	
				<b>X</b>	=		<b>X</b>	=	
				<b>X</b>	=		<b>X</b>	=	
				<b>X</b>	=		<b>X</b>	=	
				<b>X</b>	=		<b>X</b>	=	
				<b>X</b>	=		<b>X</b>	=	
<b>TOTAL ROOF COST PER YEAR</b>									

B. If a mansard will be/is constructed please provide the measurements and type of material to be used.

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Operating Cost Manual Index		
Subject	F.O.A. Item #	Reserves Item #
Access Control		
Gate/Gate Operator	—	313
General Information	215	—
Accounting Fees	403	—
Ad Valorem Taxes	101	—
Air Conditioning	212	308
Appliances	—	311
Asphalt Paving	—	307
Attorney's Fees	402	—
Audit Fees	403	—
Boilers	202	303
Bookkeeping	403	—
Budget Submittal (pg. 32)	—	—
Built-Up Paper (Rock) Roofs	—	302
Cable Television	205	—
Carpet Care	207	—
Carpeting	—	305
Casualty Insurance	103	—
Chain Link Fencing	—	312
Cleaning	207	—
Community Network	217	—
Composition Shingle Roof	—	302
Composition Tile/Linoleum Flooring	—	305
Concrete Block Fences	—	312
Concrete Paving	—	307
Contingencies	500	—
Custodial	207	—
Custodial Supplies	207A	—
Driveways		
Maintenance	211	—
Repair	—	307
Education	404	—
Electric Lighting Fixtures	—	304

Electricity		
General	201	—
Elevators	210	306
Fences	—	312
Fiberglass Shingles	—	302
Fire Insurance	103	—
Flat Roof	—	302
Floor Covering	207	305
Fountains	—	314
Franchise Taxes	102	—
Furnaces	212	308
Furnishings	—	311
Fire Sprinklers, Fire Alarms and Fire Extinguishers	218	—
Fountains	—	314
Garages		
Cleaning	207	—
Ventilation	—	313
Garbage Disposal	209	—
Gardening	208	—
Gas (General)		
Swimming Pool Heating	202	—
Gates, Motorized	—	313
Guards	215	—
Hardwood Flooring	—	305
Heat Pump	—	308
Heating		
Domestic Water	202	—
Rooms	212	—
Solar	202	—
Swimming Pools	202	—
Water	—	303
Heaters		
Gas	—	308
Solar	—	309

High-rise Buildings (pg. 2)		
Income Taxes	105	—
Insurance	103	—
Intercoms	215	—
Janitorial	207	—
Lakes and Waterways	217	313
Landscape		
Maintenance	208	—
Supplies	208A	—
Water	203	—
Laundry Room Cleaning	207	—
Legal Fees	402	—
Liability Insurance	103	—
License Fees	104	—
Lighting	—	304
Linoleum Floors	—	305
Management	401	—
Minor Repairs	217	—
Miscellaneous		
Maintenance	217	—
Management	405	—
Painting	—	301
Parking Areas	211	—
Patrol Service	215	—
Pest Control	217	—
Pool Heating	202	—
Private Streets	211	307
Propane Gas	202	—
Property Tax	101	—
Publications	404	—
Pumps		
Heat	—	308
Sewer Lifts	—	313
Sump	—	313

Racquetball Courts	—	313
Recycling	209	—
Refrigerated Cooling	201	—
Refuse Disposal	209	—
Reserve Study	216	—
Restroom Cleaning	207	—
Revenue Offsets	503	—
Road Maintenance	211	—
Roofing	—	302
Rug Care	207	—
Septic Tanks	204	313
Sewer Lifts	—	313
Snow Removal	217	—
Solar		
Heating	202	309
System	—	313
Storm Drains/Water Retention Basins	204	—
Streets		
Maintenance	211	—
Streets and Driveways	—	307
Sump Pumps	—	313
Swimming Pools/Spas	213	309
Pool and Spa Supplies	213A	—
Tankless Water Heaters	—	303
Taxes		
Franchise	102	—
Income	105	—
Property	101	—
Telephone Entry Systems	215	—
Television (Cable TV)	205	—
Tennis Courts	214	310
Termite Extermination	217	—
Tile Roofs	—	302
Trash Disposal	209	—
Tree Trimming	—	313



Utilities		
Electricity	201	—
Natural Gas	202	—
Propane Gas	202	—
Water	203	—
Variable Assessments (pg. 3)		
Vinyl Flooring	207	305
Waterproofing (Decks/Terraces)	—	305
Wood		
Siding (Paint)	—	301 and 312
Shingle Roofs	—	302
Shake Roof	—	302
Workers Compensation	103	—

## Addendum “A”

### Mid-Rise and High-Rise Structures

Check if included	Operating Costs for Mid-Rise and High Structures
	Central heating & air conditioning system (HVAC) - comprised of chillers, compressors and boilers
	Cooling towers
	Gas fired boilers equipped with heat exchangers
	Diesel generators for emergency purposes
	Elevator service
	Elevator cab maintenance
	Fire sprinkler systems with storage tanks and diesel fuel pumps
	Master antenna systems
	Building security systems
	Closed circuit TV systems
	Electric door release
	Intercom systems
	House phones
	Music and paging systems
	Glass caulking
	Window washing/cleaning
	Carpet cleaning
	Power scrubbing the garage
	Compactor maintenance
	Building engineer service
	Local license inspection fee
	Exterior surface repair
	Trash chute maintenance
	Maintenance inspections
	Emergency generator servicing
	Water treatment
	Soft water salt
	Fitness equipment maintenance
	Office equipment repair
	Office equipment leasing fees
	Lighting maintenance and supplies

	<b>Personnel &amp; Indirect Expenses for Mid-Rise and High-Rise</b>
	Manager and administrative assistants
	Engineer and assistants
	Head janitor and assistants
	Security guards
	Valets
	Door attendants
	PBX operators
	Concierge
	Front desk personnel
	Relief, vacation, bonuses
	Workers compensation
	Payroll taxes

