



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2025

Media Contact

Jennifer Vaughn
jenv@tripepismith.com
469-837-0536

City of Blythe Financial High Risk Designation Removed

Blythe, CA — The City of Blythe has achieved a significant milestone in its financial recovery efforts. The California State Auditor's Office announced in its report, [“Local High Risk Program: The State Auditor Is Removing Its High-Risk Designation From Four Cities and Retaining the Designation for Three Others,”](#) that Blythe is no longer designated as a financially high-risk city. This decision comes after Blythe demonstrated substantial progress by addressing key deficiencies and implementing corrective actions highlighted in prior audits.

The State Auditor's Local High Risk Program evaluates cities across California for financial challenges that could jeopardize their ability to provide essential services. In its latest report, the Auditor found that Blythe, along with the cities of El Cerrito, Lynwood and San Gabriel, had taken “satisfactory corrective action” and made meaningful strides in stabilizing their financial operations.

“This is a proud moment for the City of Blythe. Our staff, leadership and community have worked tirelessly to turn our financial situation around,” said Mayor Joseph DeConinck. “We have made difficult decisions and implemented long-term solutions that have restored fiscal stability. The State Auditor's recognition is a testament to the resilience and determination of our city.”

Over the past few years, the City of Blythe has addressed fiscal deficiencies, including its low financial reserves, need for additional sources of revenue, enterprise funds deficits, unpaid golf course loan, need for public safety resources, unaddressed vacant buildings and utility rates and service fees insufficient to cover costs. These efforts have not only addressed the deficiencies identified in prior reports but have positioned the City for continued financial health.

“We recognize that this is just one step in our journey to ensure the long-term prosperity of Blythe,” said Interim City Manager Mallory Crecelius. “We remain committed to transparency, accountability and maintaining the trust of our residents as we move forward.”

The City of Blythe's removal from the high-risk designation underscores its commitment to sound financial management and reflects the ongoing collaboration between City officials, staff and the community.

For more information and to read the report, visit the [State Auditor's website](#).



###

About the City of Blythe

Blythe is a dynamic community known for its rich history and strategic position as a gateway between California and Arizona. The city is committed to fostering sustainable growth, economic development, and maintaining a high quality of life for its residents.