



City sales tax rebates hit record high

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The City of San Benito set a record in November by receiving the greatest-ever amount of sales tax received by the City in one year.

It also established a new milestone in the City's sales tax collection history this November, surpassing the entire 12-month period of 2018.

During the 11-month period of January through November 2019, the City received rebates from the State Comptroller's office totaling \$4,568,166.29. In 2018, the 12-month total for rebates was recorded at \$4,565,496.84.

"For the month of December last year, we generated a rebate of \$365,411.93. If we reach that level again – which I expect we will – we will be hitting close to the \$5 million mark in sales tax rebates. A new record for us," said City Manager Manuel De La Rosa.

He attributes the growth this year to an increased number of businesses opening in the City, and for more people shopping locally.

"I encourage our citizens to shop in San Benito. You are helping our merchants stay in business, keeping more money in our community, and generating revenues that the City can use for projects, therefore keeping the ad valorem tax rate low. The City receives 75 percent of the rebate, with the remaining going to fund the San Benito Economic Development Corporation.

Previous years' totals include:

- 2017 \$4.49 million
- 2016 \$4.29 million
- 2015 \$4.21 million
- 2014 \$3.94 million
- 2013 \$3.84 million
- 2012 \$3.82 million
- 2011 \$3.65 million
- 2010 \$3.55 million
- 2009 \$3.62 million

Sales tax revenue is collected by the State Comptroller's Office and distributed to municipalities each month. Shoppers in San Benito pay 8.25 percent on all purchases. The state keeps 6.25 percent and rebates 2 percent to the City.

Other positive growth indicators in the City come from new construction and remodeling businesses and homes. Currently under construction are two major developments along Business 77: Resaca Village, with a valuation of \$5 million to \$7 million and Dale Shine Express Carwash, valued at \$1 million.

Included in commercial improvements is a \$47,900 remodel of the 3,051 square-foot Whataburger building at 1110 W. Business 77. Some 70 percent of the work is painting and touch ups, along with replacing dining area fixtures with new benches and restroom upgrades. Now temporarily closed, the restaurant is slated to reopen later this week.

For the month of November alone, a total of nine businesses upgraded their facilities with a total valuation of \$185,496.45. Residential additions numbered 30, with a valuation of \$158,613.52, and two new homes were built, valued at \$116,400.