



STAGE COACH EXPERSES

Volume 18, Number 1

April — June 2010

DEVELOPMENT MORATORIUM ENACTED TO ADDRESS WATER ISSUES

Due to issues related to Arroyo Grande's water supply, at the November 10, 2009 meeting, the City Council unanimously adopted a temporary moratorium on the approval of new development projects. The purpose of the moratorium is to provide the City time to update long-term water supply and demand projections, water supply proposals, requirements on new development to mitigate water usage, and measures to address potential seawater intrusion.

While conservation efforts have been effective, concerns remain regarding the City's ability to meet future water demand. Concerns were heightened by recent test results indicating potential seawater intrusion. If left unchecked, seawater intrusion could threaten the region's groundwater, which provides over a third of the City's overall water supply. Recent rains have been instrumental in helping to address seawater intrusion, but it does not increase overall ongoing City water allocation amounts.

The moratorium applies to all new development project applications that will require a new water service connection. Projects that have already received approvals or those with applications that have been accepted for processing and deemed complete are exempt. Projects that will utilize an existing water meter are also not impacted. During the moratorium period, other project applications will be accepted and processed, but not approved.

Studies on water supply options are progressing, which include acquisition of State water and/or development of a recycled water system. As a result, the moratorium is expected to be completed in June. Future public workshops will be scheduled to review alternatives and obtain public input. Strategies will then be incorporated in the City's General Plan Conservation Element.

In the meantime, conservation efforts remain important. Please contact the City at 473-5440 for information on water conservation incentives.



FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDER TRUCK GRANT

The City has been awarded a grant of over \$800,000 to purchase a new Fire aerial apparatus. It will enable the City to replace a 23 year old outdated ladder truck with a state-of-the-art model with expanded aerial capability. It is being coordinated with the City of Grover Beach and Oceano Community Services District and will be used by the new joint fire department when formed, which is targeted for July 2010.

The grant is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. To date, this is the largest award for apparatus in the nation this year. The new equipment is expected to be in operation by early 2011.

POLICE STATION MEASURE APPROVED FOR JUNE 8 BALLOT

On June 8th, residents will be asked to vote on Measure A-10, which seeks approval to issue up to \$6 million of bonds to construct a new Police Station at the corner of West Branch Street and Rodeo Drive. The measure will also refinance bonds issued in 2003 for expansion of the Fire Station. Bonds will be repaid from a combination of funds from an assessment on property taxes and from the Local Sales Tax Measure approved by voters in 2006. The property tax assessment rate will be maintained at equal to or less than the current rate paid by property owners for the Fire Station bonds. Therefore, the project will not increase the current annual property tax assessment rate.

The new facility is proposed to address a number of important deficiencies of the existing Police Station. Primary goals include addition and/or expansion of office space for the Investigations Section, an Emergency Operations Center, the 9-1-1 system and communications center, evidence and equipment storage, and adequate parking.

The bonds are proposed to be purchased by the Federal government with economic stimulus funds under a low-interest loan program offered by the United States Department of Agriculture for community facility projects. The property was acquired from the County at no cost in exchange for rezoning County properties and assuming maintenance of street and open space property within the City. The existing Police Station on Halcyon Road will be sold and the proceeds will be used to fund a portion of the costs of the project.

Please contact the Police Department at 473-5120 if you have questions or would like any additional information about the project.



IN-N-OUT APPROVED

In N' Out will soon be coming to Arroyo Grande, which will be located at the Five Cities Center on West Branch Street. The new restaurant and drive-through was unanimously approved at the December 15, 2009 Planning Commission meeting. A new building will be constructed that will replace the former Sizzler's structure. Construction is expected to begin in Summer 2010. The fast food chain has been the target of the City's economic development efforts over the past couple years due to the number of requests received from residents.

Garden Awards

Arroyo Grande in Bloom will be awarding a "Garden of Distinction" award to a residential and a business landscape each quarter for examples of low maintenance, great design, use of native plants, use of color in the garden, use of non-plant elements in the landscape and n o t e w o r t h y trees. The first new awards will be presented while the America in Bloom judges are visiting Arroyo Grande in early May. Be a part of beautifying our community by submitting your landscape or that of a friend or neighbor for consideration to info@arroyograndeinbloom.org or visit the A G I B website at www.arroyograndeinbloom.org.



STREET PROJECTS

The City continues to make significant progress on improvements to the street infrastructure. Resurfacing of West Branch Street will begin in May. Much of the work will be performed at night to minimize inconvenience. Improvements to Pearwood Avenue are also scheduled for this spring and the Orchard Street neighborhood adjacent to the High School during the summer.

Design of improvements to El Camino Real are also underway. The project is scheduled for Fall 2010, which will include repaving, installation of bike lanes, expansion of the Park and Ride Lot and construction of missing sidewalk segments.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS NEEDED

2011 will be a year of celebration in Arroyo Grande as the City's Centennial is celebrated. Events are being planned throughout the year with a special celebration on Sunday, July 10th, the 100th Anniversary of the City's incorporation.



There will be commemorative memorabilia available, including a Centennial edition of "Images of America—Arroyo Grande," written by local historians. Public support is encouraged through a sponsorship program, which will include recognition opportunities at the Centennial Park to be constructed near the Swinging Bridge and banners that will hang from lampposts throughout the year with the names of the participating sponsors. Sponsorships provide an excellent way to promote a business or recognize a family, organization or individual.

The Centennial Celebration Committee is comprised of five planning committees: Events & Activities, Historical, Public Relations, Fundraising, and Design & Marketing. If you would like to volunteer to work with one of these committees, please contact the City at 473-5400 to request information on how to get involved in this once in a lifetime event.

NEW GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAM

A new Graffiti Ordinance became effective on January 8th. Graffiti is a threat to public health, safety and welfare because it decreases property values and negatively impacts quality of life. It is often connected to gang activity and may lead to an increase in crime. If not promptly removed, graffiti invites additional vandalism.

The City removes graffiti on public property as quickly as possible. The new ordinance provides a three-step Graffiti Abatement Program to ensure it is also removed from private property in a timely manner. In the first step, perpetrators who are caught are held accountable for the removal and prevention of graffiti. If those responsible cannot be identified, the next step is to rely upon the cooperation of property owners to remove graffiti. In the final step, the City provides legal notice to a property owner that will require mandatory compliance in removing the graffiti within 72 hours and cost recovery if the City is forced to remove it.

The ordinance creates restrictions on possession of aerosol paint and other graffiti instruments. There is also a reward system for any person who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person for a violation of the ordinance or State law related to graffiti or an act of vandalism.

The complete text of the new graffiti ordinance is available through the City of Arroyo Grande website at www.arroyogrande.org.

FIRE RESISTIVE LANDSCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

A fire resistive landscape demonstration garden has been constructed on the Traffic Way side of the City's Fire Station. The project was the result of a partnership of Arroyo Grande in Bloom, the City's Recreation and Maintenance Services Department, California State Fire Safe Council, and the San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council. The purpose of the project is to display fire resistive plants that the community's citizens can view and incorporate into their landscape plans to enhance fire safety around their homes. Many of these plants are also considered drought tolerant. The garden has a small kiosk to provide fire safety information and benches for people to sit and relax. The project was funded by the San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council and much of the work was performed by volunteers. Residents are encouraged to visit the exhibit.

