

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, January 18, 2008

Notes of interest:

FEMA meeting: It's been confirmed that Tuesday's meeting at the San Joaquin Public Works Department to discuss the newly released flood hazard maps is THE opportunity for "interested citizens" to provide comments on the draft maps, which won't be adopted until early 2009. The SJC Public Works Department states it's an invitation-only meeting. A FEMA representative, however, said Thursday there will not be another opportunity for the public to comment in-person to FEMA officials and that no one would be turned away from Tuesday's meeting. City staff also is being told the city can hold public outreach meetings to explain FEMA's actions and how they may affect residents.

Railroad Avenue housing: The City has ordered an appraisal of the Union Pacific site, but the appraiser states the report won't be ready until February. The City is having trouble finding a UP representative who can give permission to enter the property. The appraisal is needed to allow the City to negotiate a purchase agreement with PAM for the senior housing project.

Recruiting news: The City has begun advertising for a new police chief. A brochure is available on the Police Department's recruiting Web site. Filling the vacant Fire Marshal and soon-to-be-vacant Public Works Director positions are the next major recruitments.

Water meter bids: The city received a wide range of bids to install 462 water meters. The contract estimate was just under \$76,000, with the bids ranging from \$13,000 to just over \$93,000. There were 16 bidders for the work, the highest in recent memory. These are meters for homeowners who previously paid for them.

State budget woes: The City's best source of information about how the state's budget problems might affect Lodi is at www.cacities.org.

Enterprise zone: The county's economic development officials are now saying they don't expect to hear from the state which enterprise zone applications were successful for another two or three weeks.

Solar Fair: Monday's event at Hutchins Street Square attracted 23 licensed solar installation contractors and approximately 250 residents of Lodi and surrounding communities. Lodi Electric Utility provided information on the solar rebate pilot project and other utility-related rebates.