

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, January 23, 2009

Unemployment: The State reported today that the unemployment rate in Lodi reached 9.9 percent in December. The California rate is 9.3 percent and the San Joaquin County rate is 13 percent. Unemployment levels are the highest in the County for a December since 1993. Of interest, Lodi's unemployment rate, although higher than the State's overall average, tracks more closely with the Sacramento region than with San Joaquin County.

Meehleis Modular Boathouse: Meehelis Modular is moving forward with its donation of a new Lodi Lake boathouse. It is being constructed at the plant and expected to be installed by the end of February. Weather permitting, new concrete will be poured within three weeks. A crane will be used to set the boathouse in place. Other improvements around the boathouse are being paid from our share of State park bond funds. If not all bond funds are expended on the project, we will request the State's permission to direct remaining dollars toward short-term improvements to shore up the eroding riverbank near Pigs Lake.

Sales tax info: We are placing our latest sales tax report from HdL on our Web site. The City's receipts for the July-September quarter were 5.3 percent lower in 2008 than 2007. Actual sales in Lodi dropped 6.9 percent.

Elm Street Building: We hope to ask the City Council in February to authorize advertising for bids to demolish the dilapidated building at 17 E. Elm Street. We are making progress with Union Pacific with an easement agreement for a railroad communications line.

Emergency practice: Public safety staff is preparing plans to conduct a "desktop" emergency exercise that will call on multiple departments. This training exercise is a refresher course that will remind departments of their staff members' various roles in the event of a major emergency in the City. We're looking to hold the practice session in the spring.

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