

## City Manager's



### Weekly Update Friday, October 2, 2009

**Century Park playground equipment:** The fire that burned the playground at Century Park was determined by the Fire Department to be arson. Unrelated to the fact the fire was arson, the playground equipment was insured. An insurance adjustor has inspected the site and we are working with the playground equipment company to receive a quote on replacement. The City's out of pocket costs to replace the playground will be capped at \$25,000. Once we have all the information in hand, the Council will be asked if it wishes to replace the burned playground.

Meanwhile, we now can explain the media report about why the 911 call to report the Century Park fire did not reach the Police Department. The caller was using a cell phone and reported receiving a busy signal four times. Although modern cell phones can be directed to a local agency's 911 center, they aren't always routed that way by the wireless companies, according to our interim fire chief. Our assumption is the wireless company either did not complete the call, resulting in a tone similar to a busy signal, or that the call was routed to another agency's dispatch center.

**Public Art is popping up all over:** Several new examples of public art will be unveiled in October and November. The dedication of the "Celebrate the Harvest" statue at the corner of School and Oak Streets is scheduled for October 16. The large pergola titled "Better Daze" located along east Lodi Avenue is scheduled for installation and dedication in October or November. The large Chinese Warrior statue, a gift from China, will be placed in its permanent location in the lobby of the Finance Building in October. Finally, the new outdoor mural "Historic Japan Town" is currently being painted.

**Elm Street building demolished:** The derelict City-owned building at Elm Street and the railroad tracks was demolished this week. It took about three hours for the building to go down and be hauled away.

**Prop 1A Securitization Program:** Although the state Legislature still has not taken the steps needed to create a tax-exempt financing, staff is following through with the steps to ensure we can participate in a financing to secure our Prop 1A money. We have taken the first step to enroll in the Prop 1A Securitization Program and we are waiting for the legal documents to be emailed from the transaction counsel within the next week or two. To date, approximately 400 agencies have enrolled in the Securitization Program.

**Tienda housing project:** Our first grant to secure funding for the Tienda Senior Housing Project has successfully passed the initial basic eligibility review. The application has received a preliminary score. However, we do not yet know the ranking until the appeal window has closed. At that time, all the scores will be compared and we'll know if we have secured any grant funds. A total of 39 applications were received requesting a total of \$100 million – only \$33 million is available. We anticipate receiving our ranking this week.

**Department of Energy grant:** We have been awarded the full \$586,200 for the Department of Energy grant. Funds are been delivered and are now in our banking

account. Staff will begin the process to purchase or implement the various programs, such as the Kofu Park Community Building Energy Efficiency Project, Hutchins Energy Management System, New lights for the Grape Bowl, Trash compactors trash cans, etc.

**Commuter rail and high-speed rail:** Bob Johnson and the Manager attended an update meeting Wednesday on the progress of commuter rail between Stockton and Sacramento and the status of the alignment for high-speed rail between the Bay Area/Sacramento and Los Angeles. Good progress is being made on the concept of commuter rail. The initial concept shows service between Sacramento, Stockton, Lodi, Galt, and Elk Grove. Sacramento service includes stops at 65th Street and downtown. Three locomotives and seven cars could be used for two round-trip commutes. Commuters could leave Lodi at 6:45 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. and arrive in downtown Sacramento 45 minutes later. With regard to high-speed rail, a major battle is brewing over its alignment. The alignment could end up making or breaking communities all over the state. One of the biggest issues is whether or not the Bay Area connection passes through the City of Merced or goes south and connects directly through Fresno. A connection from Sacramento will join the line wherever the connection with the Bay Area is made.

**Downtown Summit:** We have received more RSVPs from downtown property owners than we have from business owners for the Oct. 16 summit. Today is the RSVP deadline as shown on the invitation that was mailed several weeks ago. We anticipate going door-to-door downtown next week to encourage more attendance from merchants.

**LUSD Committee:** Interim Fire Chief Kevin Donnelly, Police Capt. Gary Benincasa and Sgt. Dale Miller attended the first meeting of the Lodi Unified Community Readiness & Emergency Management for Schools Advisory Committee on Sept. 24. Lodi Unified will be preparing school-specific manuals to inform staff how to deal with critical incidents, from natural disasters to man-made crises. The fire and police departments will be reviewing the manuals and advising LUSD on the emergency plans. The committee will meet monthly.

**Sound system:** The audio system at the Carnegie Forum is failing. Spare parts for the 20-year-old system can no longer be ordered. The problem is age-related: soldering points are cracking and corroding through the circuit boards, making it easy for the system to short out. We are looking at options for paying for new components.

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