

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, October 17, 2008

Feeding at transit station: Transients and homeless who come to the Lodi Station on Sunday mornings are causing numerous problems after receiving free food from church groups. Police will begin a special enforcement on Sunday in response to complaints from transit employees, passengers and bus drivers. Maintenance staff often finds drug paraphernalia in bushes and garbage cans after the Sunday feeding. Police will talk to the church groups holding the feedings to discuss potential alternative locations.

Meeting with LUSD: At the recent 2x2 meeting with Lodi Unified officials, the discussion included traffic around schools, an update on the Grape Bowl repairs, energy efficiency in Lodi schools and concerns about access of City vehicles to the CNG refueling station and bus wash that were constructed jointly with the school district. The City and LUSD need to come up with a protocol that will provide the City better access to the facilities, which are typically staffed by LUSD during times when school buses are being fueled and washed, but are not available to meet the city's transit schedule.

Interviews for No. 2: Five candidates for the vacant Deputy City Manager/Internal Services Director job are being interviewed today by two panels. One of the panels is composed of financial professionals at other cities and NCPA, with the other comprising City representatives, including two council members. The candidates all have strong backgrounds in accounting and municipal finance. The most qualified candidates will be invited for one-on-one interviews with the City Manager.

Grant application: The City is preparing grant applications to the state for funds to repair the heavily eroded stretch of riverbank near Pigs Lake. A total of \$39 million is available statewide through the River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration grants. Local groups and park users are being solicited for letters of support. The City Council will be asked on Nov. 5 to pass resolutions approving the grant requests.

COG allocation: The COG Management and Finance Committee met Wednesday and again discussed the issue of the smart-growth incentive grants. This year, there is \$1.5 million set aside from the Measure K renewal for the smart-growth program, with the allocation divided into two pots of \$750,000 – one for planning grants and the other for projects. It has been proposed that Lodi receive a minimum grant of \$505,000 (out of \$750,000 requested) for the Lodi Avenue project. Because only \$315,000 was requested for planning grants, the committee voted unanimously to divert the remaining \$435,000 to projects in order to fully fund requests from Stockton for Weber Avenue work, Lodi's request, and \$190,000 of Tracy's \$250,000 request for downtown design work.

It's a FACT: Cities are contacting us to get copies of our FACT Act policies, which the Council adopted Wednesday. Many cities, and the League of California Cities, have just now become aware of the federal government's Nov. 1 deadline to adopt policies abiding by the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003.

Library move: The library is now looking at a Dec. 1 date for moving to temporary quarters across from City Hall at 212 W. Pine St., formerly occupied by the Finance Department. Indoor air testing found levels of PCE had declined substantially over the years and the consultant's opinion is that the building is safe to occupy.

And finally ... : The California Energy Commission has scheduled a public hearing on the Lodi Energy Center for 5 p.m. on Jan. 15 at Hutchins Street Square. .. A strike team with four members of the Lodi Fire Department that helped at a wildfire east of Los Angeles returned home today. ... Thursday's Arts Open House at Hutchins Street Square appeared to be well-attended.

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