

## City Manager's



### Weekly Update Friday, November 21, 2008

**Unemployment:** We continue to see more evidence that Lodi's economy is more linked to the Capital region. Although unemployment increased throughout the State in October, it was far worse for San Joaquin County than Lodi. The latest figures: State, 8.2 percent (up from 7.6); Sacramento County, 8.1 percent (up from 7.7); Lodi, 8.3 percent (up from 7.6); San Joaquin County, 11.1 percent (up from 10.2).

**Lodi Energy Center:** The California Energy Commission gave the go-ahead to a year-long licensing process for the 255-megawatt power plant. Commissioner Karen Douglas will lead a committee reviewing the LEC application to ensure it meets CEQA requirements.

**National Night Out:** Lodi placed sixth nationally for outstanding participation in National Night Out on Aug. 5. There were 294 entries in the 50,000-99,999 population category. The Lodi Police Department, which organizes the event, will receive a special award next month recognizing its achievements in the 25 years of the National Night Out campaign.

**Blue Shield moves:** Blue Shield moved a group of 285 employees into the new facility last weekend. Another wave of 350 were scheduled to move today, which would complete staffing levels at the new center at just under 1,000 employees.

**Strike team deployed:** A strike team consisting of four firefighters, headed by Captain Mike Lair, were deployed to the Freeway incident in Yorba Linda on Saturday evening. They returned Wednesday.

**Storm Drain Detectives:** About 40 members of the Storm Drain Detectives took a field trip to the San Francisco Bay on Veterans Day, where they spent the day aboard a research vessel to explore the Bay's marine life. The trip, paid by CalFED, helped students learn how City storm drains, even as far away as Lodi's, has an effect on a larger ecosystem.

**Security at MSC:** Work is beginning Monday at the Municipal Service Center to improve security and provide new pavement for the Vehicle Maintenance Facility and Storage yard. Once paving is completed, new gates and a security system will be installed. The work will result in the temporary closure of the Ham Lane entrance. Vehicles will use a Kettleman Lane entrance to enter the yard.

**Water summit:** Several staff members attended a "water summit" sponsored by the San Joaquin Partnership. Much of the discussion was around the need to manage water locally and at the state level, and on a Peripheral Canal.

**Ag zoning:** We have forwarded an MOU to the county for the agricultural zoning cluster and are waiting to hear when the proposal will appear before the Board of Supervisors.

**Radio funds:** Lodi will be receiving funds from its share of a Federal Office of Homeland Security grant that will be used for new public safety radios. The amount of Lodi's share, which will be received through San Joaquin County, is not yet known.

**And, finally:** SJCOG has issued its call for One Voice projects. Nominations are due Dec. 18. ... The City Manager attended a League of California Cities Legislative Update briefing this week. The hot topic is still SB 375, the law that connects planning decisions with environmental impacts. ... We're working in-house on a new economic development brochure that will touch on Lodi's highlights at a glance. ... The evergreen in front of City Hall will be decorated Saturday using volunteers from Public Works and the use of a cherry picker donated by West Coast Arborists. ... The Police Partners will be asked to be highly visible in shopping center parking lots during the Christmas shopping season in an effort to deter vehicle burglaries or strong-arm robberies.

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