



STAGE COACH EXPERES

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BRISCO-HALCYON INTERCHANGE TEST CLOSURE PERIOD SCHEDULED

One of the City's major priorities is to develop and fund a solution to the traffic deficiencies at the Brisco-Halcyon Interchange. The City has completed and approved the Project Study Report (PSR), which is the first phase of planning studies required by Caltrans. The next phase, Project Approval and Environmental Determination (PA&ED), is under way and completion is expected by October 2007.

These studies include analysis of a number of alternatives. Limited right-of-way, varying elevations and proximity to other onramps and offramps provide significant challenges to designing a simple solution. Some of the options under study involve closure of the northbound Brisco Road onramp and offramp. As a result, a temporary test closure of the onramp and offramp has been scheduled from May 29th through June 12th. The purpose of this exercise is to measure impacts on adjacent onramps and offramps, as well as local streets.

Everyone's patience and cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Residents are encouraged to adjust driving patterns during this period to utilize alternate access at either E. Grand Avenue or Camino Mercado. The valuable information obtained from this study will be instrumental in determining the most effective project alternative.

For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 473-5440.

CITY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The City recently completed development of a 10-year Strategic Plan, which is the culmination of an emphasis that has been placed on good long-range planning over the past several years. The intent of the plan is to provide a 10-year vision for the City and its operations.

To ensure the City's plan provides meaningful direction, it consists of general strategic directions, as well as specific strategies and goals. However, since it does not prioritize these goals, it is not intended to be a detailed action plan. This is accomplished through the City's long-range financial planning process, which links specific goals to financial resources.

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STREET PROJECTS TO BEGIN

The impact of revenue from the approval of Measure O, the local sales tax measure, will soon become evident. Most visible will be a number of roadway projects during the coming year, including asphalt overlays for Brisco Rd (between E. Grand Ave and El Camino Real) this summer, and Farroll Ave (between Oak Park Blvd and Halcyon Rd) in early fall. Designs are also underway for corrective maintenance to James Way (between Oak Park Blvd and Tally Ho Rd), which includes replacing isolated pavement failures and applying an asphalt overlay for degraded roadway segments. Following these repairs, a final asphalt treatment called microsurfacing will be employed. For more information, please contact Public Works at 473-5440.

STUDY SESSION SCHEDULED TO REVIEW DRAFT BUDGET

Staff has completed development of the Draft Bi-Annual Budget for Fiscal Years 2007-08 and 2008-09, which will be presented to the City Council and community at a Special Study Session, scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2007 in the City Council Chambers. City Council consideration and approval will take place in June.

The total proposed City budget for FY 2007-08 is approximately \$19.9 million. The General Fund encompasses approximately \$14.4 million of this amount, which funds the majority of traditional government services and is funded primarily through tax revenues.

Few changes are proposed to the City's ongoing operational budget. The City's emphasis on efficiency continues in order to manage a balanced budget that maintains service levels, an appropriate reserve, and effective long-range fiscal practices.

As a result of the passage of Measure O, the majority of change occurs in the City's Capital Improvement Program. The local sales tax measure was designed primarily to invest in a long list of capital needs that have accumulated due to financial challenges faced by the City over the past several years. The City is committed to utilizing the new sales tax revenues for the purposes that were outlined in the Advisory Measures also on the November 2006 ballot. The results of these measures were used in prioritizing the proposed expenditures.

As a result, the recommended budget includes a substantial investment in transportation, street, drainage, creek, street tree, and public safety facility and equipment improvements. Highlights include

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NEW FIRE CHIEF APPOINTED



The City is pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Hubert as its new Director of Building & Fire. The position serves as the Fire Chief for both the Cities of Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach, as well as oversees the Building & Life Safety and Neighborhood Services operations. Hubert's selection comes at the conclusion of an extensive statewide recruitment process conducted to replace Terry Fibich, who retired at the end of December 2006 after serving in the position for 10 years.

Chief Hubert comes to the City with both outstanding credentials and reputation. He served the City of Poway since 1990 as Fire Division Chief/Operations Chief, Fire Division Chief/ Fire Marshall, and Fire Battalion Chief/ Division Chief - Training and Operations. Prior to that, he worked with the City of El Cajon Fire Department from 1976 to 1990 as a Firefighter, Paramedic, Lieutenant, Captain, and Interim Battalion Chief. Chief Hubert was presented his badge at a special ceremony at the March 27, 2007 City Council meeting.

FIRE PARTNERSHIP INCREASES SERVICE AND DECREASES COSTS



In 2004, the City of Arroyo Grande entered into a joint fire services agreement with the City of Grover Beach, which includes joint administration, training and equipment. Under the agreement, the cities share a Fire Chief and Training Officer. The communities have recently begun to experience significant benefits from this partnership in both enhanced service levels and efficiency.

In February, a key goal of the agreement was achieved. The departments instituted what is referred to as a fire service boundary drop. The boundary drop eliminates political boundaries with regard to fire response so that the closest available unit will respond to any incident call from Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach residents. In particular, potential life saving minutes can be saved by Grover Beach responding into the western end of Arroyo Grande.

The jurisdictions have also begun to take advantage of cost saving opportunities available through joint efforts. Both City Councils recently approved an equipment sharing agreement after determining that reserve engines were well in excess of what would normally be utilized when compared to a single department of similar size. As a result, both jurisdictions have agreed to share a reserve engine and the revenue from sale of another identical engine. It is expected to provide approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 in revenue to each agency and reduce ongoing maintenance costs. The agreement specifies procedures for stationing and utilization of available equipment during circumstances when apparatus is down for maintenance or repairs. Through this coordination, availability of emergency apparatus will actually increase despite the overall decrease in the number of equipment.

Finally, both cities have agreed to upgrade a Training Captain position to Battalion Chief, who will also have administrative and command responsibilities. The position will be jointly funded by Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach and will be instrumental in implementing an increase in joint training and standards governing the two departments. For more information about the position or other Fire efforts, please contact the Fire Department at 473-5490.

VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Design is under way for a major “streetscape” improvement project on E. Branch Street in the Village. The purpose of the project is to improve both the appearance and pedestrian safety of the Village. After several years of planning and grant applications, the City has been successful in obtaining State and Federal funding for the project. It will include decorative and lighted crosswalks, storm drain construction, sidewalk widening at existing narrow portions, trees, bike racks, streetlights, benches, planters, and trash receptacles. Medians and closure of Short Street will also be

presented as project alternatives. The project design options will be considered by the City Council at the June 26th meeting. Construction is expected to begin in Summer 2008.

Concurrently, the City Council recently took action to pursue relinquishment of E. Branch Street (Route 227) through the Village from Caltrans. If successful, it will greatly improve the City's ability to maintain and enhance the Village. For more information, contact the Community Development Department at 473-5420.

VILLAGE GREEN ENHANCEMENTS SCHEDULED

The City of Arroyo Grande has been focusing on a number of efforts to enhance one of the community's most cherished facilities—the Village Green, located between Mason, Nelson and Short streets in the Historic Village. The bandstand constructed by the Rotary Club of Arroyo Grande and the improvements to Heritage Square by the South County Historical Society have substantially enhanced this facility's role as a center of many community activities, events and entertainment. As a result, the City recently approved a Master Plan to effectively plan and coordinate improvements to the park area.

The Plan calls for the following:

- 1) improved connections and signage between the Village Green and the Heritage Square area;
- 2) addition of parkways and new sidewalks surrounding the park;
- 3) planting of street trees in the parkway;
- 4) undergrounding of utilities;
- 5) extension of the Creekside Path to the Village Green;
- 6) installation of a new trail from the Rotary Bandstand to Short Street;
- 7) installation of decorative street lights around the perimeter of the Village Green; and
- 8) replacement of existing fencing with a white picket fence to match the existing fence at the Heritage House Museum.



Project specifications are currently under design. Construction of the first improvements are projected this Summer. Planning is targeted to avoid impacts to the Strawberry or Harvest Festivals.

WATER RESOURCES



The City is currently pursuing new water sources to secure long time reliability of our water resources. Several steps have been taken, including the implementation of a water conservation program to retrofit old household plumbing fixtures and construction of a new water well. The water conservation program has been very successful thus far, resulting in water savings of 50 acre-feet of water

per year. The City is also coordinating efforts with the City of Grover Beach and the Oceano Community Services District to explore desalination as a future water source. A grant was received by the Department of Water resources to prepare a funding study to examine design features of a desalination plant and possible funding alternatives.

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Instead, the objective of the Strategic Plan is to achieve agreement from the City Council on a long-term vision, direction and goals for the City. City staff can then utilize this information to ensure ongoing activities are consistent with the ultimate future direction the city is working to achieve.

The draft Strategic Plan is based upon community input received throughout a number of planning processes undertaken over the past few years. These include development of the General Plan Update; Sewer and Drainage Master Plans; Pavement Management Plan; Redevelopment Implementation Plan; Village Design Guidelines; City Hall Complex Feasibility Study and Needs Assessment; Village Green Master Plan; Bikeway and Pedestrian Plan, E. Grand Avenue; E. Branch Street and Traffic Way Streetscape

Plans; Fire Department Needs Assessment; and Urban Water Management Plan.

Specific categories of future directions, goals and strategies include Economic Development, Affordable Housing, City Beautification, Recreation, Infrastructure, Facilities, Transportation, Natural and Historical Resources, Financial/Human Resources, Technology, and Public Safety. Incorporated are overall directions that address community concerns and issues, as well as many targeted programs and projects designed to meet overall community needs.

Those interested in viewing a copy of the Strategic Plan may do so by accessing the City's website at www.arroyogrande.org or contact City Hall at 473-5400 to receive a copy.

ARROYO GRANDE SUMMER SOFTBALL

The City of Arroyo Grande Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department is accepting registration for the Summer Softball League. Slow Pitch Men's, Women's, Men's Church and Co-ed divisions are being offered. Registration for the Summer League will continue through June 1st. The cost is \$485 per team plus \$8 per non-Arroyo Grande resident. Teams may register at the Elm Street Community Center in Elm Street Park. The Summer League is scheduled to begin June 11th. For more information, please call the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Office at 473-5474.



SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE GREEN

The City of Arroyo Grande and Village Improvement Association are pleased to announce the Village Summer Concert Series beginning on Sunday, June 10th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Rotary Bandstand on the Village Green. Concerts will feature a variety of acts, both local and regional, every other Sunday through September 23rd. Bring your families to enjoy music in the park in what is sure to be a wonderful community event. Please call 473-5474 for more information.

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design of the Brisco-Halcyon Interchange project; resurfacing of Brisco Road, Farroll Avenue, E. Grand Avenue, and El Camino Real; Newsom Springs and Valley Road drainage improvements; an increase in street, sidewalk and street tree maintenance; creek preservation projects; upgrade of Fire Department staffing; fire engine purchase; and expansion of the Police Station.

The Budget also includes an update to the City's Long-Range Financial Plan, which represents the City's continued commitment to planning long-term to meet future needs. The purpose of the Long-Range Financial Plan is to serve as a financial planning tool to address funding needs over a 10-year period rather than only on an annual or bi-annual basis. This better enables the City Council and staff to view the long-range financial implications of decisions before they are made, to identify future needs and how to address them through long-term strategies, and to better adjust to fluctuations in the economy.

For more information or questions regarding the proposed budget, please contact City Hall at 473-5404.

YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Your presence and participation at City meetings are contributions to good government! The following Council, commissions, committees, and boards meet at City Council Chambers, 215 East Branch Street:

CITY COUNCIL

2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meets as needed

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

1st Monday, 2:30 p.m.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Monday previous to 3rd Tuesday,
7:00 p.m.

DOWNTOWN PARKING ADVISORY BOARD

Meets as needed



City of Arroyo Grande

Administrative Services Department
P.O. Box 550 • Arroyo Grande, CA 93421

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Please call 473-5414

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agcity@arroyogrande.org

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