



"Raising Expectations"



Joint Meeting
Visalia Unified School District Board of Trustees/Visalia City Council

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 - 5000 West Cypress Avenue
5:00 p.m. Dinner - C4 (Elected officials and senior staff)
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meeting - Board Room



City of Visalia
Mayor: Jesus J. Gamboa
Vice Mayor: Bob Link
Council Member: Greg Collins
Council Member: Donald K. Landers
Council Member: Amy Shuklian

Visalia Unified School District
President: Juan Guerrero
Clerk: Jim L. Qualls
Board Member: Rodney Elder
Board Member: William A. Fulmer
Board Member: Larry Jones
Board Member: Michael Lane
Board Member: Donna Martin

AGENDA

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

INTRODUCTIONS/COMMENTS

CITIZENS REQUESTS - This is the time for members of the public to comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Visalia Unified School District Board/Visalia City Council. The Board Members and Council ask that you keep your comments brief and positive. The Board/Council members cannot legally discuss or take official action on citizen request items that are introduced tonight. In fairness to all who wish to speak tonight, each speaker from the public will be allowed three minutes or a total of 20 minutes per topic. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your address.

(Additional written materials, if any, will be made available at the meeting)

- 1. VUSD Akers/Riggin Annexation Status Update - Fred Brusuelas, City of Visalia Assistant Community Development Director
2. City Budget Update - Eric Frost, City of Visalia Administrative Services Director
3. VUSD Budget Update - Christine Statton, CFO VUSD
4. VUSD Visalia Technical Educational Charter (VTEC) Petition Update - John Ramirez, VUSD Alternative Education/CTE/ROP Director

5. Update on City of Visalia Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force gang reduction strategies and efforts – Police Chief Bob Carden
6. Street Project Updates: Houston Avenue (Santa Fe Street – Ben Maddow Way); McAuliff Street Overcrossing; Mooney Boulevard at Goshen Avenue Traffic Signal; Tulare Avenue Extension (Lovers Lane – McAuliff Street) – Chris Young, City of Visalia Assistant Community Development Director
7. Safe Routes to Schools Grant Applications Update – Chris Young, City of Visalia Assistant Community Development Director
8. Update on Phase II of the Visalia Riverway Sports Park – Vince Elizondo, City of Visalia Parks and Recreation Director
9. Pilot program to encourage recycling in VUSD Schools – Andrew Benelli, City of Visalia Public Works Director
10. Census 2010 Complete Count Committee – Nancy Loliva, City of Visalia Community Relations Manager

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Council Meetings

- Monday, May 18, 2009, 4:00 p.m. Joint Meeting City Council and Planning Commission, Convention Center, 303 W. Acequia
- Monday, May 18, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Convention Center, 303 W. Acequia
- Monday, June 1, 2009, 4:00 p.m. Work Session; Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers 707 W. Acequia

Note: Meeting dates/times are subject to change, check posted agenda for correct details.

City of Visalia

Memo



To: Visalia City Council/ Visalia Unified School District Board

From: Fred Brusuelas, *AICP* Community Development Assistant Director

CC: Steve Salomon, City Manager
Michael Olmos, Assistant City Manager

Date: May 5, 2009

Re: Visalia Unified School District Annexation Update

The City Council on April 6, 2009 conducted a Public Hearing to consider a 160 acre land annexation at the northwest corner of Akers Street and Riggan Avenue. The public hearing comprised the Visalia Unified School District annexation request, General Plan Amendment to allow Public Institutional land uses, and Detachment from County Service Area No.1. The City Council approved the request and directed city staff to proceed with application filing at the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which was completed on April 20, 2009. A public hearing by LAFCO is expected in July or August 2009, depending on LAFCO scheduling.

In addition, work is being finalized on the draft "Annexation Agreement". A draft copy of the document was recently completed by the City and delivered to the School District for their review. City staff anticipates that the agreement would be entered into before LAFCO takes formal action on the annexation.

**City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: May 5, 2009

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 2

Agenda Item Wording: City Budget Update

Deadline for Action: None

Submitting Department: Administrative Services

Contact Name and Phone Number: Eric Frost, Administrative Services Director x4474

Department Recommendation: That the City Council and School Board receive this interim budget report.

Summary/background: At the April 6, 2009 City Council meeting, staff presented the current fiscal position of the City and the expected fiscal outlook for next year. The City Council received the report and gave direction to staff to work on items to improve the projected budget picture for 2009/2010.

Although this year's operating results are not expected to meet Council's objective of a balanced budget, the City is doing better than many other communities with a projected General Fund deficit of about \$1 million out of a \$60 million budget. The operating loss can be absorbed by emergency cash reserves.

The City adopted a two year budget in June of 2008 so the next challenge facing the City is how to deal with next year's budget. Over 25 vacancies, lower fuel cost and Recreation's reworking of their senior meals, brochures and volunteer program, reduced late night hours at the Police Station, and prompt closing of the permit desk are expected to save the City substantial monies next year, as shown in Table I, General Fund – Revised forecasts 2009/10. Despite these changes, the remaining shortfall is estimated at \$4.5 million, which includes the updated sales tax numbers from March.

For action by:

City Council/School Board
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): _____

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

If report is being re-routed after revisions leave date of initials if no significant change has affected Finance or City Attorney Review.

Table I
General Fund Budget - Revised
All Amounts in Millions

	<i>Projected</i> <i>08/09</i>	<i>Revised</i> <i>Budget</i> <i>09/10</i>	<i>Change</i>
Revenues	\$ 54.3	\$ 52.3	\$ (2.0)
Operating Expenditures	64.6	68.4	3.8
Less: Vacances		(2.3)	(2.3)
Recreation Changes		(0.2)	(0.2)
Fuel Savings		(0.3)	(0.3)
Allocations	(13.8)	(13.8)	0.0
Net Operations	50.8	51.8	1.0
Available for Capital and Transfers	3.5	0.5	(3.0)
Less: Transfers	(3.2)	(3.3)	(0.1)
Retiree Health Care	0.0	(0.5)	(0.5)
Increase PERS Costs	0.0	(0.6)	(0.6)
Capital Net	(1.1)	(0.6)	0.5
New Capital	(0.1)	0.0	0.1
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ (0.9)	\$ (4.5)	\$ (3.6)

Most of the \$4.5 million deficit can be traced to a decline in revenues. Two-thirds of the City's General Fund revenues come from property tax and sales tax. Table II, Cumulative Effects of Sales and Property Tax Projections, shows the budget impact imposed by declining revenues on the General Fund. The adopted two year budget projected General Fund property and sales tax at \$42.7 million. The revised projection is now \$39.6, a \$3.1 million drop from the original budget.

Table II
Cumulative Effects of Sales and Property Tax Projections

Sales and Property Tax		
	2008-09 Projected	2009-10 Projected
Budget	41,604,660	42,678,830
Projected	40,755,000	39,578,000
Difference from Budget		
Budget	-	-
Straight	-	(1,074,170)
Projected	(849,660)	(3,100,830)

The General Fund's operating expenditures gap is just less than 9%. To bridge the funding gap, Council authorized the following General Fund actions:

Action #1: Retain frozen all frozen 08/09 projects and freeze the Miki City Park project, an additional \$274,500.

Action #2: Direct staff to work on management recommended budget saving options in the General Fund as outlined in Table III, General Fund Budget Solutions.

Table III

Budget Solutions - In Millions	Council Direction			
Items in order of dollar value			On-going	One-time
Use of Reserves	1.50			1.50
Proposed wage concessions	1.20		1.20	
Increase Revenues	0.53		0.53	
Deferred Capital Expenditures	0.50			0.50
Maintain vacancies, reorganize	0.45		0.45	
Operational Cuts	0.41		0.41	
	4.59		2.59	2.00

Finally, the last of the General Fund actions the Council acted upon grappled with the expected increase in PERS costs. The stock market has had a 50% loss in equity from its high in 2007. From the low, stocks have recovered some of the loss and not stand at a 43% loss from the high. If the City's PERS assets have declined only 40%, the City is still looking at an \$80 million loss in pension value. The City will need to make this up over time. This is made up by assessing the City higher annual contributions.

These contributions are necessary to assure that all pensions are funded. To begin preparing for this increased cost, management has made action #3, namely:

Action #3: Set-aside \$600,000 towards the expected increase in PERS costs for FY 2010/11. Although the City will not have to immediately pay more towards PERS costs next year, it will for FY 2010/11. \$600,000 is a down payment to a much larger number that will be determined through the actuarial process next year.

Other City Activities

Although this report discusses the General Fund, the City has many non-General Fund activities that could be mentioned. Most significant is the Water Conservation Plant or Sewer Farm's large capital expenditures required for their NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit, with early cost estimates ranging between \$50.0 and \$60.0 million. The City is in the process of awarding a \$5 million design contract to be spent by 2010. Construction would then occur in 2011 and 2012. To prepare for this project, the City needs to adjust its sewer rates to support the appropriate debt service.

The City will utilize Revenue Bonds or a State loan program to the fund the improvements. Either way, the City will be required to maintain a cash flow of 125% of the operating and maintenance costs including debt service. To obtain the bonds, it will be necessary to already

have implemented a rate structure sufficient to cover the new debt. As a result, the Council has directed staff to send out notices for a June 15, 2009 public hearing on Sewer and Solid Waste rates. The new rates are proposed to be implemented over 3 to 4 years and will eventually increase current rates by 1/3. Despite these increases, Visalia's rates will still be among the lowest utility rates in the South San Joaquin Valley.

Summary

Visalia has some significant challenges confronting it, much like any government today. However, the City Council has also taken significant steps to improve its fiscal position while continuing to provide vital services to the community.

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review:

NEPA Review:

Tracking Information: *(Staff must list/include appropriate review, assessment, appointment and contract dates and other information that needs to be followed up on at a future date)*

Copies of this report have been provided to:

City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal

Meeting Date: May 5, 2009

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 5

Agenda Item Wording: Update on City of Visalia Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force gang reduction strategies and efforts.

Deadline for Action: N/A

Submitting Department: Visalia Police Department & Visalia Unified School District

Contact Name and Phone Number:

Chief Bob Carden 713-4215
Superintendent Stan Carrizosa 730-7522

Department Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council and the Visalia Unified School Board continue to support the gang reduction strategies and efforts of the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force.

Summary/background: The Visalia Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force was formed in June of 2006 in response to the increasing concern over the impact of criminal street gangs on Visalia youth and the safety of the community. The Task Force has employed a three-pronged approach to gangs that consists of suppression, intervention, and prevention. Partnerships have been the key to accomplishing this approach to address criminal street gangs in the City of Visalia. The Visalia Police Department co-chairs the Task Force with the Visalia Unified School District and is represented by a variety of representatives from the Visalia educational community, the Visalia law enforcement community, Visalia community based organizations, the Visalia business community, and the Visalia faith-based community.

Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force Activities for 2008:

The Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force capitalized on the partnerships formed amongst its members in 2008 to provide a comprehensive approach to gang suppression, intervention, and prevention. The following list provides an overview of the gang strategies/activities employed in 2008 by the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force:

- **Ongoing partnerships** among Task Force members.
 - Visalia PD & Tulare County Probation Intense Supervision Project
 - MAGNET (Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Team)
 - Visalia PD & VUSD (GREAT, Youth Service Officers, & CalGRIP)
 - City of Visalia & Proteus, Inc. (CalGRIP Neighborhood Youth Counselor Project)
 - Visalia PD & United Way (First Call Project)

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): 20

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

If report is being re-routed after revisions leave date of initials if no significant change has affected Finance or City Attorney Review.

- **CalGRIP Grant Project** was awarded in April 2008 and provided five additional Neighborhood Youth Counselors to Visalia community youth centers and Visalia schools.
- Opening of the **new P.A.L facility** in Fall 2008.
- Tulare County **Youth Gang Summit** (November 2008).
- The **Step-Up Jobs Program** employed 42 at-risk youth in 2008 through 28 different Visalia business community partners and was funded entirely through business and community donations.
- NGT's with five sub-groups of the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force were completed in 2008 in furtherance of a **Gang Strategic Plan** for the Task Force. The groups identified as stakeholders included: Law Enforcement, Business, Education, Youth, and the Faith Based community.
- Visalia PD Gang Suppression Unit and MAGNET engaged in direct and focused gang enforcement efforts that targeted gang activity in an effort to reduce gang violence through **suppression**
- The **LOOP Bus** served 10,891 Visalia youth by providing safe transportation to Visalia community centers.
- The Visalia Police Department conducted 91 **Gang Watch** presentations to various community organizations throughout the City of Visalia.
- **Civil Gang Injunctions** were granted by the Tulare County Superior Court against the Norteno and Oriental Troop criminal street gangs in May 2008. These injunctions were the culmination of extensive work by the Visalia Police GSU and the Tulare County DA's Office. To date, more than 170 gang members have been served with the injunction and eight arrests have been made.
- In Fall 2008, the Visalia Police Department partnered with the United Way in the **First Call project**. This project provided the Visalia Police Department with a business card to be provided to citizens in need that aids in connecting them to valuable resources in our community.

Gang Strategic Plan:

The Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force began to conduct Nominal Group Technique (NGT) strategic planning sessions during 2008 in order to identify a strategy for future Task Force efforts. NGT's were conducted with the following sub-groups of the Gang Task Force: Law Enforcement, Education, Business Community, Visalia Youth, and the Faith-Based Community. The NGT process sought to answer the question of what the Task Force can do to continue addressing the issue of gangs in Visalia. The NGT process identifies strategies and then aids the group in prioritizing those strategies. At the completion of the five NGT sessions, some common themes were identified and are as follows: 1) Family Intervention/ Support, 2) Youth Mentoring, 3) Increase Community Involvement/ Awareness, 4) Early Prevention Efforts, and 5) Appointment of a county-wide gang intervention/ prevention coordinator to focus Task Force efforts.

The Visalia Police Department has applied for funds through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to hire a consultant to assist the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force in the completion of the gang strategic plan. The gang strategic plan is an essential element in maintaining the focus of the task force and identifying actionable strategies to continue its progress in Visalia's fight for its youth.

Step Up Jobs Program:

The Step Up Jobs Program is a job training and mentorship project that originated from the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force. The Step Up Jobs Program is administered by Proteus, Inc. and supervised by the Neighborhood Youth Counselors. Step Up Jobs is a 12-week job training program that

connects at-risk youth with valuable job training experience. The youth are paid a stipend that is administered by Proteus, Inc. at a cost of \$1,000 per youth for the 12-week program.

The Visalia business community has been a key partner in this project with 28 businesses/organizations participating in the project by providing job opportunities. The unique aspect of the Step Up Jobs program is the mentoring opportunities created by connecting youth to the program's business partners.

Another unique aspect of the Step Up Jobs Program is that the program is funded entirely by community donations and fundraising efforts making this a valuable community investment in these youth and the Task Force's anti-gang efforts. In 2008, \$40,000 was raised through fundraising and donations to support the Step Up Jobs Program.

The Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force has established a goal to raise \$70,000 in 2009 to fund the Step Up Jobs Program in order to continue to provide this valuable experience to at-risk youth in Visalia. On May 2, 2009 the Task Force will partner with local car clubs to host a custom car, truck, bike show and Cinco de Mayo festival to raise funds to support the Step Up Jobs Program. Task Force partners will also be speaking to Visalia service clubs to seek support in addition to other community donations and working with the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board as other means of funding the program.

The implementation of the Step Up Jobs Program in Visalia has become a model for other Tulare County communities who are seeking to implement their own job programs.

CalGRIP Grant Neighborhood Youth Counselors:

The CalGRIP Grant Project became operational in April 2008 and provided five additional Neighborhood Youth Counselors to work in Visalia community youth centers and Visalia middle and high schools. There are 252 youth that have been enrolled in the CalGRIP Grant Project and more than 250 home visits have been conducted with enrolled youth and their parents. The Neighborhood Youth Counselors have also taken the lead in administering the Step-Up Jobs Program providing job training and employment opportunities to at-risk youth in 2008.

Neighborhood Youth Counselors with the CalGRIP Project work with staff at the following youth centers: Manuel Hernandez Community Center, Wittman Village Community Center, UCYC, Visalia Boys & Girls Club, Ivanhoe Boys & Girls Club, and the Goshen Family Resource Center. These NYCs also work with students and hold gang intervention classes on campus at the five Visalia high schools.

The presence of NYCs at these community sites has allowed the NYCs to develop relationships with at-risk youth and to respond to gang tensions occurring within the community. Intervention efforts are a difficult aspect of the Task Force's anti-gang strategies. However, the NYCs report that, as a result of the CalGRIP Project, 42 youth have denounced their gang activities, and NYC's have been able to intervene in building gang tensions to help avoid incidents of gang violence.

The CalGRIP Grant Project is funded through December 2009.

Foto-Novelas:

In October 2008, the Visalia Police Department began to work with the Hispanic Advisory Committee to develop a Spanish language informational pamphlet addressing gang prevention. The group identified the format of a foto-novela as a culturally appropriate means of providing this information to the Spanish-speaking community in Visalia and began to pursue its implementation. A foto-novela is an illustrated novel that is popular within the Hispanic community as a means of providing a unique idiom through which the community addresses social concerns using a highly innovative visual language. These foto-

novelas will seek to relate a gang prevention/ education message to the Spanish-speaking community as a means of empowering this community with the knowledge necessary to become increasingly engaged in anti-gang strategies.

This is a joint project between the Visalia Police Department, Visalia Unified School District and Foto-Novelas del Valle that is in its final stages of design and implementation.

L.O.O.P. Bus:

The LOOP Bus continues to be a very successful project providing services to Visalia youth. The LOOP Bus provides safe transportation for youth to and from Visalia youth centers and takes youth to activities occurring in a positive and safe environment as opposed to being on the streets. Total LOOP ridership in 2008 was 10,891 youth. The LOOP Bus was implemented in June of 2007, and a comparison of LOOP Bus ridership between June-December 2007 to the same time period in 2008 shows an increase in monthly ridership from 990 in 2007 to 1,154 in 2008. The City of Visalia Parks & Recreation Department reports that from January to March 2009, ridership has nearly doubled when compared to the same time period in 2008.

Additionally, the LOOP Bus was recently recognized with an award through the California Parks & Recreation Society for the program’s unique and innovative qualities in providing services to youth.

Gang Violence Update:

Significant efforts on the part of Task Force members in suppression, intervention, and prevention activities throughout 2008 resulted in a reduction in gang violence for that year and carrying over into the first quarter of 2009. The following table reflects gang violence in three categories (murder, assault w/ deadly weapon, and drive-by shooting) from 2006 to the present:

Offense	2006	2007	2008	2009 (Jan-Mar)
187 PC (Murder)	2	6	8	0
245 PC (ADW)	78	75	63	6
246 PC (Drive-by)	89	90	63	2

Although gang homicides increased in 2008, three of the eight homicides occurred in two separate incidents and were a result of intra-gang violence. A statistic of note with regards to gang homicides deals with the average age of gang-related homicide suspects and victims. In 2007, the average age of a gang related homicide suspect was 16 years old and the average age of a gang related homicide victim was 19 years old. In 2008, those numbers increased to 20 years of age and 26 years of age respectively. While gang violence continues to be of major concern, this statistic suggests that the Task Force’s efforts aimed at Visalia’s youth are making progress. Gang assaults decreased 16% in 2008 and gang drive-by shootings decreased 30% in 2008. To date in 2009, there have been no gang related homicides.

Suppression efforts attributed to this reduction in gang violence include a directed and focused enforcement approach with Visalia’s gang members and offenders, partnerships with Probation and Parole, and gang and narcotic investigations and search warrants aimed at disrupting gang activities and preventing gang violence. Visalia Police Special Enforcement Bureau units logged a total of 728 gang arrests in 2008, up 16% from 2007. SEB Units also served 92 search warrants and seized 87 firearms in 2008 in an effort to disrupt gang violence.

Intervention efforts attributed to this reduction in gang violence are highlighted by the efforts of the Neighborhood Youth Counselors at Visalia community centers and schools within the Visalia Unified School District. Neighborhood Youth Counselors are holding gang intervention classes on high school campuses attended by nearly 200 youth. These classes focus on having a vision for the future and making positive life choices.

Prevention efforts attributed to this reduction can be attributed to the success of the LOOP Bus that provides safe transportation to Visalia youth and connects them to positive activities at youth centers and schools. In addition to the LOOP Bus, the GREAT curriculum taught to Visalia 2nd-6th graders warns youth of the dangers of gangs and Gang Watch has been a tremendous tool used to inform and engage Visalia residents in our gang efforts. Community awareness of the gang issue is an essential tool in gang prevention.

Conclusion:

The partnerships formed through the multi-disciplinary participation in the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force have provided a directed and focused response to the issue of gangs in the City of Visalia. While it is recognized that the suppression element of fighting against crime is necessary in addressing the gang issue, it is just as important that we utilize these partnerships to engage in a fight for Visalia's youth. The Task Force members are encouraged by the trend of gang violence reduction noted in 2008 and to date in 2009. While a great deal of work remains to be accomplished, gang violence reduction is an indicator that the Task Force is on the right path. The Gang Strategic Plan will be a key element in maintaining the forward progress of the Task Force by identifying best practices and providing the Task Force with a unified direction for the years to come.

Prior Council/Board Actions: N/A

Committee/Commission Review and Actions: N/A

Alternatives: N/A

Attachments: Power Point Presentation

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected):

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review:

NEPA Review:

Tracking Information: *(Staff must list/include appropriate review, assessment, appointment and contract dates and other information that needs to be followed up on at a future date)*

Copies of this report have been provided to:

City of Visalia

Memo



To: Visalia City Council/ Visalia Unified School District Board

From: Chris Young, Community Development Assistant Director

CC: Steve Salomon, City Manager
Michael Olmos, Assistant City Manager

Date: May 5, 2009

Re: CIP - Street Project Updates

Houston Avenue (Santa Fe Street – Ben Maddox Way): This project's improvements will include street improvements for the widening of Houston Avenue from Santa Fe to Ben Maddox Way, a roundabout will be constructed at Santa Fe, and signal modifications at Burke Street and Ben Maddox Way. Also included will be a storm drain line extension south to Douglas Avenue and the reconstruction of the existing pond at Soroptimist Park. All the existing utilities have relocated and all the right of way issues have been resolved. This project design is complete will go out to bid in May of 2009. The start of construction is scheduled for July of 2009. The project will be completed by January of 2010.

McAuliff Street Overcrossing: The McAuliff Street Overcrossing Project (at Mill Creek and Evans Ditch) consists of providing a roadway connection from the existing north end of McAuliff Street south of Evan's Ditch and the existing south end of McAuliff Street on the north side of Mill Creek. This project will connect McAuliff Street from Houston Avenue to Mineral King Avenue, thereby improving access to the Golden West School complex. The project includes installing a cast-in-place concrete culvert at Mill Creek and a pipe culvert at Evan's Ditch. The project also includes removing an existing flume in Mill Creek and flow control devices and associated equipment in both channels and reconstructing them in alternate locations. Design of project has been completed. All additional right-of-way has either been obtained or is in escrow. Because structures must be built in the bottom of the channels, this part of the construction project must be scheduled when the channels are in their dry season, usually beginning in July to mid September (depending on the yearly rainfall amounts). The project will be bid in May of 2009 and construction will begin in July of 2009 (or as soon as allowed by the ditch company). This will allow the contractor to mobilize and perform the necessary preliminary construction prior to the 2009 dry channel season. The contractor will have ninety working days to complete the project (4-5 months).

Mooney Boulevard at Goshen Avenue Traffic Signal: This project will provide a signal at the intersection along with railroad crossing improvements and related roadway improvements. The initial topographic survey has been completed and initial coordination meetings with the railroad have been scheduled. Construction could be completed in early 2010 depending on the requirements/review of the railroad and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Tulare Avenue Extension (Lovers Lane – McAuliff Street): This project will extend street improvements from Lovers Lane to McAuliff Street on Tulare Avenue and provide a traffic signal at Tulare and Lovers Lane. The centerline alignment has been established for this project, legal descriptions for right-of-way acquisition have been prepared and detailed appraisal reports have been completed. The necessary property (right-of-way) acquisition is underway. The design of the project will be completed in the spring of 2010 and the start of construction is scheduled for the summer of 2010. The project will take approximately 120 days to complete.

City of Visalia

Memo



To: Visalia City Council/ Visalia Unified School District Board
From: Chris Young, Community Development Assistant Director
CC: Steve Salomon, City Manager
Michael Olmos, Assistant City Manager
Date: May 5 2009
Re: Safe Routes to School Grant Applications

Project Updates for 2008 Awarded Grants

Burke Street (near Four Creeks Elementary): This project will complete sidewalks on both the east and west side of Burke Street from Houston Avenue to the Four Creeks Elementary School. It will also install a new lighted pedestrian crosswalk with in-pavement flashing lights at Harold Ave. This project is under design and the required additional right-of-way is being acquired. *This project will start construction in the fall of 2009.*

Chinowth Street (near Veva Blunt Elementary): Complete sidewalks on both the east and west side of Chinowth Street (from Myrtle Avenue, south to Veva Blunt School). The project will also install a new lighted pedestrian crosswalk with in-pavement flashing marker lights at Meadow Avenue to assist in getting the children from the neighborhood east of Chinowth to the west side of the street where the school is located. *This project will start construction in the fall of 2009.*

2009 Grant Applications

On March 16, 2009, the City Council authorized applications for three Safe Routes to School Grant Applications. The Linwood Street (Walnut – Cherry) project would provide sidewalk and some related improvements on the west side of Linwood. A second project would provide enhancements to crosswalks at three elementary school locations. Staff determined that the third project (Houston Avenue adjacent to Golden Oak Elementary) was not viable due to conflicts with existing utilities and the need to acquire additional right-of-way that would have added significant expense to the project. This project could be considered for future grant opportunities.

On April 10, 2009, the City submitted applications for two Safe Routes to School grants through Caltrans. These grant applications were prepared through a collaborative effort of the City and the Visalia Unified School District. The grant applications were received at the Caltrans District 6 Office on April 13, 2009 and are currently awaiting review by the Safe Routes to School Grant Committee.

1. Linwood Street (Walnut Ave. to Cherry Ave) – Install street improvements on the west side of Linwood Street including sidewalk, curb/gutter, asphalt, and painted bike lanes to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. The total budget for the project is

\$243,931. The City is required to provide a funding match of \$24,393 (ten percent) to be covered by Measure R Local Funding.

2. Installation of LED lighted crosswalks with ADA compliant pedestrian ramps to enhance safety for children/families coming to and from these elementary schools. The total budget for the project is \$111,300. The City would be required to provide a funding match of \$11,130 to be covered by Measure R Local Funding. The proposed intersections and schools impacted are listed below:
 - Cottonwood Creek Elementary – Packwood & County Center
 - Manuel F. Hernandez Elementary – Ferguson & Leila
 - Royal Oaks Elementary – Tulare & Clover

Attachments: Vicinity maps for each project location

Status Report On Visalia Riverway Sports Park Phase II


Presented To
Visalia City Council
VUSD Board of Trustees

May 5, 2009




Visalia Riverway Sports Park

Phase II – 4 Youth Baseball Fields

- ◆ Phase II budget is \$4.8 million; 12 acres
 - ◆ Status: Rough Grading Completed
 - ◆ Bid & Council Award: January 20, 2009
 - ◆ Grand Opening: Spring 2010
- 

Visalia Riverway Sports Park Phase II Improvements

- ◆ New lighted baseball fields (4)
 - ◆ Additional improved parking
 - ◆ New BMX lights
 - ◆ New lights for 2 additional soccer fields
 - ◆ Additional roadway improvements on Giddings
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Visalia Riverway Sports Park Phase II – 4 Youth Baseball Fields

Plan Legend

- A. Lighted BMX Track
- B. Lighted Soccer Field (210' x 930')
- C. Lighted Softball Diamond Complex
- D. Lighted Youth Baseball Diamond Complex
- E. Accessible Creative Play
- F. Interactive Children's Water Feature
- G. Community Center / Gym
- H. Events Courtyard
- I. Group Picnic Area
- J. Multi-Use Open Space
- K. Informal Picnic Area
- L. Multi-Use Path with Security Lighting
- M. Future Connection to St. John's River Parkway
- N. Park Entry Monumentation and Signage
- O. Park Access Road
- P. Plaza Drop Off
- Q. Parking
- R. Concession / Storage / Restroom Building
- S. Maintenance Facility
- T. Public Transit Stop



Riverway Sports Park – Phase II



Riverway Sports Park Phase II

Groundbreaking: March 20, 2009



Riverway Sports Park Phase II

Rough Grading Completed!



Riverway Sports Park Phase II

Utility Installation Underway



Riverway Sports Park Phase II

Concession/Restroom Under Construction



Visalia Riverway Sports Park

Phase II: Park Project Team

- ◆ Architect: HLA Group, Sacramento, CA
 - ◆ CM: Swinerton Management & Consulting, Fresno, CA
 - ◆ General: Applegate Johnston, Inc., Modesto, CA
 - ◆ City Project Manager: Don Stone
- 

City Council VUSD Board of Trustees

Questions?

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

**City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: May 5, 2009

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 8

Agenda Item Wording: Update on Phase II of the Visalia Riverway Sports Park

Deadline for Action: N/A

Submitting Department: Parks & Recreation Department

Contact Name and Phone Number: Vincent Elizondo, Director of Parks & Recreation, 713-4367

Background Information:

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Friday morning, March 20, at the Visalia Riverway Sports Park for the project kick-off to the much anticipated second phase of the project.

The Riverway Sports Park, located on North Dinuba Boulevard, is an 83 acre parcel which first opened to the public on August 25, 2007.

The initial phase of the sports complex included 46 acres of development featuring 10 regulation sized soccer fields (three are lighted); three large group picnic areas; two restroom/concession facilities; two playgrounds; an interactive water feature; parking improvements; and a host of other general park amenities.

Phase II of the park, roughly 12 acres, will be devoted primarily to providing youth baseball fields to meet the growing demand by youth sports groups for more competitive playing fields in the community. The next phase will feature a new lighted four field baseball complex that can accommodate local, regional, and state tournament play.

The proposed fields will meet playing specifications as provided by both Cal Ripken Youth Baseball and Visalia Little League. Aside from play during the spring by these organizations, the fields can also be utilized for less competitive programs and other user groups during the summer and fall seasons as well.

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): _____

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

If report is being re-routed after revisions leave date of initials if no significant change has affected Finance or City Attorney Review.

Phase II will also include additional concession and restroom facilities; the lighting of two more soccer fields (which means a total of five fields will now be lighted all along the southern boundary of the park); the lighting of the BMX facility; and additional parking lot and roadway improvements.

The Grand Opening for Phase II of the park is expected to be in February or March, 2010, just in time for the new youth baseball season. The City is working on finalizing facility user agreements with the two primary users of the new baseball fields --- Cal Ripken Youth Baseball and the National (northside) Little League. It is anticipated that over 1,000 youth baseball players will be served by the facility.

Earlier in the year (January 2009), the Council awarded a contract to Applegate Johnston Inc. of Modesto to build Phase II of the sports park for the bid amount of \$3,157,411.00. The City received 13 proposals for the contract, in a highly competitive bid environment.

**City of Visalia
Agenda Item Transmittal**

Meeting Date: May 5, 2009

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 9

Agenda Item Wording:

Pilot program for to encourage recycling in VUSD schools.

Deadline for Action: None

Submitting Department: Public Works

Contact Name and Phone Number:

Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director, 713-4340
Earl Nielsen, Public Works Manager

Department Recommendation and Summary:

Authorize City staff to work with VUSD staff on a pilot program to increase recycling in VUSD schools.

Background:

State law requires that at least fifty percent of all trash is diverted from the landfill. The City belongs to a joint powers authority with Tulare County and the other cities within the County. The joint powers authority is called the Consolidated Waste Management Authority (CWMA). The CWMA members are currently diverting slightly more than fifty percent of the waste.

The CWMA recently conducted a survey of 145 schools in Tulare County. Thirty-five schools in Visalia responded to the survey. The survey indicates that eighty percent of the schools (county-wide) are currently doing some recycling. However, sixty-two percent of the schools do not have recycling containers in each classroom. Only three Visalia schools indicated that they are not currently recycling. Out of the thirty-five Visalia schools, twenty indicated that they have recycling containers in each classroom. In general, the Visalia schools are recycling much more than the average for schools in Tulare County. The survey results are attached to this staff report.

The City of Visalia and the CWMA would like to work with one elementary school in VUSD to develop a pilot program to increase recycling. The initial goal will be to divert seventy-five percent of the waste from the landfill. The CWMA hopes to find at least three other schools in Tulare County that are willing to participate, so that a total of four schools will be part of the pilot program. The current plan is that all of the schools will be elementary grades. The program would start at the beginning of the next school year.

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 Cap. Impr. Corp.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time (Min.): 15

Review:

Dept. Head _____
Date _____

Finance _____
City Atty _____
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

If report is being re-routed after revisions leave date of initials if no significant change has affected Finance or City Attorney Review.

One of the goals of the pilot program is to reduce the monthly bill paid by the school for trash disposal. The fee charged for emptying recycling bins is substantially less than trash bins. The CWMA is also planning some awards and contests for the best classroom recycling program, best school recycling program and also individual plaques and small cash awards or prizes for students. The most successful school programs will be introduced to other schools in the following school year.

Several cities in California have exceptionally successful school programs. San Jose has a program called "Go Green" that has been very successful. The Go Green program promotes recycling, water conservation, energy conservation and many other environmentally friendly principles. Their program forms a team of experts from utility companies and other agencies. The Go Green program has a goal of zero waste to the landfill. The CWMA's program is focused on recycling, but if there is interest from the schools, the City will try to arrange a team from utility companies to help sponsor the program.

It is not necessary for the School Board to select which school will participate in the program. The City staff will work with VUSD Staff to find principals that are interested in participating. City staff is already working with several schools on recycling programs. Linwood School has been one of the most proactive schools in the area. Sixth grade students from Ms. Whitney Bartsch's class wrote essays on recycling and were presented with a proclamation from the City Council at the April 20th meeting. The essays are attached. City staff will report back to the School District and the City Council at a joint meeting next school year on the progress of the Pilot Program.

Prior Council/Board Actions:

Committee/Commission Review and Actions: None

Alternatives: Not Applicable

Attachments:

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected): Authorize City staff and VUSD staff to work together on a pilot program to increase recycling in schools.

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review: None

NEPA Review: None required.

Tracking Information: *(Staff must list/include appropriate review, assessment, appointment and contract dates and other information that needs to be followed up on at a future date)*

None.

MEMORANDUM

May 5, 2009

To: Visalia City Council and the Visalia Unified School District Board
From: Nancy Loliva, Community Relations Manager
RE: Census 2010 Call to Action

Summary/background: Census Day is April 1, 2010. An accurate census count is vital to the community and its residents. More than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to states and communities based on census data, and an accurate count is essential to a full and fair distribution of funding to our community. An extensive outreach effort organized and implemented by representatives from business, education, faith- and community-based organizations and the media is needed to promote participation in Census 2010.

Community Outreach: Strategies for community outreach are essential to ensure an accurate census count. Working with local Census Bureau Representative Dolores Gallegos, we will form the Complete Count subcommittees to develop and implement strategies designed to reach all populations within the City. Representation from government, education including the Visalia Unified School District, faith- and community-based organizations, media, and business, as well as city staff representatives from Planning, Parks & Recreation, Code Enforcement and Public Safety, will also participate in the work of subcommittees to reach out to citizen groups to inform them of the importance of being counted and urging participation. Orientations for subcommittee leads will be held in May, and regularly scheduled meetings will monitor assigned tasks and activities. Plans for activities surrounding questionnaire delivery days and Census Day activities, as well as plans for Non-response Follow-up and Census Coverage Measurement will be finalized in January 2010. Countdown to Census Day activities will be scheduled for January through March, 2010.

Visalia has the highest population of hard-to-reach individuals, primarily Hispanic, within both Tulare and Kings County. Census maps highlighting these populations will be used in outreach efforts. Prior to the dissemination of forms, the Census Bureau Specialist will work closely with the sub-committees and the community to develop strategies to reach these individuals.

Placement of Census Messages is a critical component of outreach efforts. Messages will be placed, but are not limited to:

- California Water statements
- Regular placement in Inside City Hall newsletters
- Public service announcements on local English/Spanish/Southeast Asian radio markets
- Promotional advertisements on local transit routes
- Outreach to faith-based, service and non-profit organizations and schools
- Use of Alert TC system to encourage citizen participation in completing Census surveys
- Development of a web page on the City's website
- Notices in local media with an ongoing schedule of outreach activities and pertinent information related to the Census 2010
- Outreach booth will be developed and used at all major events
- Door-to-door outreach by the enumerators among targeted areas with hard-to-reach populations
- Dissemination of letters to all parents of students enrolled in Visalia schools and outreach in Spanish will be done extensively among migrant groups and Title 1 schools.