



The VOICE

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Did you know...

- There were **11** single family home permits issued in the City of Redding in July 2019, for a total of **64** so far in 2019, and **7** Carr Fire single family rebuild permits issued in July 2019, for a total of **79** so far in 2019. There were **no** permits issued for new commercial buildings in July 2019, for a total of **11** so far in 2019.
- Norma Cornick was honored by the City of Anderson on July 16, 2019 for her 21 years of outstanding service as a member of the Anderson City Council. She resigned her position as a City Council member for health reasons, and Mike Gallagher was appointed by Council on August 20th to fill the remaining term of her Council seat (through 2020).
- Redding Police Captain Bill Schueller has been selected as the City's new Chief of Police to replace the retiring Chief Roger Moore. Mr. Schueller joined the Redding Police Department in 1994. His base salary as Chief of Police will be \$14,486 per month.

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Council Agrees to Send Letter of Opposition To Proposed Casino Project

On August 5th, Redding City Council held a public workshop to discuss the controversial proposal by the Redding Rancheria Indian Tribe, who is in the process of seeking approval to move its existing casino to a bigger site on agriculturally-zoned property adjacent to I-5, located in the unincorporated area of Shasta County, through a fee-to-trust application with the US Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pacific Region.

The Council Chambers was at capacity for the workshop. There has been a good deal of concern, among other things, about the “process” being utilized by the Tribe. Attorneys for the Tribe were at the workshop to explain it. The approval process includes **three different** federal government approvals:

- (1) Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (**IGRA**) - addresses regulation of gaming on Indian lands and the specific uses of gaming revenues;
- (2) Indian Restoration Act (**IRA**) - addresses the fee-to-trust application; and
- (3) National Environmental Policy Act (**NEPA**) — with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as the lead agency, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is issued, and a written response to comments received must be provided before a Final EIS can be released for comment. The proposed project is **not subject** to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The IRA fee-to-trust application process for the proposed Casino project has **not yet occurred**. It is separate from the DEIS process, and will require a separate notice and comment period of at least 30 days. If the Casino project becomes a fee-to-trust property, there will be **no sales tax, no property tax, and no Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues required**. All of these are the taxes that pay for public services.

When asked if there were **any other fee-to-trust applications** by the Tribe under the IRA, Council learned that there were: (1) Out of the existing Rancheria location, 8.5 of their 30 acres has been put in fee-to-trust; (2) The Hilton Hotel and (3) gas station/mini mart adjacent to the hotel are **now asking** for fee-to-trust application. That surprising news did not sit well with Council members. The City is receiving sales and property tax revenues from both of these businesses, and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues from the Hilton Hotel now, as was the agreement when the City approved these projects for construction in the Redding city limits, subject to all the regulatory rules in the City’s jurisdiction.

Council members expressed dismay that the Tribe didn’t ever mention the “other” fee-to-trust applications to the City, and had serious concerns at the lack of engagement from the Tribe after they reached out to them several times. **There has not been a show of good faith from the Tribe**, who is “assuming” that the City will provide water, sewer and electric services to their project. Any such service would be at the discretion of Council. There are also assumptions made in the DEIS that fire protection and emergency services, along with other public safety services will be provided by other local agencies. There are **no agreements** for such services, and no new tax revenues from the project to pay for them.

Therefore, at the August 20th City Council meeting, Council voted unanimously, over the objections of Redding Rancheria Tribe CEO Tracy Edwards, to send a **letter of opposition** to the proposed project to the US Secretary of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs. The two page letter outlines how the local infrastructure cannot support development of the proposed project at this site, and how it will result in negative environmental, economic, and social impacts that cannot be mitigated.

Public Hearing for Costco Project Delayed Again

On July 23, 2019, the City of Redding Planning Commission conducted its **third public hearing** for the River Crossing Marketplace Specific Plan, by Costco Wholesale. This hearing was to recommend approval for the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), General Plan Amendment, and rezoning application. The Costco project is to develop 25 acres of property located at the northwest quadrant of the South Bonnyview Road/Interstate 5 interchange, with a 152,000-square foot discount warehouse and fuel center with up to 30 fueling stations, and about 62,000 square feet of complementary retail and service uses.

The public hearing ended after 3 hours of testimony and discussion. The Planning Commissioners **voted unanimously** to adopt a resolution **recommending that City Council certify the FEIR**, and adopt a resolution recommending that City Council **approve and adopt the River Crossing Marketplace Specific Plan, General Plan Amendment Application and Rezoning Application**. The approval included two requests for Council consideration: 1) require the project to complete sidewalks on the south side of Loma Vista Road, and 2) include an additional 10 foot of freeway buffer setback on the east side of the Costco building. These improvements would be in addition to the very long list of already agreed upon conditions of approval.

A final public hearing and decision by the Redding City Council to consider the Commission's recommendations for certification and approval of the project was agendaized for City Council meeting on Tuesday, **August 6, 2019**, but Council voted to **continue** the public hearing until the **August 20, 2019** City Council meeting after receiving a last minute comment letter from Mark Wolfe, an attorney who represents the Bonnyview Bechelli Coalition of opponents to the Costco relocation, regarding the air quality and traffic sections of the FEIR. Now, after posting the public hearing to be held on August 20th, City Council has chosen to **once again take no action and postpone the public hearing for the project**.

Costco has now requested that the City prepare **amendments** to the air quality and traffic sections of the Draft EIR for the project, as well as provide additional opportunities for public disclosure and comments on both of these highly technical sections. Once those sections are amended, they will be re-circulated for the required 45 day comment period. Then a Final EIR that includes responses to all written comments received and incorporates any changes to the Draft EIR that may result from public review and input. Once that is complete, the Planning Commission will once again hold a public hearing to consider the FEIR and the project, and make a recommendation on these items to the City Council. Then, City Council will hold another public hearing to consider the recommendations of the Planning Commission and take final action on certification of the FEIR and the project.

Given all of the steps outlined above, it is anticipated that the referenced public hearings will not occur until early 2020.

Downtown Parking Strategy Unveiled

On August 26th, a public workshop was held by the City of Redding to answer questions and gather feedback on the "Downtown Parking Strategy" document that was presented by PlaceWorks and Watry Design, the two consulting firms who worked together with the City to create the strategy.

The goal of the Downtown Parking Strategy is "to make the most efficient use of all public and private parking spaces in Downtown Redding, while planning for potential future demands that may necessitate the turnover of on-street parking spaces and the use of additional off-street parking. As construction commences on several significant new Downtown developments including the removal of the California Street Parking Structure, there will be a period of a few years when parking will be required to shift to alternative locations throughout Downtown to make use of the existing capacity."

During the construction period over the next few years, parking supply will be limited, and **new supply will need to be added** for all user groups including employees, patrons, students and residents. The cost to add supply **will require significant financial resources**. The City and community will need to consider whether these resources will come from the City's general fund, be user paid, or funded by property owners through some form of Business Improvement District or other funding mechanism.

Recommendations for a **user-paid system** include: The City to lease private lots and add public parking; implement a standard fee structure for parking; purchase and implement a parking management mobile device application; add smart meters to on-street parking spaces; partner with new private/public parking garages and surface lots to manage parking; provide staff to manage the parking system; develop and implement a parking marketing strategy, including signage.

In the long term, the City could consider partnering with a private entity to manage the parking system and add smart meters to all on-street parking spaces in the strategy area. They could also add pay stations to other parking lots and institute a demand based fee structure.

Ultimately, the Redding City Council will determine where the financial resources will come from to add parking supply and management to the Downtown area.

Countywide Draft Sales Tax Ordinance Receives Approval

On August 13th, Rubin Cruse, the Shasta County Attorney, presented a draft ordinance for review to adopt a *special* transactions and use (sales) tax in an amount not to exceed *one percent (1%)* to be used for funding public safety purposes in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Shasta County, as requested by the Board of Supervisors on July 16th. After some discussion and with a couple of changes, the Board unanimously approved the draft ordinance.

A one percent Countywide sales tax would raise about *\$26 million dollars per year*, and requires voters to *approve by a two-thirds margin*. The revenues raised must be used for specifically identified purposes only. Therefore, a proposed “Expenditure Plan” is included in the draft ordinance.

Many of the provisions in the ordinance are requirements from the State Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and are not subject to modification. Proceeds from the special tax will be used *first* to pay the administrative costs for the Oversight Committee, the Auditor-Controller, the Treasurer-Tax Collector, an outside audit, and the State Tax and Fee Administration.

The Expenditure Plan provides for one special fund identified as the **Special Public Safety Tax Fund**. The fund has *three designated program categories*, which also have designated program subcategories. The Expenditure Plan calls for a specific percentage of revenue to be allocated to each of the programs, program categories and subcategories. Here is a basic outline of the Expenditure Plan:

1. **Correctional Programs—54.91% of Revenues Received:**
 - a. Jail Construction Program Category—50% of correctional program
 - b. Jail Operations Program Category—40% of correctional program
 - c. Jail Inmate Programs & Health Care Program Category—7.25% of correctional program
 - d. Alternatives to County Incarceration Program Category—2.75% of correctional programs
2. **Public Safety Program, Law Enforcement & Emergency Services—32.01% of Revenues Received:**
 - a. **Unincorporated** Shasta County Program Category—12.34% of revenues received
 - Hiring of law enforcement Staff—80% of the unincorporated category
 - Obtaining Equipment for Law Enforcement program subcategory—10% of the unincorporated category
 - Emergency Services (including fire protection)—10% of the unincorporated category
 - b. **City of Redding** Category—16.09% of revenues received
 - Hiring of Law Enforcement Staff Program subcategory—80% of City of Redding Program Category
 - Obtaining Equipment for Law Enforcement subcategory—10% of City of Redding Program Category
 - Emergency Services (including fire protection) subcategory—10% of City of Redding Program Category
 - c. **City of Anderson** Program Category—1.79% of revenues received
 - Hiring of Law Enforcement subcategory—80% of City of Anderson Program Category
 - Obtaining Equipment for Law Enforcement Staff subcategory—10% of City of Anderson Program Category
 - Emergency Services (including fire protection) subcategory—10% of City of Anderson Program Category
 - d. **City of Shasta Lake** Program Category—1.79% of revenues received
 - Hiring of Law Enforcement Staff Program subcategory—80% of City of Shasta Lake Program Category
 - Obtaining Equipment for Law Enforcement Staff subcategory—10% of City of Shasta Lake Program Category
 - Emergency Services (including fire protection) subcategory—10% of City of Shasta Lake Program Category
3. **Criminal Justice Program—13.08% of Revenues Received:**
 - a. **District Attorney** Program Category—6.26% of revenue received
 - Program subcategory: Hiring and training of staff—90% of District Attorney Program Category
 - Program subcategory: Obtaining equipment and supplies—10% of District Attorney Program Category
 - b. **Public Defender** Program Category—4.25% of revenue received
 - Program subcategory: Hiring and training of staff—90% of Public Defender Program Category
 - Program subcategory: Obtaining equipment and supplies—10% of Public Defender Category
 - c. **Probation** Program Category—2.57% of revenue received
 - Program subcategory: Hiring and training of staff—90% of Probation Program Category
 - Program subcategory: Obtaining equipment and supplies—10% of Probation Program Category

The proceeds from the special tax “shall not be used” to supplant or replace other funding for the programs or its categories or subcategories in the Expenditure Plan.

There will be an Oversight Committee of at least seven people appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise them and the public about the expenditures of the special tax proceeds. The proposed sales tax *does not have an expiration date*. It may be reduced or rescinded by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors.

The County is now required to post a public notice and set a public hearing before the proposed ordinance can be considered for adoption by a 4/5 vote of the Board of Supervisors. That public hearing is tentatively scheduled for the **September 10, 2019** Board of Supervisors meeting. If approved by the Board, the County is targeting the March 3, 2020 primary election for placement of the ballot measure for a Countywide one percent special transactions and use (sales) tax to support public safety, subject to the Expenditure Plan outlined above.

Updated News and Notes

Shasta VOICES is continuing to monitor and follow many issues of interest to our supporters and the community. As part of our efforts to keep you updated and informed, here is a brief update of some of these issues.

City of Redding's 2017-2018 Commercial Design Award Winners—At the Redding Planning Commission meeting on August 13th, the City's Development Services Director Larry Vaupel presented seven outstanding design awards to businesses that constructed new commercial buildings and/or residential subdivisions in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Those businesses are: Panda Express in the Churn Creek MarketPlace, the Sheraton Hotel at Turtle Bay, Captive Aire on Lockheed Drive, the Fly Fisher's Lodge at the Clover Creek Preserve, Clover Creek Village subdivision, Oakmont Senior Living on N. Bechelli Lane, and Prestige Urgent Care on Hartnell Avenue.

Downtown Redding Project Updates—Here is an update on the current status of multiple projects in various stages of construction in Downtown Redding:

- Placer Heights at 1701 Pine Street by Brent Weaver—18,000 square feet under construction, 3 stories, 16 one bedroom apartments with a 6,000 square foot restaurant on the ground floor will be completed in the spring of 2020.
- Shasta County Courthouse—a \$173 million 88,000 square foot project now in construction, 6 above ground stories plus a basement; will include 14 courtrooms and secure circulation; should be completed by the summer of 2021.
- K2 Market Center (old Dicker's site) at 1551 Market Street—currently building at the top of the 2nd floor podium, will do the wood frame for the top 3 floors in September; there will be 22,000 square feet of retail space on the 1st floor and they will begin leasing that space in April of 2020 with occupancy beginning in October of 2020.
- McConnell Foundation/K2 Block 7 Net Zero project to replace existing north end California Street Parking Structure—received \$24 million grant for mixed use buildings for housing and commercial space; still in design phase.
- 1557 Pine Street (old Salvation Army building) remodel by Downtown Collection company—exterior being updated now, keeping most of the brick, adding steel structures for modern design, a \$2,85 million, 16,000 square foot project to be finished with 3 commercial units for lease, with the finish date anticipated to be March, 2020.
- Downtown Street Circulation—an \$8 million project to reintroduce streets in the Promenade area; will break ground in February 2020 and finish in December 2020.

County Carr Fire Properties Damaged By Clean-up Program—There has been some extensive property damage to some properties in Shasta County as a result of the State-funded fire debris clean-up program that was utilized after the Carr fire last year. Damages include broken septic systems and water lines, destruction of septic leach fields and severely over-excavated soil that have left property owners unable to build or forced to spend thousands of dollars to repair the damages before the process of rebuilding can even begin. An ad hoc Disaster Relief Unit (DRU) met with County officials this month to demand **recourse** to remedy this property damage, which they believe was caused by the lack of State and County oversight of the cleanup program. In response, the Shasta County Supervisors sent a letter on August 13th to the Director of the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) stating that they are “gathering information from the affected parties and will forward them to your agency.” They also asked for an expedited review and detailed response.

The DRU coordinator, Cody Brewster, has a team of volunteer advocates working to teach volunteers, through an advocacy training program, how to document damages and how to communicate with OES and fight to win such cases. If you are reading this and want to get involved in the ongoing disaster relief effort, the biggest need is for volunteers to help follow-up on the more than 100 cases of fire victims who need advocacy with FEMA, and also to hold the State accountable for property damages. There is a need for people who care and are willing to do the time-consuming work to help property owners pursue their cases. If you can help, or if you are a victim of the Carr Fire who needs help, please contact (530) 244-0968 and ask to speak to Cody Brewster.

Join Shasta VOICES today.

We depend on membership and other contributions.

If you are viewing this issue of “**THE VOICE**” on our website, click on the **membership tab** for information and to download a membership application or contributor form. Or, you can obtain more information by going to our website, **www.shastavoices.com**, or calling **(530) 222-5251**.

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