



The VOICE

Your independent news source

Greater Shasta County, CA

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Did you know...

- There were **22** single family home permits issued in the City of Redding in June, 2016. There is a decrease of 52 permits, or 49% less than were issued in the first six months of 2015. There were **five** permits issued for commercial buildings in June, 2016, 5 fewer than for the first six months of 2015.
- City of Redding water customers did an excellent job of conserving water during the month of May, using 368 million fewer gallons—a **37.6 percent reduction**—compared with the same period in 2013 (the State’s benchmark year). The City of Redding is continuing efforts to conserve, improving efficiency of irrigation and reducing water use for its parks, athletic fields, building landscaping and medians by nearly **41 percent** in May, compared with 2013.
- The **Candidate Filing period** for the 2016 General Election is from **7-18-16 through 8-12-16** for City Offices, School Districts, and Special Districts.

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Redding City Council Completes Ballot Arguments in Support of Measures D and E—Opposition Arguments To Follow (in the August Issue of “The VOICE” when finalized)

Note: Shasta VOICES does not support or endorse candidates or ballot measures, but only informs.

The Redding City Council adopted a resolution on May 3, 2016 to place Measure D and Measure E on the November 8, 2016 ballot. As a reminder, here are the two Measures:

BALLOT MEASURE D: Shall an ordinance be adopted authorizing the City of Redding to collect a one-half of one percent sales tax (Transactions and Use Tax) for general municipal purposes for a period of ten years?

ADVISORY VOTE ONLY—BALLOT MEASURE E: If the voters of the City of Redding approve a one-half of one percent limited term general sales tax (Transactions and Use Tax) increase, should the additional revenue be used to augment police protection, jail space, mental health services, fire protection, and related public safety services?

The Council also appointed a Council subcommittee consisting of Mayor McArthur and Vice Mayor Brent Weaver to draft the argument in **support** of the Measures. The Arguments below for both Measures were discussed at the July 19th Council meeting, and there were no modifications. All Council members except for Gary Cadd agreed to sign their names to the now final version of the arguments, which must be filed by August 2nd.

The Argument for Measure D reads: “REDDING CITIZENS DESERVE TO BE SAFE AND PROTECTED, including families with grandparents and kids, businesses keeping our economy strong, and tourists who visit. While our economy has stabilized, we have had to deal with changes outside of our control: state-mandated prison releases, cutbacks in affordable housing, and over-crowded county jails. These dire circumstances have led to unacceptable consequences for our community, with more “smash-and-grabs” and lawbreakers out on the street without worry of retribution: bad behavior without punishment or restoration.

With Recession cutbacks, some firefighters work in 2-person stations while the standard is 3-person stations: mandatory for entering a burning building.

Paying ongoing expenses with the City’s reserve funds is not an option. These reserves must be maintained in the event of another Great Recession or other unforeseen expenses. There are no other hidden pots of gold in the City’s coffers.

Measure D will provide funding for the margin of safety that our community must have to maintain the quality of life we’ve all come to expect. Its companion Measure, Measure E, will provide the guidelines as to how these funds are implemented in a specific manner. They are intended for only those purposes delineated in Measure E, with a sunset clause of 10 years and community oversight of these funds.

LET’S TAKE BACK OUR CITY!

Communities all around the state are grappling with similar issues. For example, Anderson passed a similar measure in the last election cycle with the resulting decrease in crime.

It is important that you vote on this issue to be a voice in these critical decisions that impact the quality of life for you and yours.

The status quo is not a solution. Vote for public safety. “Yes” on Measures D and E.”

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Ballot Arguments (continued from page 1)

The Argument in favor of Measure E reads: “YES FOR FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY! This companion Measure provides guidance for public safety funds raised through Measure D. We trust the citizens to help us implement these Measures, so there will be a citizens’ oversight committee to ensure transparency and financial accountability. There will be a sunset of 10 years for both Measures.

YES FOR SAFE HOMES AND STREETS NOW! We want Redding to be safe for our kids and grandkids; this measure will increase police and fire services as well as provide more jail space to keep criminals off our streets by working collaboratively with Shasta County on this and other issues, such as mental illness and substance abuse.

OTHER CITIES HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS! Communities all around the state are tackling their public safety issues with similar measures. The cities of Red Bluff, Corning, and Anderson have recently adopted public safety sales tax measures, resulting in a decrease in crime.

YES ON MEASURES D AND E! There is no greater purpose in local government than keeping people safe. Measures D and E will make Redding safer at a relatively small cost to taxpayers.

Councilman Gary Cadd has been designated as the Council member who will file the **opposition** argument that will appear on the ballot. **Shasta VOICES will provide the opposition arguments in the August 2016 issue of “The VOICE” newsletter, as they have not yet been finalized.** The rebuttal arguments are to be submitted to the City Clerk’s office by **August 12, 2016**. One argument in favor of the tax measure, and one argument of rebuttal will appear in the ballot materials prior to the election.

Any impartial analysis or direct argument filed with the City Clerk’s office will be available for public examination from August 3rd—August 12th. Any rebuttal argument will be available for public examination from August 13th—August 22nd.

Local “Continuum of Care” Restructure Plan Presented on Heels of New State “No Place Like Home” Initiative

Since June of 2015, many community members have been working with a Redding Area Homelessness Coalition Project to develop a Strategic Plan to respond to **homelessness** in Shasta County. In addition to this coalition, there is a 15 member “Continuum of Care” committee that was formed to develop and implement a Strategic Plan.

Key findings from the studies lead to the following proposal, which was presented to both the Redding City Council on July 19th:

1. Staffing for a proposed restructured Continuum of Care.
2. Improved Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administration and software.
3. Design and implementation of a Coordinated Entry System (CES).

The annual budget for the existing Redding/Shasta County Continuum of Care typically totals approximately **\$40,000**. In past years, the County of Shasta has used these funds to contract with a Coordinator to oversee the Continuum of Care activities and grant application submissions. The City of Redding typically allocates **\$20,000 annually** from the Community Block Grant (CDBG) program. The County of Shasta typically contributes \$10,000 of direct funding and \$10,000 of in-kind support.

The proposed restructure plan and budget recommends increasing the budget for Redding/Shasta County to **\$208,955** in the first year of the plan, and to **\$189,635** in year two.

The recommendations for the funding sources for this budget increase are not specific. But, the committee has asked the City of Redding for **\$65,000** for each of the first two years at the July 19th Council meeting, for a total commitment of \$130,000, money the City says they don’t have. The committee intends to ask Shasta County and the cities of Anderson and Shasta Lake for funds as well towards the \$208,955 goal.

Redding City Council, after hearing the presentation and testimony from community members including homeless persons, voted 3-2 to **delay** any commitment to the request until more specifics are available, including the financial commitments of other local jurisdictions and which non-profit organization will be charged with managing the Continuum of Care.

In the meantime, however, at the State level, to assist local communities in preventing and addressing homelessness, the State Senate passed a strategic and first-of-its kind **“No Place like Home”** initiative (SD 24) on June 30th, 2016. This unprecedented policy framework amounting to over **\$2 billion** in support builds on years of research and best practices and is guided by the core belief that no individual or family in California should ever experience the uncertainty and pain of living without a home.

The Senate legislative package on homelessness re-purposes Proposition 63 (2004) – The Mental Health Services Act – bond money and creatively leverages billions of additional dollars from other local, state, and federal funding to achieve the following goals:

Housing—\$2 billion bond to construct permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with mental illness; \$200 million over 4 years to provide supportive housing in the shorter-term, rent subsidies, while the permanent housing is constructed or rehabilitated; two special housing programs that will assist families that are part of the child welfare system and housing and support services for CalWORKs families in danger of homelessness; income support and outreach for persons with disabilities who cannot work.

This will empower our local governments with additional resources and flexibility to better serve homeless individuals and families. Shasta County currently receives Prop 63 monies, and likely the new SD 24 funds, and is charged with implementing social services programs in the local area.

Local Development Impact Fees Increase on July 1st

Shasta County and the City of Redding have increased their development impact and building fees, effective July 1, 2016. These increases are considered inflationary, and normally occur each year because that is the policy adopted in each jurisdiction.

In **Shasta County**, the increase is 2.2 percent over last year. Here are two charts showing new impact fee* amounts:

July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017	Single Family	Multi-Family per unit	Commercial per 1,000 SF	Office per 1,000 SF	Industrial per 1,000 SF
Main Fee	\$ 5,740.49	\$ 5,497.48	\$ 895.09	\$ 644.72	\$ 402.97
Main Fee + Fire	\$ 7,552.09	\$ 7,203.39	\$ 1,937.96	\$ 1,438.47	\$ 874.33
Main Fee+ Traffic	\$ 7,021.43	\$ 6,286.32	\$ 2,654.72	\$ 2,724.28	\$ 1,831.68
Main Fee + Fire + Traffic	\$ 8,803.03	\$ 7,992.23	\$ 3,697.59	\$ 3,518.03	\$ 2,303.04

There are more County **traffic fees to be added** on to single family residences depending on where they are being built. A map can be found on the County’s website that shows exactly where each of the four areas are situated:

County Wide	Deschutes Interchange (added to all)	South County TIF (1)	South County TIF (2)
\$ 800.00	\$ 1,452.80	\$ 5,362.24	\$ 2,872.37

In the **City of Redding**, The increase in impact and building fees is about 3 percent. Here is a chart of the new estimated fees (excluding separately calculated building fees) for a typical single-family dwelling in the City of Redding:

Development Fees	Park Fund	\$ 4,205
	Electric Service	100
	Fire	1,016
	Storm Drain	937
	Traffic	6,013
TOTAL Development Fees		\$ 12,171
Water/Sewer Fees	Sewer	7,368
	Water Meter	135
	Water Connect	5,893
TOTAL Water/Sewer Fees		\$ 13,396
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 25,567*

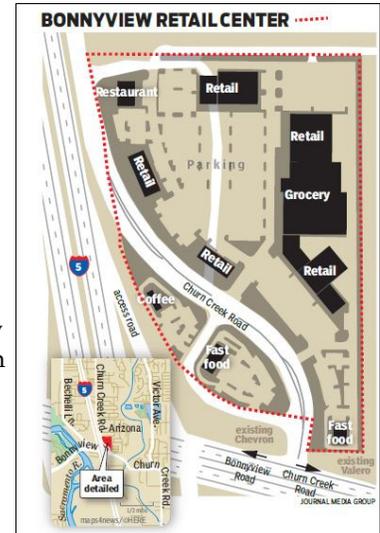
*Also to be **added** to both the Shasta County and City of Redding totals are **school fees**, which increased to **\$3.48 per square foot** (i.e. **\$6,264** for an 1,800 square foot home). And, **building fees** are calculated separately depending on the size of the dwelling (i.e. plan check, plumbing, mechanical, electric) and add up to as much as **\$4,600** to the totals.

It should be noted that unincorporated Shasta County is not provided with County water and sewer services, or any specific plans for parks development, and therefore, there are no fees for those services.

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.

Bonnyview Retail Center/Churn Creek Markt Place Project—California Gold Corporation, based in Sonora, applied for a use permit in March 2016 for a commercial retail center to be built at the former Kenworth Truck facility on Churn Creek Road, Northeast of the Interstate 5 and Bonnyview interchange. The use permit is for 149,410 square feet, and would be anchored by a 50,000 square foot Save Mart grocery store, which will offer a full-service grocery store. The Save Mart Companies operates several brands, including Food Maxx, which is currently operating in Redding at Churn Creek and Dana Drive. The Churn Creek Market Place would also feature eight retail pads, two fast-food restaurants, and a coffee shop. The developer has a purchase agreement for the property which is **contingent** on the project getting approval from the City of Redding. The project will come before the City **Planning Commission** for discussion and potential approval (and recommendation to the Redding City Council) on **August 9, 2016**.



County Permit Tracking and Public Access Software System in Process—A new and improved permit tracking and public access software system known as TRAKiT is being installed to replace Shasta County’s existing electronic tracking system program (Permits Plus) that has been used since 1994. The TRAKiT program is a modern, web-based program that will consolidate numerous permitting functions and integrate with existing County-supported systems. TRAKiT also provides dedicated access “portals” for local contractors and the public that allow more online permit and payment options, the ability to track permit progress through workflow and more frequent and timely communication with customers. Completion of the installation and conversion to the new system will take about one year. The total cost including all software and services is \$490,345.

CalPERS Reports Bad Year (again)—The California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) reported a 0.61 percent gain in investments in its latest fiscal year, a far cry from the 7.5% targets used in projections, and the second straight year of subpar results. These results should heighten concerns about the long term sustainability of the system and its negative impact on taxpayers. Unfortunately, taxpayers are on the hook for the unfunded liabilities when CalPERS investment returns don’t meet their projections. CalPERS estimates that it is only **68 percent funded**. This means that it has more than enough cash to deal with short-term needs, but has just 68 cents on hand for every \$1 in long-term pension obligations.

In addition to the poor investment returns, CalPERS is also wrestling with longer than expected retiree life spans and the growth in public wages, all of which have prompted them to raise the contribution rates for all participating government agencies. In Redding for instance, the funds needed to pay for the employer’s portion of the cost of Public Safety employees’ retirement system through CalPERS will increase by **\$3.4 million per year**, and the employer’s portion of the cost of Miscellaneous employees’ retirement system through CalPERS will increase by **\$1.36 million per year**, a total of **\$4.76 million per year** over the next 5 years.

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**.

Mary B. Machado, Executive Director