



The VOICE

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Greater Shasta County, CA

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Did you know...

- There were **5** single family home permits issued in the City of Redding in April, 2016. There is a decrease of 27 permits, or 64% less than were issued in the first four months of 2015. There was one permit issued for commercial buildings in April, 2016, 14 fewer than for the first three months of 2015.
- Shasta Regional Transportation Agency, Superior California Development Corp., and Growing Local are together developing a feasibility study for a **North State Food Hub**, bringing together producers and buyers to serve eight counties in far Northern California. The goal is to support regional producers of fruits, vegetables, wild rice, nuts and livestock by opening sales channels. Demand for food hubs has increased on the supply side, because small and mid-size producers are often left out of the market. The results of the study will be tested through a demonstration project in the spring of 2017.

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Shasta VOICES Enters 10th Year Under Leadership of Executive Director Mary Machado

For the past **nine years**, Shasta VOICES, a private non-profit organization with over 1,100 supporters has been successful, under the leadership of Executive Director Mary Machado, in our mission to have an impact on decisions being made locally that affect our economic opportunity. We don't have room any more to show you everything, but here are some easily **measurable** highlights demonstrating how well our organization works:

TASK	RESULT
Defeating Fix 5/SCRIP Traffic Impact Fees (saved 20 years of local fees —found funds from State and Federal Government).	\$53 million (so far) —first 6 miles completed in 2012 with local contractors and suppliers; phase 2 in process.
Defeating Joint Shasta County/City of Redding Facilities Impact Fees	Saved \$4,681 per single family dwelling—up to \$93,620 for a commercial dwelling.
Supporting/assisting in obtaining Federal Stimulus Funds in lieu of local fees for local projects	Saved \$25 million of local \$\$ (and hundreds of local jobs created), with more expected.
Succeeded in obtaining suspension of annual inflationary increases in City of Redding impact fees from 2009 levels through June, 2013	Saved \$4,000+ per single family dwelling, and up to \$51,440 for commercial office or retail building and/or remodel.
Generating Commercial Construction Incentive Program	Closes financing gap, reduces interest costs, allows businesses to open and create new jobs.
Supporting 5% Local Preference Policy in the City of Redding	Better opportunity for local businesses.
Suspension of sewer and traffic impact fees for new single-family homes (October 2011—June 2013)	\$12,518 reduction per single family dwelling (100 permits through 6-30-13; \$1,251,800 total savings).
Successfully advocated for /received updated Development Impact Fee Program for Redding (2013)	\$3,282 reduction per single family dwelling. Eliminated fees for most commercial remodels. Reduced fees for new commercial structures.
Successfully advocated for elimination of Redding Special District Traffic Impact Fee (2015-2016)	\$3.1 million in TIF fees totally eliminated.

Mary Machado was honored as **“Communicator of the Year”** in 2014, by City Clerk Pamela Mize of the City of Redding. In making her selection, Ms. Mize said she looked for someone with the following qualities: Limits comments to only matters on the City Council meeting agenda, or, if part of public comment, to matters under the jurisdiction of the Council; honors the time guidelines; is respectful toward the Council, staff, and fellow citizens by keeping comments professional; and, most importantly, someone who **advocates for their position by sharing new information or insight regarding the matter before the Council** (in other words, they have done their homework).

Thank you to all of those who have been so supportive for the past nine years. We are looking forward to continuing our pattern of success throughout 2016 and beyond, as we enter our 10th year of advocacy towards a healthy local economy.

Bill to Curb ADA Lawsuit Abuse Signed by Gov. Brown

Governor Brown signed Senate Bill (SB) 269 (Roth) on May 10th, giving relief to small business. The bill will limit frivolous litigation and claims regarding construction-related accessibility violations by providing businesses that have proactively sought to become compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) with an opportunity to resolve any identified violations. SB 269 takes effective ***immediately***.

Businesses that hire a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) to inspect their facilities are now given a chance to fix ADA compliance issues before a suit can be filed. If you receive a letter from an out of town attorney requesting damages, ***do not pay***. Contact Shasta VOICES and we will direct you to the proper experts.

The bill seeks to incentivize businesses to proactively take steps to become accessible by providing them with ***120 days*** from receipt of a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) report ***to resolve*** any violations identified without being subject to statutory penalties or litigation costs.

SB 269 will also provide a limited time for businesses to resolve violations of minor, technical construction-related standards that do not actually impede access to the public accommodation, allowing small businesses to correct basic issues like signage and warning strips without penalty.

SB 269 helps prevent unnecessary lawsuits which frequently serve only as income for attorneys rather than a means to make business more accessible for all.

New Federal Overtime Pay Threshold Regulations Finalized For Salaried Employees

Currently, under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) a person must satisfy three criteria to qualify as ***exempt*** from federal overtime pay requirements: first, they must make a salary; second, that salary must be more than \$445/week (***\$23,660*** annually), although \$800/week (***\$41,600*** annually) is the current law in California; and third, their “primary duties” must be consistent with managerial, professional or administrative positions as defined by the Department of Labor (DOL). On June 30, 2015, the DOL proposed increasing the salary threshold to \$50,440 per year, a 113% increase. The Department also proposed automatically increasing the salary threshold on an annual basis.

The DOL proposal was met with ***widespread opposition*** from small and large businesses, non-profits, local government, academic institutions, health care providers, and even the Obama Administration’s own Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, all of which asked the Labor Department to examine more closely the impact of its proposal and consider less harmful alternatives.

The “Partnership To Protect Workplace Opportunity” (PPWO) was formed to officially challenge the proposed change in the overtime rule. It consists of the very businesses (listed above, and more) affected by such a change.

Under the leadership of the PPWO, legislation was proposed, and then introduced by Senators Scott and Alexander and Representatives Walberg and Klime, called “Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act,” referred to as S.2707/H.R.4773, to ***block that proposed regulation from taking effect*** and require the DOL to perform a deeper analysis of the impact changes to overtime regulations will have on our country’s businesses and local government agencies.

Unfortunately, the Labor Department largely ignored the concerns of tens of thousands of individuals and organizations around the Country about such a devastating change in the overtime pay requirements.

The final ruling by the DOL on May 18th increases the salary threshold for overtime eligibility to ***\$47,476*** annually (***\$913/week***) for those working 40 hours per week instead of the \$50,440 figure originally proposed. In addition, the rule will allow for ***future increases every three years***.

This small reduction from the originally proposed amount of \$50,440 annually is still a ***100% increase*** that will take place all at once on ***December 1, 2016***.

Employers will not be able to absorb the increase, particularly in such a short time frame. Many are still unaware of this rule and will be hard hit when it is implemented.

Costs will soon increase for organizations operating on fixed budgets, forcing them to cut critical programming, staffing and services. Millions of employees across the country, including those in Redding and the Shasta County area with an increase of ***\$5,876*** annually, will be reclassified from salaried to hourly workers and begin experiencing reduced opportunity, reduced hours, and flexibility in the workplace.

Further, the automatic increases every three years threaten to impose hardships to both government and private sector businesses with no regard to the economic circumstances of the communities they serve.

The PPWO is continuing to advocate for a regulation that addresses all economic realities facing employers and employees with S.2707/H.R.4773. You can obtain more information from their website: <http://protectingopportunity.org>.

Redding Puts 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Increase on Ballot

At a special Redding City Council meeting held on May 3, 2016, the Council voted unanimously after three hours of discussion to place a general tax measure and advisory measure on the ballot of the November 9, 2016 election to adopt a one-half of one percent sales tax (Transactions and Use Tax) for a ten-year period.

There was some confusion on what, exactly, the action taken by the Council included, as the original motion was amended several times. Here is the official “action” taken by the Council:

ACTION: The City Council took the following action:

- Adopted Resolution No. 2016-045 to: (1) place a general tax measure and advisory measure on the ballot of the November 8, 2016, election to adopt a one-half of one percent sales tax (Transactions and Use Tax) for a ten-year period; (2) establish policies and procedures in connection with such an election; and (3) request the services of the Registrar of Voters in conducting said election; and**
- Should the voters approve the general tax and advisory measures, directed staff to: (1) establish a separate account for the proceeds associated with the one-half of one percent sales tax for auditing purposes; (2) provide the City Council with a funding/expenditure report, on at least an annual basis, to ensure proper oversight of the funding; (3) enter into a contractual agreement with the County of Shasta regarding the receipt of proceeds and establishing performance measures; (4) during priority-setting or budget meetings, provide the City Council with a reminder as to status of the ten-year sunset provision of said tax; and (5) designate City Manager Starman, Police Chief Paoletti, and Vice Mayor Weaver to continue to serve as the City’s representatives on the Implementation Team.**

And here is the actual “measure” as approved to appear on the ballot for the November 9, 2016 election:

<u>BALLOT MEASURE D</u>	YES
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?	_____
	NO
<u>ADVISORY VOTE ONLY—BALLOT MEASURE E</u>	YES
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?	_____
	NO

Measure D does not require a 2/3 vote of the electorate because the proposed tax is a general tax as opposed to a special tax. As a general tax measure, it would require approval by a 50 percent (plus 1) majority of the voters to become operative. If the tax is passed by a simple majority of the voters, it would be effective “no sooner than the first day of the first calendar quarter, commencing more than 110 days after the adoption of the ordinance.” Therefore, the tax would be effective no sooner than April 1, 2017.

The City Attorney stated in his staff report on the subject: “Because the measure seeks to impose a general tax, the revenue from the proposed transactions and use tax would be placed in the *City’s General Fund and be available for expenditure for general governmental purposes*. The ‘advisory vote’ means an indication of general voter opinion regarding the ballot proposal. *The results of the advisory vote will in no manner be controlling on the sponsoring legislative body.*”

An argument is to be written in favor of the tax measure. It may be written by a member of City Council, or perhaps the City Attorney. That argument is due to the City Clerk’s office by August 2, 2016. Councilman Gary Cadd has been designated as the Council member who will file the opposition argument that will appear on the ballot. 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.

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.

Bridge View Villas Project Moving Forward—Land owner and developer Allen Ansari, a Morgan Hill real estate broker, won unanimous approval from Redding City Council on May 17th to develop 66.51 acres located at 200 Lost Lane into a maximum of 161 attached single-family residential units, each featuring 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, with individual ownership. The townhome-style development will congregate the units into groups on driveway courts. Access to the property starts at the end of Masonic Avenue (off Lake Blvd.) and extends into Sulfur Creek Canyon. Special grading conditions and fire department conditions were attached to the approval. The developer will set aside 32.7 acres to be used for trails and open space. Construction could start this year, and the townhomes would be built in two phases. This project may help deter the history of homeless camps and reduce fire risk in the area.



Turtle Bay Sheraton Hotel to Open in 2017—Construction on the Turtle Bay Sheraton Hotel is moving right along as it reaches the framing stage. The 130 room hotel will also have a 5,000 square foot restaurant, eating patios, and a 4,000 square foot meeting/ballroom, among many other amenities. The hotel is scheduled to be completed and open in late summer 2017.



Victor Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project Moves Forward—On October 7, 2014, Redding City Council accepted a federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant for \$1,274,500, matched with \$141,700 in Citywide Transportation Impact Fees (TIF). In May of 2015, staff held an open house to receive public input on the project. The overwhelming majority of public comments centered on the problems of speeding, increased traffic, vehicle access from side streets, and pedestrian crossing safety. Many comments suggested **roundabouts** to slow speeds and improve access and pedestrian crossing, and City staff brought the recommendation forward to City Council at the May 17, 2016 City Council meeting, creating an alternative to install two roundabouts at Galaxy Way and Marlene Avenue, even though it costs \$550,000 more than the original concept. That brings the project cost to \$2.1 million, which required the City Council to appropriate an additional \$550,000 from the Citywide TIF program. Council voted unanimously to approve the updated roundabout design and additional \$550,000 for the project.

Shasta County Supervisors Remove Longevity Bonuses—In a much publicized “typo” by Shasta County, elected officials (but not Supervisors) inadvertently were included in language written into a 2008 ordinance intended to give longevity bonuses for more than 20 years of service to executive managers (department heads). A Shasta Grand Jury report recommended that elected officials be removed from receiving the bonuses and the ordinance be rewritten to include the word “appointed” when talking about the county staff members eligible to receive the bonus. Supervisors voted 3-2 (Baugh and Schappell dissenting) to act on that recommendation, removing elected officials from receiving longevity bonuses, but allowing them to collect the 5 percent bonus until the end of their current terms in office and keeping the bonuses already received. The two recipients so far were Sheriff Tom Bosenko, who received about \$40,000 in bonuses, and Treasurer-tax collector Lori J. Scott, who received about \$32,000 in bonuses.

Lassen Canyon Nursery Receives Economic Development Incentive—Lassen Canyon Nursery recently purchased Lot 7 in the Stillwater Business Park in Redding, where it will soon begin construction of a new facility. With this expansion, they expect to hire at least 20 new full-time employees. With benefits, these positions will all be earning more than \$22 per hour. This qualifies them for an Economic Incentive credit of \$3,000 per new full time employee, for a total of \$60,000 in credits towards certain City of Redding fees, as approved by Council on May 3rd.

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**.