



# The VOICE

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### Did you know...

- Redding's **Safe City Project** will unveil the top 10 SOLUTIONS to crime that have been prepared through months of research and development. The unveiling will occur at the Redding Civic Auditorium on Thursday, **November 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** There will be 4 areas of focus: lack of jail space in Shasta County, residential and commercial property crimes, homeless encampments and public space concerns, and drug and alcohol addiction connected to crime.
- There were 6 new single family home permits drawn in September, bringing the total number to 86 for the current year, compared to 85 for the same period last year. The total for all permits, including remodels, is down about 7% from the same period last year.

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## General Elections Take Center Stage Locally

The Shasta County General Election day will occur on **November 4, 2014**. Sample ballots were mailed out to registered voters the first week of October. Applications for "Vote-By-Mail Ballot" must be received by October 28, 2014.

The General Election includes statewide candidates and measures, with a complete voter information guide that was mailed to registered voters, but we will concentrate this particular informational article on **local** candidates and measures.

Here are the candidates for City Council in the three incorporated cities in Shasta County:

### **City of Redding: 3 seats open—6 candidates**

Incumbents Patrick Jones and Francie Sullivan, and challengers Michael Dacquisto, Brent Weaver, Kristen Schreder, and Mike Quinn.

### **City of Anderson: 2 seats open— 3 candidates**

Incumbent Debe Hopkins, and challengers Baron Browning and Norma Connick.

### **City of Shasta Lake: 2 seats open— 2 candidates**

Incumbents Richard Kern and Pamelyn Morgan.

There are also many much-publicized local measures on the ballot. There are two measures that only the registered voters in the **City of Redding** will be voting on:

**Measure B:** Shall a portion of Resolution No. 2014-025 approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the McConnell Foundation to sell 14.17 acres within the 60 acres of land currently leased to the Turtle Bay Exploration Park for the price of \$600,000, an amount which exceeds the highest appraised value of the City's leased-fee interest by \$157,000, be adopted?

A "yes" vote authorizes the sale. The City would receive \$600,000 for the property. The City Council and State could receive future revenues if the property is developed. The agreement does not require construction of a hotel or any other development. The City would relinquish all rights as owner and lessor of the 14.17 acres. McConnell would become the owner and lessor, instead of the City. Turtle Bay would remain the tenant. The City would retain land use regulatory control over development of the property.

A "no" vote would terminate the transaction.

**Measure F:** Shall the City of Redding adopt a **one-quarter cent transactions and use tax to sunset in six years, for the special purpose of reducing crime and public nuisances associated with effects of AB 109 and other criminal activity by hiring additional police officers and other personnel within the Redding Police Department; funding offender work programs; and funding incarceration outside of the County, all to address problems associated with release of criminals due to lack of local jail space?**

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## ***Supervisors Finally Approve Anselmo Zoning Request***

On September 17th, Shasta County Planning Commissioners approved the Seven Hills Land and Cattle Company's request (Anselmo Vineyards property) **again** for a zoning change, this time for a **30-acre portion** of the 435-acre parcel on the north side of Inwood Road, about one mile east of the intersection of State Highway 44 and Inwood Road. The Shasta County Supervisors had sent the request back to the Planning Commissioners, asking for a reduced "footprint" from the originally requested 67-acre portion down to 30 acres. The amendment changes the property from Exclusive Agriculture (EA) to the Commercial Recreation (C-R) zone district to allow expansion of existing, and the addition of new, uses of facilities related to the winery. These include restaurant dining, special events, an 18-room hotel, a health spa, hiking and equestrian tours and seasonal hunting and fishing.

The Board of Supervisors then held yet **another** special meeting and public hearing on September 30th for action and final approval of the reduced acreage zoning request. After almost 3 hours, they voted 3-2 (Moty, Kehoe dissenting) to **approve** the zoning request for the 30-acre portion from Exclusive Agriculture (EA) to Commercial Recreation (C-R), including the proposed future hotel and health spa.

The future construction of the proposed 18-room hotel and separate health spa facility would still be required to go through the normal planning and approval process.

Now, the two large existing structures that still need to be inspected (a Catholic Chapel and a Conservatory) will finally be inspected.

The current property owner, Reverage Anselmo, plans to sell the entire 2400+ acres that is the Anselmo Winery and Seven Hills Ranch, at Auction, which is now scheduled for October 23, 2014 by Southeby's International Realty.

## ***Downtown Redding Will Have New Transportation Plan***

Viva Downtown Redding hosted a meeting at the Cascade Theater on October 9, 2014 to introduce the city's new "Downtown Redding Transportation Plan." A video was presented describing the evolution of Downtown Redding's transportation system over time and possible improvements for the future, followed by a description of the new planning effort and introduction of key City and consultant staff members.

City staff and consultants for the project are seeking ideas from the entire community for improving downtown Redding accessibility and transportation. They will be accepting public feedback over the next year before seeking formal approval of the plan. Comments can be submitted online at [www.DowntownReddingTransportationPlan.com](http://www.DowntownReddingTransportationPlan.com), or directly to the consultant, Russ Wenham at Omni-Means (530-242-1700, [rwenhan@omnimeans.com](mailto:rwenhan@omnimeans.com)), or Redding's key staffer for the project, Zach Bonnin (530-245-7112, [zbonnin@ci.redding.ca.us](mailto:zbonnin@ci.redding.ca.us)).

Planners are currently considering tearing out walkways through the Market Street Promenade and rerouting streets through the area, improving parking, and adding new bike lanes. Though there are currently options to drive, bike or walk downtown, reaching restaurants and other businesses easily continues to be an issue for potential customers.

In January 2007, a 10-member committee submitted a report to City Council about downtown parking, which at that time seemed to be hindering a successful revival of the Downtown Redding area. The committee concluded that, "except on special occasions, there does not exist a parking problem in downtown. Rather, there is a public perception of a parking problem that is largely due to the lack of connectivity between parking areas. In addition, some available parking areas are extremely underutilized possibly because they are seen as being unsafe due to lack of surrounding activity and/or lighting." The report goes on further to say, "...future development will likely generate demand in excess of supply and the City should undertake certain actions to be prepared."

One of the 2007 committee's recommendations was to remove the remainder of the Mall roof and reintroduce the streets with diagonal parking. This could result in the addition of 140 or more on-street parking spaces and improve the connectivity between destinations and parking. They also suggested pursuing shared-use parking agreements to make private off-street parking available for public use after business hours. Examples include downtown area banks and professional offices.

Clearly, some progress has been made since that 2007 report. Bicycle lanes have been added, paving projects have brought wider lanes and shoulders, and there has been some rerouting of turn lanes on several streets, such as California Street just this summer. But there is much more that could be done to improve downtown accessibility.

The conclusions and ideas from the 2007 committee will more than likely be revisited as part of the new Transportation Plan effort along with any new public feedback that is generated over the next year.

## *Local General Election Information (continued from page 1)*

Measure F, if approved, would enact an ordinance establishing a quarter-cent (0.25%) transaction and use tax (sales tax) within the City of Redding, automatically expiring in six years, unless extended by the voters. The tax is a special tax requiring a **2/3 vote**, with legal restrictions as to use. City Council may terminate the tax prior to the six year sunset date with a **4/5 supermajority** vote. Revenue collected from the tax may only be used for the purpose of reducing crime and public nuisances associated with the effects of the Public Safety Realignment Act (AB 109) and other criminal activity, by hiring additional police officers and other personnel within the Redding Police Department; funding supervised offender work programs; and funding incarceration outside of the County to address problems associated with premature release of criminals from Shasta County Jail do to lack of local jail space. The tax revenue collected from Measure F would be deposited into a special and segregated account to be used only for the specific purpose described in the proposed ordinance and ballot language. The revenue must supplement, not supplant (replace) existing expenditures. The special and segregated account will be audited each year by an independent accounting firm. A “Yes” vote is a vote to approve the additional quarter-cent tax. A “No” vote is a vote against the tax.

Only those living in the Redding city limits will see Measures B and F on their ballots, and have the opportunity to vote on those two measures.

The remaining four measures are a bit more self-explanatory. Any registered voter living in Shasta County will see Measure A on their ballot, and have the opportunity to vote on the measure. Only those living in Shasta Lake will see and be able to vote on Measure C. Only those living in the Cottonwood Fire Protection District will see and be able to vote on Measure D. And only those living in the Columbia School District will see and be able to vote on Measure E.

### County of Shasta **MEASURE A** (needs simple majority voter approval)

#### **Shall ordinance SCC 2014-02 (Medical Marijuana Cultivation in the County’s Unincorporated Area) be Adopted?**

Amends current Shasta County medical marijuana cultivation restrictions for the County’s unincorporated area to, among other things: (1) prohibit the outdoor cultivation of marijuana, (2) limit the cultivation of marijuana per premises to a total of twelve plants within a structure that is detached from and accessory to a residence of a qualified medical marijuana patient or primary caregiver of a qualified medical marijuana patient, (3) prohibit the unlawful surface drawing of water and unlawful discharges of water related to marijuana cultivation, (4) require that if the person cultivating marijuana is not the owner of the property, notarized statements from all legal owners consenting to the cultivation must be obtained, (5) make any violation of the marijuana cultivation restrictions a misdemeanor, and (6) amend residential accessory building requirements.

**YES**

**NO**

### City of Shasta Lake **MEASURE C** (needs simple majority voter approval)

“To provide funding for general City services, shall an ordinance be adopted to impose a tax at a rate initially set at 6%, and not to exceed 10%, of gross receipts on Medical Marijuana Collectives and Cooperatives operating in the City of Shasta Lake?”

**YES**

**NO**

### Cottonwood Fire Protection District **MEASURE D** (needs 2/3 voter approval)

“Should the Cottonwood Fire Protection District issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring and constructing a new fire station in the District and related capital expenses at legal rates and no bonds maturing beyond 40 years?”

**YES**

**NO**

### Columbia Elementary School District **MEASURE E** (needs 55% voter approval)

“To improve the quality of education; upgrade outdated electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems; make safety and security improvements; increase student access to computers and modern technology; replace 20-year-old or older portable classrooms with permanent classrooms; and improve P.E. fields and facilities for school and community use; shall Columbia Elementary School District issue \$8,600,000 of bonds at legal interest rates, have an independent citizens’ oversight committee and have NO money taken by the state or used for administrative salaries?” **BONDS YES      BONDS NO**

Arguments and rebuttals of the measures, as well as candidate statements, are included in the voter information packet sent to all registered voters in Shasta County around the first week in October. They can also be found online at [www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us](http://www.elections.co.shasta.ca.us). So, read, learn, and become an informed voter....and go vote on November 4th!

## *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:

- ***REU “PILOT” Lawsuit Continues***—The California 3rd District Court of Appeals conducted an appellate hearing on October 6th to determine whether transfers from Redding Electric Utility (REU) to the general fund in place of property taxes are allowed by law. Local attorney Walt McNeill has challenged REU’s payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) program, arguing that this charge to customers is a *tax* under Proposition 26, the 2010 initiative that limits new taxes and fees. The PILOT charges amount to about 6 percent of electric utility charges, or about \$6 million annually. A decision could take from 2 weeks to a couple of months.
- ***Federal Funding Approved for Redding Road Improvements***—Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds have been approved for two projects in Redding. Both projects will begin design work, and construction and completion will occur sometime in 2016:
  1. Pedestrian improvements along **Victor Avenue south of Hartnell Avenue, \$1,416,200** for fiscal year 2014-2015. The proposed project will provide pedestrian improvements along Victor Avenue between Enterprise Park on the south end and the Churn Creek Bridge on the north end. This will include the addition of sidewalks on the west side of the corridor, partial roadway lighting and limited pedestrian crossing facilities with a new pedestrian crossing just south of Shelby Road, a pedestrian barrier on the west side of the bridge, raised concrete channelizers at Galaxy Way, Vega Street, Marlene Avenue, and Conifer Way, and a reduction of the current five-lane section of roadway to a three-lane section (lane in each direction and center turn lane).
  2. Safety improvement along **Old Oregon Trail, \$1,888,300** for fiscal year 2014-2015. This project proposes to construct six-foot-wide shoulders along both sides of Old Oregon Trail near Paso Robles to Bear Mountain Road to provide additional safety and recovery areas, as well as flatten some of the horizontal curves to straighten the roadway and provide better sight distance, and allow for improved bicycle travel in the area.
- ***I-5 Redding to Anderson Six- Lane Project***—This project, which was added to the 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to widen I-5 to six lanes (3 lanes in both directions) from just north of the Knighton Road overcrossing to just south of the North Street undercrossing in Anderson, is now considered the “parent” project to two spin-offs:
  1. **Redding to Anderson “Little Easy” Six- Lane**— this project funds a smaller four to six- lane widening phase from 0.6 miles south of the Knighton Road overcrossing to 0.4 miles south of the Churn Creek overcrossing. The total project cost is \$12.796 million.
  2. **Redding to Anderson Six Lane Phase 2**—this project takes the original project and funds a second four to six-lane widening component from 0.2 miles south of the North Street undercrossing to the Knighton Road overcrossing. The total project cost is \$37.3 million. Cal Trans is still negotiating with the Union Pacific Railroad regarding the replacement of their structures (at the North Street undercrossing) so that planning Phase 2 of the project can continue.

To date, the I-5 to Anderson Six-Lane Project is a Regional Improvement Program funded project.

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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](http://www.shastavoices.com)**, or calling **(530) 222-5251**.

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