



The VOICE

Your independent news source

Greater Shasta County, CA

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Did you know...

- There were 7 single family dwelling permits drawn in Redding in April, bringing the total number to 44 for the year. There were 29 single family permits drawn through April of 2013.
- Ted Pella Inc., one of Shasta County's most highly specialized manufacturers, received approval to expand it's operation on Mountain Lakes Boulevard in Redding. The company, which has been in Redding since 1987, is expanding its 15,400 square foot facility and will construct an additional 30,000 square foot building consisting of 17,428 square feet of manufacturing, 8372 square feet of warehousing, and 4,200 square feet of office space to accommodate the growth of the business. The company makes and sells scientific instruments that serve research and development laboratories that use the equipment for types of microscopy. They are the only company west of the Mississippi that does this.

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Shasta VOICES Celebrates 7 Years

For the past seven years, Shasta VOICES, a private non-profit organization with over 1,070 supporters, has been successful in our mission to have an impact on decisions being made locally that affect our economic opportunity in the Shasta County area. We don't even have room any more to show you everything, but here are the highlights demonstrating how well our organization works:

TASK	RESULT
Defeating Fix 5/SCRIP Traffic Impact Fees (Supported other sources of funding; <i>continue</i> to support and obtain other sources of funding)	\$25 million (so far) coming from State and Federal government instead of local fees—first 6 miles completed in 2012 with local contractors and suppliers.
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 \$2,500+ 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.
Radical 10 in '10 participation	Brought forward a series of job creating ideas that are works in progress now.
Suggested/supported/succeeded in obtaining a development impact fee waiver program in the City of Redding from October 2011 through June 2013.	Eliminates \$12,518 in fees per single family dwelling/duplex/triplex/4-plex. Reduces price of newly built homes to compete with existing home market, while creating local jobs on many levels.
Published " Privatization of Public Services, " " Salary and Benefits Survey. " Held " Public Pension Reform " Forum.	Posted on our website to provide education, information, and transparency on subject matter of public interest and concern.
Assists new and expanding local businesses in reducing/eliminating excessive impact fees to bring their projects forward and create jobs.	Creation of new jobs and filling up some vacant commercial spaces throughout the region.
Participated in creation of new Development Impact Fee Program in Redding, implemented in August, 2013 ; influenced changes to reduce fees and simplify how they are applied to both resi-	Reduced overall impact fees by \$3,282 per single family dwelling. Eliminated fees for most commercial remodels. Reduced overall fees for new commercial structures (varies by building).

Thank you to all of those who have been supportive for the past seven years. We are looking forward to continuing our pattern of success throughout 2014 and beyond.

June 3, 2014 Primary Election Information

The official “sample” ballots for the **June 3, 2014** Primary Election were mailed to Shasta County voters the first week of May. Included in the mailing was an application for Vote-by-Mail ballot, which must be completed and received by May 27, 2014. The last day to register to vote is May 19, 2014.

There are many candidate choices on the ballot for the offices of State Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, and Insurance Commissioner....but not so many choices for the local Shasta County offices.

There are two races in Shasta County with more than one candidate to choose from: **1st Congressional District**—Democrats Dan Levine and Heidi Hall, and Republicans Gregory Cheadle and Doug LaMalfa (incumbent); and **Shasta County Supervisor, District 5**- Les Baugh (incumbent), Rod Jones, and Butch Schaefer.

There is one local ballot measure for voters who live in the **City of Anderson**. The Anderson City Council voted unani- mously at their regular meeting on February 18th to try to adopt a **one-half cent** transaction and use tax, also known as a **sales tax**. The vote added this ballot measure to the June 3 election ballot asking voters in Anderson to approve an addi- tional half cent sales tax:

<p>A. Shall City of Anderson Ordinance No. 785, authorizing the City of Anderson to collect a one-half cent sales tax for essential general city services be ap- proved?</p>	<p>YES NO</p>
<p>Advisory Vote Only:</p> <p>B. Should the City of Anderson allocate 50% of the tax revenue collected from the one-half cent sales tax to the Police Department to mitigate impacts of Prison Realignment (AB109) and increase Police Department staffing to imple- ment programs to reduce crime and increase public safety, and allocate the re- mainder to support parks, code enforcement, restore general fund reserves, and other general city services?</p>	<p>YES NO</p>

The Consolidated General Election to be held on November 4, 2014 will include local City Council races and several local ballot measures, including a vote for or against the Turtle Bay land sale to the McConnell Foundation in the City of Red- ding, a vote for or against Shasta County’s marijuana ordinance, and a vote for or against the imposition of a general tax on gross receipts of medical marijuana collectives operating in the City of Shasta Lake.

SRTA Board Splits on Use of Local Transit Funds

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides funding for public transportation and related uses in rural areas through “Section 5311.” Our local Shasta Regional Trans- portation Agency (SRTA) must select projects and funding amounts from this program to be used for bike and pedes- trian facilities that connect public transit in rural areas.

This year, \$421,543 is available for such projects. At its board meeting on May 7, 2014, the SRTA Board members voted 4-3 to use these as yet unspent funds in areas of Shasta County. \$16,000 was requested and approved for Golden Umbrella for continuation of the Foster Grandpar- ents Program. The remaining \$405,543 was set aside for bikeways and walkways.

That vote proved to be controversial: in the past, the County of Shasta typically received more Section 5311 funding than required to meet its public transit needs. The 5311 program to date has been used to fund the County’s transit obligation including Burney Express and the County portion of the Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA). The excess funds, referred to as “spillover funds” were given to the cities of Redding, Anderson and Shasta Lake.

The cities are impacted in that if the County now uses 5311 funds for capital improvement projects, they will have to use other state provided funds (referred to as STA funds) to meet their Burney Express/RABA needs, and there will be less of the spillover funds available.

The Board’s decision to use those former spillover funds for the County capital projects means there will no longer be spillover funds for the cities—the cities will get no addi- tional transit support and, therefore, no funding for streets and roads.

Public notice was given that the SRTA is considering pro- posals for the walkways and bikeways in Shasta County from eligible agencies including any public agency author- ized to develop and construct projects in public right-of-way such as county, cities, and tribal governments, with a dead- line to submit potential projects by Monday, June 9, 2014.

The SRTA Board will consider projects at the regular meet- ing on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the City of Anderson Council Chambers, 1887 Howard Street, Ander- son, California.

Turtle Bay Land Sale Referendum Petition Certified; Matter to be Placed on November 4, 2014 General Election Ballot

At the May 6, 2014 Redding City Council meeting, the council voted unanimously to accept the certificate of sufficiency stating that the Referendum Petition against the sale of 14.17 acres of Turtle Bay Exploration Park land to the McConnell Foundation has sufficient signatures to qualify for a ballot measure. They also voted unanimously to adopt a resolution placing the matter on the November 4, 2014 General Election ballot, and to let the **proponents** for each side of the issue prepare the written arguments for and/or against the measure to be included in the voter information guide. Here is the verbiage that was approved as the ballot label that will appear on the ballot:

<p>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?</p>	<p>YES</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>NO</p>
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There was considerable discussion about the inclusion of the verbiage “...an amount which exceeds the highest appraised value of the City's leased-fee interest by \$157,000 ...” and a motion was made to strike this portion from the ballot label. The motion failed 3-2 (Jones, Cadd dissenting). This verbiage was called “manipulative” by Andrew Meredith, who represented the NE California Building and Construction Trades Council. Tom Curato, also from that union group, expressed additional concern that the required “impartial analysis” to be written by the City Attorney would not be impartial, and asked City Attorney Rick Duvernay to recuse himself from this task, but election laws require that he write the analysis. Mr. Duvernay then offered to write a draft and allow public input before bringing the final draft to Council for approval. He has since followed through with writing that draft, and it is currently available for review by contacting the City Clerk's office. It appears that this particular union group would prefer that the voters **not** be given any factual information that might sway their vote.

Since 2010, Turtle Bay has been actively working to construct a hotel and restaurant on its campus with the goal of achieving a steady source of income to support the museum and reduce financial assistance provided by McConnell Foundation. The City Council gave its support to Turtle Bay to proceed with the development process. During this process, an issue arose as to whether the construction of the hotel is subject to prevailing wages. In December 2011, the state Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) issued an opinion that the project was not subject to prevailing wage requirements. Based on this decision, the hotel construction project was “bid” without prevailing wage rates.

That decision was appealed by union groups, and in January 2013, the DIR director reversed her decision, finding the City's failure to seek money or rent from Turtle Bay when the lease was amended for private development and financing purposes amounted to a public subsidy of the Hotel Project. Writ proceedings are pending in the Superior Court challenging the DIR director's decision on appeal.

The hotel construction project was re-bid with prevailing wage rates. That bid was \$3.2 million higher, and was significant enough to prevent the project from moving forward.

At its May 7, 2013 meeting, the City Council first considered a request from McConnell Foundation to purchase from the City all or part of the property under the Turtle Bay leasehold, including the 4.99 acre “hospitality parcel” on which the hotel/restaurant would be built. McConnell and Turtle Bay believe that ownership of the property would eliminate any potential prevailing wage requirements for the proposed hotel project. At its March 4, 2014 regular Council meeting, the City Council voted 3-2 to **approve** and execute a purchase agreement for the purchase of 14.17 acres of land with the McConnell Foundation for \$600,000.

And now, we have *several* groups that have formed with opposing views on the Turtle Bay land sale: the Northeastern California Building and Construction Trades Council, the union-led group behind **REVOLT** (*Residents Entitled to Vote on Land Transactions*) who oppose the land sale and contend that the sale cheats taxpayers out of a higher value, while making no written guarantee that the City's lease with Turtle Bay Exploration Park will be enforced; the **REVIVE** (*Redding Empowered to Vote for Increased Visitors and Employment*) group, representing Turtle Bay Exploration Park supporters who are fighting back; **RESIDENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**, Turtle Bay's PAC in support of the land sale whose strategy is to talk to any union, any business organization and any group who would like to learn more about this subject.

The Redding Peace Officers Association, after considering all the facts, has publicly **endorsed** the land sale and supports Turtle Bay's efforts to build the hotel. It appears that the unions, who characteristically stick together, will not be doing so for this ballot measure.

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:

- Shasta Lake City Council Approves Ballot Measure for Marijuana Tax**—On May 6th, the Shasta Lake City Council voted to place a ballot measure for the General Election to be held on November 4, 2014. The measure, if passed, would impose a business tax on medical marijuana collectives to raise revenue for general purposes that will be placed in the City’s General Fund. Here is the ballot measure verbiage as approved:

CITY OF SHASTA LAKE CANNIBUS/MARIJUANA BUSINESS TAX

<p>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 Co-operatives operating in the City of Shasta Lake?</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>
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- Shasta VOICES Supports TIGER Grant Applications**—On March 3, 2014, the Department of Transportation (DOT) released a Notice of Funding Availability for the National Infrastructure Investments. This appropriation is for a Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program. Shasta VOICES has sent *letters of support* for two North State projects who have applied for TIGER grant funding: the City of Redding has applied for a grant for the Oasis Road/Interstate 5 Interchange reconstruction project; the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) has applied for a grant to replace the Interstate 5 bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad, north of the Deschutes Road Interchange in Anderson. As with past programs, this program is expected to be extremely competitive for approximately \$600 million in funding that will be available nationwide for capital projects. Eligible projects include: (1)highway/bridge,(2) public transportation (transit), (3) passenger/freight rail, (4) port infrastructure, and (5) intermodal transportation facility projects. Successful grant application projects are required to be “obligated” (ready for construction) by September 30, 2016, and must expend funds by September 30, 2021.
- Shasta LAFCO Holding Public Hearings**—Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has scheduled several public hearings for Thursday, **June 5, 2014** during a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Shasta County Board of Supervisors’ Chambers, 1450 Court Street, Redding. They will (1) consider municipal service review and approval of updated sphere of influence, and determine the projects to be exempt from CEQA for Tucker Oaks Water District and Mountain Gate Community Services District, (2) consider approval of Old School Road Reorganization, an application to annex territory into the Mountain Gate Community Services District, and concurrent detachment of the territory from County Services Area #1, (3) hold a conducting authority hearing on LAFCO 2013-2014 Deschutes Reorganization to hear any protests to finalization of this proposal and make determinations, and (4) hold a hearing to consider and approve a final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. The meeting is open to the public and interested parties are encouraged to participate in the LAFCO processes.

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