



The VOICE

Your independent news source

Greater Shasta County, CA

Volume XIV, Issue V

www.shastavoices.com

October 2020

Did you know...

- There were **16 new** single family home permits issued in the City of Redding in September 2020, for a total of **135** so far in 2020, and 5 Carr Fire single family rebuild permits issued in September 2020, for a total of **29** so far in 2020. There was **1** permit issued for new commercial buildings (the Block 7 Downtown multi-story parking structure) in September 2020, for a total of **25** so far in 2020.
- All City of Redding facilities have been **re-closed** to the public as of October 12, 2020, after having just reopened on September 1, 2020, due to the COVID pandemic as local Coronavirus cases continue to rise. This includes the Redding Public Library. All City essential services will remain in place, including the utility services (water, wastewater, solid waste including trash pick-up, the landfill and transfer station). Police, fire, and electric services will remain in place with no changes to emergency calls. The community is encouraged to continue to use online methods of conducting business via: www.cityofredding.org.

Inside this issue:

"We Can't Do This" - Local Businesses Implore Sups to Stay Open	1
Redding Rearranges Development Services Duties	2
County Gives Big Raises to Two Sheriff's Bargaining Units	2
City of Redding To Apply For Panorama Park Grant Funding	3
Shasta County Zogg Fire Update	4
Updated News and Notes	4
Join Shasta VOICES	4

"We Can't Do This" *Local Businesses Implore Sups to Stay Open*

California implemented a new four-tier system on August 20th to reduce COVID-19 in the state, with revised criteria for loosening and tightening restrictions on activities: yellow tier = minimal positivity rate, orange tier = moderate positivity rate, red tier = substantial positivity rate, and purple tier = widespread positivity rate.

Unfortunately, Shasta County has fallen into the **purple tier** due to high numbers of COVID outbreaks over the past 3 weeks from Bethel Church/School gatherings and two nursing homes, and will now have to change the way most businesses operate beginning Friday, October 23rd. This means local businesses **not** considered to be essential will either have to close down or greatly reduce their "capacity." Non-essential offices must go to "remote." Restaurants, museums, places of worship, movie theaters, gym and fitness centers, wineries, family entertainment centers and card rooms (and other types of group activities) can only be open outdoors and in small numbers. Non-essential retail and shopping centers can be open at 25% capacity. K-12 Schools are not universally affected by a County's change in tiers.

The County, under the current rules, must stay in the purple tier for a **minimum of three weeks** before it can move back to the red tier if case numbers improve.

The Shasta County Supervisors, having received all kinds of letters and testimony at meetings from devastated citizens and businesses saying **"we can't do this,"** finally determined on October 20th that a special meeting to discuss what they can or cannot do to opt out of this unfair tier system. Supervisor Baugh proposed that the County withdraw from the tiers, saying we've already received whatever monies we were going to get from the State.

Baugh further said that "the majority of businesses have done everything right, honored the system, spent tens of thousands of dollars to comply with cleanliness and safety issues, and are not the cause of the outbreak problems." He believes many more letters will be sent saying their business will close. He said "tens of thousands of customers are shopping in big-box stores, groceries etc. and will not be closed down. This is not equitable, not fair, and I will not support moving into the purple tier."

The Supervisors had that special meeting on **October 22nd**. After **6 hours** of public testimony with at least 191 commenters, of which 122 were in favor of abiding by the Governor's rules, and 69 were in favor of defying those rules.

In preparation for the meeting, County Counsel Rubin Cruse Jr. gathered information for the Supervisors consideration. He stated, in part, that "The County **may not** enact ordinances or regulations that conflict with the general laws of the State. The County is merely a political subdivision of state government, exercising only the powers of the state, granted by the state. The State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy currently has the force and effect of state law." Supervisors agreed to take **no action** at the meeting, and follow the Governor's directives while continuing their efforts with the State to reconsider.

Supervisor's Moty and Chimenti, who together with County health officials had been having productive conversations with the State, said Shasta County is currently under consideration to either get out of the purple tier sooner than 3 weeks, or to stay in the red tier. Their efforts paid off! **On October 24th, they convinced the state to keep the county in the red tier** after recalculating the average daily case rate using more recent data, allowing businesses to remain open indoors with modifications.

Redding Rearranges Development Services Department Duties With Departure of Director

On October 6th, Redding City Council approved changes in the roles and responsibilities of the Development Services Department, rather than hiring a replacement for Larry Vaupel, who left his position as Director of Development Services on September 19th to become the Tourism Director for the City of Big Bear Lake.

After a staff analysis of the current roles and responsibilities in Development Services, it was determined that the **Housing Division and Economic Development** will be assigned to the City Manager's office and the **Code Enforcement Division** will be assigned to the City Attorney's office.

The City Attorney will now set policy and enforcement priorities for the Code Enforcement Division, and the Assistant City Attorney II will have immediate supervision of Code Enforcement's staff of four employees and enforcement of the Redding Municipal Code. In December of 2019, the City lost an Assistant City Attorney II due to retirement. That position will not be filled in the foreseeable future. This re-organization, together with the loss of one position, is a significant addition to work load to the City Attorney's office. The City Attorney, Barry Dewalt, believes the workload can be managed and efficiencies within the Code Enforcement Division improved.

Due to the increased workload, Council **also approved salary adjustments**. The City Attorney's hourly rate was increased from \$90.78 per hour to \$99.86 per hour (10%) for a total yearly compensation of \$207,708. The City Attorney II classification wage was increased by 10% also, with the top of the range changing from \$66.44 per hour to \$73.09 per hour (\$11,517 per month to \$12,669 per month) to recognize e additional duties to be performed.

The additional cost of the salary increases is estimated at \$30,000 per year. Funding for this increase is supported by cannabis permit fees, and there is not supposed to be any impact to the General Fund.

City Manager Barry Tippin has said that he plans to return the position of the Develop Services Director to its "roots," which will focus on the Planning Department, Building Department, and Permit Center. The recruitment process for the new position will likely not begin until January, 2021.

County Gives Big Raises to Two Sheriff's Bargaining Units

On **August 18th**, the Shasta County Supervisors approved a new contract with the **Shasta County Deputy Sheriff's Association** covering the period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023, which includes the following positions:

Deputy Sheriff Trainee, Deputy Sheriff Entry Level, Deputy Sheriff Journey Level, District Attorney's Investigator I, District Attorney's Investigator II, Sergeant, and Supervising District Attorney's Investigator.

These positions will receive increases in pay as follows:

Effective September 13, 2020:	unit employee salaries increased by four percent (4%)
Effective September 12, 2021:	unit employee salaries increased by three percent (3%)
Effective September 11, 2022:	unit employee salaries increased by three percent (3%)

The annual cost of these raises is **\$1,477,000**, and Merit Pay was added, which also provides an **additional 5% of base pay** after one year of service and **additional 1% of base pay for additional years**, which will cost an additional **\$3,535,000** over the three contract years. The approved contract also includes an agreement for unit employees to pay an additional 1% towards the CalPERS employer contribution to the PERS pension, in addition to the employee's contribution. Staff believes the increases "will greatly assist with recruitment and retention."

As a result of these increases, on **October 6th**, the **Sheriff's Administrative Association**, who had asked to re-open bargaining with the County in order to address "compaction" issues between these two bargaining units, also received approval of salary increases from the County Supervisors for their unit (at an annual cost of **\$198,474**), and an agreement for unit employees to pay an additional 1% towards the CalPERS employer contribution to the PERS pension in addition to the employee's contribution. This unit includes the following positions:

Captain, Chief District Attorney's Investigator, Correctional Lieutenant-Deputy Sheriff, Deputy Chief Investigator and Lieutenant. These positions will receive increases in pay as follows:

Effective October 11, 2020:	unit employee salaries increased by seventeen and one half percent (17.5%)
Effective July 4, 2021:	unit employee salaries increased by four percent (4%)
Effective July 3, 2022:	unit employee salaries increased by three percent (3%)
Effective July 2, 2023:	unit employee salaries increased by three percent (3%)

Apparently, the adjustments make the new salary ranges competitive with comparable agencies, and there are enough funds to pay for current and future increases. The affected departments "will budget the expense in their respective budgets."

City of Redding To Apply for Panorama Park Grant Funding

On October 6th, Redding City Council approved the submittal of an application to the Statewide Park Development Program for a grant that would allow for the construction of a new park on a 10.53 acre parcel located at 950 Lake Boulevard. The grant application is due by December 14, 2020.

The grant application will request up to **\$8.5 million** for the construction of a new large neighborhood park and recreation facility known as **Panorama Park and Field House** (gymnasium). The project will include park amenities such as trails, landscaping, playground, and parking. The Field House is planned to be about 20,000 square feet of gym space (enough to accommodate two basketball courts) and 5,000 square feet of classroom, restroom, storage, and reception space. This gymnasium would be Redding's **first public gymnasium** and community center. It would also address the service area gap in the northwest quadrant of the City, providing recreational opportunities for the residents of the Lake Boulevard area.

The grant guidelines require a match for construction or indoor facilities. Based on the current project cost estimates, a **\$1.5 million match** will be required to complete the project. This match funding will come from the Parks Development Fund.

If awarded the grant, the new park and facility will require new funding for operations and maintenance. Staff estimates the early years will cost close to \$200,000 annually and grow to \$300,000 over time as the facilities wear and require more repairs and maintenance. If approved, the ongoing operations and maintenance funding will need to be budgeted beginning in fiscal year 2023-24. This cost would be a general fund expense with some offset from facility and rental income. No additional funding sources have been identified to pay for these expenses.

Public engagement is a vital part of the application process for the Statewide Park Development Program. The City of Redding is asking community members to share their thoughts on what amenities they would like to see realized in the park by attending any or all of the **five public in-person or Zoom meetings scheduled**. For those who can't attend the meetings, there is an online survey available (www.cityofredding.org/panoramapark) to capture public opinion. The scheduled meetings are as follows: October 21st, 7pm—8 pm Zoom meeting; October 24th, 10am-12pm Community meeting at 950 Lake Blvd; October 28th, 7pm—8pm Zoom meeting; October 29th, 2:30pm—4:00 pm Community meeting at 950 Lake Blvd.

Shasta County Zogg Fire Update

On September 27, 2020, the Zogg Fire ignited in Shasta County north of Igo. Winds carried the fire south across 56,000 acres into Tehama County. Damaged and destroyed structures have now been inventoried through the Cal Fire Damage Inspection Program (DINS) and the results of the inspection are listed in what is referred to as the "DINS" list. Currently, the tally includes 102 destroyed homes. Remaining ash and debris pose a threat to health and the environment. Underlying property owners are typically responsible for removal and proper disposal of fire debris.

On October 20th, the Shasta County Supervisors approved the establishment of the **Shasta County Zogg Fire Debris Disposal Program**. The Program will provide financial assistance on behalf of owners of private property within the Zogg Fire area for removal of fire damaged debris from parcels listed having a single family residence, mobile home, or manufactured home that was at least 25% destroyed. A demolition permit is required. The typical demolition fee of up to \$122 per parcel will be waived, and a voucher for tipping fees at the nearby West Central Landfill of up to \$2,000 per parcel for disposal of fire damaged debris will be provided for up to 100 vouchers.

There are also 230 outbuildings or other structures that were destroyed. This County fire debris disposal program will only provide a maximum of one fee waiver and one voucher per parcel with one or more destroyed houses thereon.

The County has submitted a formal request (which is still pending) to CalOES for direct assistance to provide fire debris removal service for the Zogg Fire. Alternately, property owners may wish to perform cleanup of their own properties without State or other assistance. In that case, demolition permits would be required and all fire debris and waste would need to be hauled to an appropriate disposal facility, and the West Central Landfill can receive most of the anticipated waste.

If CalOES does approve fire debris removal assistance, partially cleaned parcels may not be eligible to participate or otherwise receive government assistance for cleanup and removal.

There was a Zogg Fire meeting held on October 22nd at Igo Elementary School to provide information and answer questions for those who lost their homes in the fire, and want to know what the clean-up process will look like for debris.

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 Anderson Asked To Provide Water Service For New County Fire Station—The County of Shasta has secured funding for a new County Fire Station (Station 47) and has an agreement with Sierra Pacific Industries to create and acquire a new 1.5 acre parcel on Riverside Avenue northwest of the Ox Yoke Road and Riverside Avenue intersection, which is located in unincorporated Shasta County. The County plans to build a two-bay station that will be staffed 24/7 by CalFire.



During the October 6th Anderson City Council meeting, the County requested water service from the City of Anderson, which requires 1) an agreement with the County for Anderson to provide services outside of its boundaries, and 2) an approval from the Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to authorize such an extension of services. Initiating such a service extension requires a LAFCO petition from the City including an application, a deposit for processing costs, a plan for extension of services, extension exhibits, a CEQA determination, and a City approved agreement with the County to not oppose a future annexation. The result was that the Council **approved** a Resolution requesting LAFCO to initiate proceedings for the water extension outside of Anderson City limits, determined that the proposed water line extension is categorically exempt from CEQA, and authorized City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with the County and an annexation agreement with LAFCO.

Transportation Infrastructure Agreement Approved for River Crossing Marketplace—On October 20th, Redding City Council approved the transportation infrastructure agreement with Costco Wholesale Corporation and Rich Development Enterprises (Costco-Rich) for the I-5/South Bonnyview interchange and South Bonnyview Road and Bechelli Lane improvements. The total cost associated with the transportation improvements associated with the River Crossing Marketplace Project to be located at this intersection, including project development and construction, is \$18.4 million. Costco-Rich traffic impact fees are \$3.2 million, and \$4 million was already expended on the east side with the completion of the northbound I-5 ramp widening associated with the Churn Creek Marketplace project. The remaining balance will be funded from Traffic Impact Fee bond revenues approved by Council in April, 2019. A cooperative agreement with CalTrans is being negotiated to provide funding for existing deficiencies within the interchange. Construction of the improvements should begin in summer 2021 and be completed the following spring.

Downtown Redding Specific Plan To Be Updated—On October 20th, Redding City Council authorized staff to return to the Planning Commission for a discussion of updates to the Downtown Redding Specific Plan. In 2018, Council adopted a major update to the Plan, which was originally adopted in 2001, and amended in 2010. Since the adoption of the update in 2018, the downtown has experienced unprecedented investment by both the private and public sectors. Since the plan was implemented, staff now better understands the demands and limitations of the current market. The following items will be reviewed: 1) Revisiting land use regulations (there are many prohibited uses); 2) Adding a discretionary permit for development to improve coordination; 3) Re-evaluating the Plan's area boundary; 4) Improving clarity of the Plan with general language clean-up; 5) Other topics that may come up in the course of discussion. A date has not been set as of this writing for this discussion.

Hilltop Springs Senior Care Facility Breaks Ground—On October 8, 2019, Mosaic Management received approval to move forward with the Hilltop Springs Senior Care Facility, which was originally approved in 2007, by the Redding Planning Commission. Construction has now started on the project located on ten acres at **7 Hilltop Drive** in Redding. The facility will include 209,417 square feet, with a 77-room three-story independent living wing, a three-story 87-room assisted living wing, and a single-story 34-bed Alzheimer's unit.



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