



The VOICE

Your independent news source

Greater Shasta County, CA

Volume VIII, Issue III

www.shastavoices.com

August 2014

Did you know...

- There were 14 new single family home permits issued in Redding during the month of July. This brings the total number of new single family home permits issued this year to 72, which is 6 more than this time last year.
- Six candidates will be running for 3 seats on the Redding City Council. The election will be held on November 4, 2014. The candidates are: Incumbents Francie Sullivan and Patrick Jones, challengers Brent Weaver, Michael Dacquisto, Kristen Schreder, and Mike Quinn.
- Shasta County's unemployment rate in July went from 8.6 percent to 9.2 percent. The County's jobless rate in July 2013 was 11 percent. Professional and business services, and state government were the only industry sectors that experienced month-over-month job gains.

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Redding Council Puts Sales Tax Measure F on November 2014 Ballot

At the July 15th Redding City Council meeting, our Mayor called for a special meeting to be held on August 4th at 3:00 p.m. in the Council chambers. The specific purpose of this meeting was to discuss putting a one-half cent sales tax increase on the General Election ballot this November, to address the degradation of our community by the criminal element, including vandalism, overly-aggressive panhandlers, assaults, burglary, and offensive behavior. This could generate over \$10 million annually. The measure as written, however, addressed only AB 109 felons.

At the special meeting on August 4th, Shasta VOICES presented some changes to the verbiage in the Mayor's proposed measure that could eliminate future challenges and protect the true intent and expenditure of revenues generated by such a measure. We suggested: 1) a **one-quarter** cent sales tax increase instead of one-half cent; 2) extending the measure to cover **all criminal activity** instead of only AB 109 felons; and 3) funding **offender work** programs rather than community clean-up programs.

The Mayor's measure failed to pass by a 3-2 vote (a 4/5 majority was required), with Councilors Jones and Cadd dissenting.

Councilman Gary Cadd, however, embraced the Shasta VOICES changes, and made a motion to adopt a measure with those changes. That measure passed unanimously. It was a rare compromise approved by all Council members that could generate over \$5 million annually.

Therefore, **Measure F** will appear on the November 4, 2014 General Election ballot. After much discussion and compromise, here is the final version of the measure:

“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?”

Our local crime and public nuisance issues need to be addressed, and this would be a good start. Measure F will need a two-thirds majority vote to pass in November. If it passes, with the additional funding, Redding Police Chief Paoletti could implement his 14 point “Course of Action Proposal” for crime prevention and law enforcement.

Other programs also need to be discussed and implemented throughout Shasta County so that a comprehensive crime reduction plan is adopted. If you arrest more people, you must: have someplace to hold them; have staff in the district attorney's office to prosecute; have staff in the public defender's office to defend them; have probation services; have Marshall's office staff for the courts; have courtroom space; and provide mental health and substance abuse services, just to name a few of the issues that must be addressed.

This is not just a City of Redding problem. It's a countywide problem and needs to be addressed as such, with all three cities and the County being active participants in solving it.

Redding Implements “State Required” Drought Ordinance Effective immediately

An **Urgency Ordinance** was adopted at the August 5th Redding City Council meeting in response to Governor Brown’s proclaimed “State of Emergency” due to California’s severe drought conditions and low water supplies.

On July 15, 2014, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved emergency regulations that prohibit the following activities:

- The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public sidewalks, roadways, parking lots or structures.
- The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.
- The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks.
- The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.

In addition, the emergency regulations include the requirement that urban water suppliers impose mandatory restrictions on outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water. These regulations allow for penalties of up to \$500 for water users that fail to comply with the restrictions. In addition, failure by water agencies to comply with the State Water Board is subject to up to a \$10,000 per day penalty.

The City of Redding not only imposed the above four restrictions, but two others:

1. Outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with hose-end **sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems** is permitted **only between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.** Customers whose street addresses end with an odd number may water only on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and only within the permitted time period. Customers whose street addresses end with even numbers may water only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and only within the permitted time period.
2. Low volume outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf be means of a **hand-held hose** with a **manual** or automatic shut-off nozzle operated by one person, a bucket or water can with a capacity of five gallons or less, or a manually operated drip irrigation system is permitted only between the hours of **6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

The enforcement of these regulations will be “reactive” rather than “proactive.” In other words, there will not be any staff members assigned to go out and monitor water usage. Rather, there is a section on the water utility’s website that says “Please Report Incidents of Water Waste Here.” Apparently there has been a high incident of reports before any of these new regulations were in place, because the site goes on to further say, “We appreciate you taking the time to inform us of water waste you have observed in the community. Be advised that, due to the increasing number of e-mails and phone call messages, we cannot respond to each report individually. Reported incidents will be prioritized and we will make every effort to respond in a timely manner. Thank you for your patience!”

At the Council meeting, the following procedure was suggested. Penalties were also suggested, but Council felt they were too high, and instead approved the reduced penalties below at the August 19th Council meeting.

- **Enforcement:** 1) yellow door hanger, warning; 2) red door hanger, warning; 3) registered letter, notice to correct/cure; 4) administrative citation.
- 1st penalty \$50; 2nd penalty \$75; 3rd penalty \$100.

The City plans to notify the public about these new restrictions and regulations through it’s Council meeting coverage, press releases, websites, its Redding Connects online newsletter, and a special mailing to all customers explaining the drought restriction rules.

No Short-Term Fix For Local Justice System

It is just not possible to have enough money to house all the criminals forever, either at the State or local level. Our justice system in California is changing to reflect this reality. Unfortunately, the State, in finding ways to reduce its own criminal justice system costs, has chosen to shorten criminal sentences and provide early releases to reduce their inmate populations. Those early released criminals are sent back to their County of origin.

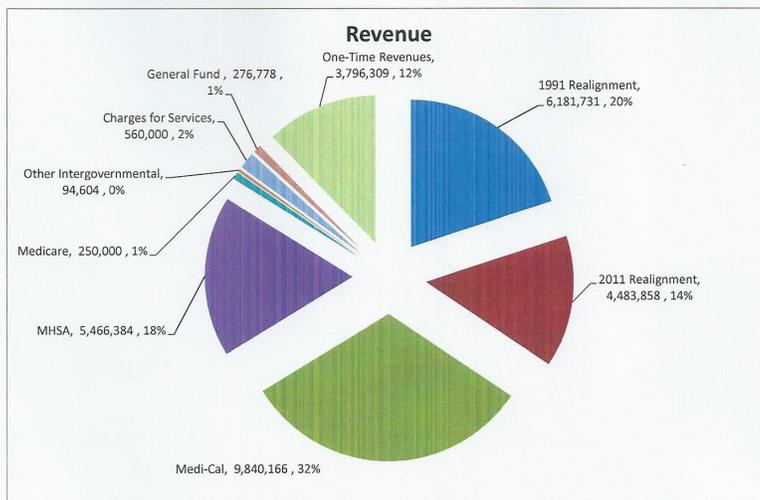
This brings non-violent felons back to our local jails, along with parolees, all who committed their crimes in Shasta County. But, the State doesn't provide the necessary funding to the local jurisdictions to either house these people at the local level, or provide the rehabilitation programs needed, including mental health and substance abuse.

The result, as we are all too familiar with in Shasta County, is that we are saddled with repeat offenders who rarely suffer any consequence for committing non-violent crimes. There is more demand for jail beds than supply, and only the most violent of offenders stay in jail.

So, what can we do about our local crime wave? Doing nothing is not an option. According to Shasta County officials, simply throwing money at it won't solve the problem. This is a long-term problem, and requires long-term solutions, with some sort of "consequence" involved. It will require a lot of resources, and a comprehensive plan of action.

For example, for fiscal year 2014-2015, a total of \$30,949,830 in funding for mental health, child welfare, alcohol/drug programs, adult protective services and other related services is received from various sources, as seen in this chart:

Shasta County HHSA
FY 14-15 Budgeted Revenues & Expenses for Mental Health and MHSA



Unfortunately, and unbelievably, even this amount of funding is not enough to support the need. There are restrictions attached to some of the funds, which are so complex that we have trouble even explaining them. And, not unlike the lack of jail space for all the criminals, there is more demand than supply of beds and other mental health services needed throughout the State.

An example of just why the costs are so high for mental health services is this: The cost to house and treat one person for one year at the Napa State Hospital is \$275,000. The cost to house one person for one year for a privately run mental health hospital is \$75,000. In Shasta County, there are 180 people per month evaluated for mental health issues. Thirty percent of those are hospitalized for an average of nine days. That's 60 people each month. The County pays all costs for these services. And we have only one private facility locally with 16 beds available.

There is also a lack of rehabilitation programs for prison inmates and parolees. This results in public safety consequences. More than 80 percent of all inmates currently in prison will eventually be paroled to local communities, most within a couple of years of being sent to prison. California has one of the highest recidivism rates in the nation, with almost 60 percent of released offenders returning to prison within three years. Well-designed rehabilitation programs such as drug treatment, academic and vocational education, and cognitive behavioral therapy have been proven to help reduce recidivism when available.

There have been suggestions that Shasta County ought to ask voters for their own local sales tax specifically dedicated to building and operating another jail to increase the number of available beds. Unfortunately, a one quarter cent sales tax would bring in maybe \$800,000 per year, and a one-half cent sales tax perhaps \$1.6 million per year. Currently, the total amount of local sales tax revenues received by the County is about \$2 million per year. This revenue source will never be ample enough to support such an expenditure.

Some County officials believe that the answers lie in focusing efforts on those *preventative* programs that are more effective and less expensive than just adding "beds" to solve the demand versus supply problems. They believe in putting resources where they get the biggest return for investment. Two such programs that have proven to be highly successful in Shasta County are the Adult Addicted Offender Program, and the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Program.

Shasta VOICES will continue with a series of articles on this subject matter in our next few issues of the "VOICE."

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:

- **Moody Flats Quarry Project**—A first amendment to the agreement with the Moody Flats Quarry project to fund the required Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has extended the term of the agreement until certification of the EIR, or to June 30, 2015, whichever comes first. The initial agreement was approved by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors on November 15, 2011. Additional time has become necessary to complete the EIR process. The proposed project site is in the Mountain Gate area of Shasta County, about one mile west of the Old Oregon Trail/Interstate 5 interchange, and adjacent to the north city boundary of the City of Shasta Lake. The proposal is for a 345 acre quarry with a 75 acre processing area including an aggregate crushing, screening and washing plant, a Portland cement concrete plant, and asphalt concrete plant, a recycled construction materials processing plant, truck and railroad loading facilities and access roads.
- **LAFCO Approves South Anderson Annexation**—The Shasta County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Board voted 5-2 to approve the City of Anderson's request to annex 385 acres on the southeast side of the City, with close proximity to I-5, Highway 273 and the railroad, to create a large industrial park. Most of the land is owned by Roseburg Forest Products, which operated a sawmill there for years until 1993. The property has power, water wells, gas lines and railroad tracks running through it. The 385 acres, about half the size of Redding's Stillwater Business Park, is designated industrial or existing residential, except for about 60 acres that is designated for commercial. Immediate development of the property is not expected, other than developing it as an industrial park. But the Anderson Fire Protection District took issue with the negotiation process, saying it was left out of the discussions and would not receive any additional funds to provide fire protection services to the annexed land it would cover. They now feel they have no choice but to resolve the matter in courts. If a lawsuit is filed, a judge could place the annexation on hold until the matter is resolved.
- **Anselmo Vineyards Receives First Zoning Change Approval**—On August 14th, a 4-1 majority of Shasta County Planning Commissioners approved the Seven Hills Land and Cattle Company's request (Anselmo Vineyards property) for a zoning change on a 67-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 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. Now the application is automatically scheduled for another public hearing, action and final approval by the Board of Supervisors. That Board of Supervisors meeting date has been scheduled for September 9, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

The property owner, Reverage Anselmo, plans to sell the property as soon as the requirements under a \$1.35 million settlement reached with the County in April are met. Part of the agreement requires that the referenced 67 acres of the property be rezoned. He has said that he is not going to build anything else in Shasta County. In fact, the entire 2400+ acres that is the Anselmo Winery and Seven Hills Ranch is already listed and scheduled for Auction on September 25, 2014 by Southeby's International Realty.

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We depend on membership and other contributions.

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