



Local News RoundUp

September 24, 2013

REDEVELOPMENT

[Roseland Demolition, Toxic Removal up for Approval \(*The Press Democrat*\)](#)

Work on a long-stagnant redevelopment project in Santa Rosa's Roseland neighborhood could begin later this year under a contract up for approval Tuesday.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors is set to sign off on a \$1.2 million deal covering demolition and environmental cleanup on a portion of the former Albertson's shopping center off Sebastopol Road.

[City May Sue State over Costco Money \(*Ukiah Daily Journal*\)](#)

The City of Ukiah may still sue the state of California for the right to use several million dollars worth of bond proceeds toward the traffic improvements needed to bring a Costco store to Airport Park Boulevard. "We are still in disagreement with the Department of Finance (DOF) in regards to the bond proceeds," Assistant City Manager Sage Sangiacomo told the Ukiah City Council last week while it met as the Successor Agency to the former Ukiah Redevelopment Agency (URA).

[\\$85 Million Added to Port of Long Beach's Middle Harbor Price Tag \(*Long Beach Business Journal*\)](#)

Port staff is projecting additional overruns of \$85 million to the Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project budget due to construction challenges and underestimated project costs. The Middle Harbor project was already \$29.5 million over the original budget of \$1.2 billion as of June.

A presentation by Sean Gamette, acting chief harbor engineer and acting assistant managing director of engineering, broke down the costs between Phases 1 and 2 of the project at the September 16 board of harbor commissioners meeting. An estimated increase of \$30 million is needed to complete Phase 1, which is currently underway and scheduled for completion in 2015.

BANKRUPTCY

[San Bernardino: City Takes Residents' Suggestions on Bankruptcy \(*The Press-Enterprise*\)](#)

After more than a year of fighting to win bankruptcy protection, San Bernardino city officials began the process Monday, Sept. 23, of trying to figure out how to pay the city's debts.

A federal bankruptcy judge has set an Oct. 15 deadline for the city to submit a draft plan declaring how it will treat thousands of creditors to which it owes millions of dollars.

The proposal will set the stage for negotiations with the city's creditors that will eventually lead to a plan of adjustment. That document must outline how much of its debt the city can pay and establish a stable financial base to exit bankruptcy.

COMPLIANCE & REPORTING

[The FPPC's New Role: Internet Cop \(*Fox & Hounds*\)](#)

Last week, as a parting gift to its chairwoman, Ann Ravel (who is slated to be confirmed to the Federal Election Commission), the California Fair Political Practices Commission enacted a sweeping proposal to regulate online political communication. The move makes California the first state to attempt to require the disclosure of online communication by someone paid by a campaign to engage in social media.

IMMIGRATION

[Pew Reports Immigrant Numbers May be Rising Again \(*San Francisco Chronicle*\)](#)

The Pew Research Center, the premier organization that tracks immigration statistics, [reported](#) Monday that the number of immigrants entering the country illegally may have begun to rise again, after plunging during the recession.

PENSIONS / EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

[Friday Deadline for Ballots in CalPERS' Board Election \(Sacramento Bee\)](#)

The deadline to return ballots for CalPERS' Board of Administration election is Friday.

Harvey Robinson is opposing incumbent Michael Bilbrey for one of the two positions up for re-election on the 13-member board. J.J. Jelincic is running to keep his post against challengers Andrew Hopkins, Lorenzo Rios and Kumar Sah.

[Officials Across U.S. Await Decision in San Jose Pension Reform Case \(California Healthline\)](#)

Government officials and municipal bankruptcy experts across the U.S. are awaiting a judge's decision on whether to allow the city of San Jose to reduce pensions and retiree health benefits for public workers to help cut costs, the *New York Times* reports.

[San Jose Mayor Leading Push to Roll Back Pensions \(Sacramento Bee\)](#)

A new push to ask California voters to let state and local governments roll back pensions for current employees is taking shape, with San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed leading the charge.

[County Reaches Deal with SEIU \(San Diego Union Tribune\)](#)

San Diego County and its largest employee union have reached a tentative deal on a new four-year contract.

The Service Employees International Union Local 221 and county are set to ratify the deal in the next several days.

The agreement calls for a one-time cash bonus in the first and second years equal to 2 percent of a worker's annual salary.

REVENUE & TAXATION / FINANCE

[Sides Squabble Over Tax Measure \(Stockton Record\)](#)

The leading opponent to Stockton's tax measure headed for the Nov. 5 ballot said Monday he doesn't believe the city will fulfill a promise of significantly expanding its police force with new officers.

CITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

[Tracy Looks to Property Owners to Develop Downtown \(Tracy Press\)](#)

Andrew Malik, director of development services for the city of Tracy, stood on the sidewalk of 11th Street near E Street, looking east and then west down one of Tracy's main thoroughfares. Despite empty spaces, some that have languished for years, and entire blocks of downtown for sale, the city director of development services was encouraged by what he saw.

[Meeting Wednesday Allows Public Input to City Plans \(Oroville Mercury-Register\)](#)

A public hearing Wednesday will give folks a chance to learn about the city's General Plan and zoning code updates and to suggest the most appropriate locations for "mixed use" land designations.

Mixed use could include apartments above a business in a commercial zone, or a smog shop or grocery store in a residential zone.

ENERGY

[Energy Project Returns to Planners \(Santa Maria Times\)](#)

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission will take another look at Santa Maria Energy's plans to extract oil from the Orcutt hills when it meets Wednesday in Santa Barbara.

This will be the Planning Commission's third look at Santa Maria Energy's oil drilling and production plan for a project that would sink 110 new wells in the state designated Orcutt oil field east of Highway 135 not far from the intersection with Graciosa Road.

HOUSING

[Mortgage Relief Programs Help Nearly 4,000 Ventura County Homeowners \(*Ventura County Star*\)](#)

More than \$18.4 billion in mortgage assistance has been received by 84,182 troubled California homeowners as a result of the settlement deal California reached in early 2012 with some of the nation's biggest banks, a new report shows.

HEALTH

[Long Beach Health Department Director Kelly Colopy Discusses City's Public Health Concerns, Priorities \(*Long Beach Business Journal*\)](#)

As one of only four cities in the California with its own health department (the other three being in Berkeley, Pasadena and Vernon), Long Beach offers services to support a community that has 22 percent of its population living in poverty and about 30 percent of its adults considered obese. Assistant Editor Tiffany Rider sat down with Colopy on September 18 to discuss her new role, her perspective on public health issues and her priorities for making Long Beach a healthier place to live and work.

IN OTHER CITY NEWS

[PG&E Joins with EVI to Unveil Utility Industry's First Electric Hybrid Bucket Trucks \(*Local TV TSPN Amador County*\)](#)

Electric Vehicles International (EVI), joined by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), unveiled the utility industry's first electric hybrid drivetrain Class 5 trucks today at an event at the manufacturer's facility in Stockton.

[San Diego Interim Mayor Todd Gloria Gives an Update on City Business \(*KPBS*\)](#)

It's been a busy month for San Diego Interim Mayor Todd Gloria — who took over running the city after Mayor Bob Filner resigned after a wave of sexual harassment allegations. During that stretch of time, Gloria has tackled a few popular policies put in place by the former mayor, including medical marijuana dispensaries and food trucks.

[City Council Members and Officials Huddle, Set Goals for Pasadena \(*Pasadena Now*\)](#)

Pasadena City Council members brainstormed with city officials Monday, at a strategic planning retreat to hash out the goals they want to accomplish in three years. Goals that made the list are: improve and maintain infrastructure, improve financial stability, complete funding and construction of the Rose Bowl renovation, improve the local economy and improve the quality of life and enhance public safety. The issues are not listed by priority.

[Santa Monica's Powerful Renters' Rights Group Chooses New Leadership \(*Santa Monica Lookout*\)](#)

After four years, former mayor Denny Zane has returned to the steering committee of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR), a group that he helped found 35 years ago and has since become the city's most powerful political organization.

One of the major themes at Sunday's meeting was the importance of maintaining Santa Monica's stock of affordable housing, a goal which is listed second on the group's 2012 platform.

The problem is especially daunting after State legislation ended the City's Redevelopment Agency (RDA) last year, along with 400 others throughout California.