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**Local News Round-Up**

**August 23, 2013**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

[Windsor Council Won't Back Assault Weapons Ban \(\*The Press Democrat\*\)](#)

Gun-control advocates failed this week to convince the Windsor Town Council to support a federal ban on assault weapons when a majority of council members abstained from voting on the matter.

## **CITY SERVICES**

[Turning on the Tap in Pismo Beach to Cost More \(\*Times Press Recorder\*\)](#)

By year's end, it will cost more to turn on the tap, wash dishes, take a shower and flush a toilet in Pismo Beach.

With a 5-0 vote Tuesday, the City Council adopted a new ordinance raising water by 41/2 percent and wastewater rates by 51/2 percent.

[Our Voice: Graying of Tracy Requires Investment \(\*Tracy Press\*\)](#)

The City of Tracy Tuesday voted to form a three-member senior steering committee to study senior issues. Council further approved \$10,000 to pay for consultants to work with the committee. The group is expected to present a report in January based on issues discussed during two proposed town hall meetings.

## **PENSIONS / EMPLOYEE RELATIONS**

[Visalia Firefighters, Police get Raises \(\*Visalia Times-Delta\*\)](#)

This month, the city and bargaining units for Visalia police and firefighters finalized new, two-year labor contracts that will restore the 4 percent they lost three years ago — but not right away.

[Agreement Reached on DWP Contract Would Save \\$6.1 Billion \(\*Los Angeles Our Weekly\*\)](#)

An agreement reached between the city and the union representing workers at the Department of Water and Power would save the utility \$6.1 billion over three decades, officials announced today.

## **CITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

[Sacramento Airport Could Affect Woodland Development \(\*Daily Democrat\*\)](#)

As the crow flies, Woodland is only a few minutes from the Sacramento International Airport. It's also just about as close for residents on the city's southeast side.

And that proximity to airplanes and flight lanes is a problem for people, birds and the city itself.

[Instead of Opening Modesto's Tenth Street Plaza to Cars, Develop a Real Plan \(\*Modesto Bee\*\)](#)

On Aug. 13, the Modesto City Council voted 4-2 to open Tenth Street Plaza to car traffic for a one-year test. Public response has been almost unanimously opposed, but plaza merchants,

especially the biggest ones, argued that cars will increase business.

[Roseville Set to Unveil \\$4.5 Million Town Square \(\*Sacramento Bee\*\)](#)

Roseville and downtown Sacramento may seem worlds apart, but with the opening of a new town square Saturday – capped by a Journey tribute band – Roseville officials are hoping to bring a little urban vibe to suburbia.

[City Council Approves ‘Urban Village’ Plan for Jordan Downs \(\*Los Angeles Wave\*\)](#)

The City Council has approved an ambitious \$1 billion plan aimed at turning Jordan Downs, a 700-unit public housing project in Watts, into an “urban village” of affordable and market-rate homes, retail storefronts and community recreational facilities.

[Pismo OKs Changes to Mixed-Use Project \(\*Time Press Recorder\*\)](#)

Substantial changes to one of the largest-ever mixed-use projects planned in Pismo Beach were given a green light by a unanimous City Council on Tuesday.

[Palo Alto Eyes Higher Standards for New Buildings \(\*Palo Alto Online\*\)](#)

Members of the two boards acknowledged in a joint session that the city can do much better when it comes to new buildings, particularly along El Camino Real.

## **HOUSING**

[S.J. Housing Market: We’re No. 1 \(\*Stockton Record\*\)](#)

San Joaquin County home price gains led the nation's metropolitan areas with a one-year increase of more than 19 percent, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's House Price Index.

[Lead Paint: All Over but the Lawsuits \(\*Los Angeles Times\*\)](#)

A case unfolding in San Jose over the perils of lead paint is the last of its kind in the nation, and it should have died long ago.

[Orinda Affordable Housing Plan Disputed \(\*Contra Costa Times\*\)](#)

City leaders are moving forward with fine-tuning a fiercely debated housing plan amid calls from some residents to start the whole process anew and get more community input.

[2011 Affordable Housing Project Revived \(\*Whittier Daily News\*\)](#)

The city is dusting off a 2011 deal to develop nine affordable housing units on the southeast corner of Comstock Avenue and Penn Street in Uptown.

## **WATER**

[County Loses Appeal in Storm Water Cleanup Case \(\*Los Angeles Wave\*\)](#)

A federal appeals panel has ruled that Los Angeles County is responsible for cleaning up two polluted Southland waterways.

In its opinion, a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals found that untreated storm water and urban runoff discharged into various watercourses has resulted in excessive

levels of aluminum, copper, cyanide, zinc and fecal bacteria in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers.

## **REDEVELOPMENT**

### [Sonoma County's Lawsuit Over Springs, Roseland Redevelopment Projects to be Heard in Court \(\*The Press Democrat\*\)](#)

Sonoma County's lawsuit seeking to retain about \$14 million in tax revenue to complete two high-profile redevelopment projects is set for its day in court Friday.

### [San Bernardino: Judge Denies Redevelopment Fund Protection \(\*The Press-Enterprise\*\)](#)

A federal bankruptcy judge denied a request on Thursday, Aug. 22, by San Bernardino officials to block state efforts to collect \$15.2 million in disputed redevelopment funds from the city.

### [For Santa Monica to Keep Vital Properties, More Obstacles Ahead \(\*Santa Monica Lookout\*\)](#)

The State Department of Finance (DOF) wants Santa Monica to jump through more hoops in order to keep some of its former redevelopment agency's (RDA) properties, including six downtown parking structures.

## **REVENUE & TAXATION / FINANCE**

### [Naming Rights are for Sale in Temecula \(\*The Press-Enterprise\*\)](#)

As reported in our fine newspaper recently, Temecula officials are considering a proposal to allow sponsors to purchase the naming rights to city owned facilities, parks and events such as parades, rod runs, er, I mean rod run, and concerts.

### [Santa Maria City Budget Shows Signs of Fiscal Health \(\*Lompoc Record\*\)](#)

The city of Santa Maria finished out this last fiscal year with early signs of recovery from the Great Recession, but still took some big financial hits and ended up skirting red ink by using its reserves, officials said.

### [Poll: Most Oppose Sales Increase of Any Kind \(\*Petaluma Argus-Courier\*\)](#)

The majority of those responding to this week's poll did not support a sales tax increase in Petaluma. Most of those who did support a tax increase said that they'd rather see a specific tax, where voters are guaranteed how the money will be spent.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### [Berkeley: Community Meetings on Bus Line Upgrades \(\*Oakland Tribune\*\)](#)

A pair of community meetings to gather public input on potential improvements to the Line 51B bus corridor will be hosted by AC Transit and the Public Works Department. The first meeting will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 28 at La Quinta Inn, 920 University Ave. The second is 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 29 at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave.

## **EMINENT DOMAIN**

[Hercules Starts Eminent Domain Process in Effort to Finish Stalled Four-Story Project \(\*Contra Costa Times\*\)](#)

The City Council took a first step this week toward securing by eminent domain a construction and maintenance easement needed to complete a long-stalled development, but the lawyer for the targeted property indicated a willingness to negotiate, leaving open the possibility of avoiding a court fight.

**IN OTHER CITY NEWS**

[Santa Monica Seeks Applicants to help Save the Civic \(\*Santa Monica Lookout\*\)](#)

The City is seeking applicants to serve on a new nine-member advisory board tasked with coming up with ways to save Santa Monica's storied Civic Auditorium.

[Survey: Californians Would Pay More for Infrastructure \(\*Sacramento Business Journal\*\)](#)

Californians say they're willing to [pay more for infrastructure improvements](#), according to a new survey released this week.

[Negative Stereotypes of Oakland are Part of the Problem \(\*San Francisco Chronicle\*\)](#)

Bringing attention to the dire circumstances facing low-income young African American men in Oakland and elsewhere is crucial, but sensational headlines that fuel negative stereotypes and misinterpret the data make the situation worse.

[Community Development Professional to Explore Strategies for Transforming Low-Income Communities \(\*Presentation Master\*\)](#)

More than six hundred community development practitioners are expected to gather at the Novogradac New Markets Tax Credit Conference, in New Orleans Oct. 10-11, to discuss tax reform, pending legislation to make the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program permanent and the recent announcement of as much as \$8.5 billion in NMTC funding available for community development investment. New markets tax credits have been used in more than 2,600 businesses and 3,990 real estate investments between 2003 and 2011, according to data released in July by the Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, which administers the NMTC program.

[Clearlake City Council Ousts Spittler as Mayor; Overton to Fulfill Remaining Months of Term \(\*Lake County News\*\)](#)

A majority of Clearlake City Council members on Thursday night voted to remove Jeri Spittler from the mayor's seat, citing issues that included disrespect for fellow council members, difficult working conditions and the failure to follow protocol.

[Should It Really Be Easier to Remove Local Officials? \(\*Fox & Hounds\*\)](#)

The LA Times' George Skelton argues in a recent column that the case of San Diego Mayor Bob Filner is evidence that California local governments need more tools for removing officeholders. Filner, in his view, was too hard to remove from office, given the expense and difficulty of recalling mayors in San Diego. Skelton wants an impeachment process that would allow city councils, perhaps via unanimous vote, to remove mayors.

That sounds reasonable in the narrow context of Filner. But it looks counterproductive when you

look more broadly at local elections in California.

[California Business Roundtable Launches the Center for Jobs and Economy \(\*Fox & Hounds\*\)](#)

The California Business Roundtable announced today the launch of the California Center for Jobs and the Economy. The Center will provide a comprehensive view of California's employment picture by region as well as by demographics and industry sectors. The website provides a new data tool that allows users to visually see what is occurring in the state with respect to employment, wages, and other economic data across the regions, by county and by State Senate and Assembly districts.