



8380 LAGUNA PALMS WAY • ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA 95758  
TEL: 916.683.7111 • FAX: 916.691.2001 • www.elkgrovecity.org

October 8, 2008

To: Elk Grove Mayor and Council

From: Laura S. Gill, City Manager *Laura S. Gill*

Subject: **City Manager's General Administrative Report for October 8, 2008**

This is a report by the City Manager to the Elk Grove City Council. This report provides information on issues affecting the City and the progress of City activities.

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Community Development Block Grant/HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The City is set to receive \$2.3 million dollars from HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which was enacted in 2008 to provide emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties. These are properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within communities. The grant monies can be used to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes and to rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop these homes in order to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of house values of neighboring homes. In order to take advantage of these funds, the City must amend the CDBG Action Plan for FY 2008/2009 by December 1, 2008. Staff is in the process of identifying program options for the use of these monies. The draft amended Action Plan will be made available to the public at the end of October and will be brought forward for City Council consideration in November.

Grant Line Interchange Grand Opening Ceremony and Celebration

The community is invited to help celebrate the opening of the new Grant Line Interchange on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. near Survey Road and East Stockton Boulevard. This interchange has been one of the City's top priority projects and is now complete. The interchange will improve traffic circulation in the southern portion of Elk Grove and is one step towards improving local infrastructure, both to better serve the existing community and to accommodate any planned growth within the City.

Update – Recruitments

As announced last week, I have filled two key positions in City government.

- ✓ Robert Lehner has been named as the new Police Chief. Chief Lehner comes to the City from the City of Eugene, Oregon, where he has been Police Chief for almost five years. Over the past two days, Chief Lehner has visited with Council Members and City staff to jump-start the transition.
- ✓ Patrick Blacklock has been named as the new Assistant City Manager for Development Services. Mr. Blacklock comes to the City from Cosumnes River College, where he is the Dean of Careers and Technology. Previously, Blacklock served as County Administrative Officer for the County of Amador for almost six years. During that time, Blacklock concurrently served as the County's Land Use Agency Director. Mr. Blacklock has also visited with City staff over the past week to begin the transition.

Recruitments are underway for the positions of Planning Director, Public Works Director/City Engineer, and Building Official. Applications will be accepted through Monday, October 13. My goal is to have the successful applicants on board by January 5, 2009.

Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Legislation Combating Metal Theft

In response to the increasing rate of metal theft throughout California, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a package of bills providing law enforcement with new tools to combat metal thieves stealing scrap metals from fire hydrants, utilities, manhole covers, agricultural equipment, guardrails and much more. The Governor signed AB 844, AB 1859, SB 691 and SB 447 all of which provide law enforcement with better tools to investigate and prosecute metal thefts. Detailed information about each of the new laws can be found on the Governor's web site at: <http://gov.ca.gov/bills/>.

I remain available to answer any questions you may have regarding this report.

