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February 25, 2009

To: Elk Grove Mayor and Council
From: Laura S. Gill, City Manager *Laura S. Gill*
Subject: **City Manager's General Administrative Report for February 25, 2009**

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.

FY09/10 Budget

I'm pleased to report that we concluded all five town hall meetings which were conducted to solicit feedback on the upcoming budget. These public outreach meetings solicited valuable input into what residents would like to see in the new budget.

In addition to those meetings, the City Council will hold two strategic planning sessions later this week. These planning meetings will allow the City Council, together with the City's Executive Team, to set priorities that will be reflected in the FY 2009-10 budget and supporting work plans. Meeting details are as follows:

Where: Elk Grove Library – 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Community Room
When: Friday, February 27 – 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 28 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fee Program and Development Industry

We have scheduled a series of weekly meetings with the development industry to discuss issues associated with establishing a sustainable fee program. To date, we have had two meetings and have discussed the methodology used to develop the cost estimates of the projects. We plan to discuss standards at our next meeting and address a variety of issues that impact the cost and implementation of the fee program. The group operates on a consensus approach where we try to agree on technical issues and identify policy issues where choices are available.

Long term, this group will also provide valuable input to address ongoing issues of the fee program as well as other development related activities. Lastly, it is hoped that this group will suggest opportunities that will enhance economic development efforts.

In addition, last week staff met with the rural community to discuss the Rural Road standards and the policies associated with the deletion of many of the rural roads from the fee program. We feel consensus has been reached with this group on the rural road issues and plan to keep this group engaged to help address rural issues associated with adoption of standards and projects.

Interagency Forum

On Thursday, March 19, 2009 from 9-12 p.m. in the Elk Grove City Council Chambers the City of Elk Grove (City) in partnership with the Building Industry Association (BIA) and Sacramento Builder's Exchange (SBX) will host a staff level interagency forum to discuss development related processes in the Elk Grove area. The purpose of the forum is to collaboratively discuss development related functions and to identify strategies that enhance development processes. It is hoped that this can be the first in a series of quarterly meetings that result in strengthened relationships and improved processes.

Old Town Foundation Forum

The Planning Department is in the process of completing a triennial review of the Old Town Special Planning Area (SPA). As part of this effort, the Elk Grove Old Town Foundation expressed an interest in investigating the formation of a redevelopment agency (RDA) as a tool to enhance the Old Town area. On February 24, the Foundation hosted a forum to further explore redevelopment and its potential impacts. City staff participated and provided a brief update on the Triennial Review. California Redevelopment Association (CRA) representative Tom Hart provided a summary presentation on redevelopment and its functions. The Forum concluded by noting that redevelopment will be further discussed at the March 25 City Council meeting as part of the Triennial Review. To prepare for this upcoming agenda item, City staff has engaged a consulting firm to evaluate which, if any, areas in Elk Grove might qualify for redevelopment. On March 25, this information will be presented for City Council consideration as the Council evaluates the Triennial Review and the Foundation's associated interest in redevelopment.

Elk Grove Spring Cleaning is Just Around the Corner

The Community Enhancement and Code Compliance Division will be launching their 2nd Annual Elk Grove Spring Cleaning in March. The primary focus will be the enforcement of the nuisance code in an effort to prevent blight in Elk Grove. Community Enhancement Field Inspectors will be looking for properties with junk and debris, inoperable or abandoned vehicles, abandoned homes and unmaintained yards, such as high weeds and overgrown grass.

Spring Cleaning is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and making Elk Grove a place where everyone feels proud to call home.

Elk Grove City Council
February 25, 2009

The Community Enhancement and Code Compliance Division encourages residents to take a proactive approach on their property and abate these violations. If you have any questions regarding Spring Cleaning, please contact the Community Enhancement and Code Compliance Program at 687-3023.

Promenade Parkway Lights

The City has received a few inquiries regarding the flashing red signals on Promenade Parkway. Those signals are still under the ownership of the mall developer, General Growth Properties. The City is working with the developer to implement a timing plan that will take the signals off the flashing red mode. The plan is to have this done before March. Additionally, we are working with the same developer to make sure they finish all the infrastructure work (roadways, drainage, and sewer) after which the City will take on the responsibility of maintenance.

Building Official

Rick Renfro, the City's Building Official, has been elected to the Board of Directors for CALBO (California Building Officials). Serving as the Board's 2nd Vice President, Rick is now a member of an elite group including only nine representatives from all 450 cities and counties in California. During his term, Rick will have a hand in developing statewide building codes as well as interacting directly with state legislators to ensure fair representation for any mandates or programs that affect local governments.

I remain available to answer any questions regarding this report.

