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City of SAN JACINTO

October Newsletter 2011

Downtown Poised For A Significant Makeover

Founded in 1870, the City of San Jacinto was incorporated in 1888. Thereafter, on December 25, 1899, a 6.8 earthquake destroyed the majority of brick buildings in the City. Many of the buildings were repaired; and in 1918, the City experienced another earthquake with a 7.0 magnitude. Afterwards, the City fathers and business owners decided to remove the bricks and replace the structures with wood frame construction.



Over time though, these buildings suffered the effects of age and several downturns in the State and National economies. However, in the early 2000s, the

City of San Jacinto through the Redevelopment Agency ("Agency") made several attempts to revitalize Downtown through a variety of infrastructure, landscape and façade improvement programs. For example, street and

On March 4, 2010, the Agency approved, in concept, a multi-faceted Downtown Revitalization Program including the design and construction of façade and capital improvements, the utilization of incentive programs, and the planning and construction of new development consisting of senior housing, civic and mixed uses.

Subsequently, on May 20, 2010, the Agency approved the first component comprising the Revised Downtown Façade Improvement Program and allocated \$1 million for the design and construction of commercial building facades along Main Street and San Jacinto Avenue. Eligible projects will address the most visible side of a building and improve the entire façade, such as repair and replacement of façade surface materials exterior lighting improvements and signage. In exchange for the improvements, façade easements will be granted to the Agency for fifteen years. Likewise, strict maintenance protocols will be required in order to ensure the continued attractiveness of the buildings as well as preserve the Agency's investment.

With an average cost of \$50,000 per building, the estimated cost to design and construct the facades is estimated in excess of \$3 million; and the facades will be constructed in phases as funds become available.

As indicated above, the Revised Downtown Façade Improvement Program is envisioned as a multi-year endeavor. The first phase incorporates the development of an overall theme, design concept and drawings in the 12-block downtown area, as well as a detailed construction drawing package for the front and rear block faces and alleyways on the 100 block of East Main Street between S. San Jacinto Avenue and Sheriff Avenue. The next phase will focus on the commercial buildings located on the blocks along E. Main Street between Sheriff Avenue and S. Alessandro Avenue. Subsequent phases will focus on S. San Jacinto Avenue (between E. Third & Seventh Streets), Ramona Boulevard (between S. Pico & W. Main Streets), and W. Main Street (between S. Pico Street & S. San Jacinto Avenue).

Requests for Proposals for architectural services were solicited and on March 1, 2011, the Redevelopment Agency entered into an agreement with the award winning and highly regarded firm known as Thirtieth Street Architects.

On September 6, 2011, the Redevelopment Agency approved the design themes and the Architect is now moving forward with the conceptual design stage covering the whole 12-block downtown area.

Architect's Rendering of Downtown Facades

North Side



South Side



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Jacinto CA
Permit No. 2

POSTAL CUSTOMER

City of San Jacinto
595 S. San Jacinto Avenue
San Jacinto, CA 92583

landscape improvements were installed along Main Street between of San Jacinto and Jordan Avenues in an effort to spur private investment. In addition, a Façade Improvement Program was established whereby the Redevelopment Agency would match the cost to rehabilitate commercial buildings by providing a 50% match. As the economy continued to decline, property owners and tenants neither had the interest nor the financial resources to make building improvements. Thus, the Agency determined that revitalization could only occur if the Agency funded the façade improvements in their entirety.

It should also be noted that the restoration and/or painting of murals coupled with the construction of parking lot and alley improvements will take place concurrently and will complement the Façade Improvement Program. In addition, traffic calming and landscaping improvements are proposed along San Jacinto Avenue from the Five Points intersection to 7th Street to resemble Main Street, thereby creating a "sense of place" and making Downtown more attractive to shoppers and diners. Furthermore, incentive programs are proposed whereby Agency assistance would be utilized to attract specific types of tenants through the payment of fees or tenant improvements.

Senior housing and mixed uses are also necessary components that will create the critical mass for a successful downtown. Consequently, the City and Agency authorized funding for a Downtown Specific Plan which will be instrumental in creating the vision and guide future development, as well as to site locations for a civic center in order to accommodate future expansion of City Hall and the Police Station as well as the construction of a new community center and library.

Disclosure: The architectural services have been funded for the design and construction documents for the first phase of the Façade Improvement Program. Additionally, requests for proposals were solicited and submitted for the Downtown Specific Plan. Thereafter, State legislation was passed in June 2011 which may prohibit the Redevelopment Agency from funding the actual construction of the facades and preparation of the Downtown Specific Plan as well as the other improvements identified above. Lastly, in August 2011, the Supreme Court placed a stay on all new redevelopment activities, and will deliver an opinion as to whether or not the State legislation is constitutional by January 15, 2012.



*Residents in action!
CERT training includes,
First Aid techniques,
Fire Suppression and
Cribbing.*



Emergency Preparedness

The City of San Jacinto promotes emergency preparedness and this year was no exception. The City sponsored two (2) 20 hour CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes. The first CERT class was held December 3-5, 2010, and the second was held June 24-26, 2011. A combined total of 40 participants were certified in first aid, search/rescue, fire suppression, and cribbing. These "CERT" certified individuals will make a difference by assisting public safety personnel, and assist their own neighbors and communities where they live.

The City also acquired a 14' emergency response trailer this year. The trailer will store CERT training supplies and emergency response materials and items. The trailer is scheduled to be outfitted with emergency supplies to include generator, CPR training mannequins, fire suppression units, first aid supplies and other items to enhance the City's emergency response training and preparedness. The trailer will be available to other agencies to promote mutual-aid agreements and assistance.

Lastly, the City of San Jacinto in partnership with Riverside County Office of Emergency Services will receive a 100 person care & shelter trailer. The trailer is equipped to bed down 100 safety personnel during emergency/disaster events and is equipped with generator, cots, and blankets, and includes a 10 person handicap/disabled bed down system. The City expects to receive the trailer in early 2012. The trailer will be purchased by Riverside County OES utilizing Homeland Security Grant Funding with no-cost to the City. The trailer will be available to outside agencies for mutual-aid assistance during such events.



Fire Service Accomplishments

- Fire personnel have taught two Community Emergency Response Team Training Classes for the City of San Jacinto and assisted the County of Riverside on a third class. A total of 62 students of which 48 were City residents were certified. Another class is scheduled for late October 2011.
- Purchased a 14' trailer to store the CERT grant supplies.
- Purchased CPR/AED training materials and held our first CPR/AED training class for the City of San Jacinto in September 2011.
- Fire personnel held 12 San Jacinto School District **Lunch with a Firefighter** sessions last year. 72 students were able to share lunch with a firefighter and learn about the firefighting profession.



New Kawasaki Police Motorcycles

On March 28, 2011 the San Jacinto Police Department took possession of two brand new Kawasaki Concourse 1400 Police Motorcycles to replace two high mileage BMW motorcycles. The benefits of going with the Kawasaki Motorcycles are many fold: improved emergency lighting, better performance, greater storage area, and reduced initial cost; however, the greatest benefit of all is the reduced cost of maintenance.

The emergency lights on the Kawasaki Motorcycles are third generation LED's which produce much greater light output than the BMW's and can be seen even in bright daylight. Additionally, the Kawasaki Motorcycle has a water cooled engine which can be left idling while on a traffic stop. This allows leaving the headlights on during nighttime stops, without fear of overheating the engine.

The Kawasaki has larger side bags which allow carrying more equipment for use on the job. The Kawasaki also has a usable top box, which can be used to store additional equipment or personal items, like water.

It's hard to tell with just five months of use, but it appears the annual maintenance cost of the Kawasaki Motorcycles will be well under the annual maintenance cost of the BMW's. Another issue that we have not seen so far with the Kawasaki is that every time we took our BMW's in for a repair, the BMW dealership always found something else that needed replacing, which usually greatly increased the cost of repairs. We have not seen this with the Kawasaki dealership.

As you can tell, we are very pleased with these new Kawasaki Motorcycles and hope to get many years of service out of them.

San Jacinto Fire Services responded to 4299 incidents within the city in 2010. We were able to respond to 84.3 % of the incidents within 5 minutes or less.



PUBLIC WORKS

CITY TACKLES INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

ENGINEERING

The 2010-11 Fiscal Year was a busy one for the City Engineer's office, with many capital projects under construction throughout the city. Pavement rehabilitation projects smoothed out bumps in the road on local thoroughfares, including two portions of Esplanade Ave and a number of residential streets in the City's downtown area. Additionally, new sidewalks were built on several streets downtown as well as on portions on Cottonwood Ave and Esplanade Ave on the City's west side. These paths are all meant to improve local access to schools, parks, and other amenities. The installation of a landscaped median on San Jacinto Ave just north of Menlo Ave served to create a welcoming entrance to San Jacinto from the south.

Earlier this spring, the 2011 Sewer Master Plan Improvement project was built, which replaced aging pipelines and manholes. The City has an ongoing commitment to building key upgrades throughout our sewer and water systems, to make sure that our infrastructure is reliable and up to date.

Two new traffic signals are starting construction this summer on the east side of the City, at the intersections of Soboba Rd & Lake Park Dr and Seventh St & Ramona Expressway. These signals, funded by the Soboba Tribe, will help mitigate impacts from recent development on tribal lands and also improve traffic flow in the city.

In the upcoming year there will be more in the works – the largest project currently being developed is the Ramona Expressway Widening. This project, which will be built in two phases, is planned to widen the Expressway between Sanderson Avenue and Main Street. Construction of the first phase is scheduled to begin in 2012, subject to funding availability. Other projects planned for the 2011-12 fiscal year include new sidewalks in the vicinity of Ramona Expressway and San Jacinto Ave, a traffic signal at the intersection of De Anza and State St, storm drain improvements on Esplanade Ave, and pavement rehabilitation on Warren Road.

WATER

We addressed a number of items this year in the Water Department. For example, one of the water production wells malfunctioned and needed to be repaired. During the process, we concurrently applied for a rebate from SCE which is highlighted below. City staff also performed upgrades to our two filtration plants in order for them to operate more efficiently.

In addition to performing regular maintenance, the Water Department staff worked very aggressively to operate the four production wells in the most efficient way possible. Their creativity ended up saving the City in excess \$100,000 in electrical bills. SCE played an important role in the process helping us to identify efficient pump curves and time of use data.



WASTEWATER

Our City staff also ensured the continued reliability of our lift stations by installing a backup generator at the First Street lift station. As of now, all four of our lift stations are now on backup power, should the worst occur. Also during this year, staff took the time to modernize our welding station at the Public Works Yard. This ensures that we are ready for any task. Whether it be major

or minor, we stand ready to weld whatever is needed. Lastly, we are proud to report that for the third year in a row, we've had no sewer overflows. This is due to an aggressive program of video inspections and subsequent cleanings by the team.

PATSY'S Economic Success Story

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Vacant commercial space can be a common sight throughout the county and primarily due to a struggling economy. Closer to home, vacancies have been a problem at The Village at San Jacinto Shopping Center located at the northeast corner of State Street and Ramona Expressway. The reasons for the high vacancy rate were two-fold: 1) the slow economy; and 2) a high water table which required the installation of significant water distribution infrastructure. The costs of the infrastructure are passed on to tenants via connection fees which have, at times, proven insurmountable for restaurant owners due to the volume of water and sewer services utilized.

After investing all of their financial resources in equipment and tenant improvements, the owners of Patsy's Country Kitchen requested assistance to offset the cost of sewer and water connection fees. After considering their request, the Redevelopment Agency approved a five-year forgivable loan and Patsy's Country Kitchen opened in March 2011. According to proprietor Karri Jones, "I am so thankful and grateful. We were able to open a lot sooner and put people to work a lot quicker as a result of the financial assistance." She further stated that, "We just hired two more people because we are getting busier and busier . . . it has been a blessing." The financial assistance resulted in the creation of 12 full and part-time jobs; and former vacant space has been improved and occupied with a now-thriving business.

The owners of Patsy's Country Kitchen have 29 years experience and own two other successful restaurants: Mia's Country Kitchen in Hemet and Patsy's Country Kitchen in Banning.



Energy Efficiency Rebate

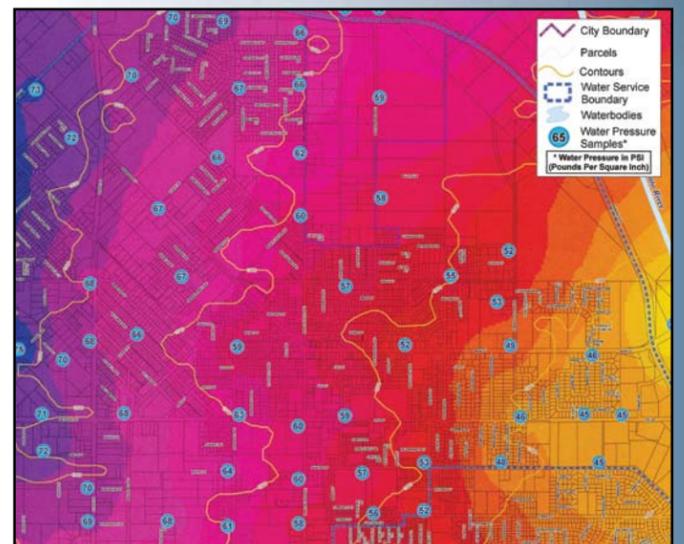
One significant program benefit to jurisdictions that participate in WRELP is increased incentives or rebates on qualified energy efficiency improvements at jurisdictional owned facilities. On February 15, 2011, WRCOG's WRELP representatives presented its first rebate check to the City of San Jacinto in the amount of \$19,775. The City of San Jacinto had made qualified energy efficient upgrades in November 2010 to its Artesia Well site and will now see an energy savings of over 130,000 kWh or 39 kW. In addition, the City received over \$7,500 more in its SCE rebate check, thanks to WRELP.

City Staff Recognized for Superior Work

The City's own GIS Graphics Technician, **Lisa McCullough** was recognized at a world-class level this past year when her GIS (Graphical Information System) map was included into ESRI's 2011 annual **Map Book**. For those of you that may not know, ESRI is the leading GIS software package that is recognized as the "Microsoft" of their industry. They set the standard and are by far, the largest geographical mapping company in the world. Each year, ESRI hosts a international gathering of users in order to train, collaborate and improve the use of their software products. As you might imagine, this is a very technical field and one that demands cutting edge technology and innovation. In order to meet that demand, ESRI query's all of their customers (across the world) for new and unique ways to utilize their software. It then compiles the best of the best into their annual map book that's provided to all conference participants. It's no easy task to be included because you are competing against agencies, cities, states and in some cases, even countries. Nevertheless, we were chosen to be included in this esteemed book.

Here is what ESRI stated about our submission: Congratulations! Your map titled "Public Works Water Division, City of San Jacinto, Interpolated Water Pressure Zones" has been selected for publication in the 2011 Esri Map Book, Volume 26. This book will be released in July at the 2011 Esri International User Conference in San Diego, California.

Of course it took many people behind the scenes to generate the data, so credit should be given to the overall team of Lisa and the Public Works Water Utilities staff (They collaborated to create this unique map).



Kudos to all Staff Involved in Receiving International Recognition for their Efforts on this Unique Project

Mark Your Calendar **X**

City Meetings:

City Council
1st and 3rd Tuesday
625 S. Pico Avenue
7:00 PM

Planning Commission
2nd Thursday
625 S. Pico Avenue
7:00 PM

City Officials:

Scott Miller, Mayor
Andrew Kotyuk, Vice Mayor
Steve DiMemmo, Councilman
Mark Bartel, Councilman
Alonso Ledezma, Councilman
Bernie Simon, Treasurer
Tim Hults, City Manager
Jeff Ballinger, City Attorney
Susan Trevino, Police Chief
David Fulcher, Fire Chief
Tom Prill, Acting Finance Director
Mike Emberton, Public Works Director
Habib Motlagh, City Engineer
Asher Hartel, Planning Director
Rick Miller, City Clerk

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Community Celebrations

1st Annual Agricultural Festival

Family and friends joined to share two full days of fun and excitement at the City's First Annual Agricultural Festival. This was a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate our valley's rich agricultural heritage. The valley's agricultural and dairy community came out in full force with animals, displays and fully restored farm equipment.



Ag Fest had it all... cows, cowboys, food and fun!



Veteran's Day

Every year our Veteran's Day tribute is well received and this year was no exception. Retired Air Force Col. Bill Sick gave a powerful speech and certainly reminded all of us of the importance of our nation's great military force (both past and present).



4th of July Parade

The **Fourth of July Celebration** got off to a bang with the largest turnout ever. From horses, to tractors, to floats, to a mass turnout from the Camaro Club it was a super event. The parade also marked the first ever joint-city event as both Mayors from the City of Hemet and San Jacinto and other elected officials rode together as a sign of valley unification.

