

June 22, 2007

Residents of “Cottonwood Avenue” area

Subject: Neighborhood Meeting on June 19, 2007

Dear Resident:

I want to thank you for attending the neighborhood meeting at the West San Jacinto Fire Station on June 19, 2007. The City Council and staff greatly value your input and suggestions. The following represents the significant concerns and issues expressed by those in attendance and how those issues have or will be addressed by the City:

1. **Waste Collection:** It was noted at the meeting that after the Memorial Day holiday the City’s contracted waste hauler, CR&R, commingled trash and recycling. Staff questioned CR&R about this practice and was told by CR&R executive management that this practice violates company policy. Please contact the San Jacinto Finance Department at 951-654-7337 to report the truck number should you witness this again.
2. **Group Homes:** Where a group home has been established in single family neighborhoods without a State license, it is in violation of City laws. Additionally, staff and the City Attorney have been working closely to strengthen City laws pertaining to such uses. If you suspect that an unlicensed group home has been established in your neighborhood, please contact Code Enforcement at 951-487-7321.
2. **Cawston Avenue Speeding and Dumping:** The Police Department has added this area to the “extra patrol” log for enforcement, especially on weekends and late nights.
3. **Cawston Avenue paving, south of 7th Street:** Generally, roads are improved as adjacent properties develop. However, there are no pending development applications in this area. Therefore, the City Engineer has been advised to add this segment to the City’s five-year capital improvement program.
4. **Cottonwood Avenue and Kirby Street Speeding:** These streets have been noted as hot spots for speeding violations and have been added to the list of areas for enhanced motor patrol.
5. **Neighborhood Watch:** Sgt. Richard Zerkel has made contact with a representative from the Ranch neighborhood to start a Neighborhood Watch program. For more information about the Neighborhood Watch program contact Sgt. Zerkel at 951-654-2702 during normal business hours.
6. **Horses in parks:** Staff has determined that horses in parks is a violation of the municipal code. If you ever encounter horses in a park again, please contact animal control at 951-358-7387.
7. **Parking of Recreational Vehicles (RV) and Utility Trailers:** Parking of RVs (boats, motor homes, travel trailers) and utility trailers is prohibited within the front yard. The front yard is defined as the entire lot width between the side property lines, not less than 20 feet in depth and measured from the front property line. Generally, the front property line is located approximately 6 feet from the back of the sidewalk.

8. **Foreclosures and abandoned homes:** Code Enforcement Staff have developed an inventory of homes that appear to be in foreclosure and/or abandoned. Contact has been made with the property owner (bank or mortgage company) through the realtor where signs have been placed and the agent is cooperative. In other instances, staff use 2 separate property tax reporting systems to track down lender information. When that is deemed unsuccessful, staff is in contact title companies. Unfortunately, even with so many sources it often takes several months before staff is able to track down the lender or bank that has assumed control of the property. However, the City Attorney is reviewing options whereby staff could enter the property to abate the nuisance and place a lien for future payment. Nevertheless, until there is an owner that can guarantee that utilities payments will be made, irrigation systems will not be functional. This is an issue that is prevalent throughout the City and will be continuously monitored.

9. **Highway 79:** Studies are being conducted regarding the realignment of Highway 79. Several alignment alternatives are being explored throughout the approximate 12 mile route. Where Highway 79 would cross Cottonwood Avenue, two alternatives exist. Both alternatives are similar and propose that the facility would intersect Cottonwood just east of aqueduct adjacent to Reflection Lake. City staff has worked with developers and the Riverside County Transportation Commission to develop a preferred noise barrier. The noise barrier would be approximately 16 feet in height and consist of an 8 foot tall block wall placed upon an 8 foot tall berm. However, a noise study will be prepared which may propose an alternative noise barrier design.

10. **Agricultural Uses:** As indicated at the meeting, the western area of the City is in transition from a rural agricultural community to a suburban community. When development occurs in such areas, conflicts arise and nuisances such as flies can be prevalent. However, State laws are very protective of agricultural. In fact, the City conditioned DR Horton and other developers in similar areas to provide written disclosure to prospective buyers that they are moving into a farming or agricultural area. Furthermore, City regulations also allow for agricultural operations to remain and even expand for as long as the operator desires.

11. **Park Hours and Lighting:** As indicated at the meeting, City parks are only open from dawn to dusk unless the park has a lighted court or field for sports related uses. Neither of the parks in the Ranch have a lighted court nor field. As such, both parks are to be closed at dusk. Signs indicating park hours will be placed at both parks. Additionally, City staff will look at the street lights adjacent to each park to determine if they could be modified to enhance lighting within the park for security purposes.

A number of other issues were discussed at the meeting. Many of those issues were addressed and/or passed on to the respective department to be addressed. Such issues as landscape and basin maintenance, parking on cul-de-sacs over sidewalks, and street sweeping are ongoing concerns and will be continuously monitored. As a reminder, a follow-up Neighborhood Meeting has been scheduled for 6:30PM on August 14 at the West San Jacinto Fire Station. Representatives of DR Horton have confirmed that they will be in attendance.

If you have any other concerns or questions please contact the City Manager's office at (951)487-7342.

Yours truly,

Jim Ayres
Mayor