

Public Services

Telephone 449-5080 - Fax 499-1580

June Meetings

June 02 - Los Flores School
Children intro to Civics
June 06 - ANG Devel. Mtg.
June 07 - RRA Audit Interview
June 13 - WWTF & Animal
Shelter Review
June 17 - Chamber Dinner
June 19 - Devel. & Annex. Mtg.
June 19 - SCE Rate Structure
June 21 - Business Park Devel.
June 22 - Cooperative Water
Management Group
June 26 - Weapons Lab & Tower
Ground Breaking .
June 26 - Crossroads Devel.
Mtg.
June 28 - Blueprint Mtg.
KernCOG Fresno
June 29 - French and Coso
Street Opening Kern CO.
June 26 - Devel. Impact Fee Mtg.
Additional regular meetings in
support of various activities and
on going projects of interest to the
department and city were attended.

CITY OF RIDGECREST

James McRea
Deputy City Manager
Joe Pollock
City Engineer

The City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, KernCOG, all other San Joaquin Valley COG's, and the Great Valley Center met in Fresno at the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Progress Regional Summit. A regional approach to managed growth, transportation and land use choices. All incorporated Cities of Kern County will participate, under the leadership of KernCOG, given the east side of the county is not part of the San Joaquin Valley floor or the State Route 99 Corridor. KernCog will initiate a Kern Regional Blueprint Vision Project and Planning Directors Round Table for a series of forums to develop strategies for sustainable and managed growth. Concepts will include Sub Regional Models, Housing Elements, Regional Housing Needs Allocation, Housing Affordability, Air Quality, Transportation, Congestion, and other major growth related issues over the next 44 years, to 2050.

Local development and economic growth is projected to begin in the first quarter of 2007 in earnest, with many projects already underway and in the final planning stages. The Olde Towne Ridgecrest Project on Balsam Avenue and surrounding the area of China Lake and Ridgecrest Blvd. is an example of renewed community interest and business community spirit to developing a new and better Ridgecrest.

The City of Ridgecrest Watchable Wildlife Park Project is required to be completed by June of 2007. The project is to provide limited



Sign donated by Howard Auld

access and observation areas for viewing and experiencing the native landscape, birds, and animals in and around the Wastewater holding ponds located on San Bernardino Road behind the Animal Shelter. The project is funded by a matching grant with the State of California, The Park Resource Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation use of Land and Water Conservation Fund Program Projects.

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Wastewater Headworks and Digester Cleaning

Work continues on this project. Completion is anticipated to be in mid-September of 2006.

Private Sector Projects

The demand for inspection and plan checking is still increasing primarily in the commercial and residential sectors. There are currently about 38 new residential subdivisions being processed with a total of more than 3200 new lots. In addition to these there are about 1500 lots in the Ridgecrest Heights area that are vacant and buildable.

Street Projects

Bids have been received on the Mahan, Reeves and Graaf projects. Authorization to award has been received from the City Council and construction should commence around the first of August. The Street Department has capped ½ mile of streets in Ridgecrest Heights and is planning to do about ½ mile more this summer. CALTRANS will be capping China Lake Blvd from Inyokern Road to Ridgecrest Blvd and Ridgecrest Blvd from China Lake Blvd to the City Limits. This work should start around the first of August.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Division staff remains busy with lots of inquiries at the counter for both the inspectors and technician. A total of 99 permits were issued in May and 44 in June. Of the permits issued in May, 44 were Single Family Residence (SFR) permits, while 6 SFR permits were issued in June.

The Marriott Springhill Suites is in building plan check with Kern County, the building plans for the 4-unit commercial building in front of Wal-Mart have been approved, and Motel 6 has approved plans for a remodel to upgrade five rooms, making them handicap accessible.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

The City of Ridgecrest Wastewater Treatment Facility operated within compliance and design directives issued under Board Order No. 6-00-56. The treatment facility operated with no discharge violations for the month of June 2006.

The department inspected and passed eight new connections to the sanitary sewer system.

The reclamation department reclaimed 9.15 million gallons of secondary effluent for use as fodder crop irrigation.

The department as part of the headworks upgrade, had digesters No. 1 and No. 2 emptied and cleaned. The department, also, installed new isolation valves in the basement of digester No. 1.

TRANSIT

The new transit unit was sent out for repair, after a short period of service, due to mechanical defects with the wheelchair lift and is expected to be back in service early in July. Fare box and pass revenue collected totaled \$3,725.25 for the month of May and \$3,100.50 for the month of June.