

City of Ridgecrest

April 2015



City Manager Memo



Budget Strategy and Preliminary Priority Planning

At the regular City Council meeting of April 1, 2015, staff presented a review of the budget strategy and discussed perspective, procedure, principles, progress, and preliminary priorities for the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget.

The purpose of the Budget Strategy Meeting was to:

- discuss the budget process,
- delineate focus parameters,
- create priority criteria,
- establish a budget development plan, and
- identify potential budget strategies

Specific detailed discussion areas included goals, process and strategy.

The Budget Goals

1. Protect core services for citizens
2. Acknowledge impact of the Economic downturn
3. Make difficult but necessary decisions for future fiscal stability
4. Increase Transparency – L & TAB Reporting
5. Reduce reliance of one-time funds
6. Increase general fund reserves
7. Position the City for future opportunities
8. Decrease liability



The Budget Process

- Budget instructions issued to departments
- Preliminary budgets submitted by departments
- Budgets reviewed by CM & FD
- Revised Revenue Projections
- Revised Preliminary budget for submittal to CC
- Budget Hearings
- Budget Revisions
- Budget Adoption



The Budget Strategy

- ♦ Be guided by the community's core values and reasonably fund core services;
- ♦ Make systemic changes at the organizational level not "across the board" where the impact may not be quantifiable;
- ♦ Shape reduction proposals based on data to the extent possible;
- ♦ Consider essential services/needs
- ♦ Utilize objective not subjective criteria
- ♦ Consider cost effectiveness of changes
- ♦ Promote efficiencies in administration and operations activities
- ♦ Consider departments input as to the impact
- ♦ Explore new revenue sources
- ♦ Consider long term and not just immediate impacts;
- ♦ Identify and implement sustainable mitigation to impacts, such as use of technology, reorganizations, renegotiations of service contracts, & so forth;
- ♦ Consider the aggregate impact throughout the organization & across department lines.



Happenings in the City Clerk's Office ...



The City of Ridgecrest City Clerk's webpage has a link to Resolutions, Ordinances, Monthly Reports, as well as the Municipal Code.

The Municipal Code is a published compilation of City laws and their revisions organized according to subject matter (arranged by title, chapter and section). The Municipal Code is updated periodically as new ordinances are adopted by the City Council.

The Clerk's office has been actively updating all hard copies of the Ridgecrest Municipal Code. If you have, or know of, a municipal code book that is out of date bring it to the Clerk's office and we would be happy to trade for an updated copy. If you are too attached to your copy, due to highlights and page markings, bring it up and we will update it rather than switch it out. **The last update was #50, if you have anything below that you are in need of updating**



Ever wondered where to find the Ridgecrest Municipal Code online??
Click here for quick access:

<http://www.ridgecrest-ca.gov/city-clerk/city-clerks-office>



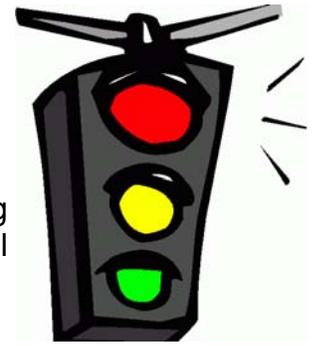
CHANGE IS THE LAW OF LIFE.
AND THOSE WHO LOOK ONLY
TO THE PAST OR PRESENT ARE
CERTAIN TO MISS THE FUTURE.

~JOHN F. KENNEDY

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICCA FOR EARNING HER
CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK (CMC)
CERTIFICATION!



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



TRAFFIC CONTROL AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Each jurisdiction responsible for traffic control devices should be operating within uniform policies and standards as set forth in either the Federal MUTCD or the state and local equivalents.

Ridgecrest Warrants and Policies

A "warrant" is a set of criteria which can be used to establish a relative need for traffic control (e.g. signs, stripe, and traffic signals). Experience has shown that the most effective traffic control device is that which is the least restrictive while still doing its job, and warrants should have this fundamental rule built into the process.

In the City of Ridgecrest, the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is the document used as the standard for design, placement, application and maintenance of official traffic control devices. In the case of striping and marking, the Ridgecrest City Council has adopted policies regarding their use. The MUTCD does not have warrants for the installation of striping and marking. Street lights are not traffic control devices and may be warranted differently in city, [county and state jurisdictions](#).

Traffic Information Program: "a TIP from T.C."

In the late 1970s the Southern California Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) developed a series of public information flyers which explained how and why Traffic Engineers and local agencies make decisions about the installation of traffic control devices. The Public Works Department has used the ITE "TIPS" idea to develop an informational brochure series. This "Transportation Information Program" is useful in explaining our job to members of the public and helping them understand the reasons for some of our recommendations. We want the public to know that our actions are not arbitrary, but rather, are based on years of experience, technical analysis and national practice.

The following, City of Ridgecrest, informational brochures are available at the Public Works Department.

1. SPEED ZONES: "How do I get one installed?"
2. STOP SIGNS: "How can I get them installed?"
3. A CLEAR VIEW: Vegetation & Traffic Safety
4. CROSSWALKS: When is a crosswalk unsafe?
5. TRAFFIC SIGNALS: Does somebody have to be killed before a traffic signal will be installed?



WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY



- The City of Ridgecrest Wastewater Treatment Facility operated within design and compliance directives issued under Board Order No. 6-00-56.
- The Department inspected and passed (2) replacement connections to the sanitary sewage system.
- The Department inspected and passed (2) new connections to the sanitary sewage system.
- The Department responded to (2) requests for service, which were homeowner lateral related.
- The Department is in compliance with SSMP performed line maintenance on 1,750 feet of main line collection system.
- The Reclamation Department reclaimed 4.77 million gallons of secondary effluent for use as fodder crop irrigation.
- The CCTV Program has been concluded, all video data is being compiled and placed on the GIS Data Base.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Engineering Department will be opening bids on April 28, 2015 for the China Lake Signal Synchronization Project. This project will synchronize the traffic signals from California Avenue to College Heights Boulevard as soon as Bowman Avenue Traffic Signal is installed. Until then it will go to Radar Avenue.

At the May 6, 2015 City Council meeting a contract agreement will be presented to the Council for the engineering firm Quad Knopf for application preparation of application preparation for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), The Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and The Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP). This current call for projects by Caltrans creates a unique opportunity to provide funding for various projects within the City of Ridgecrest. These call for projects are for street improvements, widening projects, and new pavement projects. The projects can also be applied for traffic and intersection issues.

The Engineering Department has two projects that are to begin in mid-May. They are the 12 Intersections Improvement Project of Street Striping and Signage at various locations along with improvements to Update 7 Traffic Signal at various locations. These two projects have been fully funded by Measure L Funds. Prior to doing these two projects, a micro-surfacing project will be taking place on Norma Avenue.

Also, to move forward with new projects in the Engineering Department, the Department has four Requests for Proposal released to consultants. They are as follows:

- ⇒ Street improvement design for: Bowman Avenue, Richmond Road, Gateway Avenue, and Radar Avenue
- ⇒ Richmond Bike Path Project
- ⇒ Drummond Avenue Street reconstruction
- ⇒ Sewer Line Repair/Replacement/Slip Lining Program



Ridgerunner Transit First Quarter Wrap-up Report

The Transit Department is busy with daily operations in addition to managing nine grant projects. Below is a list of current grants and their status:

Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Program (PTMISEA) Grants

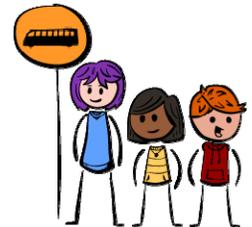
- (PTMISEA) Maintenance Facility Project - \$830k- funds received
 - ◊ In bid process
- (PTMISEA) Hub Transfer Station Project - \$300k- funds received
 - ◊ Property in Inyokern purchased and bid packet being created
- (PTMISEA) Corporation Yard Security Enhancement Project - \$11,055- funds received
 - ◊ Project to replace west gate- Quotes are being solicited
- (PTMISEA) Purchase of Two Gasoline buses – \$193,510-funds received
- (PTMISEA) Access control system/Computer Tablets for buses - \$6,273

(PTMISEA) Total \$1,340,838

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

- (Cal OES) Corporation Yard Security Alarm & Lighting System - \$21,565- funds received
 - ◊ Quotes are being solicited through IT Dept. at this time.
- (Cal OES) Corporation Yard Security Camera System - \$23,193- funds received
 - ◊ Quotes are being solicited through IT Dept. at this time.
- (Cal OES) Transfer Station Security Camera System - \$21,565
 - ◊ Quotes are being solicited through IT Dept. at this time.
- (Cal OES) Corporation Yard Security Gate - \$21,565- awaiting funding
 - ◊ Project to replace east main gate. - Quotes are being solicited

(Cal OES) Grants Total \$87,888



Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

- (FTA) FY13-14 5311 Operating Assistance Grant - \$111,643- Reimbursement
 - ◊ Submitted awaiting funding
- (FTA) FY14-15 5311 Operating Assistance Grant - \$93,577- Application submitted/waiting contract

(FTA) Grant Total \$205,220

Combined Grant Totals \$1,633,946

STREETS DEPARTMENT

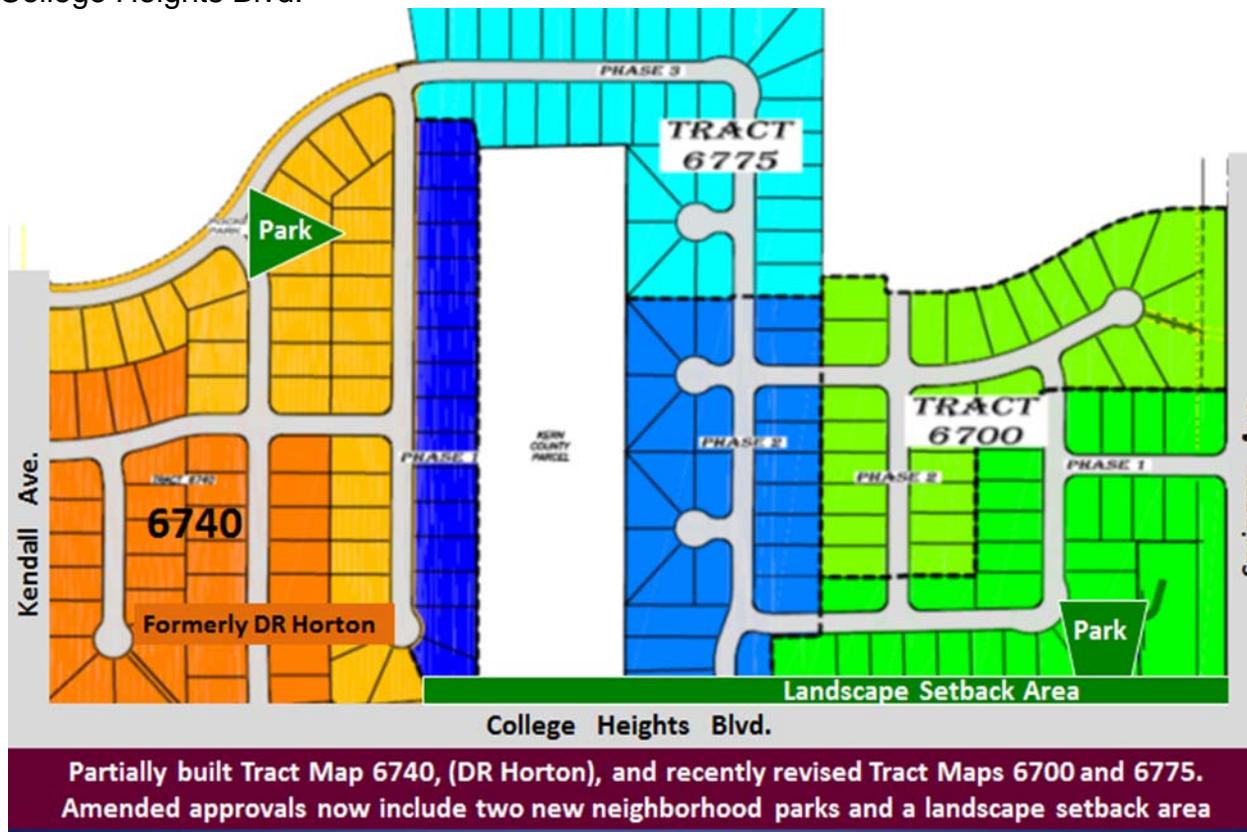
The Street Department would like to inform the community that they are concentrating on and prepping streets in the community for resurfacing during the month of May at these locations:

- * Norma - Drummond Avenue to Inyokern Road.
- * East bound Ward - Mahan Avenue to Downs Street
- * Las Flores Avenue - Mahan Avenue to Downs Street
- * Mahan Avenue - Ridgecrest Boulevard to Ward Avenue

Ridgecrest Subdivisions are Back in Business

By Matthew Alexander AICP, City Planner

Most economists agree that the Great American Recession began in December, 2007. That was certainly consistent with our experience here in Ridgecrest. During 2005 and 2006 the Planning Commission approved 25 residential subdivisions or Tentative Tract Maps. Since the advent of the great recession, only eight subdivisions have been applied for and approved. Out of all 33 subdivisions approved since 2005 only a handful have been filed as final maps; a step required in order to build homes. One exception was the recording of Tract Map 6740 by DR Horton located off of College Heights Blvd.

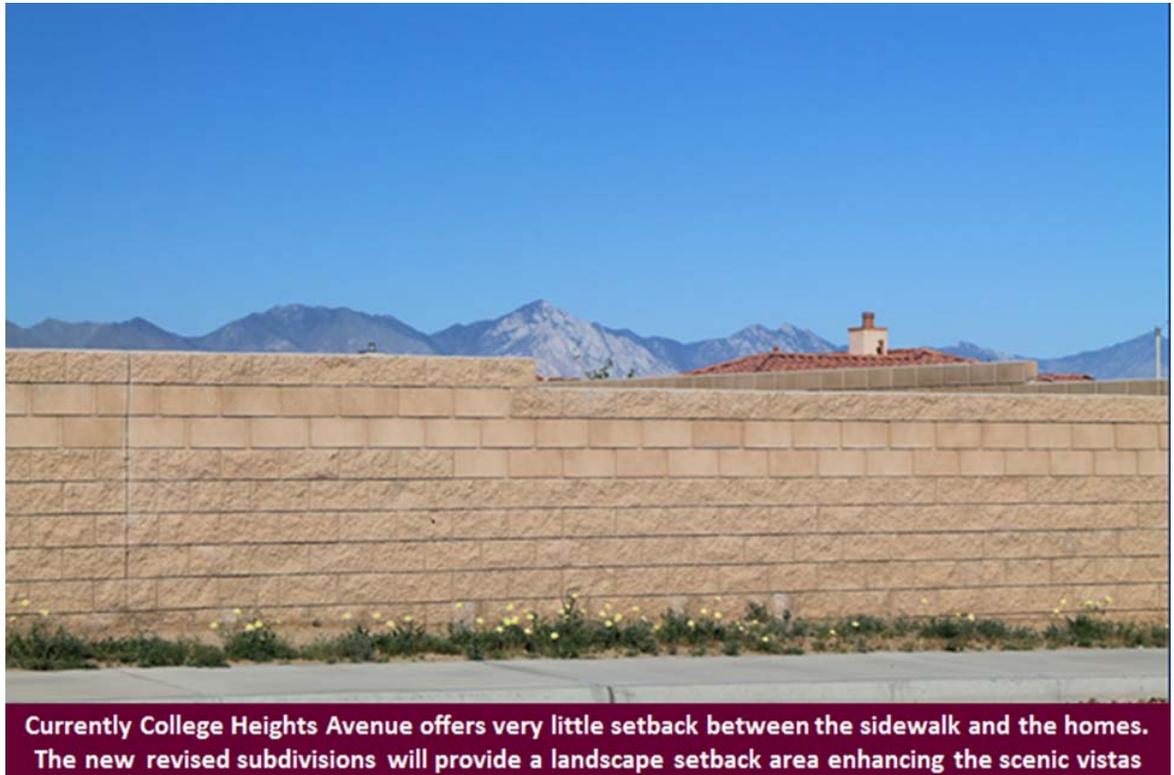


North Star Properties acquired Tentative Tracts 6700 and 6775 in July of 2013. These maps were originally approved along with tract 6740 in February of 2006 by the Ridgecrest Planning Commission. The applicant was Tom Martin. Tract 6700 was approved with 55 lots and a sump lot, 6740 with 67 lots and 6775 with 76 lots. None of these maps were approved for phased development at that time. In the summer of 2008 all three tracts were graded by D R Horton. Horton had acquired Tract 6740 that year along with an option to purchase tracts 6700 and 6775. Horton anticipated a housing market resurgence with the completion of the 2005 BRAC plan which was supposed to bring about 1000 jobs to China Lake. The tracts were graded out and Horton began construction on a portion of Tract 6740 in 2008.

On April 28, 2015 the Planning Commission approved an amendment to Tentative Tract map 6700 and 6775 to allow for phasing of these maps. This will provide for responsible, orderly and economically feasible development of the projects. Significantly, amending these maps allowed the City to require amenities outlined by the new General Plan.

Two new pocket parks will be provided: one within Tract 6740 and the other within Tract 6700 .

Additionally, there will be a landscaped setback area provided immediately west of the College Heights Blvd right-of-way.



The parks and scenic easements will be paid for via an assessment from the new homeowners; considered money well spent to live proximate to these neighborhood amenities.

Developer Steve Hair would like to begin construction of new homes sooner than later, a welcome sign for spring.



**APRIL'S WINNER FOR THE EVENT
COMMITTEE DRAWING ...**



GARY PARSON

He received a gift card to Walmart!

Don't miss out on your chance, start your payroll deduction to donate for our Staff fund and help to make our employee gatherings more fun and maybe more often!*

*Not okay with payroll deduction but want to help?
Make a cash donation* instead and you can be included in the drawing for the month (or months depending on the amount).*

**See Trish in HR for more details.*

ICE CREAM...

ICE CREAM...

WHO WANTS ICE
CREAM?

BE SURE TO COME
ENJOY AT THIS
EMPLOYEE FUND
SPONSORED
EVENT...



**EMPLOYEE
ICE CREAM
SOCIAL**

**Thursday, May 14, 2015
3:00 p.m.**

City Hall Employee Break Room

The Employee Events Committee invites all employees to come and enjoy a refreshing ice cream sundae